



- ABA gets regulator's approval to issue bonds
- Local fish yields on the rise
- Made in Laos fair to maximise nation's export potential
- Govt takes steps to tackle six urgent issues
- Dawei SEZ stands better chance with Japanese participation, officials say
- MPA negotiates with Japan to expand TMIT wharf
- Almost \$500m invested in farm product processing industry in H1
- Local aluminium firms urged to tap opportunities from EVFTA



## ABA gets regulator's approval to issue bonds



*Cambodia News | 25 July, 2019*

The capital market regulator on Tuesday approved ABA's request to issue bonds in the Cambodia Securities Exchange (CSX). Advanced Bank of Asia Limited (ABA Bank), a member of the National Bank of Canada Group, is set to become only the third company to issue bonds at CSX, following in the footsteps of Hattha Kaksekar Limited and LOLC. The bank plans to raise 128 billion riel (about \$32 million) with a maturity date of three years and an annual coupon rate of seven to 7.75 percent. Zhiger Atchabarov, chief international operations officer at ABA, confirmed that the listing has received the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Cambodia (SECC) and said the bank will now begin preparing other documentation needed for the issuance. "Yesterday we received SECC's approval in principle, but there are a few other procedures that must be completed before the final listing. We will follow all legislative and regulatory requirements needed for the issuance of the bonds," he said. Kim Sophanita, director of the market operations department at CSX, said that after securing CSX and SECC approvals, ABA can now begin the booking, building and subscription process to set the final interest rate (yield) of the bond, open the subscription, and finally list on CSX. "By listing on CSX, ABA's credibility will be strengthened and it will gain access to tax

incentives. We believe ABA's listing will encourage other commercial banks to consider raising capital through the Cambodian capital market," she said. Mr Zhiger said the bank will now begin a roadshow targeting potential investors and start the bond subscription process. "We are working according to the existing procedures. We plan to finish the listing in August," he said. "Our listing on CSX reflects our confidence in the growing economy and the development of the Cambodian capital market. Our decision to list is also part of our strategy to support the national currency, the Cambodia riel," he added. Mr Zhiger said that capital raised from the bourse will be invested in supporting small and medium enterprises, particularly those founded or led by women.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50626914/aba-gets-regulators-approval-to-issue-bonds/>

## Local fish yields on the rise



*Cambodia News | 25 July, 2019*

Freshwater and marine fish yields increased slightly during the first half of the year, with illegal fishing activity waning as a result of From January to June, freshwater fish yields reached 167,950 tonnes, 380 tonnes more than during the same period last year. Marine fish yields rose by 350 tonnes reaching a total of 57,800 tonnes. Production in fish farms saw stronger growth, reaching 112,846 tonnes, an increase of 18,808 tonnes. Exports of fresh fish products rose by 80 tonnes, reaching a total of 5,460

tonnes, while shipments of processed fish products increased by 30 tonnes to 3,250 tonnes, according to the report. The European Union recently announced that it will provide \$83 million in aid to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries for the sustainable development of the fisheries sector in Cambodia. The money will be used to implement CAPFISH-Capture, a project that aims to help the Cambodian government make the sector resilient to climate change. As part of the programme, farmers will be trained on fish farming techniques and on processing fish. Agriculture Minister Veng Sakhon said earlier this month that the CAPFISH-Capture will “contribute to the sustainable development of the fisheries sector, benefit stakeholders, and help reduce illegal fishing activities.” Cambodia’s inland fish catch is largely exported to Singapore, Malaysia, and China while marine fish harvests are mostly exported to Thailand and Vietnam. According to the report, 1,321 illegal fishing operations were detected and stopped during the first half of the year, which amounts to 126 fewer crackdowns than during the first half of 2018.official crackdowns.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50626839/local-fish-yields-on-the-rise/>

## Made in Laos fair to maximise nation’s export potential



Laos News | 25 July, 2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - The organising committee of the “Made in Laos 2019” fair is hopeful the event will boost the profile of domestic products

through sessions on trade, business-matching and training. The fair, which is focused on regional and international markets, kicked off at Lao-ITECC in Vientiane on Monday and will continue until July 28. Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith was the guest of honour at the opening ceremony, which was attended by the Minister to the Prime Minister’s Office, Mr Alounkeo Kittikhoun, Government Spokesperson Mr Chaleun Yiapaoher, and other senior government officials and foreign diplomats. The Vice President of the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mrs Chanthachone Vongsay, who is also head of the organising committee, spoke about the special features of the fair. She said the event is a platform to promote domestic products in response to the government’s policy on bolstering the capacity and potential of Lao products so that they can be exported to foreign markets. “The organising committee has been working hard to encourage more exhibitors around the country to come and showcase original products made in their provinces, and this is also part of promotional activities to support Visit Laos-China Year 2019,” she said. This year, the sixth edition of the Made in Laos fair has brought together more than 100 companies from across Laos that are displaying their goods at 172 booths. Mrs Chanthachone said the number of booths had marginally declined from 180 booths last

year, but the number of companies had increased from 115 in 2018 to 117 companies this year. "More outstanding products from various provinces are now available for sale at this event, including tea grown and processed in Phongsaly, cotton goods from Bokeo and khao kai noi rice from Xieng Khuang, as well as other products from around Laos," she said. Exhibitors representing different sectors of industry and a large number of domestic and foreign visitors are expected to attend the fair. In addition, exhibitors from China and Thailand have been invited to showcase their products as part of activities to mark Visit Laos-China Year 2019. The seminars to be held as part of the fair will focus on interesting topics such as the processing of agricultural products. There will be a demonstration of advanced banking services by the Lao Development Bank (LDB) and presentations by successful Lao companies. More than 500 participants are expected to attend the seminars, including representatives of different companies and business students, according to initial information provided by the organisers at a recent media conference.

Source : <http://annx.asianews.network/content/made-laos-fair-maximise-nation%E2%80%99s-export-potential-100826>

## Govt takes steps to tackle six urgent issues



Laos News | 26 July, 2019

The government has called for the sectors responsible to shoulder more responsibility in finding solutions to six pressing issues that are affecting socio-economic development. The issues were tabled at the government's monthly meeting held in Vientiane on July 23-24 when cabinet members discussed possible measures to address them. The two-day meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith. The first major issue was the current outbreak of dengue fever, which has claimed 37 lives and sickened at least 16,690 people. The second topic was the epidemic of African swine fever. The deadly pig virus was first detected in Saravan province before spreading to other parts of the country including Savannakhet province and Vientiane. Third on the list was the infestation of sweetcorn crops by the fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) in Xayaboury province, which has destroyed 30 percent of 35,000 hectares of maize. The government has intensified efforts to contain the plague of caterpillars. The fourth issue concerned the persistent drought, which has resulted in low river levels and affected rice and other crops. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, only 40 percent of the country's 800,000 hectares of wet-season rice has been transplanted. The fifth matter of concern was the fluctuating exchange rate, the falling value of the kip in relation to foreign currencies and the depletion of foreign-exchange reserves,

which has driven up product prices and is hindering economic growth. The sectors responsible were instructed to boost productivity so there would be more goods for export, to facilitate business operators, and to attract more foreign tourists, as these would all boost economic growth. The sixth issue related to posts on social media by members of the public commenting on state administration and management, which gave rise to discussions by the cabinet about the regulation of information posted on social media. Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith urged all government sectors to put in place effective measures to address these problems. All sectors must do more to ensure they fulfil the tasks assigned to them by the government. Government members were requested to act upon the outcomes of the meeting and to ensure the sectors in their area of responsibility carried out essential projects and dealt with the matters planned for August. This work should be reported on to the Prime Minister's Office on August 15. Other issues debated at the meeting included the development and management of special and specific economic zones, preparations for the 2019 Roundtable Meeting, a draft decree on the policy for economic development in Xaysomboun province, and a draft decree relating to climate change. The government is expected to hold an extraordinary meeting on August 5 and to convene its next regular monthly meeting on August 21-22.

Source : [http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten\\_Govt\\_takes\\_170.php](http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_Govt_takes_170.php)

## Dawei SEZ stands better chance with Japanese participation, officials say



*Myanmar News | 25 July, 2019*

The governments of Myanmar, Japan and Thailand will be meeting over the troubled Dawei special economic zone (SEZ) project that has stalled since 2013 for lack of funding. Ministers will form a Joint Cooperation Committee to discuss how Japan can be more involved in developing the SEZ. Located 20 kilometres north of Dawei, capital of Tanintharyi Region in Myanmar's southeast coast bordering Thailand, the Dawei SEZ comprises 20,000 hectares of land and includes industrial as well as port facilities. Italian-Thai Development plc (ITD), a Thai construction firm, was to take the lead in the project with the initial memorandum of understanding between the Myanmar and Thai governments signed in 2008. After the project stalled in 2013, both governments remained committed to completing it, but efforts to woo other investors after sidelining ITD has been unsuccessful. Ministry of Commerce assistant secretary U Khin Maung Lwin said Japan will participate fully in the project and that ministerial-level meeting will be held where matters concerning ITD's role will also be discussed. Japan is no stranger to developing SEZs in Myanmar, as Japanese companies were involved in the development of the Thilawa SEZ, south of Yangon. Myanmar officials in particular prefer the Japanese to take part due to their reputation for quality and

trustworthiness while U Khin Maung Lwin said the government wanted the project to start as soon as possible. "It would be better with Japanese participation, and the Japanese government has also expressed interest," he said. Both the Myanmar and Thai governments have tried to involve Japan before this but unsuccessfully. However, this time around the Japan International Cooperation Agency has carried out a survey of Tanintharyi Region's coastal strip and will be releasing a report soon. The SEZ, it is believed, will have positive effects for Dawei and its surrounding areas, with electricity supply and better transportation among them. The manufacturing industries will benefit, and so will tourism, fisheries and agriculture. U Kyi Soe, a regional hluttaw member of parliament for Yephyu township said Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand can return and work in the Dawei SEZ because with Japanese involvement, there will also be Japanese factories setting up that can provide jobs. Dawei SEZ management committee vice-chair U Myint San said critical infrastructure such as a two-way road and electricity has been left uncompleted and needed to be ready. "A loan will be obtained from the Thai government for the infrastructure, tenders will be called after that and we hope to construct the road by mid-2020," he said. Myanmar government officials said with the environmental impact and social impact assessments have been conducted, the land-lease will be sent to Thailand. "Myanmar's part required to start the project will be done," U Khin Maung Lwin said. Initially, ITD was promised a 75-

year lease for the SEZ. It is understood that ITD will then have to resume the project and will have to provide reasons if the company cannot continue. Meanwhile, U Myint San said given the deadline of 2015 has passed for the completion of the project, the delay and implementation showed that ITD has not been following the contract. "There must be clear policy for this," he added. U Myint San said the initial forecast was for the project to be completed within eight years. Because construction of the basic infrastructure has not begun, the SEZ's management committee has proposed that both the basic infrastructure and the first phase of the project be implemented simultaneously. The Dawei SEZ's troubles include land appropriation by the government that has created controversy as no compensation in cash or land has been given to the owners. Speculators who bought land also suffered when the project floundered. ITD is also mired in the compensation issues as local politicians alleged that there was no adequate compensation and now want the land compensation issues to be settled first before the project starts. U Than Win, a local activist, said the assessments need to be done thoroughly and locals need to be informed. "We welcome development but with better plans and after thorough studies," he said.

Source : <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/dawei-sez-stands-better-chance-japanese-participation-officials-say.html>

---



## MPA negotiates with Japan to expand TMIT wharf



Myanmar News | 25 July, 2019

Myanma Port Authority (MPA) is in negotiation with Japan to expand Thilawa Multipurpose International Terminal (TMIT), sources said. The MPA built the TMIT using over US\$200 million loan from official development assistance (ODA) from Japan and it was opened on June 1. Myanmar built eight new wharfs in Yangon within three-year time and the cargo handling process is being carried out with 41 wharfs, according to the MPA. Myanmar coast has 1,385 miles in length and nine ports are built along the coastal area. Yangon port is a major port and handling more than 90 per cent of international maritime trade. The new eight wharfs are 200-meter long Green Asia wharf, Elite Petrochemical wharf, Wilmar International wharf, International Bulk Terminal Thilawa and 135-meter long Puma Energy Asia Sun wharf, two 400-meter long wharfs in Thilawa and 80-meter long Kyimyindaing International Port Terminal. The project in Thilawa includes a steel jacket type main bridge, three smaller bridges, dockyard buildings, the purchase of two quay cranes, six RTGs, three reach stackers, six trailers and six chassis worth about US\$200 million.

Source : <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/mpa-negotiates-with-japan-to-expand-tmit-wharf>

## Almost \$500m invested in farm product processing industry in H1



Vietnam News | 25 July, 2019

HA NOI - The agriculture sector in the first half of this year attracted about VND11.4 trillion (US\$491.3 million) to 11 new and existing projects processing farming products, according the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The ministry said since 2018, total capital of over VND20 trillion was invested in 30 projects processing agricultural products nationwide. They are hoped to create a breakthrough in processing and exporting farm produce. Head of the MARD's Department of Planning Nguyen Van Viet said the ministry is directing the implementation of a project to reduce post-harvest losses and improve the value of farming, forestry and fishery products in processing, Viet said attention has been paid to enhancing deep processing of products with great market advantages and promoting restructuring of farming products to increase added value. The MARD will continue to support and facilitate the construction and operation of large-scale and modern processing plants of vegetables, fruits and livestock products in 2019, including a hi-tech dairy cow and milk processing plant worth VND3.8 trillion (over \$163.7 million) in the central province of Thanh Hoa. In the first half of this year, as many as 1,634 agro-forestry-aquaculture enterprises were established, lifting the

total enterprises operating in the agricultural field to nearly 11,000. Of which, large-scale firms such as Vinamilk, Nafoods, TH, Dabaco Vietnam, Masan, Lavifood, Ba Huan and Bien Dong have promoted investment into high-tech application in production and business. According to the MARD in the period 2013-18, the industry of processing farming, forestry and fishery developed strongly with a growth rate of about 5-7 per cent per year. Therefore, the total export value of this sector gained strong growth at about 8-10 per cent a year, especially in 2018 with a record high of \$40.02 billion. However, the farming processing industry still has bottlenecks in the production value chain such as low capacity, low technology and poor quality of raw materials and processed products. At present, Viet Nam's industry of processing agricultural, forestry and fishery products has a designed capacity of about 120 million tonnes a year and over 7,500 large-scale enterprises. Viet Nam's processed agricultural products have been exported to over 180 countries and territories, including many high-demanding markets such as the EU, US and Japan. — VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/523123/>

[almost-500m-invested-in-farm-product-processing](#)

[-industry-in-h1.html#oaphoz97v5rXCALX.97](#)

## Local aluminium firms urged to tap opportunities from EVFTA



Vietnam News | 25 July, 2019

HA NOI – The EU – Việt Nam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) is expected to bring big opportunities for the Vietnamese aluminium sector; however, experts have said there are still challenges for local firms looking to take advantage. Nguyễn Minh Kế, chairman of the association of Vietnamese aluminium profile for the North told a workshop in Hà Nội this week that the local aluminium industry has faced fierce competition from foreign firms in the domestic market. The country's aluminium sector is still young and has not yet employed advanced technologies. "In addition, the competitiveness of Việt Nam's aluminium products has been weak," Kế said. "Imports of input materials for aluminium production have been taxed at 3 per cent since September 2015 while the export tax was increased from zero to 5 per cent, making it difficult for local aluminium producers." He added that EVFTA would bring opportunities but also challenges due to strict requirements from the EU in the areas of product origins, environmental protection and labourer regulations. Vũ Văn Phụng, the association's vice chairman cum general secretary, said only 5 per cent of the aluminium produced in Việt Nam is exported to the EU. "Goods exported to the EU must be of good quality and clear origins to meet with



requirements," he said. "Vietnamese aluminium businesses have been weak in the area of goods origin. They must overcome this shortcoming to fully tap the opportunities from EVFTA." He added that most local firms relied on imported materials. He suggested businesses have their own materials or import from countries other than China. Vice President of the European Chamber of Commerce in Việt Nam (EuroCharm) Nguyễn Hải Minh said the tariff for Vietnamese aluminium exports to the EU would be eliminated within eight years of when EVFTA takes effect. However, Minh emphasised that businesses must meet market conditions to enjoy incentives even after tariffs are removed. With this deal, European businesses will shift their investment to Việt Nam, then export to ASEAN countries and move towards other Asian markets, he said. He suggested businesses, especially small- and medium-sized enterprises, change their mindset and working style to make use of opportunities from trade deal. Senior economist Võ Trí Thành said Việt Nam's aluminium products have primarily been exported to ASEAN countries, the US and the EU. He suggested local producers further enhance exports to reduce the impact of competitiveness in the domestic market. There is still a lot of room for Vietnamese aluminium in the European market, he said. In the domestic market, the anti-dumping tax is a protection tool but will only last for a few years.

Therefore, he said, improving competitiveness is a way for Vietnamese enterprises to develop and take advantage of FTAs with exports. — VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/523113/>

*local-aluminium-firms-urged-to-tap-opportunities-from-evfta.html#YsCmtEq255yPhgmE.97*

---