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New organisation to boost Japan-Cambodia business ties



Cambodia News | 05 August, 2019

An organisation that seeks to foster stronger business and cultural ties between Japan and Cambodia was launched last week in Japan. The official website of the Cambodian Embassy in Japan reported that Cambodian Ambassador Ung Rachana hosted the opening ceremony for the Japan-Cambodia Culture and Business Council (JCBC) on Tuesday. The report said that Keiichi Kimura, who is also the chairman and CEO of the International Tourism Strategy Research Institute (ITSRI), was chosen to lead JCBC. Mr Kimura has worked as an international consultant and lobbyist in Europe and Asia for many years, according to the embassy. On its website, the ITSRI described itself as committed to developing the local tourism economy and making Japan a tourism-oriented country. Among its local clients are local governments and chambers of commerce across Japan. China, Cambodia, Germany, and Switzerland are among its international clients. Mr Kimura reportedly decided to establish JCBC after several meetings with Mr Rachana and after he paid a visit to Cambodia early this year, where he was impressed by the level of progress achieved in recent years. There are at least three other Japan-based, Cambodia-Japan friendship organisations: the Japan-Cambodia Association (JCA), the Toyama-Cambodia Friendship Association (TCFA),

and the Western Japan-Cambodia Friendship Association (WJCFA). The launching of JCBC is expected to strengthen business ties between Cambodia and Japan, which is among the largest sources of aid and investments for the Kingdom. Japanese aid to Cambodia in the last ten years totalled \$720 million, according to the Japanese Embassy in Cambodia. The Council for the Development of Cambodia reported that Japanese investments in Cambodia between 1995 and 2017 reached more than \$1.5 billion. More than 1,500 Japanese companies are operating in Cambodia, 265 of which are members of the Japanese Business Association of Cambodia (JBAC). Major Japanese companies with a presence in the Kingdom include Toyota, Aeon Mall, Suzuki, Sumitomo, Creed Asia, Marubeni, Mitsui & Co, Mitsubishi, Fuji Electric, Eastern Steel Industry, Toyo Construction, Nippon Express, Panasonic, and Sathapana Bank.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50630252/new-organisation-to-boost-japan-cambodia-business-ties/>

New organisation to boost Japan-Cambodia business ties



Cambodia News | 05 August, 2019

The Ministry of Tourism and the French Development Agency (AFD) are collaborating on a project to develop the tourism potential of three provinces in Cambodia's interior. The 'Sustainable Cities Project for Kampot, Battambang, and Kratie' seeks to develop the provinces as secondary tourism destinations, according to the

official Facebook page of the Ministry of Tourism. The ministry said the provinces will be developed following the example of Siem Reap, Phnom Penh, and the coast, which are Cambodia's primary urban tourist destinations. Last week, Tourism Minister Thong Khon met a delegation from AFD headed by Philippe Sternmetz, AFD Cambodia director, to discuss the project. During the meeting, AFD received recommendations from the ministry related to the project's feasibility study, which is being prepared by the French agency. Battambang, Kratie, and Kampot are known to have some of the best, yet relatively underdeveloped, tourism sites in the Kingdom. These include rivers, waterfalls, beaches, temples, and a host of eco-tourism wonders. The three provinces are also famous for having some of the best-preserved French colonial architecture in Indochina. Together, Kampot and Battambang are home to more than 1,000 French colonial buildings. In 2018, Battambang, Kratie, and Kampot received more than 2.6 million local and international visitors combined. The partnership is likely to boost Cambodia's bid to declare Battambang, Kratie, and Kampot 'World Heritage Sites'. The application, which was submitted to Unesco two years ago, is still being reviewed. Aside from tourism, the French government, through AFD, is also helping Cambodia improve its fisheries, agriculture, energy, and health sectors.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50630273/ministry-afd-team-up-to-unlock-provinces-tourism-potential/>

Lao ministry allows more wood products for export



Laos | 06 August, 2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - The Ministry of Industry and Commerce has revised the list of wood products approved for export so that Lao furniture makers can more easily sell their goods in local and overseas markets. The ministry has specified three main categories of wood product - planted wood products, natural wood products, and rattan and bamboo products. All products made from plantation wood, such as teak, eucalyptus, rubber, kathin nalong and kathin thepha, can be exported, including processed and non-processed goods, according to the revised list of wood products (No. 0939/MoIC) eligible for export that was issued on August 1. Agarwood should be exported in the form of crushed or chipped wood while other commercially grown wood should be processed according to size under the ministry's directions, on the lines of natural wood products, before export. The new decision replaces the one issued on January 3, 2018 (No. 0002/MoIC) which resulted in Lao wood and furniture makers facing major challenges in selling their products to foreign buyers after the government defined the size of wood and furniture products for export. Natural wood products, including banned wood, special wood and managed wood, have been cleared for export, including wooden briquettes and pellets, wooden parquet and interior flooring, wooden charcoal, wall and ceiling

panels, plywood, wooden handles, builders' joinery, articles of wooden furniture, wooden floor decking, and truck body joinery. Rattan wood products cleared for export include rattan furniture, rattan plaiting products and other finished rattan and bamboo products such as furniture and accessories made of bamboo, bamboo plaiting and small bamboo. The ministry expressed the hope that the new decision would help wood sellers and furniture makers in Laos to more easily export their products. After the PM's Order No. 15 was implemented, foreign customers, especially Chinese buyers, still expressed interest in wood and furniture products from Laos but the sizes of export products as defined by the Lao government did not meet their needs, according to the Lao Furniture Association. The issue became a big problem for wood and furniture business operators, who are also struggling to obtain funding for their business operations. To solve this problem, the Lao Furniture Association, which represents wood sellers and furniture makers in Laos, asked the government to improve the rules and regulations.

Source: <http://annx.asianews.network/content/lao-ministry-allows-more-wood-products-export-101523>

National University to accept over 8,000 students this year



Laos | 06 August, 2019

The National University of Laos in Vientiane will accept about 8,100 students to study across its 13 faculties in the coming academic year, after they pass the entrance

exams. The exams took place at the university on Saturday, with the Deputy Minister of Education and Sports, Associate Professor Dr Kongsy Sengmany, and university President, Prof. Dr Somsy Gnophanxay, in attendance. Also present were 1,385 members of the examination committees and 15,000 students who were taking the exams. The students were divided into three groups. The first group (Group A) took tests in mathematics, literature, physics, chemistry and biology. The second group (Group B) was tested in literature, mathematics, geography and history. The third group (Group C) sat tests in mathematics, chemistry, biology, geography, history and literature. The university created a committee to devise the exam questions and another to monitor the students during the exams. The university also set up an online system so that candidates could register for the exams through an easy process. The results of the entrance exams will be announced at the end of this month. Course registration will start in September and classes will begin on October 1. This year, the university is increasing its intake from the 7,575 students who were accepted last year. Elsewhere, at the University of Champassak, entrance exams will be held on August 8, while entrance exams at Souphanouvong University in Luang Prabang province will be held on August 17. The University of Savannakhet will hold its exams on August 22.

ที่มา: http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_National.php

Myanmar has over Ks38,000 billion in total debt



Myanmar News / 05 August, 2019

Till March 31 of this year, Myanmar has a total debt of Ks 38,117 billion including an external debt of 9.89 billion US dollars, said Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance Maung Maung Win. Myanmar had Ks9,938 billion in domestic debt and Ks6,335 billion in external debt, in 2011-2012 fiscal year, Ks 10,824 billion in domestic debt and Ks 7,301 billion in external debt in 2012-2013 FY, Ks 12,014 billion in domestic debt and Ks9,561 billion in external debt in 2013-2014 FY, Ks 12,487 billion in domestic debt and Ks 9,545 billion in external debt in 2014-2015 FY and Ks 15,724 billion in domestic debt and Ks 12,246 billion in external debt in 2015-2016 FY. Since the NLD government took office, Myanmar had Ks18,020 billion in domestic debt and Ks10,841 billion in external debt, in 2016-2017 fiscal year, Ks20,725 billion in domestic debt and Ks13,974 billion in external debt, in 2017-2018 fiscal year, Ks22,287 billion in domestic debt and Ks13,263 billion in external debt, from April to September, 2018 and Ks 22,787 billion in domestic debt and Ks15330 billion in external debt, till March 31 of 2018-2019 FY. The ministry is working on the debt resistance analysis, debt management plan, records of debts and the compilation of debt reports systematically.

Source:<https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/myanmar-has-over-ks38000-billion-in-total-debt>

VN imports of US goods shoot up



Vietnam News / 05 August, 2019

HCM CITY - Vietnamese imports of US consumer goods and feedstock in the first seven months has shot up from the same period last year. According to the General Department of Customs, the imports were worth US\$8.27 billion, 18 per cent up year-on-year. Computers and electronics accounted for around \$2.2 billion of them, nearly 49 per cent up, and raw cotton for \$978 million, 14.1 per cent up. Other major imports included raw plastic, machine parts, animal feed and textile and garment intermediate goods. Last year the textile and garment industry imported around US\$3 billion worth of raw cotton, \$1.47 billion of it from the US due to its high quality. Online newspaper baodautu.vn quoted Trần Thanh Hải, deputy head of the Ministry of Industry and Trade's import-export department, as saying there has been rapid growth in imports from the US, especially agricultural produce and electronics, and this is expected to accelerate even further. Viet Nam imported \$13 billion worth of materials and products from the US in 2018. — VNS

Source:<https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/523601/vn-imports-of-us-goods-shoot-up.html>

Five products to see stronger export to EU: ministry



Vietnam News | 05 August, 2019

HCM CITY – Five key exports of Vietnam – seafood, fruit, woodwork, footwear and apparel goods – will have a good chance to boost their growth into the EU market thanks to tariff reduction brought about by the EU – Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA), according to the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The deal, signed in Hanoi on June 30, is the first the EU had inked with a developing country in Asia, paving the way for the gradual reduction of up to 99 percent of tariffs between the two sides, as well as for the opening of the service and public procurement markets. The ministry recommended exporters who want to expand their market share in the EU comply with regulations set by the bloc, particularly those on product origin and food safety. Attention should also be paid to compulsory regulations on social responsibility as well as information transparency related to labour and production environment, it said. Meanwhile, exporters of seafood products ought to be careful in ensuring the principle against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Echoing the view, Chairman of the Vietnam Textile & Apparel Association (VITAS) Vu Duc Giang said in preparation for meeting the FTA's requirements, since the beginning of 2018, the association has supported firms in accessing financial funds to make their production become more environmentally friendly. However, he also pointed his finger at the

short supplies, as over 60 percent of production materials for the garment-textile, leather-footwear, plastic, and food sectors, among others, have to be imported. In the long-term, the shortage could turn into a hurdle for Vietnam to take advantage of tariff policy of the FTAs it has signed. Vietnam is currently the second biggest ASEAN trade partner of the EU, which is also one of the key trade partners of the Southeast Asian nation. Bilateral trade reached 55.8 billion USD in 2018.-VNA

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/five-products-to-see-stronger-export-to-eu-ministry/157288.vnp>
