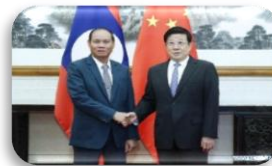


Highlight News | July 07/2019



- Airports see strong passenger growth in H1
- Shipping companies concerned over congestion at PAS
- China, Laos to enhance law enforcement, security cooperation
- Indonesia's Mandiri Bank to enter Cambodia, Laos
- Timber production halved
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Airports see strong passenger growth in H1



Cambodia News | 6 August, 2019

Cambodia's three international airports experienced robust passenger growth in the first six months of the year due to the presence of new air routes connecting the Kingdom to destinations across Asia. According to figures from Vinci Airports, the main shareholder in Cambodia Airports, together the three airports welcomed 6 million passengers from January to June, a 15.5 percent increase compared to H1 last year. The figure was obtained by combining all international and domestic passengers arriving to and departing from Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, and Sihanoukville international airports, Vinci Airports said. Phnom Penh's airport handled just over 3 million passengers, a 15.5 percent increase. Siem Reap International Airport welcomed 2.2 million, a 4.8 percent decrease. Sihanoukville International Airport handled a smaller volume of passengers (755,000) but experienced the highest growth (210 percent). The three airports received a total of 56,346 commercial flights, a 9.1 percent increase. "In Cambodia, the three facilities operated by Cambodia Airport posted again an excellent performance, with growth of 25.1 percent in the second quarter," Vinci Airports said in a press release. It added that in June, Emirates opened a new daily service between Phnom Penh and Dubai, while Citilink inaugurated the first direct flight between Phnom Penh and Jakarta. Cambodia now

enjoys direct flights to every country in Asean except Brunei, according to Khek Norinda, communications and public relations director at Cambodia Airports. In a recent interview, Mr Norinda told Khmer Times that the launch of new direct routes connecting the Kingdom to Indonesia could be an important driver of future growth. According to the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation (SSCA), 51 airlines operate in Cambodian airports. Six of them are registered locally. SSCA's spokesman Sin Chan Sereyvutha told Khmer Times that most international flights in Cambodia fly to China. "With a stable political situation and healthy economic growth, Cambodia's aviation sector continues to grow. More and more tourists, business people and investors are coming to Cambodia," he said. Mr Sereyvutha expects that next year new routes will be launch connecting Cambodia to India and Russia, as well as to countries in the Middle East and new destinations in China. Last year, Cambodia's international airports reached a significant milestone by handling a combined 10 million passengers.

Source:

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50630544/airports-see-strong-passenger-growth-in-h1//>

Shipping companies concerned over congestion at PAS



Cambodia News | 6 August, 2019

The Sihanoukville Autonomous Port (PAS), Cambodia's sole deep-water seaport and one of its most important links to the outside world, is currently experiencing congestion, which has become a source of concern for some major international shipping companies. Last week, Hapag-Lloyd, an international transport company based in Germany, issued an advisory to its clients regarding the matter. International maritime authorities and news sites have also reported on the problem. The congestion could have serious implications for Cambodia, given the port's importance to the country's economy. Approximately 70 percent of Cambodia's imports and exports pass through the port. "Please be advised that Sihanoukville Port, Cambodia, has been rather congested in recent months. The terminal productivity has deteriorated due to the port and yard congestion. Feeder services and turnaround times are affected and feeder space is tight," the advisory read. The company said the problem could persist until construction of a new container yard is completed. Phase one of the port's expansion, which is funded by Japan, is underway and will bring online a 350-meter terminal. The new terminal will raise the port's container-handling capacity from the current 700,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) to 1.29 million TEUs by 2023. "We understand that in an effort for medium-term improvement of this situation,

Sihanoukville Port is building an extended yard for additional storage space. Before the new container yard is completed, port congestion may persist," the advisory added. Khmer Times tried to contact Lou Kim Chhun, CEO of Sihanoukville Autonomous Port, for comment but has not yet received a reply as of press time.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50630492/shipping-companies-concerned-over-congestion-at-pas/>

China, Laos to enhance law enforcement, security cooperation



Laos News | 6 August, 2019

EIJING, Aug. 6 (Xinhua) -- Zhao Kezhi, Chinese State Councilor and Minister of Public Security, held talks with Lao Minister of Public Security Police Lt. Gen. Vilay Lakhamphong here Tuesday, and both sides expressed the willingness to enhance law enforcement cooperation between the two countries. Zhao said that an action plan between the two countries on building a China-Laos community with a shared future opens up a new era for bilateral relations. He expressed the hope that both countries will conscientiously implement the consensus reached by the leaders of the two Parties and two countries, strengthen security cooperation for major Belt and Road projects, and deepen cooperation in safeguarding national security and cracking down on transnational crimes such as telecommunications fraud and online gambling, as well as in law enforcement capacity building, to further advance

bilateral ties in the new era. Vilay said Laos is willing to promote cooperation in law enforcement and security with China and jointly build a Laos-China community with a shared future.

Source : http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-08/06/c_138288334.htm /

Indonesia's Mandiri Bank to enter Cambodia, Laos



Laos News | 6 August, 2019

Indonesia's Mandiri Bank, a state-owned institution, has announced its intention to enter the Cambodian and Laotian markets and has set up large investment funds to aid the move. Local media reported on Friday that Rohan Nafas, Mandiri Bank corporate secretary, said the bank is now studying the best ways of penetrating these new markets. "We are still exploring what sectors in these countries would be best for us, whether banking or finance," Mr Nafas said, adding that these two nations present more opportunities as they have just started to develop. When asked whether the bank is considering entering Vietnam, Mr Nafas said the industry there is more developed and competition a lot tougher. Mandiri Bank enjoyed a strong business performance in H1, growing by 11.1 percent. The bank's announcement follows a recent report from the National Bank of Cambodia highlighting the strong growth of the local banking and microfinance sectors. During the first half of the year, loans in the banking and microfinance sectors rose by about

22.4 percent. The value of all outstanding loans reached \$21.5 billion in the banking sector and \$6.2 billion in the microfinance industry. Cambodia and Indonesia recently pledged to boost bilateral trade, which rose moderately last year to reach \$556 million in value.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50630496/indonesias-mandiri-bank-to-enter-cambodia-laos/>

Timber production halved



Myanmar News | 6 August, 2019

The Myanmar Timber Enterprise (MTE) will halve the annual limit for logging teak and hardwood from natural forests in 2019-20, producing just enough timber to meet production costs, U Ohn Win, Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, said yesterday. He added that logging will be restricted to trees aged 30 years and above in Mandalay and Sagaing. This will help to reduce destruction of forests and the environment during the logging process. The ministry said it will also replant as much as triple the amount of felled trees in a region and ensure adequate support is given to the mahouts and working elephants affected by the reduction of logging work.

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/timber-production-halved.html>

Higher revenue collection reported by the IRD



Myanmar News | 6 August, 2019

The Inland Revenue Department (IRD) has collected K4.9 trillion in revenue across five categories of taxes from October 2018 to June 2019. According to the IRD, the amount collected was more than the amount collected in the corresponding period of last year. Four-fifths of the amount collected this year came from income tax, commercial tax, special commodities tax, court fees and stamp duties as well as the Aung Bar Lay Lottery tax. An IRD list showed that revenue from income tax was K2 4 3 billion, special commodities tax collection came in at K42 billion, the lottery tax contributed K3 1 billion, commercial tax contributed K16 billion while court fees and stamp duties contributed K5 . 3 billion compared to the corresponding period of last year. All categories except court fees and stamp duties was higher than the corresponding period of last year. The IRD noted that action has been taken against shops that failed to put the tax stamp on mobile phones and mobile phone accessories. There were 98 cases with fines totaling K10.9 million while whistle blowers were awarded K164 million in total from 11 cases.

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/higher-revenue-collection-reported-ird.html>

Tuna exports to Italy shoot up 60% in H1



Vietnam News | 6 August, 2019

NDO/VNA - Vietnam gained US\$13.3 million from exporting tuna to Italy in the first half of 2019, a year-on-year surge of 60%, according to the Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP). Particularly, the export value in June enjoyed strong growth, up 728.9% from the same time last year. As exports revenue expanded unceasingly during March-June, Italy became the first largest importer of Vietnamese tuna in the European Union in the first half. Last year, the country was the 4th biggest buyer of the Vietnamese tuna products. Earlier, the VASEP expected tuna exports to top US\$1 billion this year, up US\$350 million from 2018. Vietnam exported tuna products to 105 markets last year, with the US, the EU, Israel, ASEAN, Japan, Canada, China, and Mexico being the major ones. The US topped the list with nearly US\$230 million worth of purchases. Frozen tuna fillet was a key export item to the US last year as shipments of processed tuna increased significantly while those of canned tuna products fell, VASEP said. Vietnam was the fourth largest supplier of canned and processed tuna products to the US behind Thailand, Ecuador and China, and the second largest supplier of frozen fillet after Indonesia.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-books-18-billion-usd-trade-surplus-in-seven-months/156949.vnp>

28 items see import value of over US\$1 billion in seven months



Vietnam News | 6 August, 2019

NDO/VNA - As many as 28 commodities reported import value of more than US\$1 billion in the first seven months of 2019, according to the General Statistics Office. In combination, the 28 commodities made up 85.8% of total purchase from foreign countries in the reviewed period. Vietnam splashed out US\$143.34 billion on imports during January-July, up 8.3% against the same period last year. Of the sum, some US\$60.83 billion was contributed by the domestic economic sector, a rise of 12.6%, and US\$82.51 billion by the foreign-invested sector, growing 5.3%. The country bought US\$28.2 billion of electronic products, computer and parts, up 19% year-on-year, US\$20.8 billion for telephone and parts, up 12.7%, US\$7.8 billion for cloth, up 1.5%, US\$5.2 billion for plastic, 1.5%. Most of the goods were bought from China, the Republic of Korea, the US, ASEAN and European countries. Vietnam earned US\$145.13 billion from shipping goods abroad in the first seven months of the year, a year on year surge of 7.5%, resulting in a trade surplus of US\$1.8 billion. The growth in export value was mainly contributed to by 24 'billion dollar' goods items,

which accounted for 88.1% of total export revenue. Telephones and spare parts were the largest earners, followed by electronics, computers and spare parts, and garment and textiles. The US was the largest importer of Vietnam in the period while the EU and China came second and third, respectively.

Source :

[https://en.nhandan.com.vn/business/item/7773002-28-items-see-import-value-of-over-us\\$1-billion-in-seven-months.html](https://en.nhandan.com.vn/business/item/7773002-28-items-see-import-value-of-over-us$1-billion-in-seven-months.html)