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Ministry promotes Kingdom's tourism market in Vietnam



Cambodia News | 09 September, 2019

The Ministry of Tourism promoted Cambodia as a tourism destination during an international expo held last week in Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City. The 15th International Travel Expo was held on Sept 4-7 in the Vietnamese city, with Cambodia represented by a delegation from the ministry. Speaking at the '2019 Cambodia Night', held on the sidelines of the expo, Tourism Minister Thong Khon said the ministry seeks to increase the Kingdom's popularity abroad by joining travel fairs around the world. In the Ho Chi Minh City expo, tourism sector players from Cambodia and Vietnam discussed working together to promote both tourism markets, Mr Khon said. They discussed promoting the countries as a single destination under the slogan 'Two counties, One destination', according to a post on the ministry's Facebook page. "We expect that Cambodia will welcome more investors and tourists from around the world. Particularly, we can expect more people from Vietnam because we have new tourism products waiting for them," Mr Khon said in the event. Cambodia and Vietnam have agreed to cooperate on marine tourism once construction of a new seaport in Kampot province finishes. The port is expected to be completed by 2021. Mr Khon said marine tourism cooperation is an effective mechanism to boost cooperation among Asean countries. Cambodia aims to attract one million Vietnamese visitors a year, while Vietnam expects half a million Cambodian tourists.

Speaking at the event, Prak Vuthy, director of marketing promotion at the ministry, said they aim to create new tourism products and develop existing destinations to boost tourist numbers. "The ministry is working hard to promote Cambodia as a tourism destination by joining international expos. These efforts are very important to boost the tourism sector." Last year, Cambodia received 6.2 million international tourists, an increase of 10.7 percent year-on-year. Of these, about 800,000 were Vietnamese.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50641198/ministry-promotes-kingdoms-tourism-market-in-vietnam/>

Cambodia, Saudi Arabia to boost trade



Cambodia News | 09 September, 2019

Cambodia and Saudi Arabia on Friday agreed to sign two key agreements to boost trade and investment. During a meeting on Friday, Kim Sithorn, secretary of state at the Ministry of Commerce, and Saud F.M. Al Suwelim, Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Cambodia, agreed to sign agreements on trade and investment protection. Mr Sithorn asked the Ambassador to urge Saudi firms to consider investments in Cambodia, explaining that Cambodia has many natural resources and tourism sites. In the meeting, Saudi Arabia expressed an interest in importing agricultural products from Cambodia, particularly milled rice, cassava, rubber, and pepper. Trade between Cambodia and Saudi Arabia amounted to \$12.7 million in 2018, roughly the same as the previous year, according to the Ministry of

Commerce. Mr Al Suwelim said once the trade and investment agreements come into effect trade between the countries will soar.

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/641197/cambodia-saudi-arabia-to-boost-trade/>

Lao-Chinese joint venture to boost agricultural industry



Laos News / 09 September, 2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - The State Enterprise for Agricultural Service (SAS) of Laos has inked an agreement with China's Guangzhou Zhongheyuan Agriculture Development Co., Ltd. (GZAD) and UAB Global Ltd (UAB) of Hong Kong for cooperation in investments in the agricultural industry and market development. The agreement on establishing the joint venture CSU Agricultural Innovation Co., Ltd. (CSU) was signed in Vientiane last week by the Managing Director of SAS, Mr Viengthong Phommahaxay, GZAD's Managing Director Mr Zhong Ming, and UAB Chairman and CEO Ms Wu Hui Tzu. The ceremony was attended by the Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment, Ms Khamchanh Vongseneboun, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Dr Bounkhouang Khambounheuang, other government officials and private sector representatives. The objective of the joint venture is to develop and improve agricultural industries in Laos, including those dealing in livestock, especially pigs, cattle and goats, grass growing, organic vegetables and other agricultural produce to be supplied to the Lao, Chinese and other international markets. CSU aims to create jobs, market opportunities and sustainable income generation for people in Laos, and to produce

and supply safe and high-quality agricultural products for Lao, Chinese and international consumers at a reasonable price. The cooperation is expected to help livestock farmers and improve the farming system in Laos with the use of new technology and standards and through training and technical assistance. GZAD is a leading agricultural development company in China, and has a large number of experts and modern technology and equipment. The demand for pork and beef in China has increased, and the price of pork and beef products in that country is higher than in Laos. As a neighbour of China, Laos has strong potential in the field of agricultural products, particularly organic produce. The two sides will ensure that the new cooperation project will help in supplying pork, beef and organic agricultural produce to the Chinese market. However, most of the cattle raised in Laos are local breeds raised by smallholder farmers. The project will help to support large numbers of farmers through sustainable income generation by developing cattle production and supply chains. It aims to sell millions of head of cattle and other agricultural products to China and other international markets

Source: <http://annx.asianews.network/content/lao-chinese-joint-venture-boost-agricultural-industry-103707>

Laos, Thailand agree on digital tech cooperation for industry



Laos News / 09 September, 2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - Laos and Thailand have agreed to cooperate in applying and developing digital technology for agriculture and industry as part of the transformational fourth industrial revolution - Industry

4.0. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the cooperation was signed last week in Vientiane by Director General of the Digital Technology Department under the Ministry of Science and Technology, Mr Keonakhone Xaysoulien, and President of Thailand's Digital Economy and Promotion Agency (DEPA), Mr Nuttapon Nimmanphatcharin. Minister of Science and Technology, Prof. Dr Boviengkham Vongdara, as well as deputy ministers and officials from relevant sectors witnessed the signing. Mr Keonakhone said their role was managing, developing, promoting and servicing digital technology and electronic transactions across the country and also formulating strategy and policy on digital technology. He said the ministry had facilitated departments and institutions to research and develop tools for public management and administration to maximise the benefits of digital technology. "Today we signed with the agency to conduct a feasibility study on the benefits of digital technology for agriculture and industry development in Laos, according to Industry 4.0 uses," he said. Under the agreement, the two parties will disseminate, encourage and promote the application, research, and development of digital technology as well as share experiences in related fields. According to the ministry, the Lao government is keen to utilise digital technology as a tool for developing industrialisation and modernisation, along with improving the quality of government services and administration.

Source: [http://annx.asianews.network/content/laos-thailand-agree-digital-tech-cooperation-industry-](http://annx.asianews.network/content/laos-thailand-agree-digital-tech-cooperation-industry-103704)

103704

Foreign investment volume reaches more than US\$ 4,100 million in 12 business fields in Myanmar



Myanmar News | 09 September, 2019

A special agreement for Myanmar to export maize to Thailand has ended, the government announced recently. The deal was initially signed last year after China imposed restrictions on its imports of maize. In search of new markets for its maize, Myanmar negotiated a deal with Thailand. "The timeframe for the exports of Myanmar maize to Thailand ended in August," said U Khin Maung Lwin, assistant secretary of the Ministry of Commerce. Before the imposition of restrictions on maize imports, China had been a major market for Myanmar maize. Since last year, Thailand has been able to fill gap in demand for locally produced maize. According to Ministry of Commerce statistics, Myanmar was able to export 600,000 tonnes of maize to Thailand while the agreement was in place. However, the exports to Thailand have now ended with the expiration of the agreement in August, U Khin Maung Lwin said. "We were seeking an alternative market for our maize so we signed the deal with Thailand, but the Thai's stipulated a period up to August this year because this is when their own maize harvest season was expected to begin. We believe several truck loads of maize were sent to Thailand on September 4, but this was just a fraction compared with when the agreement was still valid," he said. For the current fiscal year, which expires at the end of this month, the country generated a record US\$1.5 million

in revenue from maize exports, with the No.1 buyer being Thailand. Some maize was still exported to China as well, according to the Ministry of Commerce. “The exports increased substantially this year compared to the same period in last year thanks to the exports of nearly 130,000 tonnes of maize to Thailand,” U Khin Maung Lwin said. The Ministry of Commerce has already asked Thailand to renew the maize export agreement, he added. This comes at a time when industry watchers are pushing for more border and regional trade to take place via Thailand in the wake of disruptions at the Myanmar-China border due to skirmishes between armed groups and the Tatmadaw (Myanmar military). Moving ahead, Myanmar should also consider exporting more of its agriculture products such as rice, nuts, beans and nuts via the Thai border, as well as further into the region such as to countries such as Malaysia via Thailand, said Daw Thin Thin Myat, chair of Myawaddy Border Traders Association. Currently, Myanmar exports goods to Laos and Vietnam via Thailand. At the moment, export volumes to Thailand at the Myawady border are much lower than import volumes from Thailand, said Daw Thin Thin Myat. Between October 1, 2018 and August 16, 2019, exports from Myanmar to Thailand totaled US\$181 million, while imports from Thailand to Myanmar totalled US\$648 million. As such, more should be done to raise exports to Thailand, she said.

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/traders-call-higher-trade-volumes-thailand-deal-ends.html>

Traders call for higher trade volumes with Thailand as deal ends



Myanmar News | 09 September, 2019

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Conference held to tap potential market of Middle East-Africa



Vietnam News | 09 September, 2019

Hanoi (VNA) – The Foreign Ministry is hosting a meeting with ambassadors from the Middle East and Africa in Hanoi with the aim of boosting trade ties with the region. The Middle East – Africa region is a large market with more than 1.6 billion people and strong financial resources, especially in the Middle East, which offers lots of trade and investment potential. Vietnam has always attached great importance to maintaining and developing the traditional friendship and cooperation with other countries in the region. That good relationship is constantly being strengthened and developed which is shown in positive economic data. To date, Vietnam has established diplomatic relations with 69 of 70 countries in the Middle East – Africa region and has economic ties with all countries, with two-way trade turnover of more than 17.5 billion USD in 2018. This number represented a 300 percent growth compared to 2008. Vietnamese businesses have invested about 2.6 billion USD in this region and received more than 7 billion USD in foreign direct investment from these countries. The two sides have also successfully set up many effective cooperation models including bilateral, tripartite and four-sided

collaboration with support of a number of developed countries and international organisations. Bright spots in economic cooperation between the two sides include agriculture, labour, telecommunication, healthcare and education. Further deepening the cooperation with the Middle East – Africa region has always been one of the priorities in Vietnam’s foreign policy. Vietnam highly appreciates the important role and contribution of the diplomats and diplomatic missions of the Middle East – African countries in Vietnam, as well as other international organisations, to the achievements. In that spirit, the event will be attended by the heads of the permanent resident and non-resident diplomat missions, honorary consulates of the Middle East - African countries in Vietnam; representatives of some major development partners and international organisations such as the United Nations (UN), World Bank, European Union, Francophone International Organisation, JICA; Vietnamese officials from many ministries, sectors and localities; and businesses of the two sides. The conference will hear the update on Vietnam’s socio-economic development and major orientations in its foreign policy, especially the country’s highest priorities during its term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2020-21. Discussions will focus on the situation of cooperation between Vietnam and the Middle East - Africa region, including the collaboration between the Vietnamese ministries and sectors with diplomatic missions of the regional countries; ways and means to increase

imports and exports between the two sides. Especially, the possibility of opening a new model of cooperation in the agriculture sector and boosting cooperation in the telecommunication sector between Vietnam and the region will be given special attention. These are two important fields of mutual interest. Delegates will also have tours to the Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences – the leading research unit in the agricultural and fishery sciences of Vietnam - and Viettel Group – a Vietnamese telecom company with extensive experience in doing business in Africa. The event is meaningful with trade tensions rising and Vietnamese exports to traditional markets are gradually approaching the saturation point. Boosting trade cooperation with new markets such as Middle East - Africa is a necessary and achievable way for Vietnamese businesses to grow. – VNA

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/conference-held-to-tap-potential-market-of-middle-east-africa/160127.vnp>

Vietnam-Czech Republic trade up 5.6 percent in first half



Vietnam News | 09 September, 2019

Prague (VNA) – Two-way trade between Vietnam and the Czech Republic in the first six months of 2019 hit 591.14 million USD, up 5.6 percent, according to latest statistics of the European country. The Czech Republic imported 557.78 million USD worth of goods from Vietnam, an increase of 8.96 percent, while the value of its exports to Vietnam reached 33.36 million USD, down

30.33 percent. Czech-Vietnam trade value in 2019 is forecast to reach 1.182 billion USD, a year-on-year increase of 0.66 percent, with the Czech Republic's import value expected to increase by 7.93 percent. In the first two quarter, the European country imported from Vietnam mainly machinery, electrical equipment, footwear, textiles and accessories, and agricultural-forestry products. Data from the General Department of Vietnam Customs shows that in the first seven months of this year, Vietnam posted increases in export turnover to many EU member states, such as Germany (3.43 percent), Hungary (7.94 percent), Denmark (4.74 percent), Estonia (16.17 percent) and the Netherland (8.97 percent).-

VNA

Source:<https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnamczech-republic-trade-up-56-percent-in-first-half/160131.vnp>
