

Highlight News | September 20/2019



- Cambodia unveils masterplan to boost tourism in 2 world heritage sites
- Cambodia, Thailand Sign Agreement On Cross-border Listings
- Lao, Thai media exchange views on further cooperation
- Laos, China to stage joint technology expo
- Indonesia, Myanmar discuss cooperation in foodstuff, textile, service sectors
- Yangon plans logistics hub, truck terminal to ease congestion
- Việt Nam ranked in top countries for investment
- Vietnamese goods shine in Thailand



Cambodia unveils masterplan to boost tourism in 2 world heritage sites



Cambodia News | 19 September, 2019

Phnom Penh – Cambodia is set to roll out the Four-Strategic Plan for Tourism Development aimed at reviving tourism at the Angkor Archaeological Park and the Preah Vihear temple in northern provinces, a local newspaper reported on Wednesday. The two main tourist destinations saw a 9.7 percent and 5.5 percent drop in tourists during the first seven months of this year. Tourism Minister Thong Khon and Environment Minister Say Samal unveiled the masterplan for tourism development in the northern provinces during an inter-ministerial committee meeting on Monday, the Phnom Penh Post reported. The four-strategic plan includes diversifying new tourism products and extending the stay of tourists, boosting competitiveness, improving connectivity and crafting a new identity for the "Siem Reap area," which includes Preah Vihear province. Khon said that development of new tourism products is necessary to attract tourists to the two world heritage sites-the Angkor Archaeological Park in Siem Reap province and the Preah Vihear temple in Preah Vihear province. "We are currently working actively to make Cambodia a quality tourist destination, meaning that apart from efforts to strengthen services, the sale of fake products to cheat tourists must also be stopped," he was quoted as saying by the Phnom Penh Post. He said the authorities would not allow the sale of counterfeit souvenirs and jewelry to continue as it causes a

significant impact on Cambodia's tourism destinations and national prestige as a whole. During the meeting, the committee also designated the Tonle Sap Lake area, Kulen Mountain, Siem Reap town and surrounding areas as zones for new tourism product development. Tourist arrivals dropped by 9.7 percent year-on-year in Siem Reap province in the first seven months of this year and rose 27.9 percent year-on-year in Phnom Penh, a Ministry of Tourism report shows. Tourist arrivals in coastal areas climbed 31.9 percent year-on-year during the same period and increased 9.4 percent year-on-year in ecotourism areas, it shows. The report said that in the first seven months of this year, Cambodia welcomed 3.84 million foreign tourists, up 11.1 percent on the same period last year. The number of Chinese tourists reached 1.5 million during the period, up 37 percent year-on-year, Vietnamese tourists hit nearly 480,000, up 4.6 percent year-on-year, and Lao tourists were nearly 220,000, down 1.9 percent.

Source : <https://english.cambodiadaily.com/business/cambodia-unveils-masterplan-to-boost-tourism-in-2-world-heritage-sites-153334/>

Cambodia, Thailand Sign Agreement On Cross-border Listings



Cambodia News | 19 September, 2019

Cambodia and Thailand on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding on cross-border equity offerings and depositary receipts, paving the way for Thai companies to list at the local bourse and vice versa. The agreement was signed in Bangkok by Sou Socheat,

director-general of the Securities Exchange Commission of Cambodia (SECC) and Ruenvadee Suwanmongkol, SEC Thailand's secretary-general. Tuesday's signing follows a courtesy visit to Cambodia by a SEC delegation last month, where the basis of the agreement was agreed upon. The MoU is a milestone in the relationship between the bourse regulators. "This MoU covers the establishment and functions of a task force composed of SEC Thailand and SECC officials that will work on implementing cross-border equity offerings and the issuance of DR," SECC said in a press release yesterday. "It also covers the issuance of guidelines to help issuers who wish to offer securities, either equity or DR, in Thailand and Cambodia," it said. SEC's Ms Ruenvadee said in the statement that Cambodia and Thailand are well connected in terms of economic, social and cultural activity and that SEC Thailand and SECC are already cooperating closely. The MoU, she said, is an important step in enhancing capital market cooperation between the two regulators to successfully implement cross-border listings and DR issuance. "Through this strong collaboration, a corporation from Cambodia could become the first foreign company listed on Thailand's stock market, after regulation on cross-border equity offering entered into force in 2015. "DR is also another financial instrument that has been received with great interest by the businesses in both countries. Thus, we strongly believe that this MoU will create many business opportunities as well as sustainable growth and prosperity in the region," she said. SECC's Mr Soheat said, "This MoU provides alternative ways for companies in Cambodia and Thailand to access capital, expand, increase liquidity from trading in more than one exchange

and have access to a larger pool of potential investors. "In addition, we are sure this MoU will be a good model for cooperation in the region," he said, adding that, "We are optimistic that capital markets in the region will grow together." The Cambodia Securities Exchange was launched 2012 and now has five companies listed on its main board, while three – Hattha Kaksekar Limited, ABA Bank and LOLC – have issued bonds. A total of \$120 million have been raised at CSX since it launched seven years ago.

Source : <https://www.b2b-cambodia.com/news/cambodia-thailand-sign-agreement-on-cross-border-listings/>

Lao, Thai media exchange views on further cooperation



Laos News | 20 September, 2019

A Lao media delegation visited Thailand from September 10-13 as part of ongoing efforts to promote cooperation and exchange experiences between the two nations in the field. The four-day call by the delegation was part of the 'Lao media visit Thailand' project, which is an initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and implemented by the Royal Thai Embassy to Laos. The project also aims to promote more understanding between people of the two nations through the media. During the visit, the delegation had meetings with officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, members of the Thai Journalists Association, and visited Thai media organisations including MCOT Public Company Limited, a Thai state-owned public broadcaster and Thai Channel 7 HD to share lessons on doing business in the media industry.

The visit also included a study tour to significant sites. The Lao media delegation included representatives from the Lao News Agency, Pasaxon newspaper, Lao National Radio, Lao Press in Foreign Languages and Target Magazine.

Source : http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_Lao_Thai_210.php

Laos, China to stage joint technology expo



Laos News / 19 September, 2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - The Laos-China Science and Technology Exhibition will take place in Vientiane from October 11-16, giving both nations the chance to showcase the latest innovations to the public. The expo at the National Convention Centre will serve as a platform for the two countries' science and technology sectors under the theme "Fostering Smart Technology Application to Achieve the Goal of Industrialisation and Modernisation". Speaking at a press conference on Friday to announce the event, Minister of Science and Technology, Prof. Dr Boviengkham Vongdara explained the programme and the kind of products that would be on display. "The expo aims to promote technology transfer, provide opportunities for companies and research institutions to share information, create a network for promoting production, and spark technology transfer projects," he said. The event will also coincide with the celebration of Lao National Science Week 2019 and Lao Independence Day (October 12). The expo would also feature a display of handicrafts together with local food, and the latest in consumer tech and electronics, he said. Several activities will be held on the sidelines such

as a workshop on Laos - China cooperation in developing advanced industrial technology, 3rd Nationwide Meeting of the Science and Technology Sector, and National Meeting on Science and Technology Development in the Industry 4.0 Era. The expo and accompanying meetings were important for creating value-adding in knowledge and technology to support management and efficiency that leads to new business and boosts the socio-economic development of both countries, the minister explained. The event will enable exchanges to promote cooperation in research and technology transfer among governments, the private sector and educational institutions of both nations. The government is supporting the private investment in the sector as part of the Sciences and Technology Development Strategy to 2025 and Vision to 2030. This is consistent with the 8th five-year National Socio-Economic Development Plan with science, technology and innovation representing a driving force to achieve development goals.

Source : <http://annx.asianews.network/content/laos-china-stage-joint-technology-expo-104461>

Indonesia, Myanmar discuss cooperation in foodstuff, textile, service sectors



Myanmar News / 19 September, 2019

Discussion is underway between Indonesian and Myanmar businesspeople to cooperate in foodstuff, textile and service industries, according to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce

and Industry (UMFCCI). A one-on-one business matching took place to facilitate cooperation between business people of each countries in trading fertilizers, weed killers, food and medicine packaging, cement, paper and pulp, textiles including batik, trade and services. According to trade data from the ministry of commerce, trade between the two countries amounted to US\$523.147 million in the six-month interim budget period from April to September 2018. Myanmar exported goods worth US\$62.822 million to Indonesia. Then, Myanmar imported goods worth US\$460.325 million from Indonesia. In 2017-2018 fiscal year trade with Indonesia totalled US\$1,025.278 million—US\$123.909 million in export and US\$901.369 million. From October 1 to July in the current 2018-2019 FY, bilateral trade amounted to US\$863.091 million. The business matching held on September 16 was attended by a lot of businesspersons from both countries. UMFCCI Centennial International Expo 2019 to be held with the aim of providing local and foreign investment and economic opportunities will showcase products including vehicles from Germany, the Netherlands, Japan, Korea, China, Malaysia, Thailand, Taipei and Vietnam.

Source : <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/indonesia-myanmar-discuss-cooperation-in-foodstuff-textile-service-sectors>

Yangon plans logistics hub, truck terminal to ease congestion



Myanmar News | 19 September, 2019

Yangon is planning to build a logistics hub and truck terminal in the outskirts of the city to ease traffic congestion and provide enough parking space for trucks, said Yangon Region Planning and Finance Minister U Myint Thaug at the regional parliament. He was responding to U Kyaw Min Han, MP from Latha township, who asked if there any plans to implement a project to improve efficiencies and productivity in the logistics industry. Currently, companies transport goods by 22-wheel, 12-wheel and 6-wheel trucks from factories directly to respective townships. However, others move the goods to a depot at Bayintnaung Highway bus terminal in Mayangone township before they are loaded onto trucks and ferried to their intended destinations. This has led to heavy traffic congestion near the terminal, which is no longer big enough to accommodate the rising number of trucks. “The regional government and Myanmar Highway Freight Transportation Service Association have discussed how to solve this issue and we are planning to reduce the number of trucks entering and exiting the downtown area and building a logistics hub that includes a new truck terminal outside Yangon city,” said U Myint Thaug. The country’s freight transportation network is mainly covered by truck in

addition to the rail and sea channels. Goods delivered to the ports are stored in warehouses before being moved by train, vessels or trucks. During fiscal 2017-18, a total of 530,000 trucks moved goods across Yangon. Railway freight volumes amounted to 526,000 tonnes, while 422,000 tonnes and 1400 tonnes were moved by vessels and planes, respectively.

Source : <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/yangon-plans-logistics-hub-truck-terminal-ease-congestion.html>

Việt Nam ranked in top countries for investment



Vietnam News | 19 September, 2019

HÀ NỘI — Việt Nam has climbed in the ranking of best countries in which to invest this year, surpassing other Southeast Asian nations, such as Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. A recent report by the US News and World Report ranked Việt Nam eighth out of 29 economies, up from 23 last year. Meanwhile, some neighbouring nations – Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia – stood in thirteenth, fourteenth and eighteenth positions, respectively. According to the report, **Đổi mới** (renewal) economic policy reforms beginning in 1986 have helped Việt Nam transition to becoming a more modern, competitive nation. Việt Nam's continued efforts to lessen international isolation are shown by joining of the World Trade Organisation in 2007 and participation in free trade negotiations with the Trans-Pacific Partnership in 2010. It is also a

member of the United Nations, the ASEAN Regional Forum and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum, among other international organisations, the report stated. US News & World Report is an American media company that publishes news, analysis, consumer advice and rankings. More than 20,000 people from across the globe participated in this study. The ranking of the best countries to invest in draws from the results of a global perceptions-based survey and ranks countries based on the highest scores among nearly 7,000 business decision makers on a compilation of eight equally weighted country attributes including corruption, dynamics, economic stability, entrepreneurial, favourable tax environment, innovation, skilled labour force and technological expertise. In this year's top five, Uruguay came in first place, followed by Saudi Arabia, Luxembourg, India and Poland. From the beginning of this year to August, Việt Nam lured a total of \$22.63 billion worth of foreign direct investment (FDI) according to the Foreign Investment Agency under the Ministry of Planning and Investment. As of August, the nation was home to more than 29,530 valid foreign-invested projects, with capital totalling \$353.7 billion. South Korea was Việt Nam's largest investor with \$64.87 billion, followed by Japan (\$58.23 billion), Singapore (\$49.62 billion), Taiwan (\$31.89 billion) and Hong Kong (\$21.64 billion). — VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/535610/vietnam-ranked-in-top-countries-for-investment.html#aCBCVJlxoKaxLKaS.97>

Vietnamese goods shine in Thailand



Vietnam News | 19 September, 2019

HÀ NỘI — Vietnamese businesses are proudly presenting their products at the “Vietnamese Week in Thailand 2019”, which officially opened on September 18 in Bangkok, Thailand. This is the fourth year in a row that the Vietnamese week has been organised in the city. Themed “Taste of Việt Nam”, the five-day event has attracted the participation of 45 Vietnamese businesses, with the main purpose of promoting Vietnamese commodities in Thailand as well as creating export opportunities for Vietnamese suppliers in the Thai market. The event is a project in the framework of ‘Promote Vietnamese enterprises’ direct participation in foreign distribution networks up to 2020’ which was endorsed by the Prime Minister in his Decision No 1513/QĐ-TTg dated September 3, 2015. At the fair, co-organised by Việt Nam’s Ministry of Industry and Trade and Central World, Vietnamese businesses introduced their products with high export potential such as phở (noodles), tea, coffee, snacks, fresh fruits and spices. The total exhibition area spans nearly 1,000 square metres of CentralWorld shopping centre. The event is expected to welcome 500,000 visitors over five days. “In recent years, Việt Nam’s Government has encouraged Vietnamese suppliers to engage in international retail systems including in Thailand. ‘Vietnamese Week in Thailand

2019’ is an important event held annually since 2016,” said **Đỗ Thắng Hải**, deputy minister of Industry and Trade of Việt Nam at the opening ceremony. In order to promote and export Vietnamese products to its retail system, Central Group Vietnam has recently co-operated with the Ministry of Industry and Trade to conduct market research, select potential products which are suitable for the Thai market, as well as organise practical training courses to improve the capacity and quality of Vietnamese suppliers and develop the unique products for Thai market, **Hải** said. In his remarks, Thai Minister of Commerce Sontirat Sontijirawong said the event showed the vision and determination of Việt Nam’s Ministry of Industry and Trade and Central Group in strengthening economic relations, connecting investment and business by exchanging products and services. “The relationship between Thailand and Việt Nam is not merely co-operation between two countries but it is also connected with the community of ASEAN countries, so we need to closely collaborate with each other and with our ASEAN pals to develop more together,” Sontijirawong said. Jariya Chirathivat, executive vice-president of business development at Central Group, said: “Vietnamese Goods and Tourism Week is one of the activities that Central Group attaches great importance to. After each year of organisation, our enthusiastic staff have tried to

closely follow the instructions and suggestions of the Việ Nam's Ministry of Industry and Trade to execute the programme with increasing scale and quality.”

“This activity helps realise Central Group Việ Nam's vision of contributing to the prosperity of Việ Nam and improve the quality of life of Vietnamese people. We are happy to be a part of Việ Nam.” Nguyễn Lâm, sales manager of Vietnamese Gia Lai-based cashew nuts processor Hải Bình Gia Lai Co Ltd, told Việ Nam News this was the second year his company had brought products to the event. “We tried to renovate our design to make it more eye-catching, hoping to connect with Thai partners in the business matching session,” Lâm said. In the first seven months of 2019, the total import and export turnover between the two countries reached US\$10.2 billion, up 6.6 per cent over the same period in 2018. In particular, Việ Nam's export turnover to Thailand reached approximately \$3.2 billion, up 1.5 per cent. Việ Nam's import turnover from Thailand reached \$7 billion, up 9.2 per cent over the same period in 2018. — VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/535608/>

[vietnamese-goods-shine-in-thailand.html](https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/535608/vietnamese-goods-shine-in-thailand.html)

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