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Ministry signs tourism pact with Chinese groups



Cambodia News | 23 September, 2019

The Ministry of Tourism and three education institutions from China's Guangxi province have signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation on tourism skilled training. A ministry Facebook post said the pact with Henan Normal University, Guangxi Second Light Industry Senior Technical School, and Guangxi Hansi Education Investment Co. Ltd, and was signed on Saturday in Nanning City, Guangxi province. The MoU underscores the importance of training and development of human resources, especially capacity development of tourism professionals and operators by enhancing cooperation of human resource development and boosting vocational tourism training in Cambodian schools, it noted. Tourism Minister Thong Khon said in the post that Cambodia's tourism sector development needs professionals to cater to the Kingdom's booming growth in both local and international tourist arrivals. The cooperation will help the country to increase the number of tourism professionals to 1.2 million by 2025, he noted. "The tourism sector requires certain skills in order to develop in quality and sustainable, Mr Khon said. "Cambodia plans to provide 50% of the required tourism professionals by 2020 and 100% by 2025." According to the ministry, there are currently about 800,000 people employed in the tourism sector but the majority require some sort of skills accreditation through a training programme. It said Cambodia needs to provide training and tourism skills to

some 1.2 million professionals in the sector to cater to millions of international and domestic tourists in the Kingdom each year. The ministry said 15 million foreign holidaymakers are expected to visit the Kingdom yearly by 2030. The government aims to have two million workers in the tourism sector by then. Cambodia has set a goal to increase foreign tourist arrivals to 7 million by this year, up from 6.2 million last year. In the first half of this year, Cambodia welcomed 3.3 million of international holidaymakers, 1.2 million of whom were from China, an increase of 38 percent.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50645420/ministry-signs-tourism-pact-with-chinese-groups/>

Reed Smith supports 2,400 MW energy deal with Laos



Cambodia News | 23 September, 2019

The critical 2,400 MW energy deal signed earlier this month by Electricité du Cambodge (EDC) and two independent power providers in Laos was made possible through facilitation by international law firm Reed Smith. The recent signing of landmark agreements between EDC and two power providers in Laos PDR – Xekong Thermal Power Plant Company Limited and TSBP Sekong Power and Mineral Company Limited – took place with the support of Singapore-based Energy and Natural Resources partners Kohe Hasan and Bree Miechel, granting the Kingdom an energy deal lasting 30 years with power transfers commencing in 2024. Neither Hasan nor Miechel are strangers to the Cambodian energy landscape and both carry with them a wealth of experience, highlighting EDC's

commitment to cooperating with expert international consultants. Hasan, a partner at Reed Smith, acted on behalf of a Cambodian group in a joint venture dispute regarding a 270 MW power plant in the Kingdom, but this latest deal dwarfs her previous project here. “We were delighted to be involved in such a milestone transaction which will have a meaningful impact on the lives of the people of Cambodia,” she said. At a rate of 7.7 cents per kilowatt hour, 300 MW will be purchased in 2024, rising to 600 MW in 2025 and 2026, and 900 MW in 2027, according to Victor Jona, director-general of energy, who noted the rapid growth in demand across the Kingdom ranging from 17 to 20 percent each year. Data provided by the Ministry of Mines and Energy showed that Cambodia consumed 2,650 MW in 2018, as such the landmark deal secured by Reed Smith should go a long way toward guaranteeing energy security in the Kingdom, as well as strengthening ties with neighbouring Laos. Keo Rattanak, Minister attached to the Prime Minister and Managing Director of EDC commended the signing of the deal and the significance of the work that went into it. “It was a privilege working with the Reed Smith team. They are extremely driven, highly professional and were able to deliver under very tight timelines. Kohe knows the Cambodian market well and that helps with the smooth progress of the transaction,” he said.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50645407/reed-smith-supports-2400-mw-energy-deal-with-laos/>

CLMTV highlights protection of workers' rights



Laos News / 23 September, 2019

Laos will continue to cooperate with regional and development partners to protect migrant workers' rights, a conference in Siem Reap, Cambodia was told last week. Conducted under the theme ‘Toward the Protection of Migrant Workers in CLMTV Countries: Cooperation in Social Security’, the opening of the 3rd Ministerial Conference on Labour Cooperation in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam (CLMTV) on September 17 was presided over by Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Hun Sen. Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Dr Khampheng Saysompheng told the conference that Laos is focusing on the protection of migrant workers' rights and implementing a national social protection policy which included a social assistance system. All migrant workers had rights when it comes to negotiating their working conditions, and these rights can be upheld by strengthening the legal mechanisms that govern workers' status, he said. In addition, workers had improved employment security with the social protection floor, and social dialogue in Laos was being strengthened by developing a labour force based on economic structure, promoting employment services and selfemployment, strengthening workers' protection, and enhancing industrial relations. The conference discussed progress in labour cooperation to provide

appropriate job opportunities, and addressed the protection and promotion of migrant workers' rights in accordance with the 2007 Asean Declaration on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Cebu, the Philippines, and the 2017 Asean Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in Manila, the Philippines. During the conference, the five Asean countries agreed on legal frameworks and cooperation in social security to protect migrant workers. The senior officials discussed cooperation in job security among the five countries to protect migrant workers and sought a joint framework on a mobile social security scheme for migrant workers.

Source : http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_CLMTV_211.php

Border trade value reaches over 9.4 bn in 11 months



Myanmar News | 21 September, 2019

Myanmar has earned over US\$9 billion from border trade in over 11 months, exceeding over US\$1 billion compared to the same period last year, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce. Border trade value from October 1 to September 6 in the current 2018-2019 fiscal year reached US\$9.464 billion while last year 's amount totalled US\$8.434 billion. Thus this year's border trade value exceeded US\$1.033 billion. Border trade value at Muse border trade camp that serves as largest trade between

Myanmar and China amounted to over US\$4.5 billion, but the amount fell by nearly US\$1.2 billion compared to last year. Border trade value at Nabule/Htikhee border trade camp doing trade with Thailand hit US\$2.318 billion exceeding over US\$2 billion compared to the same period of last year. Myanmar operates 17 border trade camps including Muse, Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpaikti, Kengtung, Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Nabule/Htikhee, Mawtaung, Mese, Sittway, Maungdaw, Tamu, Reed and Htantalan. Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint said: "To boost trade, we need to improve both quantity and quality. In import sector, we need to import more capital goods that can generate sustainable economy."

Source : <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/border-trade-value-reaches-over-94-bn-in-11-months>

Binh Thuan needs to become constructive administration: Deputy PM



Vietnam News | 22 September, 2019

Binh Thuan (VNA) – The south-central province of Binh Thuan should pay due attention to building a constructive administration which is able to handle challenges for both locals and investors, Deputy Prime Minister Truong Hoa Binh said on September 22. Attending the province's investment promotion

conference in Phan Thiet city, Deputy PM Binh ordered the locality to continue building a good investment climate and outlining attractive policies to lure more strategic investors, aiming to create a driving force for local sustainable development. To do so, good planning management should be made in the three core sectors of clean energy, tourism, and high-tech agriculture, he suggested, stressing the importance of planning for coastal urban. Deputy PM Binh said as Binh Thuan province possesses huge potential to develop renewable energies such as wind and solar power, and green tourism, it should work to attract key investments, and branch out tourism in tandem with high-tech agriculture so as to create standout tourism products. He urged the province to make full use of its resources to accelerate and improve quality of economic growth in order to turn itself into a well-developed locality in the south-central coastal area, and the Central Highlands region. At the event, Binh also expressed his hope that the investors will have long-term business strategy, and exercise their corporate responsibility while landing investment in the province. The province has attained significant advancement in the economic development since it organised the first investment promotion conference in 2017. It has granted investment licenses for 264 projects with a combined registered capital of over 53 trillion VND (2.28 billion USD). At this year's conference, Binh Thuan introduced its strengths, potential, and priority projects in tourism, high-end entertainment complexes, urban areas, processing

industry, renewable energies and smart agriculture to the investors. Under the witness of the Deputy PM and leaders of ministries and sectors, Binh Thuan province presented investment intention decisions to 11 projects valued over 23 trillion VND. Meanwhile, the provincial People's Committee signed a Memorandum of Understanding on registering investment for 14 projects worth 20.32 billion USD in various sectors./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/binh-thuan-needs-to-become-constructive-administration-deputy-pm/160863.vnp>

South Korean firm to invest \$700 mln towards cashless payment in Vietnam



Vietnam News | 22 September, 2019

Financial solutions firm Allix will invest over \$700 million to build shared Point of Sales (POS) across Vietnam. Allix plans to install a total of 600,000 shared POS devices in Vietnam over the next five years, its director Park Byounggun told Deputy Prime Minister Vuong Dinh Hue at a meeting on Friday. The company, along with local partners, will build and operate this shared system, and continue to add new features on the POS devices such as QR code, contactless payment, and biometrics in line with regulations, Byounggun said. The shared POS system will help local authorities cut down cash in circulation and transaction costs, combat tax losses and speed up payment transactions in a safe and

efficient manner, helping the government's efforts to transform Vietnam into a cashless society, he added. Allix has also signed collaboration contracts with private lender Sacombank and the state-owned VietinBank to roll out the POS system in Vietnam. Electronic payments in the country increased by 22 percent in 2017 to \$6.14 billion, according to Statista, a local market research firm. The figure is projected to rise to \$12.33 billion by 2022. Economists have said that the potential for cashless payments in Vietnam is huge due to a growing middle class and rapidly improving telecom infrastructure. The Vietnamese government targets to make 90 percent of all transactions cashless by 2020. However, for now, the reliance on cash remains huge. About 80 percent of Vietnamese prefer to use cash for daily transactions, according to the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Source : <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/business/companies/south-korean-firm-to-invest-700-mln-towards-cashless-payment-in-vietnam-3985143.html>
