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## Thai business community urges more action against fake goods



*Cambodia News | 23 September, 2019*

A group from the Thai business community in Cambodia has urged the government to crack down on those selling counterfeits of products made in Thailand in the Kingdom. The call on Thursday came during a workshop on Countering Counterfeit Products jointly organised by the Royal Thai Embassy in Phnom Penh and Thai Business Council in Cambodia (TBCC) in collaboration with the Interior Ministry's Counter Counterfeit Committee (CCCC). The Thai business community in Cambodia has noticed that imitations of some of their products are being distributed in the market. Panyarak Poolthup, Thailand's Ambassador to Cambodia, said the workshop was aimed at raising awareness on rules and regulation against anti fake goods with the help of CCCC. "This workshop is very important and timely so that we can work closely with the CCCC to help identify the proper channels to counter counterfeit products," he told a group of reporters after the event. "We have received inputs from Thai businesspeople that we should organise this kind of workshop with the CCCC's help to provide information on regulations aimed to combat fake goods," Mr Poolthup said. "They [Thai businesspeople] have found some imitations of Thai products in the market, so they need both the Cambodian and Thailand governments to tackle this problem." He said that he believes that concrete measures, adhering to international standards, taken to crackdown on the crime would raise investor

confidence, especially among Thai businesses, who will seek to bring in more Thai products for local consumers. Thailand has invested lots in Cambodia and ranks at ninth in term of foreign direct investment in the Kingdom, Mr Poolthup noted. General Meach Sophana, CCCC president, said at the workshop that both countries' governments have collaborated to crack down on any form of production, distribution and sales of any items that violate 'Intellectual Property' right. "It is not just about Thai business interests here in Cambodia, but it also benefits our country as a whole," he said, noting that fake goods could potentially harm consumers. "The government's effort is to ensure that all kind of products distributed in the market bring genuine benefits, especially those related to the health of consumers." Gen Sophana added that genuine products which are trademarked need to be protected. When asked whether crackdowns have reduced the sale of counterfeit products in the Kingdom, he said more cases are being uncovered because of redoubled efforts. "We cannot make any conclusion right now about whether cases are declining or increasing, but we will increase our crackdowns on such goods to protect people's health and well-being," Gen Sophana noted. A CCCC report showed that the crackdowns last year uncovered 20 cases of counterfeit products being sold in the Kingdom and the fake goods were mostly medicine, poor quality foodstuff, cosmetics containing toxic chemicals and other trademark violations. In March this year, the committee destroyed more than 70 tonnes of various counterfeit products, including different types of medicines and other items. Global projections by the

World Health Organization (WHO) have put total sales of counterfeit or substandard medication at roughly \$30.5 billion, South East Asia Globe reported last week. Southeast Asia's fake medicine industry is but a fragment of a vast underground bazaar, with the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reporting this year that black market sales in contraband such as knock-off handbags, watches and electronics across Southeast Asia generate somewhere between \$33.8 and \$35.9 billion a year, the report noted. During Thursday's workshop, Cambodian authorities held sessions with the Thai participants regarding trade mark registration and urged businesses to register their brands at the Ministry of Commerce to ensure their products are protected. Participants were also advised on how to file complaints about fake goods and informed about strategies to combat counterfeits. Cambodia and Thailand have pledged on multiple occasions to increase bilateral trade to \$15 billion a year by 2020. Bilateral trade between the countries increased by 7 percent year-on-year in H1, reaching roughly \$4.1 billion. From January to June, Cambodian exports to its neighbour amounted to \$685 million, a whopping 52 percent hike. By contrast, imports from Thailand rose by just 1 percent to reach \$3.4 billion.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50645404/thai-business-community-urges-more-action-against-fake-goods/>

## Search on again for Kingdom's best quality rice



Cambodia News / 23 September, 2019

The Cambodia Rice Federation has urged rice millers and exporters to join the National Rice Competition 2019 by submitting samples of their rice. It said in an announcement on Friday that the best premium fragrant rice will be presented as Cambodia's entry to the World Best Rice Award Contest scheduled to be held in Manila, the Philippines, from November 10 to 13. The fourth national rice competition will be held on November 1 and the rice millers and exporters should submit their samples to the CRF no later than October 25, the CRF noted. It said there are three categories in the competition – premium fragrant rice; fragrant rice; and long grain white rice. Lun Yeng, CRF secretary general, yesterday said that rice millers and exporters are encouraged to join the contest to find the best quality rice in the country. "Any rice miller and exporter can apply to join the upcoming national rice competition, so that the best quality rice will be selected by the CRF's committee of judges," he noted. The competition will focus on the quality of rice after cooking, its fragrance and appearance, Mr Yeng said. He noted that national winners in the fragrant rice and long grain white rice categories would be given awards during the 7th Cambodia Rice Forum scheduled to be held in December. Since participating in the annual World Best Rice contest, Cambodian rice has won the top award in 2012, 2013, 2014 and last year. Last year, Cambodia's premium fragrant rice won the best rice in the world contest which took place in Hanoi, Vietnam during the 10th TRT World

Rice Conference held on October 10 to 12. According to Mr Yeng, Cambodia faces tough competition from Thailand and Vietnam which also produce high quality rice for export to other countries. Cambodia exported 281,538 tonnes of milled rice during the first half of this year, an increase of 3.7 percent compared to the same period last year.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50645419/search-on-again-for-kingdoms-best-quality-rice/>

## Laos to stop quality testing of electronic, electric appliances



Laos News / 23 September, 2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - Laos is keen to adopt international accounting standards as part of efforts to upgrade public sector finance administration through capacity-building for finance officials countrywide. A five-day training of trainer programme to build these skills among officials has been jointly organised by the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA) and the Lao Ministry of Finance with support from the Temasek Foundation International (TF Intl) and will continue until September 27. The ministry believes some of the lessons learnt from Singapore and its experiences will support the development of public sector financial management and make it more efficient and effective. Director General of the Tax Department under the Ministry of Finance, Mr Phouthanouphet Xaysombath, said the strategic cooperation plan between Laos and Singapore began with support from ISCA, TF Intl and the Lao Chamber of

Professional Accountants and Auditors (LCPAA). "The focus is on supporting the finance ministry to improve public finance management through capacity-building for officials, especially for public sector financial management, principles of accounting and taxation," he said. The programme has drawn more than 40 financial officials from public organisations, ministries and the district administration. Mr Phouthanouphet said the programme includes three required courses, especially for senior financial leaders, training of trainers and technical officials. "The Ministry of Finance believes this programme will enable Lao finance officials to be equipped with accountancy and taxation skills as well as promote the local business sector to implement the law on accounting and taxation," he said. The programme is jointly facilitated by experienced ISCA members, TF Intl and the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS). Using the "train-the-trainer" model, Lao officials who complete the programme will share their knowledge with other officers to build a core team of skilled accounting officials. The programme is aligned with the Ministry of Finance's aim to move from rules-based accounting to a principles-based accounting system, and help build the foundation for Laos to adopt international accounting standards. The 'Public Administration in Accountancy Programme', developed with the support of ISCA and TF Intl in cooperation with LCPAA, is also expected to benefit Lao finance officials by building a strong knowledge of

accountancy and other related issues. Recently, several laws on taxation were approved by the National Assembly (NA), such as those on income tax, consumption and tax management. Therefore, finance officials must gain a deep understanding of accounting. "The enforcement for the use of these laws will come into effect by 2020. Therefore, the upcoming dissemination meetings of the new laws will be held in conjunction with the adoption of lessons learnt from Singapore in the field of effective public finance management," Mr Phouthanouphet said.

Source : <http://annx.asianews.network/content/training-supporting-local-moves-adopt-int%E2%80%99l-accounting-standards-104810>

## Training supporting local moves to adopt int'l accounting standards



Laos News / 24 September, 2019

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### Trade deficit reaches over \$1.2 bn



*Myanmar News | 23 September, 2019*

Myanmar's trade deficit was set to be US\$500 million this fiscal year, but it has reached over US\$1,200 million two weeks before the end of the fiscal year, according to sources from the ministry of commerce. From October 1 to September 13 in the current 2018-2019 fiscal year, export value amounted to US\$15.976 billion while import value totalled over

US\$17.218 billion, causing a trade deficit of US\$1,241 million. During the first-day session of the ninth regular parliamentary meeting, Union Minister for Planning and Finance Soe Win said efforts would be made to have over US\$31 billion in foreign trade and promised to reduce to USD 500 million in trade deficit. Seventeen days before the end of this financial year, however, the trade deficit has reached more than US\$1.2 billion. But this year's deficit fell by over US\$1.930 billion compared to the previous fiscal year. The 2017-2018 fiscal year saw over US\$33 billion in trade value and US\$3.836 billion in trade deficit. The mini budget period in 2018 saw over US\$18 billion and over US\$1 billion in trade deficit. To reduce trade deficit and promote trade, the commerce ministry is taking measures such as adopting national export strategy development plans, relaxing the procedures, encouraging the private sector, increasing production of value-added goods, getting GSP opportunities and extending export market.

Source: <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/trade-deficit-reaches-over-12-bn>

### Vietnam's food processing, packaging sector thriving



*Vietnam News | 23 September, 2019*

Vietnam's food processing and packaging industry has expanded by 15-20 percent annually over the past several years and is likely to grow further in the



coming years, according to the Association of Vietnam Retailers (AVR). Food and drinks currently account for the highest proportion of monthly consumer spending in Vietnam, at about 35 percent of the total and the annual consumption of food and beverages is estimated to be equivalent to 15 percent of the country's GDP. In 2018, the consumption of food and beverages grew by 18 percent, creating a major push for the food processing and packaging sector. Meanwhile, IMS Health has placed Vietnam into the group of the top 17 pharmerging markets which account for a fast-rising share of global pharmaceutical sales with a market size of about 5.1 billion USD. Vietnam will be among three countries reporting the highest growth in the pharmaceutical industry, expanding at an annual rate of 10 percent in average, according to Global Data. In addition, supplementary food and cosmetics have also posted strong growth, making the packaging industry more promising.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/economy/vietnams-food-processing-packaging-sector-thriving-403575.vov>

## Vietnamese exports to Italian market enjoy vast increase



*Vietnam News | 23 September, 2019*

VOV.VN - Vietnam's exports to Italy have enjoyed robust growth during the first eight months of the year, a sharp increase of up to 29.1 per cent in comparison to the country's export growth of 8.1 per

cent, according to the General Department of Vietnam Customs. During the reviewed period, Vietnam's export scale to Italy grew strongly, accounting for more than 1.3 per cent of the country's total export turnover. This figure saw the Southeast Asian nation ranked 18th in the world for exporting goods to the Italian market. With the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) expected to gain approval and take effect in the near future, the nation's exports to Italy and the wider EU market are expected to increase more due to import tax being substantially reduced. As a result of increased trade, Vietnam's export turnover to the European nation stands at much higher than in previous years, surpassing previous records of US\$3.27 billion in 2016 and US\$2.74 billion in 2017. During this year, Vietnam is projected to rake in US\$3.75 billion from exports to the Italian market. Of the commodities exported to Italy, 18 export items earned over US\$10 million. Furthermore, seven items including telephones and components, garments and textiles, footwear, coffee, machinery, equipment, spare parts, computers, electronics products and components, and means of transport, made over US\$100 million. The export scale of telephones and components enjoyed a rapid increase with turnover of more than US\$812 million, a 2.1-fold increase in comparison with the same period last year. This was followed by garments and textiles at US\$201.5

million, a sharp rise of 15.1 per cent, and footwear with US\$198 million, a slight decline of 0.8 per cent.

Source : [https://english.vov.vn/economy/vietnamese-exports-to-italian-market-enjoy-vast-increase-](https://english.vov.vn/economy/vietnamese-exports-to-italian-market-enjoy-vast-increase-403562.vov)

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