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Cambodia jumps 12 spots in global energy sustainability survey



Cambodia News | 09 October, 2019

Cambodia's ranking in the latest global energy sustainability survey has improved dramatically, indicating that the Kingdom's efforts to solve its energy woes and providing an adequate power supply are making headway. This also means that Cambodia, which suffered a crippling power problem a few months ago, has recovered well from that crisis. After many of its hydropower dams dried up because of a lingering drought, Cambodia was forced to ration power in many parts of the country early this year. The newly-released 2019 Energy Trilemma Index (ETI) ranked Cambodia 105 out of 128 countries, representing a 12-spot jump from last year. The 2018 ETI placed Cambodia in the 117 spot out of 125 countries included in the survey. Cambodia is among several countries in Asia and Africa whose rankings have improved remarkably. "The fastest improvers include Cambodia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Ethiopia, and Kenya, where policies and investments have prioritised access to grid and off-grid electricity and households have become progressively wealthier," the World Energy Council (WEC) said. The ETI, which is commissioned by the WEC and global management consulting firm Oliver Wyman, ranks countries on their ability to provide sustainable energy. Each country's energy systems are ranked based on three dimensions: Energy security, energy equity, and environmental sustainability. Energy security refers to the adequacy of energy supply and a

country's ability to recover from system shocks. Energy equity, meanwhile, measures energy access and affordability from the perspective of consumers, while environmental sustainability ranks a country's efforts to avoid or mitigate environmental damage. This year, the Kingdom was ranked 77 in energy security, 110 in energy equity, and 92 in environmental sustainability. Globally, the ranking was dominated by Europe, with nine of the top ten countries being from that continent. Switzerland was ranked number one, followed by Sweden, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Finland, France, Austria, Luxembourg, and Germany. New Zealand, the only non-European country in the top ten, was ranked ten. Singapore, which ranked 43 globally, was the highest-ranking country from Southeast Asia, followed by Malaysia (51), Brunei (56), Indonesia (69), Vietnam (91), Philippines (94), and Myanmar (104). Laos was not included in the survey. Cambodia appears to have partially solved its chronic power shortage by buying additional power from neighbouring Laos, Vietnam, and Thailand. Last month, Cambodia signed an agreement to purchase 2,400 megawatts from Laos. From relying mostly on hydropower dams and coal-fired power plants, Cambodia has now started to diversify its energy sources. By 2020, the government is aiming for solar power to make up 15 percent of the Kingdom's total energy production. Since the power crisis, Cambodia has approved a host of solar energy projects in Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang, and other provinces, with more under consideration. "This figure of 15 percent includes solar projects in Bavet, Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang, Battambang and Siem Reap

provinces,” Keo Rattanak, director-general of the state-owned utility company Electricite du Cambodge, told the local media earlier. The Kingdom is also looking at harnessing its wind power potential. In May this year, the French company Blue Circle completed a feasibility study for a project to build wind turbines in the Kingdom.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50649231/cambodia-jumps-12-spots-in-global-energy-sustainability-survey/>

1.7 million Chinese tourists visit Kingdom in 8 months, up 33 pct



Cambodia News | 09 October, 2019

PHNOM PENH (Xinhua) – Cambodia attracted 1.7 million Chinese tourists during the first eight months of 2019, up 33 percent over the same period last year, said the Tourism Ministry’s latest report. The report showed that China remained the largest source of foreign visitors to the Southeast Asian nation, accounting for 39 percent of the total foreign arrivals to the country during the January-August period this year. Cambodian Tourism Minister Thong Khon has said that China is a huge market for Cambodia’s tourism industry. “We hope to attract about 2.6 million Chinese tourists in 2019, 3 million in 2020, 5 million in 2025 and up to 8 million in 2030,” he said. According to the report, a total of 4.36 million international tourists travelled to Cambodia during the first eight months of this year, up 10.4 percent over the same period last year. Tourism is one of the four sectors supporting the country’s economy. Last year, Cambodia received 6.2 million foreign tourists including 2 million Chinese, earning gross revenue of \$4.35 billion, Mr Khon said, adding that tourism

contributed 12.7 percent to the country’s gross domestic product.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50649196/1-7-million-chinese-tourists-visit-kingdom-in-8-months-up-33-pct/>

Lao Telecom tests 5G technology



Laos News | 09 October, 2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - Lao Telecommunications Public Company (Lao Telecom) has begun tests of the new 5G technology, the much-touted high-speed fifth generation communication network. A test took place yesterday at the company’s headquarters in Vientiane and was attended by Lao Telecom’s board of directors and representatives from relevant sectors. 5G technology is smarter, faster and more efficient than 4G and better responds to users’ needs. Wireless communication systems have developed rapidly and are widely used in everyday life. Lao Telecom, a leading telecom operator in the country, has kept pace with new advanced technologies. This test of 5G technology is a significant step for the company, as well as users, who are keen to upgrade and be on a par with international standards, said the company’s Deputy General Director, Mr Souphon Chanthavixay. To support the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications’ strategy for ICT industry development – an important tool to drive socio-economic development and integrate with regional and international standards - Lao Telecom has paid special attention to updating its business

operations. The 5G test is the company's latest effort to bring advanced technology to the people of Laos, to not only improve their daily lives but also help them upgrade their businesses and so strengthen the economy, he said. The upgrade will enable people and businesses to link up regionally and internationally, Mr Souphon added. As the first integrated telecommunications provider in Laos since 1996, the company has offered wire-line and wireless services to 3.5 million people across the country. In 2011, the company officially launched a 4G network. It was the first company to provide this system, making Laos only the second country in Southeast Asia and Asean to do so, after Singapore. To affirm its telecommunications leadership in the country, the company began operating 4.5G services in Vientiane at the beginning of 2017 and then expanded services to the provinces.

Source : <http://annx.asianews.network/content/lao-telecom-tests-5g-technology-105838>

Laos, Vietnam plan joint effort to bolster tourism



Laos News / 10 October, 2019

Laos and Vietnam plan to jointly promote tourism through various activities aimed at drawing more visitors to the two countries. Senior officials from Laos' four southern provinces and the central and southern provinces of Vietnam, as well as tourism-related business operators, recently discussed the initiative at a meeting held in Champassak

province. Deputy Director of the Attapeu Information, Culture and Tourism Department, Ms Bounthong Bouphasavanh, told Vientiane Times on Wednesday that Laos and Vietnam planned to promote tourism through several activities and had discussed the possibilities for tourism programmes. They also considered ways to improve facilities and procedures at immigration posts and agreed to inspect visitor facilities at tourist sites to ensure they were adequate. Meeting participants reported the challenges they had experienced, discussed their respective tourist hotspots, and shared ideas to bolster tourist numbers. Also discussed were group tours journeying from Laos to Vietnam and vice versa, the creation of new tourism products, advertisements to promote tourism, and ways to attract investment to improve tourist sites, Ms Bounthong said. Representatives from Attapeu, Champassak, Xekong and Saravan provinces listed their most popular tourist attractions and the adventure activities on offer. Attapeu takes pride in its waterfalls, especially Tad Xepha, Tad Samongphak, Tad Xeponglay and Tad Phapong, and Nong Fa lake, which is famous for its deep blue water. Saravan province boasts scenic wonders including Loc, Mayhia, Soung, Saen and Kaengkou waterfalls, as well as Phouphasouk Park with its waterfalls, nine caves and Pha Taem Phou Lahit hill. Visitors to Champassak can make good use of adventure activities such as adventure trekking and zip-lining, as well as enjoy organic produce from the Bolaven Plateau, including coffee. Xekong province

is famed for the Nokkhao, Faek and Huakhon waterfalls, and for its local food including yam mak taeng (cucumber salad) and products made from Indian gooseberries. More than 2.2 million tourists visited Laos in the first six months of this year, up about 5 percent compared to the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism.

Source : http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Laos224.php

Myanmar earns US\$691 M from rice export in 2018-19 FY



Myanmar News | 09 October, 2019

Myanmar earned over US\$691 million from 2.29 million tons of rice and broken rice export within 11 months of 2018-19 FY and about 73 per cent of total rice export is exported through maritime trade, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF). Myanmar exported 1.792 million tons of rice to 65 countries and earned US\$559.894 million. It also exported 498,000 tons of broken rice to 41 countries and earned US\$132.139 million. Myanmar earned US\$187.174 million from rice and broken rice export through border trade routes. It earned US\$503.859 million from rice and broken rice export through maritime trade routes. Myanmar exported 738,500 tons of rice and 38,000 tons of broken rice to China and neighbouring countries. It is 33.88 per cent of total rice and broken rice export. Myanmar

exported 481,500 tons of rice and broken rice to EU countries and 554,500 tons of rice and broken rice to African countries. It also exported 479,000 tons of rice and broken rice to other countries. Myanmar is exporting rice to EU and African markets via maritime trade and China through Muse border trade mainly. Myanmar exported about 3.6 million tons of rice in 2018-19 FY due to new markets and it broke the record over fifty-year time. The MRF is dealing with the issues caused by the low market price in this year. It said the farmers are facing difficulty to have enough silos, paddy drying system and vehicles to carry rice, according to the MRF. Moreover, rice sector has declined due to low demand and will not be improved with just the private sector alone, it said. A total of 11 companies were officially exported rice to China previously and now more than 40 companies are chosen to export rice to China. If the companies' list is sent to China, the rice export will resume, replied Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Commerce to farmers from Danubyu on June 28.

Source : <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/myanmar-earns-us691-m-from-rice-export-in-2018-19-fy>

Less flood damage to local paddy fields this year: MOALI



Myanmar News | 09 October, 2019

Over 600,000 acres of paddy fields were flooded during the monsoon season this year, out of which 130,000 acres, or just 21 percent, were damaged, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI). Of the damaged fields this year, just over 30,000 acres are suitable for replanting during the winter months, said U Myo Tint Htun, deputy secretary at the ministry's office. As a result, rice production for this year will be reduced by around 700,000 tin, according to MOALI. In Myanmar, over 70pc of rice is produced during the monsoon season. U Thein Aung, President of the Farmers' Life Development Association, said most of the damage was incurred in Bago and Ayeryawaddy. He added that this year's damage was less compared to last year. In 2018, over 1,300,000 acres of paddy fields were flooded and half was damaged.

Source : <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/less-flood-damage-local-paddy-fields-year-moali.html>

Vietnam up 10 places in Global Competitiveness Index



Vietnam News | 09 October, 2019

Hanoi (VNA) – The World Economic Forum (WEF) has ranked Vietnam as the 67th most competitive economy in its latest report released on October 9. Vietnam scored 61.5 out of a possible 100, moving up ten places from the 2018 ranking. The WEF said the Southeast Asian country is attracting a huge flow of foreign investment and becoming a trade hub in the region. The global league table is based on 12 pillars, namely institutions, infrastructure, ICT adoption, macro-economic stability, health, skills, product market, labour market, financial system, market size, business dynamism and innovation capability. Of these areas, Vietnam's health dimension was evaluated highest at 81 points, ranking 71st out of 141. Market size was in 26th place with 72 points, while macroeconomic stability reached 75 points to stand in 64th place. Besides, Vietnam was also classed to have the lowest risk of terrorism and the most stable inflation rate. The country received 100 points in those categories. In its report, the WEF recognised the progress made by several economies in the context of political and trade tensions, which have clouded the global economy and slowed global trade. The WEF said Singapore was the world's most competitive economy. It scored 84.8 points, beating the US to the top spot. The country ranked first for infrastructure pillar, and was number one for citizens' health and

labour markets. Other high-scoring areas included the financial system, market efficiency and macroeconomic stability. The report suggested in order to become a global innovative hub, Singapore needs to promote entrepreneurship and further improve its skills base. The US, which topped the chart last year, scored 83.7, which was lower than the previous 85.6 points. Despite an overall weaker performance this year, the WEF said the US remains one of the most competitive economies in the world. It is still an innovation powerhouse, ranking 2nd on the innovation capability pillar, and 1st in terms of business dynamism, boasting the second-largest market, and home to one of the most dynamic financial systems in the world./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-up-10-places-in-global-competitiveness-index/161767.vnp>

Vietnam Report: Top 10 Food & Beverage Companies in Vietnam 2019



Vietnam News | 09 October, 2019

NDO – Vietnam Report officially announced the top 10 prestigious food and beverage companies in 2019 on October 8. Companies in the list are evaluated and ranked based on 3 main criteria as follow: Financial capabilities based on the most recent accounting report (total assets, total revenue, net profit, efficiency in capital utilization) (contributing to 30% of the total score); Credibility to

the media based on media coding measure – coding articles advertised for companies in influential media channels (contributing to 30% of the total score); online survey on brand recognition, customers' product satisfaction and the quality of services of companies, survey on the status of the company in each respective field, and survey on companies conduct in September with regard to market scale, labor force, capital and revenue growth rate, profit, and action plan in 2019 (40% of the total score). The Vietnam Report's consumer survey, conducted in September 2019, showed some of the most popular brands selected by consumers (divided into groups) including: Vissan (Fresh food), Cai Lan (Spices, Cooking oil), Vinamilk (Milk), Quang Ngai Sugar (Confectionery), Heineken (Beer and wine), Pepsi (Soft drink), Trung Nguyen (Coffee), Acecook (Packaging, canned food). According to Vietnam Report, communication plays an important role in direct connection between manufacturers and consumers, helping consumers to better identify prestigious brands when making shopping decisions. However, the analysis results show that the media presence of enterprises in the food and beverage industry is currently limited. Only 49.7% of the businesses surveyed have enough information to reach the awareness threshold, of which 52.1% have the frequency of appearing at least once a month. The majority of food and beverage businesses in the

Vietnam Report survey also said that risks related to brand and business reputation will have a significant impact on production and business activities. However, in general, not only businesses in the food and beverage industry, most Vietnamese businesses are quite cautious about the media because of the lack of information control.

Source : <https://en.nhandan.com.vn/business/item/7999802-vietnam-report-top-10-food-beverage-companies-in-vietnam-2019.html>
