



- SSCA: Poipet airport still 'under study'
- Cambodia Travel Mart to attract 6,000 participants
- Japan pouring US\$17.8 million into Luang Prabang water supply upgrade
- Govt officials review efforts to improve road safety
- Nay Pyi Taw targets convention business
- Tourist arrivals up last FY
- Vietnam's cashew nut exports to China surge in nine months
- Hanoi remains Vietnam's biggest FDI magnet in nine months



## SSCA: Poipet airport still 'under study'



*Cambodia News / 10 October, 2019*

Work on the Poipet airport project has yet to start despite the government authorising its development more than a year ago. A check with the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation (SSCA) revealed that the investor that was granted permission to develop the province's first airport has yet to begin work. Poipet Airport Investment (PAI) received approval from the government to resume work on the airport in May last year. "Nothing moved. The investor is conducting studies," SSCA spokesman Sin Chanserey Vutha told Khmer Times last week, adding he is not sure when construction will start. Poipet Governor San Sean Ho told the local media earlier that the new Poipet airport will be built on a 300-hectare land in Poipet's Nimith commune. The proposed airport site is located 13 kilometres from the town proper. When PAI's application was approved last year, Mr Chanserey Vutha disclosed that the airport will be located on land owned by PAI. "From what we know, [PAI] has the resources to complete the project," he said. The project is expected to cost \$40 to \$50 million. PAI was first granted permission to build the Poipet airport back in 2007. However, the project was shelved due to the 2008 global financial crisis. The company decided to revive the project after seeing the potential for development in Poipet, an important border town located in Banteay Meanchey province. The proposed airport is designed for domestic flights and will be able to handle aircraft as

big as the Airbus A320 or Boeing 737. Once completed, it is expected to boost the economy of Poipet and nearby areas. Poipet, which borders Thailand, is among the fastest-growing areas in Cambodia.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50649492/ssca-poipet-airport-still-under-study/>

## Cambodia Travel Mart to attract 6,000 participants



*Cambodia News / 10 October, 2019*

Thousands of local and international tourism stakeholders will be descending on Phnom Penh in the next few days for the largest and most important event in the Kingdom's tourism industry. The participants will be here for the 3rd Cambodia Travel Mart (CTM), which will be held at the Sokha Phnom Penh Hotel on October 11-13. "Three more days until the Kingdom's largest tourism trade fair is back. We are excited to see our incredible buyers, sellers, media, and visitors in one place again," an Oct 8 post on the event's Facebook page said. Organisers have framed the event as the best opportunity to network and promote Cambodia's tourism industry to the outside world. The event is jointly organised by the Ministry of Tourism and Slickbooth, an international event management firm. "CTM 2019 is the best tourism business platform in Southeast Asia for exhibitors from different countries to promote their products and services, as well as to develop tourism business networking, business opportunities, and much more," Minister of Tourism Thong Khon said in a welcome statement published ahead of the event. "CTM 2019 will also be the mechanism to strengthen the tourism

cooperation and push for tourism promotion within Asean and in the region,” he added. This year’s edition of the CTM is certainly bigger than in the past, with more exhibitors and participants expected to join the three-day gathering. According to the official website for the event, organisers are expecting more than 200 exhibitors and 6,000 participants from more than 60 countries. Among the exhibitors will be travel agencies, hotels, airlines, national tourism organisations, and tour operators from different countries in Asia, Europe, North America, and South America. More than 30 local and international media organisations will also be represented at the event. Last year’s CTM, which was also held in Phnom Penh, attracted more than 170 exhibitors, while the first one in Siem Reap in 2017 drew only 3,000 participants and fewer exhibitors. In addition to the exhibition, the event will also feature destination seminars, buyer/seller appointment sessions, art performances, and networking activities. Cambodia has the third fastest-growing tourism industry in Southeast Asia. The Kingdom, which is benefiting from an influx of visitors from China, registered an 11 percent increase in arrivals last year, figures that were only surpassed by Vietnam and Indonesia. In 2018, Cambodia received a total of 6.2 million visitors. The Kingdom expects 6.7 million tourists for this year and targets 12 million visitors by 2025.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50649436/cambodia-travel-mart-to-attract-6000-participants/>

## Japan pouring US\$17.8 million into Luang Prabang water supply upgrade



Laos News / 11 October, 2019

The Japanese government is funding a grant aid project worth US\$17.8 million to improve the water supply system in Luang Prabang city, under a grant agreement signed in Vientiane on Thursday. The agreement was signed by the Director General of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ms Sisomboun Ounavong, and Chief Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Mr Yoshiharu Yoneyama. The government of Japan has provided the grant aid to enhance the pressured water supply for residents and tourism businesses while also increasing awareness and readiness to prevent fires in heritage preservation areas. The Department of Water Supply, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, will implement the water expansion project which is in line with the 8th and 9th five year National Socio-Economic Development Plans (2016-2020 and 2021-2025). Ms Sisomboun said the main objective of the project was to upgrade the water supply system by improving the Namkhan and Phoupung water treatment plants and through the rehabilitation and expansion of the water distribution network in the supply service area as well as the drainage system. It also includes the construction of new reservoirs with a capacity of 1,500m<sup>3</sup> and the installation of 60.2 km of

distribution pipelines. “On behalf of the Lao government, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks to the government and people of Japan for their valuable assistance, generous contribution and continued support for development in Laos up to the present,” Ms Sisomboun said. Japan’s official development assistance, along with support from other partners, is contributing to the improvement of infrastructure and services, leading to better living conditions. Mr Yoshiharu said the project would significantly contribute to the Lao government’s efforts to achieve its 8th NSEDP target by increasing water supply coverage in urban areas countrywide to 80 percent by 2020 and to 85 percent by 2025. The target population of the project is more than 70,000 people over an area 68,695m<sup>2</sup>, while foreign visitors will also benefit. The project will help resolve the increasing demand for water and contribute to stabilising water pressure, especially in the city’s conservation areas. This is where fire hydrants are urgently required so that UNESCO-registered items are fire-protected after completion of the project.

Source : [http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten\\_Japan\\_225.php](http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_Japan_225.php)

## Govt officials review efforts to improve road safety



Laos News / 11 October, 2019

The National Secretariat Committee on Road Safety and associated groups met in Vientiane on Thursday to review their work to improve road safety over the

past five years. Participants also discussed possible future joint activities with the aim of joining forces to reduce the number of road accidents and fatalities. The meeting was led by the Minister of Public Works and Transport, Dr Bounchanh Sinthavong, and took place at the National Convention Centre. It was attended by representatives of international organisations, traffic police, transport officials and emergency rescue teams. Speaking at the meeting, Director General of the Department of Transport under the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Dr Bounta Onnavong, said a road safety project took place from 2014-2018, with a focus on road safety management, infrastructure, safe vehicles, road user behaviour, and post-crash response. The number of vehicles is continuing to increase, which is leading to more accidents and traffic congestion. According to statistics from the National Secretariat Committee on Road Safety, at the start of the project in 2014 there were 5,072 road accidents throughout the year, in which 9,264 people sustained injuries and 1,054 people died. In 2015, the number of accidents increased to 5,571 nationwide, in which 8,677 people were injured and 995 people died. In 2016, there were 5,616 accidents, resulting in injuries to 8,919 people and 1,086 fatalities. In 2017, a total of 5,868 accidents were recorded, in which 9,640 people were injured and 1,053 people died. In 2018, the number of accidents rose further to 5,984, injuring 9,372 people and killing 995. These statistics indicate that on average each year from 2014-2018

there were 15 deaths for every 100,000 people in the country. The Ministry of Public Works and Transport in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Security and Ministry of Health, international organisations and other groups are continuing to seek ways to prevent road accidents as well as help accident victims. The authorities have strengthened a decree relating to the enforcement of traffic regulations. A Road Safety Week was organised when information on the traffic regulations was distributed and the dangers of careless driving emphasised. Work is ongoing to provide road users with a better understanding of the traffic rules and the dangers of being involved in an accident. The authorities are also trying to make roads safer by widening junctions, building roundabouts, improving and installing more traffic symbols and signs, and painting more lane markings and other indicators on roads. In the future, the authorities will continue support for road safety and provide more assistance to the victims of accidents by providing first aid before taking people to hospital, and assisting with their recovery and treatment. There are plans to build a dispatch centre and commission the hotline number 1195 for emergency assistance as well as to partner with foundations, rescue associations and the private sector in victim support.

Source : [http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten\\_Govt\\_officials\\_225.php](http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_Govt_officials_225.php)

## Nay Pyi Taw targets convention business



Myanmar News | 10 October, 2019

Nay Pyi Taw will focus on developing meetings, incentives, conferences, exhibitions and sports events in 2020 to generate more revenue in the administrative capital, an executive of a travel organisation said. Naung Han, chair of the Union of Myanmar Travel Association, was quoted by state media as saying that Nay Pyi Taw has a great potential as a venue for huge conventions, conferences and sports events. He said the capital has many hotels and international-standard sports facilities that include a swimming pool, stadium and golf course. Motorcycle and auto racing courses are also available. A plan for sports tourism has been drawn up, and these activities are likely to begin in 2020.

Source : <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/nay-pyi-taw-targets-convention-business.html>

## Tourist arrivals up last FY



Myanmar News | 10 October, 2019

In 2018-2019 fiscal year, the number of tourist arrivals and foreigners who entered the country for business purposes, reached 1,218,891, up 442,843 compared with the same period last year, according to the State-owned

newspapers. In 2019, the number of tourists reached 954,929 and 263,962 foreigners entered the country for business purposes. During the same period last year, the number of tourists was 526,248 and the foreigners who entered the country for business purposes reached 263,962. From January to August this year, Chinese tourists topped the list of tourist arrivals, followed by Korean tourists, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. Chinese tourist arrival increased 161 per cent and the Korean tourist arrival, by 77 per cent. Due to the Rakhine issue in 2017, the number of tourists from the western countries dropped to 40 per cent in 2018. In 2018-19 FY, as Look East Policy to attract tourists, Myanmar allowed visa exemption for tourists from Japan, South Korea and China's special administrative regions—Hong Kong and Macau and visa on arrival for Chinese citizens who entered the country by air, for a one-year probationary period. After that, the number of tourist arrivals has increased. The number of tourist arrivals increased from 3,443,133 in 2017 to 3,551,428 in 2018. The number of tourists arrivals via border entries stood first and the tourists who entered the country with visa border entries, second.

Source : <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/tourist-arrivals-up-last-fy>

## Vietnam's cashew nut exports to China surge in nine months



*Vietnam News | 10 October, 2019*

Vietnam exported 42,199 tonnes of cashew nuts worth 327 million USD to China in the first eight months of 2019, up 60.8 percent in volume and 35.4 percent in value year-on-year, according to the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The US, China and the Netherlands were the three biggest cashew nut importers of Vietnam in the period. The export to China recorded strong growth due to trade tensions between China and the US, said the Agro Processing and Market Development Authority under the Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development. The authority advised businesses to focus on improving quality of products and ensuring food safety to boost exports to foreign markets. Vietnam earned 2.4 billion USD from exporting 328,000 tonnes of cashew nuts in the first nine months of 2019, up 20.9 percent in volume but down 5.5 percent in value year-on-year.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/economy/vietnams-cashew-nut-exports-to-china-surge-in-nine-months-404405.vov>

## Hanoi remains Vietnam's biggest FDI magnet in nine months



*Vietnam News | 10 October, 2019*

Hanoi raked in about 6.23 billion USD in foreign direct investment (FDI) during the first nine months of this year, continuing to lead the country in FDI



attraction, according to the municipal People's Committee. Of the total, 503 million USD was poured into 631 new projects, while 509 million USD was added to 148 existing ones. Foreign investors injected over 5.22 billion USD into local firms via capital contributions and share purchases. In September, the capital licenced 65 new FDI projects worth a total of 30 million USD, including 54 wholly foreign invested and 11 associate and joint venture ones. Some 20 million USD was added to 15 existing projects while about 75 million USD was contributed by foreign investors to local enterprises. During the nine-month period, the city granted business registration certificates to over 20,560 new businesses with total registered capital exceeding 263.7 trillion VND (11.34 billion USD), up 9 percent and 28 percent year on year, respectively. The city is now home to over 273,700 companies. According to the Hanoi People's Committee, the results were largely owing to the city's drastic efforts to improve the local business climate, accelerate public administrative reforms in business-related areas, bolster e-Government development and build a team of friendly and supportive civil servants. The city's departments and agencies have enthusiastically explored difficulties facing investors to provide them with timely support. To utilise the advantages provided by free trade agreements, Hanoi will prioritise investment in the fields of information

technology services, biotechnology, tourism, education, health care and logistics. The city is set to lure over 7.5 billion USD in FDI in 2019. To this end, the city will continue attracting capital through public-private partnerships and FDI, while streamlining public administrative procedures for investors, said Chairman of the Hanoi People's Committee Nguyen Duc Chung at a recent meeting. Last year, Hanoi attracted 7.5 billion USD worth of FDI, the highest among the country's 63 provinces and cities, and more than twice as much as the 2017 figure. Eighty percent of the city's projects were wholly owned by foreign investors. The remaining were associate and joint venture businesses. FDI capital flowed the most into property development (29.5 percent of the total), processing and manufacturing industry (20.1 percent), and telecommunication and information (11.5 percent). Japan was Hanoi's largest investor with total capital of 10.2 billion USD. The followers included Singapore (6 billion USD) and the Republic of Korea (5.5 billion USD).

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/economy/hanoi-remains-vietnams-biggest-fdi-magnet-in-nine-months-404452.vov>

---