



- China Chamber of Commerce opens in Sihanoukville
- Cargo traffic up 18 pct at PAS: CEO
- Laos, China partner in quality control of agricultural exports
- Experts underline importance of technological innovation
- Individuals' border trade totals nearly 40 mln USD in Myanmar in FY 2018-19
- New air route links China's border province Yunnan, Myanmar
- Agriculture sector expands by 2.02% in nine months
- Textile industry hit by on-going trade war



China Chamber of Commerce opens in Sihanoukville



Cambodia News | 15 October, 2019

Aiming to boost trade and facilitate investment, a new China Chamber of Commerce opened in Sihanoukville last week. The new Chinese chamber of commerce is located inside the Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone (SSEZ) and is led by SSEZ president Chen Jiangang, who has been appointed president of the chamber. Ith Samheng, the Minister of Labour and Vocational Training, hailed the move and said the new chamber will strengthen trade ties between the countries and encourage more Chinese investment in the Kingdom's coastal areas. "The chamber of commerce will play an important role in improving the business environment, and promoting Cambodia to Chinese investors interested in the Kingdom," Minister Samheng said during the chamber's launch on Friday. He noted that the establishment of a China Chamber of Commerce in the province points to growing confidence among foreign investors in the Kingdom's market. Newly-elected Sihanoukville governor Kouch Chamroeun said the chamber will become an important factor in the province's development. "Preah Sihanouk province is a window opened to the outside world, attracting foreign direct investment to the coast, especially Chinese investors," he said. "This has turned the province into an engine driving Cambodia's economic growth." Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Wang Wentian

highlighted the "impressive" amount of Chinese investment in the Kingdom and said that it is driving the country's growth. The ambassador said he wants the new chamber to represent Chinese businesses here and facilitate their investments, ensuring those investments are in line with local regulation. Due to the influx of Chinese investment in recent years, the once sleepy coastal town of Sihanoukville is now one of the Kingdom's main investment destinations. According to a recent report by the provincial police department, Chinese nationals own about 90 percent of businesses in the city. Those businesses range from hotels and casinos to restaurants and massage parlours. The same report notes that there are five special economic zones under operation in Preah Sihanouk province. Four more will come online soon. China continues to be the biggest investor in the Kingdom, according to the latest report from the Council for the Development of Cambodia. The East Asian giant invested \$7.8 billion from January to August, accounting for 35 percent of all FDI.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50651144/china-chamber-of-commerce-opens-in-sihanoukville/>

Cargo traffic up 18 pct at PAS: CEO



Cambodia News | 15 October, 2019

Cargo traffic at Sihanoukville Autonomous Port (PAS), the country's sole deep-sea port, rose by 18 percent during the first nine months of the year compared with the same period last year. From January to September, cargo traffic at PAS

increased substantially, according to Lou Kim Chhun, the port's chairman and CEO. He noted that the rise was particularly high during the third quarter of the year. Mr Kim Chhun was speaking during a meeting with Preah Sihanouk province's authorities on Thursday last week. He did not disclose detailed figures regarding the volume of twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) that were handled by the port during that period. President of the Cambodia Freight Forwarders Association (CAMFFA) Sin Chanthy told Khmer Times recently that cargo passing through the port mostly consists of textiles and agricultural goods, noting that the growth in container traffic is the result of the country's robust economic performance. "Sea freight continues to grow rapidly in Sihanoukville with demand and investment for the service expanding," Mr Chanthy said. PAS's Mr Kim Chhun noted that the increase in cargo shipments is causing congestion, a problem exacerbated by traffic problems along National Road 4, which leads to the port. Germany-based international transport firm Hapag-Lloyd issued an advisory to PAS regarding the port's congestion in August. "Please be advised that Sihanoukville Port, Cambodia, has been rather congested in recent months. The terminal productivity has deteriorated due to the port and yard congestion. Feeder services and turnaround times are affected and feeder space is tight," it said. With about 70 percent of the Kingdom's imports and exports passing through the port, Hapag-Lloyd said the congestion could have serious implications for Cambodia. Construction of a

new terminal with an investment of about \$203 million, scheduled for completion in 2023, will increase the port's container handling capacity to 900,000 TEUs per year. The project is being financed by the Japanese government through official development assistance (ODA) loan agreements, which were signed with the Cambodian government in 2017. Primo Ye, country manager of Maersk (Cambodia) Ltd, said that trucks bringing cargo to Sihanoukville only make one run per day because of congestion and the road's poor condition, while the train service is unstable and is prone to technical issues. "The weekly cut-off time is the main reason for the congestion on the roads leading to the port city," he said during the 17th Asean Ports & Shipping Expo held in Phnom Penh last month. "All cargo needs to be at the Sihanoukville port by midday on Saturday. So every Friday and Saturday, there is heavy truck movement and congestion on the roads," he pointed out. Thailand recently proposed connecting one of its ports to PAS. A delegation from Thailand's eastern economic corridor met with Cambodian authorities to discuss linking the infrastructures of Laem Chabang Port, in Thailand's Chonburi province, with Sihanoukville Autonomous Port. In 2018, a total of 541,288 TEUs passed through PAS, an 18 percent year-on-year hike. In 2020, the volume of containers passing through the port is expected to surpass 700,000 TEUs.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50651165/cargo-traffic-up-18-pct-at-pas-ceo/>

Laos, China partner in quality control of agricultural exports



Laos News | 16 October, 2019

Laos will soon have a high-quality facility to ensure the required international hygiene standards of plant and animal products as well as providing training. A Memorandum of Understanding on a project to build the facility was signed in Vientiane recently by the Director General of the Agriculture Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Mr Chantha Thippavongphanh, and the Chairman of Yunnan Yuzhan Agriculture Development Co., Ltd., Ms Liang Yali. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mr Chantha said the two parties would build offices, a research room, plant and animal hygiene testing laboratory and an integrated training centre, as well as set up exhibitions of agricultural products. Lao officials working in the sector will learn about accepted standards in the inspection of plants, animals and plant products as well as legally required product hygiene standards. The project will enhance cooperation between Laos and China, and will facilitate the export of plants, animals and plant products to China. It will also serve to strengthen the two countries' agricultural economies as well as socio-economic development, and result in more income for local people, Mr Chantha said. Ms Liang Yali said this cooperation would upgrade agricultural standards in Laos and ensure that agricultural products were of better quality. To further the success of the National Socio-economic

Development Plan as well as meet the targets of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the agriculture and forestry sector is bolstering the quality of agricultural production to ensure the safety of exported plants and animals to China and other countries, Mr Chantha said. Products sold to China and further afield must comply with set standards for imports on the basis of international hygiene regulations, including those laid down by the World Trade Organisation and other international trade bodies. The ultimate goal is for goods exported by Laos to fulfil specified quality control standards, Mr Chantha added.

Source : http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContenten_Laos228.php

Experts underline importance of technological innovation



Laos News | 16 October, 2019

Government officials, researchers, students and individuals from the private sector gathered in Vientiane yesterday to discuss research and development in the Industry 4.0 era. A seminar titled "Science, Technology and Innovation in the I.R 4.0" took place at the National Convention Centre and was led by Deputy Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Chanseng Phimmavong. The talk was given during the third National Technology and Science Conference and Laos-China Science and Technology Exhibition, which took place at the same venue. The purpose of the meeting was to give participants a deeper understanding of the role,

importance, and development of science, technology and innovation in the Industry 4.0 era and how this contributed to Laos' development. The meeting provided a platform for participants to discuss developments in science, technology and innovation. Dr Chanseng instructed officials and researchers to continue with research and development in order to spur Laos' progress in these fields. With regard to future developments, Deputy Prime Minister Dr Sonexay Siphandone told attendees at the National Technology and Science Conference that science and technology required further human resources development. It was also necessary to provide more support for researchers to ensure the quality of their work and the services provided in the field. Dr Sonexay also said it was essential to place a greater emphasis on scientific and technological infrastructure and to continue to expand cooperation with government, the private sector and organisations in Laos and other countries to secure investment in research and development. It was also important to raise public awareness of the importance of science and technology in the social and economic development of Laos, Dr Sonexay said.

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

Individuals' border trade totals nearly 40 mln USD in Myanmar in FY 2018-19



Myanmar News | 15 October, 2019

YANGON, Oct. 15 (Xinhua) -- Myanmar's border trade using Individual Trading Cards (ITCs) totaled over 59 billion kyats (39.3 million U.S. dollars) in the fiscal year 2018-2019 which ended in September, according to figures from the Commerce Ministry on Tuesday. During the period, 163 ITCs were permitted by the ministry and its export value through border gates amounted to over 9.38 billion kyats (6.25 million U.S. dollars) while import value was 49.6 billion kyats (33.1 million U.S. dollars). From Oct. 1, 2018 to Sept. 30, 2019, Myawady border gate registered the highest trade using the ITCs with capital of 32 billion kyats (21.3 million U.S. dollars). Since FY 2012-2013, the ministry issued 1,687 ITCs and its total trade value amounted to over 169.2 billion kyats (112.8 million U.S. dollars), the ministry's figures showed. The country is conducting border trade with China, Thailand, Bangladesh and India. Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products, animal products, fisheries, minerals and forest products to foreign countries while capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods are imported into the country. Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/car-makers-local-production-despite-challenges.html>

New air route links China's border province Yunnan, Myanmar



Myanmar News | 15 October, 2019

KUNMING, Oct. 15 (Xinhua) -- A new direct flight linking Mangshi, a border city in southwest China's Yunnan Province, with Yangon, capital of Myanmar, will be launched at the end of October. Starting on Oct. 27, the DR5039/DR5040 flight will be operated by Ruili Airlines with a Boeing 737NG aircraft every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. The flight departs Mangshi at 9:25 a.m. (local time) and returns from Yangon at 10:30 a.m. (local time). The route is expected to facilitate exchanges in the fields of economy, culture and tourism between the two countries. Ruili Airlines operates 61 domestic routes and 10 international routes and serves 108 flights a day, covering 39 cities in China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar.

Source: http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/asiapacific/2019-10/15/c_138473455.htm

Agriculture sector expands by 2.02% in nine months



Vietnam News | 15 October, 2019

HA NOI — Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Phung Duc Tien told a press conference in Ha Noi on October 14 that the agriculture sector expanded by 2.02 per cent in the first nine months of this year despite the impact of African swine fever. Export revenue hit US\$30.02 billion while trade surplus hit \$6.86 billion – nearly \$1 billion higher than the same period last year – the official added. Chief of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) Office Le Van Thanh

said pork output decreased by 8 per cent due to the impact of the disease. However, the output of other farming products rose, such as beef up 4.2 per cent, buffalo meat up 3.1 per cent, poultry meat 13.5 per cent, egg 10 per cent, and milk 9.3 per cent. The aquaculture sector will synchronously and effectively realise recommendations by the European Union (EU), towards achieving sustainable aquaculture development, the official added. The ministry will send teams to localities to inspect the adoption of measures against the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing warned by the EU, rearrange farming at sea, enhance international cooperation in seafood exploitation, contributing to safeguarding the country's sovereignty over seas and islands. Further attention will be paid to tackling difficulties in China, opening up new markets such as the US, the UK and Australia for several products. In collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the MARD will help facilitate exports of farm produce to China via information sharing and training. It will also establish an information-sharing mechanism and work with the General Administration of Customs of China and leaders of the Vietnamese and Chinese border provinces to deal with barriers regarding origin tracing, export certificates and quarantine. VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/536915/agriculture-sector-expands-by-202-in-nine-months.html#ksgoB5ZZRiwTDJwf.97>

Textile industry hit by on-going trade war



Vietnam News | 15 October, 2019

(VNS/VNA) – Vietnam’s textile industry faces many difficulties with both export and production on the decrease due to effects of an intensified China-US trade war, said industry experts. “Buyers are concerned with the on-going China-US trade war and it has resulted in fewer and smaller orders,” said a report by the Ministry of Investment and Planning. Vietnamese textile companies were being hit hard as the trade war dragged on, as indicated in a performance review of the Vietnam National Textile and Garment Group (VINATEX), one of the largest in Vietnam. Export of raw materials to China, traditionally a major market for Vietnamese products that accounts up to 60 percent of the country’s total export volume, plummeted as China cut back on imports. Among the most affected was yarn export with the price continuing to fall as fears of further tariffs being slapped on an additional 250 billion USD worth of Chinese goods linger. “As the global yarn industry faces worsening prospects due to the on-going trade war, competition among rival countries such as India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam has intensified,” said the review. In stark contrast to last year when there were more than enough orders to work on until the end of the year by September, companies are scrambling

to secure orders to maintain production. A vast majority of orders, if they were signed at all, were of small volume and short-term as customers were constantly on the look-out for new developments of the trade war. In addition, more and more Chinese orders have been shipped to countries with better tax incentives such as Cambodia and Bangladesh. The possibility of Vietnam’s textile industry hitting its target of 40 billion USD in exports this year is getting slimmer, said VINATEX Vice President Truong Van Cam. Along with the trade war’s adverse effects, expectations for trade deals such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) were set unrealistically high, Cam said, adding such deals will take a while to make a real impact. According to figures released by the General Department of Customs, textile exports during the first three quarters of 2019 reached 29.2 billion USD, a 9.1 percent year-on-year increase./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/textile-industry-hit-by-ongoing-trade-war/162084.vnp>