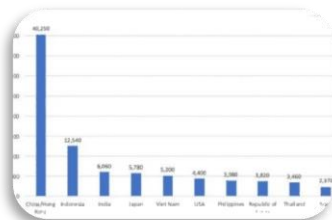


Highlight News | October 17/2019



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Cambodia boosts bilateral trade with Vietnam by improving infrastructure



Cambodia News / 16 October, 2019

The Cambodian government has recently called for efforts to improve the country's infrastructure, including the revision and actioning of plans to push ahead with the Phnom Penh-Bavet expressway project, a move expected to boost business, investments, and trade with Vietnam. The efforts were called for by Prime Minister Hun Sen during his speech at the bilateral investment and trade forum held on October 4 in Hanoi, Vietnam, which was attended by government officials, investors and entrepreneurs from both countries. He instructed all the relevant institutions and stakeholders in Cambodia to review the feasibility study and set out plans to facilitate businesses and logistics at the border with Vietnam. He also mentioned that there will be increased transportation directly from Vietnam into Cambodia and that authorities should be ready for when the Phnom Penh-Bavet expressway is completed. "Samdech Techo also instructed to all the relevant Cambodian institutions to study and look at the feasibility study in order to put out mechanisms to help facilitate businesses and logistic matters along the borders and especially to get ready for the rapid increase of transportation across the borders after the completion of Phnom Penh and Ho Chi Minh expressways that will meet each other at the international border of Bavet," reads a post written on Friday on his official Facebook page. The feasibility study of Phnom Penh-Bavet expressway conducted by the Japan International

Cooperation Agency (JICA), was concluded in late 2018. The study found that the project will cost \$3.8 billion, according to a report by Khmer Times. However, the construction of the 160-kilometre-long road connecting Phnom Penh and Bavet has not started yet, the report continues. Once completed the Phnom Penh-Bavet expressway will be linked to another expressway from Vietnam connecting Moc Bai and Ho Chi Minh City. The connection is believed to draw more investment and trade between the two countries. Cambodia-Vietnam bilateral trade reached \$4.7 billion in 2018, which is a 24 percent increase compared to 2017. It continues to grow rapidly reaching \$2.72 billion in the first six months of 2019 and expected to reach over 5\$ billion at the end of the year, the post continues. Phan Soumy is a content writer at Realestate.com.kh

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50651252/cambodia-boosts-bilateral-trade-with-vietnam-by-improving-infrastructure/>

Siem Reap to welcome \$27mln Cambodia-China Cultural Park



Cambodia News / 16 October, 2019

The Council for the Development of Cambodia, a government agency that oversees investment, last week approved a large-scale tourism project in Siem Reap. Called 'Cambodia-China Cultural Park,' the project will be developed by Angkor International Culture Investment & Development (Cambodia) Co., Ltd with a capital of \$27.5 million. According to CDC, the project will be developed in Sla Kram commune in Siem Reap, home to the Angkor Archaeological Park. No timeframe for the project's

development has been revealed. Minister of Tourism Thong Khon recently urged the creation of new tourism products, as well as the expansion of existing ones, in Siem Reap. The ministry called on industry players to cooperate to establish new tourism products that will attract more tourists and make them stay longer. "We must create new tourism products. To this end, the government is studying the tourism master plan for Siem Reap province," Mr Khon said. "We have identified new potential tourism products, particularly in Kulen Mountain, the Tonle Sap area, and around the temples of Angkor," he said. Top Sopheak, Ministry of Tourism spokesman, told Khmer Times yesterday that the ministry welcomes new investment plans by the private sector. "We welcome new projects by private companies, but ask these companies to ensure that they follow the local regulation and that their plans do not harm the local heritage and eco-system," he said, adding that, "Conservation and development must go hand in hand." He highlighted the important role of the private sector "driving the development of the tourism industry." Som Seap, founder and CEO of Key Real Estate, told Khmer Times last week that laws prohibiting the development of high-rise buildings in Siem Reap make the province a less attractive investment destination. "This means the opportunities and room for commercial developments in Siem Reap town are limited," he noted. The number of tickets sold at the Angkor Archaeological Park, the Kingdom's most important tourist draw, saw an 8 percent drop from January to June, with just over 1,244,000 foreign tourists buying passes, according to Angkor Enterprises. China continues to top the list of tourists by nationality in Siem Reap, followed by Korea and

the United States. About 540,000 Chinese visited the province during the first half of the year.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50651322/siem-reap-to-welcome-27mln-cambodia-china-cultural-park/>

BCEL, Swift Pass partner in payments through WeChat Pay and AliPay



Laos News / 16 October, 2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - Banque pour le Commerce Extérieur Lao Public (BCEL) is partnering with Swift Pass to enable payments through WeChat Pay and AliPay so that Lao shops and other businesses are more attractive to Chinese customers. An official launch of WeChat Pay and AliPay took place in Vientiane last week. The ceremony was attended by the Deputy Governor of the Bank of Lao PDR, Mr Phouthaxay Sivilyay; Director of Strategic Development of Wallyt, Mr Jacky Chiang; General Managing Director of BCEL, Mr Phoukhong Chanthachack; government officials from various sectors; business partners; customers; representatives from the Chinese Embassy to Laos, and Lao and Chinese travel agents. The partnership is aimed at serving the needs of customers and the development of new digital banking products. This is the first time that shops in Laos can accept payment through WeChat Pay, which involves payment using a QR Code with WeChat Pay and AliPay in the same QR Code. It is also the first time that e-commerce shops in Laos will have a QR Code to enable

payment by WeChat Pay and AliPay. This is one more step by BCEL to introduce new payment systems using a QR Code through cooperation with Swift Pass and NTT DATA. This enables BCEL's customers to pay for goods and services digitally. It also provides additional security for buyers and sellers, especially for Chinese travellers. There are at least 900 million user numbers throughout the world, mostly Chinese, who use this popular App. Payment by WeChat Pay and AliPay will serve the needs of Chinese customers who visit or do business in Laos. At present, there are more than 10,000 member shops of BCEL that provide payment services using the QR Code Function OnePay and BCEL One, which can now also offer payment through WeChat Pay and AliPay. The bank has developed its business with a focus on adopting innovations by introducing new products and services. Each of the bank's products is developed to meet the needs of its customers, their modern lifestyles and new business trends. In particular, the use of electronic banking for payments is convenient, checkable, secure and standardised. BCEL is continuing to cooperate internationally in applying modern technology to digitalise its services, especially by expanding payment via QR codes to facilitate cross-border trade and financial integration among countries in the region.

Source : <http://annx.asianews.network/content/bcel-swift-pass-partner-payments-through-wechat-pay-and-alipay-106312>

Lao business leaders embark on Japanese management programme



Laos News / 17 October, 2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - The Laos-Japan Human Resource Department Institute (LJI) on Tuesday began a "keiei-juku" programme for the third batch of trainees to help improve the skills of Lao business executives in administration and management. The Japanese-developed keiei-juku training initiative is a specialised management skill development programme for the top management of enterprises. The opening ceremony was attended by the Vice President of the National University of Laos, Associate Prof. Dr Somchanh Bounphanmy, and JICA Laos Office Chief Representative, Mr Yoshiharu Yoneyama, along with LJI managers. The third batch of people taking part in the programme consists of 18 executives working at growing enterprises in Vientiane. The six-month long programme includes five crucial business management subjects: business administration strategy, financial management strategy, marketing strategy and business development planning and strategic human resource management, and an achievement briefing workshop. Each subject will be taught for one month with participants required to attend lectures and workshops for one week. During the rest of the month, participants will work on assignments that apply the lessons learnt in class to their actual business analysis and planning. In this way, after completing the programme, participants will have

done a thorough analysis and developed a comprehensive improvement plan for their companies. After the course the trainees will make a two-week field trip to Japan to see how the system is successfully implemented there. The programme will provide numerous opportunities for participants to deepen their understanding of Japanese-style management through interaction with the instructors and other participants, Associate Prof. Dr Somchanh said. Understanding of Japanese-style management will be even further deepened when participants apply the knowledge gained through lectures to actual practice at their workplace. Knowledge will not be of any value nor can it grow without putting it to practical use, she said. Throughout the six-month course at the LJI and the study tour in Japan, 14 participants from the first batch and 18 participants from the second batch of managers taking the keiei-juku programme will learn the theories and observe the practices which can broaden their thinking about how Japanese-style management is implemented in Japan. Associate Prof. Dr Somchanh said she hoped that programme participants would be able to learn and localise Japanese-style management into their working environments so that their companies would continue to grow amid the ever-increasing competitive environment brought about by globalisation. Through the joint efforts of the Lao government and private sector with support and cooperation from development partners including JICA, Laos should be able to maintain its rapid economic growth and development, which has an

increasingly high demand for trained personnel, she added.

Source : <https://www.ryt9.com/s/nnd/3055453>

Foreign investment volume in Thilawa SEZ reaches more than US\$ 1.86 billion till 2019 September



Myanmar News | 16 October, 2019

Foreign investment volume from 19 countries in Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) reached more than US\$ 1.86 billion till 2019 September with Japan topping more than 36 %, said the source from the Department of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). A total of 113 businesses from 19 countries that made foreign investments in Thilawa SEZ were US\$ 1.862 billion. The investment volume of Japan was about US\$ 674.488 million, accounting for 36.21 % and its investment businesses were 37. The investment volume of Singapore was US\$ 650 million, accounting for more than 34 % and its investment businesses were 27. The investment volume of Thailand was more than US\$ 170 million, accounting for more than 9 % and ROK, more than 96 million and more than 5 %. The investment volume of Hong Kong in Thilawa SEZ accounted for more than 3 % and Myanmar, nearly 3 %, and the UK, the UAE and Australia, more than 1 %. The investment of Malaysia, Taiwan, Australia, Panama, China, Brunei,

Vietnam, France, Switzerland and the Netherlands remained below one percent.

Source : <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/foreign-investment-volume-in-thilawa-sez-reaches-more-than-us-186-billion-till-2019-september>

Mineral export volume reaches more than US\$ 1.4 billion till 2019 end



Myanmar News | 16 October, 2019

Mineral export volume reached more than US\$ 1.4 billion at the end of 2018-2019 financial years, down US\$ 700 million, compared with the same period of last year, according to the official statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce. Mineral export volume reached more than US\$ 1.465 billion from October 1 to September 30 of the 2018-2019 FY and US\$ 2.167 billion in the previous year. In comparison with the two fiscal years, mineral volume decreased US\$ 702.014 million in export in 2018-2019 FY. The main export items of Myanmar sent to foreign countries are farm produces, animal products, minerals, marine products, forest products, industrial finished products and others. Jade exhibitions are being held in the country, but jade export is decreasing. With the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Myanmar mid-year gem emporium

was held in Nay Pyi Taw from September 16 to 25 in 2019.

Source: <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/mineral-export-volume-reaches-more-than-us-1-4-billion-till-2019-end>

Non-banking financial sector to pay highest bonuses in 2019: survey



Vietnam News | 16 October, 2019

Non-banking financial companies are expected to pay the highest bonuses this year, an average of 30.4 percent of base salary. In Vietnam, insurance firms are likely to pay the second highest rate of 22.9 percent, followed by agriculture (19.4 percent), according to the 2019 Total Remuneration Survey recently released by jobs company Talentnet and its global partner Mercer. The logistics, retail and education sectors are expected to pay the lowest bonuses of 13.8 percent, 14.8 percent and 15.4 percent respectively, showed the survey which polled 605 multinational corporations and local conglomerates in 16 industries, including technology, consumer goods, chemicals, and life sciences. Vietnamese companies will pay higher bonuses (22.6 percent) than multinationals (17.5 percent) this year as they continue to compete with multinational companies in attracting talent. Last year they paid 22.3 percent and 16.9 percent. This year local businesses increased average salary by 8.9 percent compared to 8.5 percent by multinational companies. The tech sector saw the highest salary growth of 10.2 percent, followed by

chemicals 9 percent and trading 8.6 percent. Oil and mining, education and the finance sector had the lowest salary hikes of 4.5 percent, 6.6 percent and 6.9 percent respectively. However, local companies paid 29 percent lower salaries than multinationals, with the differences being 14 percent at the staff level, 25 percent at the experts level and 33 percent at the management level.

Source : <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/business/data-speaks/non-banking-financial-sector-to-pay-highest-bonuses-in-2019-survey-3997335.html>

Vietnam ranks fifth globally in instant noodle consumption



Vietnam News | 16 October, 2019

A Vietnamese consumes nearly 55 instant noodle packets per year, higher than the world's leading nations in instant noodle consumption, including China with an average of 31 packets for person, Indonesia with 46.4 and Japan with 45.8. Vietnam consumed 5.2 billion instant noodle packets in 2018, up 2.8% year-on-year and ranking fifth globally, according to the World Instant Noodle Association (WINA). For the last two years, Vietnam's instant noodle consumption has been growing steadily with the amount of packets consumed in 2018 increasing 8.3% against that in 2015. As of present, Vietnam ranked fifth globally in terms of instant noodle consumption, behind China with 40.25 billion packets, Indonesia with 12.54 billion packets, India

with 6.06 billion packets and Japan with 5.78 billion packets. In terms of per capita consumption, with the population of nearly 95 million in 2018, a Vietnamese consumes nearly 55 instant noodle packets per year, higher than leading nations in instant noodle consumption, including China with an average of 31 packets for person, Indonesia with 46.4 and Japan with 45.8. In Vietnam, an increase in the volume of instant noodle consumption was thanks to a wide range of products available to customers, as well as growing number of enterprises from abroad and of domestic joining the market. Statistics revealed there are 50 producers of instant noodles in Vietnam, in which 70% of the market shares currently belong to Vina Acecook, Masan and Asia Food. The former maintains the top spot, holding 50% market share in urban areas and 43% nationwide. Meanwhile, Masan and Asia Food are dominating in rural areas, with the combined market share of 60%. In 2018, Acecook reported growth rate of 13% year-on-year with sales number of 100 million of instant noodle packages. In the first six months of 2019, the company sold over 50 million packages, up 4% year-on-year.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/economy/vietnam-ranks-fifth-globally-in-instant-noodle-consumption-404711.vov>