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## GMAC urges members to join REX



*Cambodia News | 21 October, 2019*

The Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia (GMAC) on Sunday asked members to join the EU's Registered Exporters System (REX), a scheme based on self-certification that allows firms to export without a certificate of origin. GMAC urged its members to join REX before the end of the year when the EU will stop accepting certificates of origin issued by the Ministry of Commerce. "We would like to urge all members to register as soon as possible with the Registered Exporters System (REX) as the deadline with the EU is fast approaching," said Van Sou Ieng, GMAC chairman. The Registered Exporter System allows firms to ship goods abroad using a statement of origin instead of the 'form A' of the certificate of origin. It is based on the principle of self-certification. By joining the system, companies become 'registered exporters', which allows them to issue their own statements of origin. Since last year, the Ministry of Commerce and GMAC have repeatedly asked exporters to join the system but not many have followed suit, Mr Sou Ieng lamented. "Once the deadline passes, the EU will no longer accept certificates of origin issued by the Ministry of Commerce. It will instead require all exporters to use the REX system so that they can have a statement of origin," he added.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50652812/gmac-urges-members-to-join-rex/>

## Investment skyrockets this year



*Cambodia News | 21 October, 2019*

Turkey has agreed to help the Kingdom develop its nascent halal industry. During an official visit to Ankara, Turkey, last week, Cambodian Minister of Commerce Pan Sorasak requested Turkey's assistance to improve the quality of halal food in the Kingdom and spread awareness among Cambodians. In a meeting with the Cambodian minister on Friday, Turkish Trade Minister Ruhsar Pekcan agreed to form a team to assist the Kingdom's halal industry. "Halal food in Cambodia is still a new thing. We need Turkey's support and technical assistance, particularly with regards to hygiene requirements and certification," Mr Sorasak said according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Commerce. Both leaders also agreed to strengthen trade cooperation between their governments, and Minister Sorasak asked Turkish Airlines to consider starting a direct flight between the two countries. Speaking during a business seminar earlier this month, Senior Minister Osman Hassan said Cambodia has great potential in the halal industry. "There are many opportunities for investment in Cambodia's halal industry. Cambodia has plenty of raw materials and some countries are already interested in importing halal products from Cambodia," he said. Ly Veasna, president of the Cambodia Islamic Business Association, told Khmer Times last week that demand for halal food in Cambodia is still relatively small but that there is

plenty of room for it to grow. “The potential is very big but unfortunately there is not much interest to invest in the sector yet.”

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50652813/turkey-to-help-develop-cambodias-halal-industry/>

## Tourist arrivals on track to hit target for 2019



*Laos News | 21 October, 2019*

The number of domestic and foreign tourists holidaying in Laos during the first nine months of this year increased compared to the same period last year, while visitor numbers from some countries that had slowed in recent years were also up. More than 3.4 million people vacationed in Laos in the first nine months of this year, an increase of about 11 percent compared to last year, while the number of visitors from China soared by 26 percent, according to the Tourism Development Department, Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism. Visitors from Thailand – the main source of Laos’ tourists – rose by 6 percent while Vietnamese visitors increased by 11 percent. Tourist arrivals from many high-end countries also increased, with the number coming from the USA rising by 22 percent, while visitors from the United Kingdom also increased by 22 percent. The number of French visitors rose by 11 percent while German tourists increased by 13 percent. In comparison, visitor numbers from the Republic of Korea dropped by 1 percent, the number from Denmark fell by 27 percent, Swiss visitors declined by 18 percent, and the number from Finland

plummeted by 28 percent. Director General of the Tourism Marketing Department, Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, Mr Soun Manivong, told Vientiane Times visitor numbers had increased because of the Visit Laos-China Year tourism promotion. Publicity was also ratcheted up in media outlets in Laos and other countries in a bid to attract more visitors, he added. Officials are confident that more than 1 million Chinese out of an overall total of 4.5 million visitors will come to Laos during Visit Laos-China Year 2019 as the next three months are the high tourist season, Mr Soun said. Although many tourist attractions are located in provinces that were affected by floods last month, this has not had an impact on the visitor target figure and officials are looking at ways to rehabilitate flood-hit areas, he added. To achieve the government’s target of 4.5 million visitors in 2019, provinces across the country have created more tourist attractions, improved signage, and made adjustments to the price of accommodation following complaints about high costs. Some provinces are improving the quality of souvenirs by making them more colourful and providing information about their significance on the packaging. The authorities have also improved services at border crossings and trained officials to provide information to foreign visitors. Laos has 670 hotels, 2,432 guesthouses and resorts, 2,646 restaurants and 305 entertainment venues, according to the Tourism Development Department. There are numerous officially designated tourist attractions including 1,318 nature

based sites, 596 places of cultural interest, and 294 places of historical significance.

Source: [http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreContent\\_Tourist\\_231.php](http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreContent_Tourist_231.php)

## Over \$360m earned from animal product exports in 2018-2019 FY

 Myanmar News | 19 October, 2019

Myanmar earned more than US\$360 million from exporting animal products in 2018-2019 fiscal year exceeding over US\$130 million compared to 2017-2018 FY, according to figures from the ministry of commerce. From October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019 in the previous 2018-2019 financial year, US\$366.322 million was earned from export of animal products. But, the earnings in the 2017-2018 fiscal year amounted to US\$231.490 million, causing an increase of US\$134.831 million. Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products, animal products, marine products, forest products, mineral products, finished industrial goods (CMP) and others. Export earnings were expected to reach US\$15.3 billion in the previous fiscal year. But the amount increased to nearly US\$17 billion, exceeding US\$473.218 million compared to the year before. In 2018-2019 FY, foreign trade value reached over US\$34.97 billion exceeding the target of over US\$31 billion. However, trade deficit hit over US\$1.39 billion, according to the ministry sources.

Source: <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/over-360m-earned-from-animal-product-exports-in-2018-2019-fy>

## Traffic with Myanmar int'l airport grows in 9 months this year

 Myanmar News | 20 October, 2019

YANGON, Oct. 20 (Xinhua) -- Traffic with Myanmar's Yangon International Airport hit 4.6 million in the first nine months of this year, up 6.5 percent from the same period of last year when it registered 4.32 million, said Sunday an announcement of the Yangon Aerodrome Company (YACL), which is the operator of the airport. The YACL attributed the increase of the passenger during the period to the addition of new routes, mainly to cater to the Chinese market. In the last 12 months, the airport has added two routes with three new airlines. However, domestic passenger movement declined by 1.7 percent during the nine-month period correspondingly as local carriers were upgrading their fleet to bigger aircraft as well as a considerable number of flights being cancelled by the national carriers. Yangon International Airport now serves over 30 international airlines connecting to dozens of cities in Asia. China, Thailand and Japan were countries mainly contributing to the increase in the airport international passenger movement, the YACL said. There has been an increase of arrivals of Chinese travelers in Myanmar since Myanmar

relaxed visa restrictions by granting visa-on-arrival starting on Oct. 1, 2018.

Source: [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/20/c\\_138487382.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/20/c_138487382.htm)

## TH Milk becomes first exporter of milk to China



*Vietnam News | 19 October, 2019*

Hanoi (VNA) – TH Milk Joint Stock Company has become the first Vietnamese firm to receive approval from the General Administration of Customs of China to export dairy products to the Chinese market. According to the Vietnamese Embassy in China, China has granted transaction codes to TH Milk's sterilized and modified milk products. The Chinese General Administration of Customs will continue considering applications from other Vietnamese companies, said the embassy. Earlier on October 16, the General Administration of Customs of China issued an announcement granting official permission to the import of Vietnamese dairy products and detailing requirements for quarantine and quality checks of those products. It stated that Vietnamese milk products exported to the Chinese market must meet the relevant testing requirements, including the Food Safety Law and the Law on the Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine of China, the protocol between the two countries, and other regulations in the supervision, quarantine and import and export of dairy products. The dairy products allowed into China include processed foods where the main ingredient is processed cow's milk,

pasteurised milk, sterilised milk, prepared milk, condensed milk, powdered milk, formula milk and others, it elaborated. Chinese authorities also require Vietnamese dairy exporters to obtain approval from Vietnamese authorities and to carry out registration procedures with the General Administration of Customs of China. After that, dairy products must undergo China's quarantine assessments to obtain a quarantine permit before being officially exported to the Chinese market. In addition, China also makes specific requirements on hygiene certificates, packaging and brand awareness, and storage and transportation, among others. Nguyen Van Long, Vice Director of the Department of Animal Health under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development said that five Vietnamese firms have submitted dossiers to get permission to export milk to China. Currently, Vietnam has 18 companies registered to sell dairy products to 17 foreign markets. Vietnam aims to increase dairy export revenue to China from 120 million USD to 300 million USD in 2020./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/th-milk-becomes-first-exporter-of-milk-to-china/162302.vnp>

## Vietnamese catfish exporters struggle to compete with rivals



*Vietnam News | 20 October, 2019*

The domestic catfish price has fallen to a 2-year low, while Vietnam's shrimp now has to compete fiercely in prices with rivals, including Thailand and India. After a long period of being the key export sector,

bringing \$9 billion worth of export turnover in 2018, Vietnam's seafood industry is facing problems. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), the seafood export value in the first nine months of the year was \$6.23 billion only, a decrease of 2 percent compared with the same period 2018. Japan, the US, China and the Republic of Korea were the biggest importers of Vietnam's seafood in the first eight months of 2019 which consumed 56.8 percent of total seafood export value. Also according to the ministry, some product items saw export value decreasing in comparison with the same period last year, such as shrimp, tra fish and cattle-fish because of the stiff competition from India, Ecuador, Indonesia and Thailand. In the domestic market, after moving up slightly, the catfish price in Mekong Delta in September decreased because supply increased more rapidly than the demand. By the end of August 2019, black-tiger shrimp exports brought \$449.7 million, a decrease of 15.3 percent compared with the same period 2018, while white-leg shrimp brought VND1.467 billion, down by 6 percent. Meanwhile, catfish exports had turnover of \$1.304 billion, down by 7.7 percent and cattle-fish and octopus \$386 million, down by 7.4 percent. Seafood processors now prioritize catfish in their growing areas and collect catfish from the farmers with whom they have signex contracts. The catfish raw material

market in Mekong Delta in the last nine months has not been favorable for farmers and exporters. The catfish price decreased after one year of increases. The current catfish price is VND10,000 per kilogram lower than the record high seen in 2018 and it is now at the lowest in the last two years. As a result, farmers have incurred big losses. The sharp price fall in the domestic market is attributed to export growth slowdown, especially to China and the US. As for shrimp, the price has increased since early Q3. The shrimp output in neighboring countries has decreased, while processors are stepping up the collection of materials to make products for year-end sale season. As exports are in decline, analysts warned that the target of exporting \$10 billion worth of seafood products this year may be unattainable. China and Malaysia have begun farming catfish, while Thailand and India can control epidemics in farming and have had a bountiful crop. The world economy is predicted to see growth slowing down and countries are focusing on investing in agriculture. This will have negative impact on Vietnam's exports in the last three months of the year.

Source : [https://english.vov.vn/economy/vietnamese-catfish-exporters-struggle-to-compete-with-rivals-](https://english.vov.vn/economy/vietnamese-catfish-exporters-struggle-to-compete-with-rivals-404934.vov)

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