



- Government will buy Cintri to solve trash crisis: PM
- More local rice traders set to export to Chinese market
- Lao construction industry eyes use of smart technology
- Lancang-Mekong countries share expertise on citizen management
- Economy to expand by as much as 7.1% this year: AMRO
- MIC approves 8 local and foreign investments worth over US\$270m, over K150bn
- Imported pork floods Vietnam after swine flu cull
- Domestic automobile industry in need of policies to raise competitiveness



## Government will buy Cintri to solve trash crisis: PM



*Cambodia News | 23 October, 2019*

Prime Minister Hun Sen yesterday announced the government will acquire and manage Cintri (Cambodia), the private company contracted to collect and dispose of waste in the capital. Speaking during a graduation ceremony at Phnom Penh's Diamond Island Convention and Exhibition Centre, Mr Hun Sen said the biggest problems in the capital are the mounting piles of trash, traffic jams and a lack of parking. He asked the Ministry of Economy and Finance and Phnom Penh City Hall to work with Cintri on the acquisition, adding that the government must purchase and manage the company to provide a better and more efficient service. He said that, under government management, the company will not lose money. "I think Cintri will not argue with this decision," Mr Hun Sen said. "We signed a contract with Cintri, allowing them to operate and collect waste, in 1996 or 1997 – more than 20 years ago. Back then the city only generated around 500 tonnes of waste per day but now it is up to 3,000 tonnes per day because the city has expanded so fast." "We will buy Cintri. Then we will start collecting the waste in the city," he said. Mr Hun Sen said the government will eventually divide the city into several collection zones, assigning one waste collection company to each. A total of four companies will be chosen through public bidding to provide waste collection services, he said, warning of the need for the bidding process to be transparent. "We cannot allow Cintri alone to provide waste collection services

anymore. With only one company in charge of this task, when the company is not working or its workers are on holiday, uncollected rubbish piles up. "We must acquire Cintri and all its equipment and City Hall can manage it. After the acquisition, we will manage all Cintri's staff. Then, we will start to prepare the new zones and allow other companies to join the bidding process to collect the waste and clean the city. We will do it zone by zone." Cintri has 2,300 employees. The prime minister said the government has opened four new landfill sites at Kean Svay and Ang Snoul districts, which have yet to be put into operation. The premier also said the government will subsidise any investment on waste-to-energy (WTE) from the private sector so long as it uses local waste. He said using imported waste to generate energy is not allowed. "Although the cost of generating energy from waste is a bit high, the government will not hesitate to offer subsidies. If we do not do this, we will be flooded by rubbish in the future," the prime minister said. Cintri has been criticised for poor service in Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville. In 2017, a new company was awarded the contract to collect waste in Sihanoukville. After a one-month bidding process, KSWM displaced Cintri as the sole trash collector in the coastal city. Every day, Phnom Penh generates 2,000 to 3,000 tonnes of rubbish, 600 tonnes of which is plastic waste. As a whole, Cambodia produces more than 10,000 tonnes of waste daily, more than 3.6 million tonnes a year. This includes all categories of waste – household, industrial, hazardous, construction, and demolition rubbish.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50653397/government-will-buy-cintri-pm/>

## More local rice traders set to export to Chinese market



Cambodia News / 23 October, 2019

Chinese authorities this week agreed to speed up the review of applications of 40 Cambodian firms that want to export rice to the Chinese market. The decision by China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) is seen as an important development that will help Cambodia achieve its goal of fulfilling its rice export quota in the Chinese market. The Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture and AQSIQ met this week in Beijing to discuss Cambodian exports to China, particularly rice, bananas and mangoes. During the meeting, the Chinese body agreed to prioritise work reviewing the applications of 40 Cambodian that want to begin exporting rice to China, according to Ngin Chhay, director-general of the ministry's General Directorate of Agriculture. "The second round of reviews is taking place soon and those that gain approval will be able to send their rice to China," he said in a statement this week. During the first round of reviews, 26 local rice traders passed the quality-control tests and were permitted to export rice to China. AQSIQ has also recently allowed banana shipments into China from four Cambodian companies. The Ministry of Agriculture and AQSIQ will meet again next month to sign a protocol on the exportation of mango, which firms could begin shipping to China as early as next year. Discussions to approve the shipment of other Cambodian products – particularly longan and bird nests – are ongoing. Song Saran, president of the Cambodia Rice Federation, said shipments of rice to China have

increased markedly during the first nine months of the year, growing by 44 percent over the corresponding period last year. "I believe that Cambodian rice will gain more and more popularity in China," he was quoted as saying in an article by Xinhua. According to CRF, the Kingdom exported 157,793 tonnes of rice to China from January to September. Exports to China accounted for 39.6 percent of Cambodia's total rice exports. Last year, the Kingdom was unable to meet its rice export quota in the Chinese market, shipping only 170,000 tonnes out of the 300,000 allowed. This year, however, CRF is confident the Kingdom will be able to ship all the 300,000 tonnes of rice that it is allowed. Lun Yeng, CRF secretary-general, told Khmer Time last month that the quota will soon be raised. "After reaching 300,000 tonnes in exports, we will begin working towards the new target for next year: 400,000 tonnes," he said.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50653395/more-local-rice-traders-set-to-export-to-chinese-market/>

## Lao construction industry eyes use of smart technology



Laos News / 23 October, 2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - Engineering experts in the fields of construction and architecture learnt more about the smart construction industry during a seminar held on Tuesday on the 4th industrial revolution and digital transformation. The event was organised by the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) office in Vientiane and Heerim Architects and Planners from South Korea. It

was titled “Smart Construction - 4th Industrial Revolution and Digital Transformation in the Construction Industry”. The seminar was given as part of a CSR project to boost cooperation between the two countries in the Lao construction industry. It was attended by officials and company representatives in the field of transportation, construction and related sectors. Participants shared their knowledge and experience of smart construction, the 4th industrial revolution and digital transformation in the construction industry, especially in relation to ways that would advance cooperation between the two countries. “At present, the construction industry in Laos mostly still uses local technology. But smart technology has a great advantage in that it enables construction companies to utilise advanced technologies for smart construction. This enables them to create and design constructions that guarantee more safety, a faster working process, accuracy, and requires fewer workers,” said the Director General of the Vientiane Urban Development Administration Authority, Mr Bounchanh Keosithamma. “We have to learn from countries that already use and are expert in smart technology. Today is a great chance for us to learn from South Korea and see if this technology can be adapted for use in Laos,” he added. The 4th industrial revolution and digital transformation plays an important role in the construction industry because it introduces a fundamental change in construction development. Advanced technology offers various opportunities to boost Laos’

development and the use of technology-driven design, construction, architecture, and renovation. Many technologies have emerged in various areas which people are now using in their daily lives and mega construction projects. Project management that uses IT should be enhanced to increase effective communication and data management to avoid project delays, inaccurate databases, unclear communication, and budget issues. The seminar was the first organised by Heerim Architects and Planners in Laos. The company sees that Laos has challenges in development and that the use of IT in construction can not only benefit construction companies, but also social and economic development in general. Design, construction, and repair are difficult tasks. But smart technologies can bring about smartness in construction, which drives the industry to the next level.

Source : <http://annx.asianews.network/content/lao-construction-industry-eyes-use-smart-technology-106805>

## Lancang-Mekong countries share expertise on citizen management



Laos News / 24 October, 2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - Officials in citizen management from Laos, China, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia met in Pakxe City, Champassak province this week to discuss civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS). Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Siphouk Vongphakdy; Champassak province Deputy Governor, Somsanith

Bouttivong; and Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy to Laos, Mr Qin Chen co-chaired the meeting to enhance capacity building in this field. Home affairs officials from the six Lancang-Mekong countries shared their expertise in citizen management and learned more about it from a Korean expert. The specialist from the Republic of Korea talked about statistical quality control, integration and benchmarking of data, death statistics, maternal and child mortality statistics, unborn statistics, and data on post week old infants. Participants also learned from a senior World Bank health expert about the global perspective on family registration, as well as information systems on civil management, registration, and citizen identification. Experts from Thailand shared their practices in administering civil registration and collecting vital statistics using electronic systems, and Laos introduced its strategy on civil registration and vital statistics. Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Siphouk Vongphakdy, praised the training workshop, saying it created an opportunity for Lao experts from both central and local authorities to learn from other Mekong-Lancang countries. He said the government was giving priority to this area of work because it helped to ensure social order. The collaboration project has received financial support from China under the Lancang-Mekong cooperation framework, which is running from 2018 to 2020. Sharing of expertise on CRVS practices also took place last year with capacity building being the focus in 2019. The project also aims to enhance the knowledge of

communities with regard to their participation and access to CRVS services.

Source : <http://annx.asianews.network/content/lancang-mekong-countries-share-expertise-citizen-management-106882>

## Economy to expand by as much as 7.1% this year: AMRO



*Myanmar News | 23 October, 2019*

The Myanmar economy is expected to expand by 6.8 percent between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2019 compared to 6.5pc in the previous year, according to the 2019 Annual Consultation Report on Myanmar published by the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) on Tuesday. Growth is expected to pick up further, to 7.1pc in fiscal 2019-20, buoyed by reform momentum, improving business sentiments, strong growth in garment and other manufacturing products, an expansion of tourism-related services and stronger fiscal spending, AMRO said. AMRO's forecast is the most positive so far, with the Asian Development Bank projecting growth of 6.6pc for fiscal 2018-19 and 6.8pc in 2019-20. The International Monetary Fund expects economic growth of 6.4pc in fiscal 2018-19 if government spending picks up, leading to growth of 6.6pc in 2019-20. While Myanmar's economy could be affected by weaker demand from China as a

result of the US- China trade tensions, it also stands to gain from investment inflows due to the accelerating relocation of manufacturing into Myanmar if it is able to improve the business environment and upgrade its hard infrastructure and economic institutions, AMRO said. It added that the implementation of the reserve money-targeting framework and increased flexibility in interest rates is “commendable.” “The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) should also continue to let the exchange rate adjust to market forces and continue to build up its holdings of international reserves to strengthen its capacity to manage external shocks,” AMRO said. There are risks to AMRO’s projections, of course, mainly from ethnic tensions in Rakhine State, uncertainties in the global economy related to trade protectionism and energy prices. The banking system, too, remains weak and is still transitioning to a more stringent banking regulatory framework. “Improving the soundness of the banking system requires further strengthening of the CBM’s regulatory and supervisory capacity. Ongoing reforms of state-owned banks should continue, although medium-term rehabilitation is needed to mitigate the risk to financial stability,” it said. While lauding the launch of the Myanmar

Sustainable Development Plan, AMRO noted that there is an urgent need to address infrastructure bottlenecks and human resource constraints to raise private sector investment and raise growth potential. “In addition, it is imperative to enhance public service capacity to implement policies and strengthen the tax revenue system to provide a stable and adequate source of funding,” AMRO said. And while the increase in electricity tariffs is welcome as it is expected to alleviate the fiscal burden, the move is expected to drive up inflation in the shorter term. Inflation is projected to hit a high of 8.8pc in fiscal 2018-19 and to around 9pc in fiscal 2019-20, partly due to electricity tariff hikes, AMRO warned.

Source : <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/economy-expand-much-71-year-amro.html>

## MIC approves 8 local and foreign investments worth over US\$270m, over K150bn



*Myanmar News | 23 October, 2019*

During its meeting (No.17/2019), Myanmar Investment Commission approved eight local and foreign investments worth US\$279.88 million and over K156 billion creating 33,279 local jobs. Those investments will be made in housing, education service, industry and agriculture. Aung Naing Oo, Permanent

Secretary of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, said investment target for 2019-2020 fiscal year could be met thanks to infrastructure projects although Myanmar has general election next year. "As our election is next year, the international community will wait and see. After the election and new government's situation, they usually come. This is the nature of multinational companies. They might have been watching the situation," he said. He, however, pointed out the existence of Project Bank established by the incumbent government. That includes national projects and ministerial projects. "For infrastructure projects, we will invite investors next year. Those projects require large investment. I think those projects will yield benefits despite election," said Aung Naing Oo. He commented the investment target could be met if infrastructure, oil and gas and communications are considered.

Source: <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/mic-approves-8-local-and-foreign-investments-worth-over-us270m-over-k150bn>

## Imported pork floods Vietnam after swine flu cull



Vietnam News | 23 October, 2019

Pork from Brazil, the U.S. and Poland, mostly bones and neck, has been pouring into Vietnam at lower

than domestic prices. As of mid-October, HCMC had imported 10,820 tons of pork worth \$21.3 million this year, up 155 percent year-on-year, according to the city's customs department. Brazil accounted for 52.5 percent total volume, followed by Poland at 13.8 percent and the U.S. at 10.2 percent. Prices of imported pork ranged from VND44,250-48,000 (\$1.90-2.06) per kilogram, lower than those of domestic pork at VND55,000-60,000 (\$2.36-2.58) per kilogram. However, Nguyen Phuong Dong, deputy director of HCMC Industry and Trade Department, said that imported pork prices were low because most of it comprised bones and neck parts that are priced low in the exporting countries. Vietnamese prefer fresh pork, therefore imported frozen meat is often used for processed food like sausages, with only a few businesses importing high quality parts for storage, he added. Domestic prices have risen to their highest in the last three years as supply of pork dwindles because of the African swine fever outbreak, which has resulted in Vietnam culling almost 5 million pigs. From January to September, Vietnam imported 14,824 tonnes of pork worth \$220 million, according to the General Statistics Office. Pig stock in the country dropped 19 percent year-on-year in the period, while pork supply fell 9 percent, it said.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/economy/imported-pork-floods-vietnam-after-swine-flu-cull-405080.vov>

## Domestic automobile industry in need of policies to raise competitiveness



*Vietnam News | 23 October, 2019*

Vietnam needs to issue special policies for the automobile industry to catch up with other countries in the ASEAN region, said experts at a conference held in Hanoi on October 22. Hosted by the Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM), experts discussed solutions to complete tax policies and financial support to boost the development of the industry of automobile and auto parts. According to CIEM deputy head Nguyen Thi Tue Anh, the production of automobile and auto parts is one of six key industries of Vietnam. She said it was needed to clarify the situation, inadequacies and limitations in the implementation of policies as well as proposing solutions while motivating businesses to develop. Statistics from the Ministry of Industry and Trade shows the country's automobile business has grown rapidly in recent years. The number of locally-assembled vehicles has annually risen 10 percent in the period 2015-18, reaching 250,000 units in 2018. Weak production is one of the reasons the industry failed to cope with the competition on tax cuts, which was eliminated for cars from ASEAN countries last year. After nearly 20 years of development, there are only segments of passenger cars and trucks meeting local targets of localisation rate (local part

supply) at 20 percent and 45 percent, respectively. In term of car with less than nine seats, the localisation rate reached an average of 7-10 percent, much lower than the set figure. The locally-produced products are simple such as tires, seats, mirrors and batteries. Meanwhile, the localisation rate of countries in the region has reached an average of 70 percent, even 80 percent in Thailand. Nguyen Trung Hieu, head of Policy Department under Vietnam Automobile Manufacturers Association (VAMA), said that by the end of 2018, the country had 358 automobile-related manufacturing enterprises with 50 automobile assembling units, 45 enterprises producing chassis, bodies and trunks and 214 auto parts. This figure is much lower than other countries in the region such as Malaysia and Thailand, he said. Hieu added the domestic support industry enterprises have good capacity in some areas such as moulds, bicycle and motorbike components and standard mechanical components. The automobile industry is about 20 years behind countries in the region such as Thailand and Indonesia, so there should be special policies to encourage businesses to make breakthroughs, Hieu said. Nguyen Thi Hai Binh, an expert from the finance ministry's Institute of Financial Strategy and Policy, said it is necessary to focus on studying and planning policies to encourage businesses. Binh also proposed to exempt special consumption tax on domestically-



produced goods, which are not imported from foreign countries, in addition to incentives relevant to land and credit to develop automobile manufacturing complexes in chain. According to Deputy Chairwoman of Vietnam Association of Supporting Industries Truong Thi Chi Binh, it needed to give more credit incentives to help support industry firms raise competitiveness, like the fund for small and medium enterprises that has given priority to manufacturing and supporting industry firms.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/economy/domestic-automobile-industry-in-need-of-policies-to-raise-competitiveness-405092.vov>

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