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## Studies for major logistics centres to be ready soon



*Cambodia News | 29 October, 2019*

The feasibility studies for key logistics complexes in Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville are expected to be concluded before the end of the year, according to the president of the Cambodia Freight Forwarders Association (CAMFFA) Sin Chanthy, CAMFFA president, told Khmer Times the reports will be concluded soon, possibly before the end of the year. “As far as I know, the feasibility studies of the complexes will soon be completed,” he said, adding that: “But we don’t know when construction will begin.” In a report released last week, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport said the feasibility study for the logistics centre in the capital is being conducted with the help of the Asian Development Bank, while the International Monetary Fund is assisting with the study for the complex in Sihanoukville. The constructions of logistics centres are an important part of the government’s Logistics Master Plan. They are expected to expand options for land, rail and water transportation, and reduce logistics costs, enhancing the competitiveness of local products and services. Pich Chhieng, director of the General Directorate of Logistics, could not be reached for comment on Monday, but previously told Khmer Times that work on the feasibility study for Phnom Penh began in July and will finish in October or November. Mr Chanthy said logistics complexes act as a “one-stop service centre” for import and

export activities, bringing together the relevant government institution and private companies. “The complex will serve as a place where all transportation-related documents can be processed, saving companies time and reducing the cost of transportation,” he said. “By building these facilities, we hope that the logistics sector in Cambodia can be improved,” said Mr Chanthy. He noted that the factories will be connected to the logistics centres, who, in turn, are connected to ports and airports. Mr Chanthy noted that cargo traffic at local ports has been steadily rising over the last few years, with particularly strong growth in 2018 and 2019 that has led to congestion. “To improve the situation, the construction of logistics centres should be prioritised. They will play a critical role in reducing congestion. “Neighboring countries like Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Singapore already have such centres,” he said. Cargo traffic at Sihanoukville Autonomous Port (PAS) rose by 18 percent during the first nine months of the year compared with the same period last year. From January to July, state-owned Phnom Penh Autonomous Port handled 150,419 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), a 29.5 hike compared with the same seven-month period last year. In an interview with Khmer Times last week, Miyao Masahiro, chief representative of the Japan External Trade Organisation, said transportation in Cambodia is significantly more expensive than in neighbouring countries and represents an important barrier to attracting foreign investment. “The number of ships coming to Cambodia’s ports is lower than

those coming to Vietnam's and Thailand's, which means transportation costs increase," he said.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50655287/studies-for-major-logistics-centres-to-be-ready-soon/>

## China textile group launched to bolster garment sector



*Cambodia News | 29 October, 2019*

A new association was launched on Saturday to boost the Kingdom's garment industry, one of the most important engines of economic growth in the country. China Textile Association in Cambodia (CTAC) will provide legal advice to investors and those considering to invest as well as liaise with the government, public officials said at the event. CTAC's services will particularly target Chinese investors. Speaking at CTAC's launch on Saturday, Minister of Industry and Handicrafts Cham Prasidh said the association will be an important partner to the government in lifting the garment and textile industry. "We hope that the association will help attract investment in garments and related industries. We are ready to help and facilitate your investment in Cambodia," he told attendees at the event. Cambodia has 663 factories. Of these, 520 manufacture garments, while 83 make footwear. The rest produce bags. The industry employs about 800,000 Cambodians, 80 percent of whom are women, according to the Ministry of Industry and Handicrafts. A report last year from the National Bank of Cambodia showed that Cambodia's

garments and footwear exports were valued at \$10 billion, up 24 percent from 2017's \$8 billion. The majority of buyers are in the European Union and the United States. At last week's event, Minister Prasidh urged investors to consider exporting to new markets, including Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, and Korea. According to the minister, Cambodia has the fifth-highest garment sector minimum wage in Asean. Cambodia's minimum wage for the garment sector is \$182 per month but it will be raised to \$190 next year. Research by Dezan Shira & Associates shows that the garment industry is essentially dominated by foreign companies, particularly from China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, and South Korea. "In regard to foreign-owned garments firms or brand names, these have benefited Cambodia's industry and created important channels into the global value chain," it said.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50655062/china-textile-group-launched-to-bolster-garment-sector/>

## Authorities to assess impacts of regional community-driven development



*Laos News | 29 October, 2019*

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - The Poverty Reduction Fund under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry discussed a research programme on the impact of community-driven development on rural development, which Laos is taking part in along with

other Mekong countries. The joint research programme will be undertaken by Cambodia, China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam, funded by the Chinese government through Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC). The programme, which will run from this month until February 2020, aims to strengthen socio-economic development by minimising the development gap among these countries. Speaking at a seminar on Friday, Head of Monitoring and Evaluation at the Poverty Reduction Fund, Dr Hatthachan Phimphanthavong, said it would apply to all countries in the region, who will study various aspects of the community-driven development approach to rural development. Dr Hatthachan explained that the programme would be a platform for the sharing of best practices in community-driven development and capacity building for community leaders in the MLC countries. Authorities also discussed identifying appropriate and functional criteria for evaluating community-driven development and how to apply it to the government system. Also planned is the testing of a standard model and theoretical aspects of the practical work of all MLC countries, and the establishment of a professional network for these countries with regard to future research and further cooperation. According to a report from the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, in recent years, poverty rates across Laos have reduced substantially to 62,384 households or 5.13 percent, to 1,433 villages or 16.97 percent, and to 23 districts or 15.54 percent of the total.

Source : <http://annx.asianews.network/content/authorities-assess-impacts-regional-community-driven-development-107169>

## Krungsri Launches Real-time Money Transfer Service



*Laos News | 29 October, 2019*

(KPL) Krungsri Bank, a Thai commercial bank, has launched Krungsri Blockchain Interledger to ensure an easy and real-time money transfer between Laos and Thailand. "Krungsri Blockchain Interledger is a real-time service of international funds transfer between the Lao PDR and Thailand for SMEs. With cutting-edge service, customers will easily make international funds transfers via Krungsri branch," Mr Dan Harsono, Krungsri Head of Retail and Consumer Banking told a launch event in Vientiane on Oct 28. "Both US dollars and Thai bahts are accepted. Each transaction could be completed in a matter of seconds. The technology will facilitate businesses with greater convenience and improve liquidity management effectiveness and reduce management costs," Mr Dan Harsono explained. With Krungsri Blockchain Interledger, transactions can be successfully completed within a few seconds rather than at least 1-3 business days under previous solutions. "This reflects the innovative strength of Krungsri Blockchain's Interledger technology that will drive the Thai business sector towards faster expansion," said Mr Dan Harsono. "Krungsri believes that the Krungsri Blockchain Interledger will help drive economy in

Laos,” he said. In 2017, Krungsri became the first bank in Thailand to introduce real-time global funds transfer service based on the Krungsri Blockchain Interledger for business and industry sector. “We achieved a significant change in the financial landscape with a successful deployment of Krungsri Blockchain Interledger, making Thailand’s first real-time International funds transfer for oil trading transaction between IRPC and its foreign business partners,” said Mr Dan Harsono. Krungsri has also offered hire purchase and sales financing business under the brand “Krungsri Leasing” in Laos since 2014. The company business has grown remarkably over the past five years. Krungsri operates two branches in the Lao PDR including Vientiane Capital and Savannakhet Province.

Source : <http://kpl.gov.la/En/Detail.aspx?id=49016>

## Singapore’s Wilmar Myanmar will build largest rice mill in Thilawa SEZ



*Myanmar News | 29 October, 2019*

YANGON- Wilmar Myanmar which is a subsidiary of Singapore-listed Wilmar International, one of the largest agribusinesses in Asia, will be building the largest rice mill in Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ), according to the reports. The mill will produce till 1,200 tons of rice per day. The Wilmar Myanmar opened a new flour mill and consumer pack edible oil processing plant in Thilawa SEZ, Yangon, on October 27th. The mill will be producing 530 tons of wheat per day, while the processing plant will have

the capacity to produce 460 tons of edible oil per day. The stake driving ceremony to build the largest rice mill in Thilawa SEZ was held in conjunction with the opening ceremony of a new flour mill and consumer pack edible oil processing plant in Thilawa SEZ, Yangon, on October 27th. Upon completion of rice mill, rice bags will be exported to the foreign countries via Thilawa jetty. “Myanmar is the second largest land wide country among the South-east Asia. Moreover, it riches good soil and more rainfalls and there are 54 million peoples. I believed that Myanmar owned the prosperity of business and agriculture sectors. So, it can create not only local agricultural imports and local and foreign markets,” said Kuok Khoon Hong, CEO of Wilmar International Limited. The Wilmar Myanmar had opened the Wilmar Jetty on March 25th, 2018. Myanmar Investment Commission granted Wilmar Company to operate Wilmar Myanmar Port Terminals (Thilawa) under a 50-year build, operate and transfer agreement with the government. The jetty has totaling 234-meter length and 25 meters breadth. Moreover, plans are underway to extend the jetty construction having 390 meters long and 13 meters depth of water. It is the 3rd general commodity jetty and construction was started in February, 2016 and completed by the end of November 2017.

Source: <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/singapores-wilmar-myanmar-will-build-largest-rice-mill-in-thilawa-sez>

## Austria, Myanmar agree to collaborate further



*Myanmar News | 29 October, 2019*

The office of the Honorary Consul of Austria organised a meeting between visiting Ambassador Alexander Marschik (standing in the photo), who is also Political Director and Head of Section for Bilateral Affairs in the Austrian Foreign Ministry, and the Austrian business community and their local partners in Yangon. During the meeting, the participants exchange views on the conditions of doing business in Myanmar and investment opportunities in the country. They also agreed to more collaboration between two countries in the future. Among the participants were representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EuroCham Myanmar, Carlsberg Myanmar, Luther Law Firm, Sea Lion Co Ltd, Shwe Taung Group and Mingalar Myanmar.

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/austria-myanmar-agree-collaborate-further.html>

## Agro-forestry-aquatic exports hit over US\$33 billion in ten months



*Vietnam News | 29 October, 2019*

VOV.VN - The agro-forestry-aquatic sector raked in a total of US\$33.18 billion from exports during the first ten months of the year, an annual increase of 1.6 per cent, according to statistics released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Simultaneously, the country spent approximately US\$25.9 billion on agro-forestry-fishery imports throughout the reviewed period, a fall of 0.5 per cent. With these figures, the agro-forestry-aquatic sector gained a trade surplus of US\$7.3 billion, a US\$664 million rise on-year. As a result, the agricultural sector has six products that enjoy an export turnover of more than US\$2 billion. The strong export growth during the ten-month period was largely driven by forest products which brought in a turnover of US\$9.04 billion, up 18.8 per cent, whilst tea exports went up by 14.3 per cent and bamboo and rattan exports expanded by 40.6 per cent. Elsewhere, the export of major farm produce fell by 7.4 per cent to US\$15.25 billion, accounting for 46 per cent of total export turnover, while seafood exports dropped by 2.4 per cent to US\$7.06 billion. During the ten-month period, the export of fruit and vegetables dipped 1.3 per cent to US\$2.3 billion. This decline can be attributed to a reduction in exports to the Chinese market as China has tightened regulations with regard to products with chemical residues and requirements of food safety and packaging. China remains the largest export market for Vietnam's farm produce, accounting for 26.8 per cent of total export turnover, followed by the United States (21.7 per cent), the EU (11.9 per cent), and ASEAN (10.3 per cent). The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) forecasts that global trade will continue to slow in the near future, while trade barriers, especially those concerning the Chinese market will increase, resulting in additional pressure

to the country's agricultural exports. Furthermore, the export prices of several major agricultural products are projected to endure a downward trend. The MARD will continue to monitor the consumption of agricultural products at border gates whilst assessing the impact of China's policies on exports via official channels, as well as boosting trade promotion activities to the markets of China, India, the Netherlands, and Russia in the future. Aside from securing traditional markets and expanding into potential new markets, the MARD will actively support local firms to take full advantage of opportunities presented by free trade agreements and seek to enhance market development activities.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/economy/agroforestryaquatic-exports-hit-over-us33-billion-in-ten-months-405376.vov>

## MoIT imposes anti-dumping duties on colour-coated steel products of RoK and China



*Vietnam News | 29 October, 2019*

The Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) has decided to apply anti-dumping duties on some colour-coated steel products originating from the Republic of Korea (RoK) and China in the Vietnamese market. Under the ministry's Decision No. 3198/QD-BCT, the anti-dumping tax rate applicable to colour-coated steel exporting enterprises of China is from 2.53 per cent to 34.27 per cent and of RoK is from 4.71 per cent to 19.25

per cent. MoIT said it started the investigation in October last year, based on the evaluation results of a dossier requesting the application of anti-dumping measures submitted by representatives of the domestic steelmakers in August 2018. It coordinated with relevant agencies to assess the dumping's impact on the domestic steel industry. The investigation was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Law on Foreign Trade Management, the WTO Anti-Dumping Agreement and related regulations. "There are sufficient grounds to issue a decision on the application of anti-dumping measures. There are existing dumping acts on colour-coated steel products imported from China and RoK, which are being dumped at a relatively high margin," the MoIT said. "Dumping behaviour is the main cause of significant damage to the domestic steel manufacturing industry." The ministry said that the dumping acts had put considerable pressure on the domestic industry, proved by decreases in indices such as production output, sales volume, revenue, profit and market share, and increase in inventories. Since May last year to date, many domestic steelmakers suffered losses, many production lines had to stop operating and many workers had to quit their jobs. The anti-dumping measure officially came into force on October 24 this year. Relevant parties can submit application to the MoIT to conduct investigation and

review of issues related to the products, anti-dumping tax rates applied for exporters or current tax rates applicable to foreign steelmakers and exporters in accordance with Vietnam's trade remedies law.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/economy/moit-imposes-antidumping-duties-on-colourcoated-steel-products-of-rok-and-china-405375.vov>