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Scheme to facilitate CO issuance expands



Cambodia News | 30 October, 2019

Starting Friday, the commerce departments in Takeo, Kampot, and Koh Kong will be able to issue the 'D form' of the certificate of origin (CO), facilitating export operations for traders in the provinces. With effect from Nov 1, exporters and traders in Takeo, Kampot, and Koh Kong no longer have to travel to the capital to secure the D form, which is needed to obtain a certificate of origin. Since 2017, the Ministry of Commerce has been delegating the issuance of D forms to provincial departments. The goal is to facilitate business activity and exports and save time and money to companies. The scheme now includes fourteen provinces – Ratanakiri, Tboung Khmum, Pailin, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Oddar Meanchey, Kratie, Stung Treng, Monduliri, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, Takeo, Kampot, and Koh Kong. Srey Kumpheak, director of Kampot's Department of Commerce, told Khmer Times yesterday that the scheme makes things easier for companies that export agricultural goods. "This is an important move that allows the authorities to provide better service to exporters and traders in the province," he said, noting that Kampot exports mostly mango and pepper. "This helps companies save time and money, and makes it easier to promote our agricultural goods abroad." He explained that the D form is used for shipments within Asean. Applying for the D form at a provincial commerce department takes just 16 hours while doing so at the Ministry of Commerce in Phnom

Penh takes between 10 days and two weeks, according to the ministry. The ministry said it will expand the scheme to all provinces. The government recently said traders no longer have to secure certificates of origin if the destination country does not require them.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50655401/scheme-to-facilitate-co-issuance-expands/>

Thousands of visitors expected at leather expo



Cambodia News | 30 October, 2019

As many as 20,000 local and international visitors are expected to visit Koh Pich (Diamond Island) next month for one of the biggest leather and footwear industry trade shows ever hosted by the Kingdom. The event, officially known as Leathertech Cambodia 2019, will be held at the Diamond Island Convention and Exhibition Center on November 15-17. According to the organisers, Cambodia is hosting an event of such magnitude because the Kingdom is a global leader in footwear manufacturing and a good destination for investors in the industry. More than 80 companies from Cambodia and other countries involved in the footwear and leather industry are expected to display their products and services during the three-day event. Among the products to be exhibited are footwear and leather machinery, components, chemicals, and accessories. Footwear manufacturers from China, US, Europe, Vietnam, Thailand, India, and Bangladesh are expected to showcase their wares. The event is organised by ASK Trade & Exhibitions Pvt Ltd, a leading international tradeshow organiser from Bangladesh. Footwear manufacturing is among the most important industries in

the Kingdom and one of the country's main exports. In Southeast Asia, Vietnam and Indonesia are Cambodia's closest competitors in footwear production and export. Last year, Cambodia was among the top 10 exporters of shoes in the world, with more than \$1 billion worth of footwear shipped abroad.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/655400/thousands-of-visitors-expected-at-leather-expo/>

New guidelines for import/export of agricultural products in Laos



Laos News / 31 October, 2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - The government has listed the types of goods and the quantity of agricultural and plant products that may be imported and exported through Lao customs checkpoints. Under the new guidelines, every household should own some tools and machinery such as a tractor. There should be at least one tractor per household, one motor pump per household and one food grinder per household. This apart, there should be one spinning motor and one rice mill per household, according to fresh directives from the Ministry of Finance. One person may import or export agricultural and plant products per day as follows: sweetcorn seeds - 10kg; plant seeds - 200g; 5kg of bean seeds; 10 bottles of mushroom spores, 5kg of fresh mushrooms, two sacks of chemical fertiliser, 5kg of herbs, 10kg of fresh fruit, and 10 ornamental or industrial tree saplings. The permissible quantity of processed animal and fishery products per person per week is 30kg, as well as 3kg of fresh

seafood, 2kg of dried seafood, 15kg of grass seed for animal feed, and 500 fish fingerlings measuring 3-5 cm. The guidelines are directed at better management of the export and import of commercial goods in accordance with the laws and regulations. The regulations especially aim to improve plant and animal health and protect the environment. The monitoring of imports and exports will be carried out at all customs checkpoints. Special attention will be paid to plants, animals, the environment and management of state revenue. Implementation of the directives will be undertaken in line with the relevant laws and regulations. Exports and imports will not be subject to taxes or customs duty if the goods are valued at not more than US\$50, as stated in Article 19 on duty-free items under the Customs Law and other regulations. If the value of the goods is more than US\$50, goods must be inspected at major international border crossings. If the exporter or importer of such goods is licensed by the relevant sectors or registered they will not be taxed.

Source : <http://annx.asianews.network/content/new-guidelines-importexport-agricultural-products-laos-107313>

LOCA, Vientiane Minivan Association join forces for service upgrade



Laos News / 30 October, 2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - Laos' first ride-hailing service LOCA and the Vientiane Minivan Association have partnered in the upgrade of the minivan service in Laos. An agreement was signed

in Vientiane on Monday between LOCA founder Mr Souliyo Vongdala and President of the Vientiane Minivan Association, Mr Bounkham Latsavong. The agreement aims to make the minivan service more modern, along with making it digitally savvy so that it is easier for customers to book and know ticket prices. The pact will help expand LOCA services. There will be an increase in minivans - initially there will be 30 and within a month 240 more will be added to the fleet, said Mr Souliyo. LOCA currently has more than 300 service vehicles, mostly cars, but plans to introduce services such as the LOCA Bike, he added. LOCA recently also signed an agreement with the Vientiane-based insurance firm Lanexang Assurance Public Company to insure its services. Under the agreement, the two companies will start providing standard insurance coverage for LOCA services, while also exploring better salaries and healthcare for its drivers. Besides this, LOCA has plans to expand the area of its operations. Currently the service is accessible only in Vientiane, said Mr Souliyo. LOCA is an application that provides on-demand transport similar to two worldwide applications called Uber and Grab. LOCA represents the revolution of transport in Laos and is the first company to introduce a transport application that is convenient and cashless.

Source : <http://annx.asianews.network/content/loca-vientiane-minivan-association-joins-forces-service-upgrade-107235>

Two Chinese airlines start direct flights from Yangon



Myanmar News | 30 October, 2019

Yangon Aerodrome Co Ltd, operator of Yangon International Airport (YIA), has announced the launch of Qingdao Airlines' direct flight between Yangon and Ningbo in Zhejiang, China. Qingdao Airlines will operate an Airbus A320 aircraft with the capacity for 180 passengers for the new service that will operate every Monday and Friday between Yangon and Ningbo, a major seaport south of Shanghai and also Zhejiang province's second-largest city. With the addition of Qingdao Airlines, YIA now connects to 35 international destinations, 18 of which are cities from China. A total of 13 Chinese carriers now operate between China and YIA. Just a day before, Chinese service carrier Ruili Airlines announced its second direct flight from Yangon and Dehong, Yunnan Province. Ruili Airlines will be flying four times weekly on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays from Yangon to Dehong, the airport said in a statement. Ruili Airlines' first direct flight commenced between Mangshi to Mandalay on January 31. Dehong is situated on the China-Myanmar border and known for its Hinayana Buddhist temples, stretches of

Banyan trees, and the Dai ethnic group. The Dai ethnic group celebrates a festival similar to Myanmar's Thingyan and splash water for 3-4 days in April. YIA has seen a passenger increase of more than 6 percent over the last 12 months due to the new routes to and from China. Passenger traffic at Yangon increased to 4.6 million in the first nine months of 2019, 6.5pc higher than the previous year. As tourism was badly affected by the northern Rakhine crisis, the government has granted visa-on-arrival arrangements for citizens from six Western countries this year, after relaxing the visas for six territories in 2018. Tourists from Australia, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and Russia have been given visa-on-arrival access for US\$50 each at Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw airports, starting this month. Last October, tourists from Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, and Macau were granted visa-free entry into Myanmar, while Indian and Chinese nationals were given visas-on-arrival. These arrangements have been renewed this year.

Source : <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/two-chinese-airlines-start-direct-flights-yangon.html>

KBZPay to expand cashless service offering



Myanmar News | 30 October, 2019

KBZPay is expecting its users to rise by 42 percent to 5 million by the end of the year and for that number to expand sixfold to 30 million by 2028 with options to go cashless in various areas of the economy to come onstream, said U Soe Ko Ko, head of agent banking at KBZPay. Soon, users will be able to reserve tickets for tourism-related activities, buy and sell goods and services online, pay salaries and support business payment platforms with KBZPay, U Soe Ko Ko said at the mobile payments application's one-year anniversary press conference last week. KBZPay will ensure user data is protected and also intends to promote awareness over financial and digital literacy for citizens, he said. Currently, the KBZPay app has acquired more than 3.5million users - around 1.6million in Yangon, Mandalay and Shan State and 1.9 million in Bago, Sagaing, Ayeyarwady, Magwe, Mon and Rakhine as well as Nay Pyi Taw. The app facilitated a total of US\$1.8 million in cashless transactions during its first year. It can currently be used for deposits and withdrawals, mobile top-ups, internet data purchase, QR code payments and

money transfers from KBZ savings accounts to KBZPay. Over the past year, it also provided a secure avenue to pay college and university fees, municipal tax and funds to more than 90 companies in Myanmar. “Our objective is to reduce the use of cash as much as possible and help develop a digital financial system in Myanmar,” U Soe Ko Ko said. Objective of KBZPay is to reduce use of cash as much as possible and help to develop digital financial system, as priority, said U Soe Ko Ko. He added that KBZPay has supported the establishment of the MMQR system, a standardised QR code for Myanmar, which is now being implemented by the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/kbzpay-expand-cashless-service-offering.html>

RoK retains position as Vietnam's leading source of FDI



Vietnam News | 30 October, 2019

VOV.VN - Among the 74 countries and territories investing in Vietnam, the Republic of Korea is the biggest foreign investor with a total investment of US\$2,752.9 million during the first ten months of the year, accounting for 21.5 per cent of all newly-registered capital, according to the General Statistics Office. Following the RoK, China is the second largest foreign investor in Vietnam with

US\$2,115.6 million, trailed by Singapore (US\$1,839.8 million), the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China (US\$1,639.1 million), and Japan (US\$1,630.8 million). From early this year to October 20, the country draw 3,094 newly-licensed projects capitalized at more than US\$12,833 million, up 25.9 per cent in terms of the number of projects, and down 14.6 per cent in the registered capital against the same period last year. Throughout the reviewed period, the newly-registered and additionally foreign capital suffered a drop of 15.2 per cent to US\$18,302.4 million on-year while US\$16.2 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) was disbursed for the 10-month period, up 7.4 per cent. Vietnamese businesses poured nearly US\$311.9 million abroad in 128 newly-licensed projects during the reviewed period, bringing the country's overseas investments, including newly-registered and additional capital, to US\$411.9 million. Most overseas investment focused on the wholesale, retail, automobile, and agro-forestry-aquatic sectors. Among the 30 countries and territories that receive investment from the nation, Australia was the largest recipient with US\$140.6 million, followed by the United States (US\$61.5 million) and Spain (US\$59.8 million).

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/economy/rok-retains-position-as-vietnams-leading-source-of-fdi-405427.vov>

CPI in October shows three-year high rise



Vietnam News | 30 October, 2019

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in October picked up 0.59 percent from September, the biggest increase for the same month during the past three years, the General Statistics Office (GSO) announced on October 29. The GSO said the high increase is attributable to declining supply of pork due to the African swine fever disease, rising world petrol price, and upward adjustment of education fees. The average CPI for the first 10 months of the year went up 2.48 percent on a yearly basis, the lowest increase for the period in the recent three years. Among the 11 groups of commodities and services in the price basket, 10 groups posted increases, with the highest rise of 1.04 percent seen in restaurants and catering services prices. Transport prices rose 0.99 percent, housing and construction materials 0.53 percent, and education 0.19 percent. Only the prices of post and telecommunication declined, by 0.06 percent. According to Do Thi Ngoc, director of the GSO's Pricing Statistics, besides the factors that pushed up the CPI, the decreases in the prices of live poultry and eggs, fruits, and train tickets helped curbed the CPI. The core CPI in October (excluding foodstuff, fresh food, energy and State-controlled commodities which are health care and educational services)

grew 0.15 percent month-on-month and 1.99 percent year-on-year. The average core CPI for the January-October period rose 1.92 percent from the same period last year.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/economy/cpi-in-october-shows-threeyear-high-rise-405413.vov>
