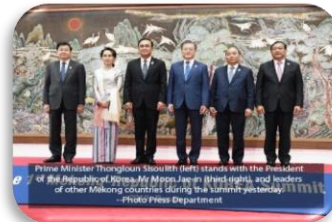
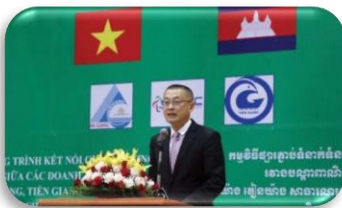


Highlight News | November 28/2019



- Event draws 100 firms from Vietnam, Cambodia
- Rice exports to China still under last year's quota: CRF
- New film law will strengthen movie industry: Culture minister
- Mekong-ROK leaders praise success of cooperation framework
- Shan State seeking more investors for agricultural sector
- Firms use technology to optimise agriculture yields in Shan
- Wood and wood product exports exceed 1 billion USD in October
- Noi Bai airport to be expanded for 100 million passengers per year



## Event draws 100 firms from Vietnam, Cambodia



*Cambodia News | 27 November, 2019*

More than 100 Cambodian and Vietnamese companies joined the first business networking event organised by the Vietnam Business Club of Cambodia (VBCC). The event, which was held at the Vietnamese Embassy in Phnom Penh on Monday, drew not only the leading small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in both countries, but also several major players in the banking, telecommunications, construction, and agriculture sectors. Farax (Cambodia), Ws Asia Pacific, Cargo, Angkor Milk and MekongNet were among the Cambodian companies that were represented in the gathering. On the Vietnamese side, there was Metfone, Cargoteam, BMB Steel and banks like Sacombank, Agribank and Bank for Investment and Development of Cambodia (BIDC). There were also investors in the food processing industry from Vietnam's An Giang province. Frederic Chan, chief investment officer at WS Asia Pacific, said businesses from both countries stand to benefit from such gatherings. "This is an excellent opportunity for Vietnamese investors and SMEs to discover the potentials of the Cambodian market and its 16 million consumers," he stressed. Vietnam, according to Mr Chan, can play a positive role by investing and doing more to develop Cambodia's infrastructure, education and agricultural sectors. "Both countries should cooperate strongly for the benefit of everyone," he said. Echoing Mr Chan, Bien Ha, director of internet at Metfone, said the event is beneficial for both Vietnam

and Cambodia, and that VBCC will continue to work towards strengthening the trade ties between them. "There was a good exchange of ideas. Partnerships and friendships were also forged today," he noted. In recent months, there have been intensified efforts to strengthen trade ties between Cambodia and its neighbour to the east. In July of this year, the Vietnam Embassy hosted a trade and investment forum that drew more than 250 attendees representing the business communities of both countries. Another trade caravan set for December is also being worked out. Vietnam is currently one of Cambodia's biggest trade partners and investors. There are more than 200 Vietnamese companies present in the Kingdom.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50664448/event-draws-100-firms-from-vietnam-cambodia/>

## Rice exports to China still under last year's quota: CRF



*Cambodia News | 27 November, 2019*

China has not yet purchased milled rice from Cambodia for the period 2019-2020, with the country still trying to fulfill its quota for the year 2018. Kao Thach, CEO of Rural Development Bank (RDB), told Khmer Times that Cofco – China's largest food processor, manufacturer and trader – has not placed any orders yet for Cambodian milled rice for the year 2019. The quota for 2019 is 400,000 tonnes. "We don't know whether they will purchase our rice or not. It seems like they don't want to buy, so we are pushing," he said. Mr Thach noted that some local rice exporters are shipping rice to China based on the quota for 2018 –

300,000 tonnes. “We are afraid that when the quota for 2018 is complete, we won’t receive new orders. It is difficult to sell,” Mr Thach said. China has pledged to purchase 400,000 tonnes of rice from Cambodia this year. The pledge was made in January during a meeting in Beijing between Prime Minister Hun Sen and Chinese president Xi Jinping. From January to October this year, Cambodia shipped 184,844 tonnes of milled rice to China, according to the Secretariat of One Window Service for Rice Export Formality (SOWS-REF). Exports to China accounted for 40 percent of Cambodia’s total exports of 457,940 tonnes, a 5 percent hike over the corresponding period last year. In 2018, 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. Lun Yeng, secretary-general of the Cambodian Rice Association, said that until this month, Cambodia is shipping rice to China based on the quota of 300,000 tonnes set for 2018. He said the old quota must be fulfilled before the new quota of 400,000 tonnes for 2019 can begin. “Now we have almost completed the old quota of 300,000 tonnes since we had a very small amount left. Next month we will complete the old quota, and we will continue with the new one,” he added. “We already have a quota for 2019, but China has not implemented it yet because first it has to complete the old quota for 2018,” Mr Yeng added. “We do not have a fix contract with China, so when they want to purchase, they will discuss the price and request a quote from us. No price is set in advance,” he added. “For the new export quota of 400,000 tonnes for 2019, we already signed an initial agreement on November 5 in Shanghai for 125,000 tonnes. This means that for the period 2019-2020 they will buy at least 125,000 tonnes as

per this agreement,” Mr Yeng said. In principle, the new quota should be implemented this November, but they start with a lower amount, Mr Yeng noted. “Now, China’s Cofco is not purchasing, so our rice millers are considering whether they should buy more rice to store in their warehouses or not,” he added. Mr Yeng said rice millers have already purchased paddy from farmers and now all warehouses are full because China has not placed new orders yet. “If China starts ordering, rice millers can start purchasing paddy from farmers. They can clear the old stock and purchase new one,” he added. According to the figure from SOWS-REF, the European Union is the second-biggest buyer of Cambodian rice, purchasing a total of 155,950 tonnes of milled rice from January to October – an increase of 34 percent when compared with the same period last year. The report showed that 83 companies exported Cambodian rice to the international market, including Baitang (Kampuchea) Plc, the biggest rice exporter, who shipped 60,358 tonnes. Amru Rice (Cambodia), the next biggest exporter, shipped 41,068 tonnes.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50664440/rice-exports-to-china-still-under-last-years-quota-crf/>

## New film law will strengthen movie industry: Culture minister



Laos News / 28 November, 2019

Laos’ film industry will get a major boost in the coming years after the introduction of the Law on Film, according to the Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Prof. Dr Kikeo Khaykhamphithoune.

Prof. Dr Kikeo, who assumed the top post at the ministry earlier this month, on Wednesday expressed confidence in the positive benefits of the legislation when presenting the Law on Film to the 8th session of the 8th Legislature of the National Assembly for consideration and approval. He said one of the key outcomes the ministry anticipates from the law is that Lao and international filmmakers will be more encouraged to produce films in Laos thanks to more specific rules. The detailed content of the law would be a useful source of reference for all film producers working in Laos, he told lawmakers, adding that the law clearly states what they can and cannot do. Apart from supporting the growth of the film industry, Prof. Dr Kikeo said the new Law on Film would provide clearer guidelines for the administrators of film production when addressing disputes. He also said the new law would enable film production administrators to learn from the international community about how to effectively regulate the film industry. According to information supplied by the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, which Vientiane Times obtained during the NA session, Laos currently has a Prime Ministerial Decree on Film as a tool to administer film production. The information states that the decree is no longer relevant to the current development context so it became necessary for the ministry to update the rules on filming and to make them into law to ensure

effective regulation of the film industry. Dr Kikeo said that in order to draft the law, the ministry set up a committee to oversee the process, adding that the committee studied the content of similar laws in neighbouring countries before drawing up the draft. In addition, the committee held meetings with representatives of the film industry and other stakeholders to discuss the content. Officials from the Ministry of Justice and the cabinet, as well as NA representatives, also scrutinised the content to ensure it was consistent with the state's policy and other laws, Prof. Dr Kikeo said. Laos' film industry is growing thanks to increasing public demand for Lao-made movies. At present, most of the films screened in Laos are imported. Many film producers have found that there are opportunities to make films in Laos and some have tried to produce films for the international market.

Source : [http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten\\_New\\_film\\_259.php](http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_New_film_259.php)

## Mekong-ROK leaders praise success of cooperation framework



Laos News / 28 November, 2019

Leaders of the Mekong countries and the Republic of Korea have praised the results of past cooperation and observed that the cooperation framework has continuously grown. The leaders met at the 1st Mekong-Republic of Korea (ROK) Summit in Busan yesterday and commended the successful

implementation of projects under the Mekong-ROK cooperation fund in member countries, which have made significant contributions to social and economic development in the region. The Lao delegation attending the 1st Mekong-ROK Summit was led by Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith. The summit was co-chaired by the President of the Republic of Korea, Mr Moon Jae-in, and Thai Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Laos, the summit marks an important milestone in elevating cooperation mechanisms to a higher level, as well as being a platform for the formulation of future plans for the Mekong-ROK cooperation framework, to further promote economic growth in the Mekong region. Three projects are being implemented in Laos. The first aims to enhance the capacity of people and poor districts in Laos to access legislation on industry and commerce in preparation for integration, economic cooperation, institutions and commercial openness. The second project is a master plan and capacity building for the modernisation of meteorological and hydrological infrastructure, and the third is the development of a monitoring system in the Mekong region. The total cost of the three projects is more than US\$1.2 million. The leaders of the Mekong countries expressed their appreciation and thanks to the Republic of Korea for its significant contribution to

the cooperation framework, especially the increase in its contribution to the Mekong-ROK cooperation fund from US\$1.12 million in 2018 to US\$2 million in 2019, and plans to increase to US\$3 million in 2020. According to the Korea Herald, South Korea and the five Mekong nations adopted the Mekong-Han River Declaration on Wednesday, pledging to increase cooperation. The Mekong-Han River Declaration for Establishing Partnership for People, Prosperity and Peace was adopted at the Mekong-Korea Summit in Busan on Wednesday, following on the heels of the two-day Asean-ROK Commemorative Summit, which wrapped up on Tuesday. The declaration outlines cooperation plans in seven areas comprising culture and tourism, human resources development, agriculture and rural development, infrastructure, information and communications technology, the environment, and nonconventional security. President Moon Jae-in added that the leaders of the Mekong nations - Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam - had expressed support for Korea's New Southern Policy and agreed to three ways in which Korea-Mekong relations should be developed to establish a "Korea-Mekong partnership of peace and prosperity". He said Korea and other concerned nations would cooperate to establish state-run research organisations using the Korea Development Institute and the Korea Institute of

Science and Technology as models, and that the countries would strengthen cooperation in public administration. The joint declaration also states that the six countries will collaborate to apply information and communication technologies to a number of areas, including education, emerging industries and forest conservation. In addition, the countries will launch a “Korea-Mekong peace community project” to remove landmines and unexploded ordnance. President Moon added that the leaders of the Mekong nations had given their support for Korea’s “Peace Forest Initiative” and agreed to increase cooperation in related areas. He added that the six nations had agreed to designate 2021 as the “year of Korea-Mekong exchange”, to mark the 10th anniversary of minister-level cooperation among the countries.

Source : [http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten\\_Mekong\\_259.php](http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_Mekong_259.php)

## Shan State seeking more investors for agricultural sector



*Myanmar News | 27 November, 2019*

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) Chair U Thaung Tun is urging get more local and foreign investments be made in the agricultural sector of Shan State. U Thaung Tun said this at the Shan State Investment Fair in Taunggyi, Shan State on November 26. During the event MIC and the Shan State government invited foreign

investors to consider the state’s agricultural sector rather than other sectors. “I want to invite investors mainly for Shan State’s agricultural sector. Shan is a state that has good potential for agricultural businesses. We hope to create more sustainable agricultural businesses in the state. Our country is also seeking equal development of agricultural, livestock and industrial sectors,” said U Thaung Tun. Among the state’s goals is to become an important region providing agricultural goods for local and foreign markets. At present, the state already produces coffee, pickled tea leaves, maize, butter, and vegetables. Agricultural products from Shan State are currently being sold in the local market and also exported. Coffee from the state is being exported to the Americas, Europe and, Asia. Its other crops are being exported mainly to China. State officials say the state’s land and weather are suitable for agricultural businesses while its strategic location near Thailand and China offers advantages in distribution of goods. Shan State Chief Minister U Lin Htut believes agriculture is brimming with potential for the state. “We already have moderate infrastructure like roads, water and power for investors and we plan to improve such infrastructure even more in the future,” U Lin Htut said. The main challenge for



the sector is the lack of modern agricultural technologies as most farmers are still using traditional methods. The chief minister said, capital investments would help to change this and improve productivity. To help boost the sector, the government is inviting investors to explore the opportunities in the state, and to encourage this the state government will introduce the Shan State Investment Project (2020-2030) and Short Term Agriculture Development Project soon, said Shan State Minister of Planning and Finance U Soe Nyunt Lwin. While conflicts in certain areas of northern Shan State may be a challenge, the government's peace process will find a solution, said U Soe Nyunt Lwin. Currently, the majority of investment in Shan State has come from local businesses and foreign investors have been rare. "In addition to agriculture, hotels and tourism, and mining in the state are also promising. However, we are inviting investors for agriculture first because it is the largest sector in the state and holds the most promise for local and overseas market," he said. To attract more investors, the state government plans to establish an agriculture and economic zone in Hopone in collaboration with the Hopone Self-Administered Zone and also economic zones at the Myanmar-China

border in northern Shan State. According to Directorate of Investment and Company Administration statistics, foreign companies have made investments worth more than US\$700 million between 1988 and 2017 in Shan State. – Translated

Source : <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/shan-state-seeking-more-investors-agricultural-sector.html>

## Firms use technology to optimise agriculture yields in Shan



Myanmar News | 27 November, 2019

AEG Agriculture, which grows maize and HydroPlant, a local startup which provides technological solutions to the agriculture industry, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to cooperate during the Shan State Investment Fair on Tuesday. Using its smart precision systems, HydroPlant will provide vital information on the weather, soil conditions and other necessary details vital for cultivation to AEG Agriculture. The smart precision systems offer information that farmers need via a smartphone, including an automatic control system. For example, a machine measures the required temperature and humidity of a crop, which can be monitored via a smartphone. This agreement to use technology in agriculture is the first of its kind in Shan State, said U Htet Aung Hlaing, CEO of

HydroPlant. AEG Agriculture cultivates maize across about 5,000 acres of land in Shan State. With help from Hydro Plant, the company will be able to better manage its crops to ensure efficiency. “The effect of this technology on agricultural is huge as farmers will have access to detailed information. For example, farmers fertilise the plantations and spray insecticide as they do not know in advance that it will rain. If it rains, all their efforts will be in vain. If we give meteorological information to them in advance, they can know beforehand and curb losses. Technology can help farmers maximise their yield,” said U Htet Aung Hlaing. Earlier this year, HydroPlant was chosen as one of five tech start-ups to join Phandeyar Accelerator’s Cohort 3, which creates opportunities to start and grow tech start-ups.

Source : <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/firms-use-technology-optimize-agriculture-yields-shan.html>

## Wood and wood product exports exceed 1 billion USD in October



*Vietnam News | 27 November, 2019*

Vietnam raked in more than 1 billion USD from wood and wood product exports in October, up 22.7 percent year-on-year, according to the General Department of Vietnam Customs. Vice Chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City Handicraft and Wood Processing Association (Hawa) Huynh Van Hanh said this is the first time in just one month the export value of wood and wood products surpasses the 1-

billion USD benchmark. Hanh said in recent years, the Vietnamese Government has effectively prevented origin fraud in which Vietnamese products are exported to foreign countries. Therefore, the wood and wood products export market is expected to be brighter in the last months of this year, he said. However, timber enterprises still need to be very vigilant and resolute to say no to the origin fraud of exported timber and wood products, in order to maintain important markets including the EU, US and China and continue to grow impressively in the near future, Hanh said. In 2018, wood and wood product exports brought home nearly 9 billion USD. Insiders said that if the sector maintains the export turnover of about 900 million USD in the last few months, the country will this year certainly surpass the 10-billion USD mark for the first time.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/economy/wood-and-wood-product-exports-exceed-1-billion-usd-in-october-406728.vov>

## Noi Bai airport to be expanded for 100 million passengers per year



*Vietnam News | 27 November, 2019*

The Hanoi-based Noi Bai International Airport will be expanded to serve 100 million passengers per year, becoming more suitable to the development space of Hanoi and minimising impacts on related planning schemes. Deputy Prime Minister Trinh Dinh Dung delivered this instruction at a meeting with relevant



ministries and localities where they discussed methods for adjustment planning of the Noi Bai International Airport. Dung required the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation Authority of Vietnam (CAAV) to further cooperate with ADPi, an airport architecture and technical design consulting company of France, to complete methods for the Noi Bai Airport's adjustment planning soon and select the final plan. He said the selected plan must ensure the capacity scale to serve 100 million passengers per year, ensuring efficient operation in line with the aviation technology's advanced development trends. It is necessary to minimise the expansion to the area, where will be compensated, especially residential land, ensuring favourable conditions for site clearance and lowest investment costs, Dung said. The expanded airport will be consistent with the development space of Hanoi, protecting environment, national defence and security, he added. The Deputy Prime Minister requested the Ministry of Transport to propose a master plan for the transport system to connect with roads and railways as well as building a proper transport system around the Noi Bai Airport. The expansion of the Noi Bai Airport is needed as the volume of passengers has increased rapidly in recent years. In 2018, the airport received 25.9 million passengers, exceeding the previous planning with 13.1 million passengers expected.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/economy/noi-bai-airport-to-be-expanded-for-100-million-passengers-per-year-406739.vov>

---