



- Mekong countries agree to strengthen tourism cooperation
- Chinese company to support development of local agriculture
- Ministry details international support for education, sports
- Chinese company explores business opportunities in Laos
- Onion import will be allowed if onion price continues to rise: Dy Minister
- US\$8.4 M worth Toyo Ink factory to start run in Myanmar
- Agricultural sector gains trade surplus of 8.8 bln USD in 11 months
- Pork price pushes up November CPI



Mekong countries agree to strengthen tourism cooperation



Cambodia News | 2 December, 2019

Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) countries have agreed to boost tourism cooperation, including improving infrastructure and marketing techniques and developing human resources. During the 44th GMS Tourism Working Group Meeting, held last week in Siem Reap, the six countries that form GMS signed an agreement to strengthen cooperation in tourism and attract more tourists to each country. The GMS countries are Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. The meeting, held on Nov 28-29 at Apsara Angkor Hotel, was attended by the national tourism organisations of each country as well as development partners, including the Asian Development Bank, the Asean-China Center, the Asean-Korea Center, the Asean-Japan Center, Luxembourg Development PATA, Mekong Institute, and the Tourism Authority of Thailand. The countries agreed to follow a strategy (joint action plan) for 2020-2025 that aims to increase the number of tourists from other GMS countries as well as from countries outside the region. The plan tackles infrastructure development, investment, collaboration on marketing and the development of the sector's human capital. Ministry of Tourism spokesperson Chuk Chumno told Khmer Times that the agreement aims to strengthen connectivity between GMS countries. He noted that tourism cooperation within GMS was already strong.

“Because of this cooperation within GMS, Cambodia received financial support to build the tourist seaport in Kampot, a road along the coast connecting Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand, and a railway line from China. Construction for some of these projects has already begun. For others, it will begin soon,” Mr Chmuno said. “The goal is to increase the inflow of tourists into the GMS region by improving infrastructure and facilitating the paperwork,” he said. In 2018, GMS welcomed more than 67.5 million international tourists. Cambodia accounted for 6.2 million of those tourists. From January to September, 4.8 million international tourists visited Cambodia, a 10 percent increase compared with the same period in 2018. Thourn Sinan, chairman of the Pacific Asia Travel Association, said GMS countries should continue to communicate with transparency when it comes to tourism, trade, and business activities. He said GMS countries should be more open to dialogue and trade while respecting each other's laws. “We must work to improve infrastructure, particularly along the borders with Vietnam and Thailand. This will boost trade in these areas. “If trade improves, tourism will also improve. Tourism is key as it can help attract investors and companies to the country,” Mr Sinan said. The government recently established the National Tourism Development Committee to boost the development of one of Cambodia's most important economic drivers. A sub-decree on the creation of the committee was signed by Prime Minister Hun Sen on Nov 22,

according to a statement issued last week by the Ministry of Tourism.

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50665908/mekong-countries-agree-to-strengthen-tourism-cooperation/>

Chinese company to support development of local agriculture



Cambodia News | 2 December, 2019

Chinese firm Zoomlion Agricultural Machinery, a subsidiary of Zoomlion Heavy Industry Science and Technology, has signed an agreement to help modernise Cambodia's agriculture sector. On Nov 19, the company signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Agriculture on promoting the mechanisation of agriculture and the application of intelligent technologies, according to a statement released by Zoomlion on Friday. Under the MoU, Zoomlion will provide intelligent solutions and send technicians to Cambodia to facilitate the upgrade of local farming industries. Zoomlion's goal is to achieve the sustainable development of its agricultural equipment business in Cambodia, according to the statement. "Zoomlion's strategic cooperation with Cambodia will start from promoting the fully mechanised planting and production of corn as well as the joint application and research of intelligent drying technology," said Xiong Yanming, president of Zoomlion Agricultural Machinery. "From here, we shall look to introduce more intelligent agricultural technologies, mechanisation solutions and products to contribute to the modernisation of

Cambodia's agricultural industries over the long-term," he said. Veng Sakhon, the Minister of Agriculture, said the government is aiming to modernise the industry by upgrading agricultural equipment, expanding the application of intelligent technologies and improving farming production. "This MoU is definitely in line with our policy and agricultural development plan. It will help boost the growth of the sector and agricultural exports by improving the quality and value of our products and farming productivity," Mr Sakhon said. Zoomlion is a leading agricultural equipment manufacturer with first-class mechanised agrarian products, serving all steps of agricultural production, from planting and management to harvesting and drying, in more than 60 countries. Zoomlion also announced a donation of high-end agricultural equipment, including fully mechanised corn production equipment and intelligent dryers, to support the transformation and development of Cambodia's agriculture.

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50665904/chinese-company-to-support-development-of-local-agriculture/>

Ministry details international support for education, sports



Laos News | 29 November, 2019

International non-government organisations, associations and foundations are cooperating with the government to contribute US\$99,663,578 as part of ongoing education and sports programmes around the country. International groups this year will

provide US\$17,253,833 to develop universities, schools and other education and sports sector initiatives in numerous provinces. The External Relations Department of the Ministry of Education and Sports revealed the information during the 2019 Annual Review Meeting on Cooperation with International Non-Governmental Organisations and Associations, held in Vangvieng district, Vientiane province, from November 21-22. Deputy Minister of Education and Sports, Mr Boualane Sylipanya, representatives of ministries, provincial education and sports departments, and NGOs attended the meeting. During the review, participants discussed their experiences of the positive cooperation between the ministries, provinces and aid groups. The meeting heard that NGOs, associations and foundations were allocating a significant proportion of their budgets to provide uniforms and educational equipment to support studying and teaching, as well as organising training courses to help strengthen the education system. Currently, 42 aid organisations are helping to support 52 separate projects under the Ministry of Education and Sports, with another 19 initiatives in the pipeline valued at US\$31,446,652. Grant aid from many organisations has been targeted at developing education and sports infrastructure, as well as improving the quality of teaching in remote districts to lift overall education standards. According to the External Relations Department, the NGOs' association was also funding an ongoing foundation to help develop education

and sports, with US\$199,608 allocated in 2019 from a total fund of US\$616,672.

Source: http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Ministry_260.php

Chinese company explores business opportunities in Laos



Laos News | 29 November, 2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - A food and beverage company from China - Hainan Pinxiang Foodstuff Company Limited – is hoping to expand its market to Laos, initially focusing on Vientiane. The company showcased some of its wares at the Economic and Technological Exhibition for Lancang-Mekong Cooperation 2019 which opened in Vientiane earlier this week. A representative of Hainan Pinxiang Foodstuff told Vientiane Times the company is based in Hainan province, China. “We produce food and beverages sourced from local fruits and this is the first time our company has come to Laos. We have exhibited products in Cambodia two times already,” he said. “As we want to expand our market overseas, especially in Asean countries, Laos is an interesting market for us. This country has a similar food culture and we think our products will be liked by the locals.” Some local companies made business inquiries and discussed future cooperation. However, no formal contracts were signed with any local company. “We are on the lookout for representatives in Laos. We want to sell

our products to local dealers here,” he added. If the products do well in the local market, they may consider setting up a factory in Laos. Since the weather conditions are more or less similar they can grow the same fruits and other ingredients in Laos. The Economic and Technological Exhibition for Lancang-Mekong is a cooperation between five countries in the Mekong basin - Laos, China, Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia. Various products, technological equipment, mostly imported from China, were on display at the exhibition. The event aimed to increase cooperation between China and other countries in the region. The exhibition has been held annually since 2016.

Source:<http://annx.asianews.network/content/chinese-company-explores-business-opportunities-laos-109272>

Onion import will be allowed if onion price continues to rise: Dy Minister



Myanmar News | 1 December, 2019

The ministry will allow onion import according to the policy if the onion price continues to rise, said Aung Htoo, Deputy Commerce Minister, at a roundtable discussion on “the introduction of Myanmar IP Law and the implementation of Trade Mark Law” at the UMFCCI in Yangon on November 29. “There are fluctuations in onion price. Over the past years, we experienced the similar problem. But this year the onion price has gone up slightly. According to our

policy, onion import will be allowed if the onion price is high. Efforts are being made to stabilize the onion price,” he added. The ministry will not allow onion imports when it coincides with the onion harvest season in the country. Onion imports will be allowed if the onion price is skyrocketing and it doesn’t coincide with the onion harvest season. Onion imports depend on merchants. They will import onion from the countries which can sell onion at a cheap price. The Commerce Ministry is in a position to keep onion price stable, he continued. Onion price per viss was Ks 500-Ks700 on 4 June, Ks600-Ks875 on 4 July, Ks525-Ks875 on 4 August, Ks550-Ks925 on 4 September, Ks Ks700-Ks1,350 on 4 October and Ks1,200-Ks2,100 on 4 November. On November 29, local onion price per viss reached Ks2,800-Ks3,100, according to the figures from Bayintnaung Wholesale Center.

Source: <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/onion-import-will-be-allowed-if-onion-price-continues-to-rise-dy-minister>

US\$8.4 M worth Toyo Ink factory to start run in Myanmar



Myanmar News | 30 November, 2019

The grand opening ceremony of the Toyo Ink factory worth US\$8.4 million is held at Thilawa SEZ in Thanlyin Township on November 30 and will be run starting from December 1. The company is planned to make the investment in Myanmar as Myanmar and

Japan have a good relation and Myanmar has business opportunities, said Assistant Manager Su Wai Lwin from Human Resources Department of the Toyo Ink Company. The company has been granted five-year tax exemption from the government as it made the investment in Thilawa SEZ. "They assumed that the business will be good as people from printing and food packaging sectors are taken interested in this business. It will be run in next month," said the assistant manager. At the present, the company will be run with 20 staffs and the company took about over a year to prepare for the factory. It will appoint local staffs later. The company is producing ink for printing industry and food packaging products and had investments in 23 countries including Thailand and Indonesia. The company is start established in 1986 and it is intended to expand its business in Myanmar. A total of 99 per cent of 405 hectares in Zone A of Thilawad SEZ are sold and about 50 per cent of Zone B are already sold. Toyota is building automobile assembled plant on 21 hectares of land space at the Zone B and it is planning to start the production in 2021, according to Myanmar-Japan Thilawa Development Company Limited (MJTD). "The MJTD has 2,400 hectares in Thilawad SEZ and Zone A has 405 hectares. Now we are developing Zone B in three phases. We sold 79 per cent of phase 1, 49 per

cent of phase 2 and 62 per cent of phase 3," said an official from the MJTD.

Source: <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/us84-m-worth-toyo-ink-factory-to-start-run-in-myanmar>

Agricultural sector gains trade

surplus of 8.8 bln USD in 11 months



Vietnam News | 1 December, 2019

The agriculture sector enjoyed a trade surplus of 8.8 billion USD in the first 11 months of this year, 1.5 billion USD higher than the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The sector earned 37.3 billion USD from the export of farm produce and forestry and aquatic products in the reviewed period, a year-on-year increase of 3.6 percent. Meanwhile, 28.5 billion USD was spent on agro-forestry-fishery imports, down 0.7 percent. Seven items with export value exceeding 2 billion USD included coffee, rubber, rice, cashew nut, fruit, shrimp, wood and timber products. China remained the largest buyer of Vietnamese agricultural products, accounting for 26.9 percent of the total exports. It was followed by the US (21.9 percent), the EU (11.7 percent), ASEAN (10 percent) and Japan (8.8 percent). Strong growth was seen in shipments of rubber which totalled 2 billion USD, up 9.3 percent year on year; tea, 216 million USD, 16 percent; wood and wood products, 9.6 billion USD, 19.5 percent; and cinnamon, 163 million USD, 31 percent. Some key commodities, however, suffered a drop in export value such as cashew nut (down 1.8 percent to 3 billion USD), fruits

(down 5.5 percent to 2.6 billion USD), rice (9.4 percent to 2.6 billion USD), coffee (23 percent to 2.5 billion USD) and pepper (5.8 percent). The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development forecast that total agricultural export revenue for the entire year will be likely to hit 41.3 billion USD with a trade surplus of about 9.5 – 10 billion USD. Last year, Vietnam's export of agricultural products hit a record high of 40.2 billion USD, making it the second largest agricultural exporter in Southeast Asia.

Source: <https://english.vov.vn/economy/agricultural-sector-gains-trade-surplus-of-88-bln-usd-in-11-months-406933.vov>

Pork price pushes up November CPI



Vietnam News | 1 December, 2019

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) of November increased by 0.96 percent compared to last month, the highest growth for November's CPI in the last nine years. The November CPI rose by 3.52 percent compared to the same month last year. The General Statistics Office (GSO) attributed it to the rising price of pork and pork products due to declining supply caused by the African swine fever crisis. The total number of culled pigs was over 5,850,000 with a total weight of 335,700 tonnes by November 15, the GSO said. However, the average CPI of the 11 months increased by only 2.57 percent compared to the same period last year, the lowest growth rate for the period in the last three years. Nine of 11 groups of consumer goods and services have seen prices rise

over the last month, said Do Thi Ngoc, director of GSO's CPI department. These include food and catering services; beverages and tobacco; other commodities and services; housing and construction materials; clothing, hats and footwear; household appliances; medicines and healthcare services; education; and culture, entertainment and tourism. Two groups of goods witnessing declines included transport and post and telecommunications. In addition, the petrol and oil prices dropped by 1.7 percent from last month, helping push the general growth of CPI by about 0.07 percentage points. The domestic gold price this month also declined 0.63 percent compared to last month on the falling global gold price. At the same time, the value of the US dollar dropped by 0.13 percent on plentiful domestic reserve foreign currency and the influence of the US-China trade war. The average core inflation of 11 months (CPI growth excluding food, foodstuff and fresh food, energy, health care and education) climbed 1.94 percent compared to the same period last year.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/pork-price-pushes-up-november-cpi/164609.vnp>