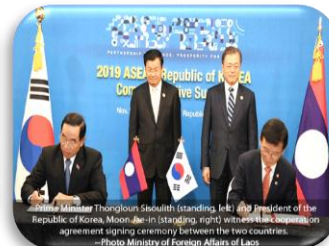


Highlight News December 04/2019



- Revenue, visitors at Angkor temples down again
- Global tourism conferences to be held in Phnom Penh in February
- Laos, Korea sign three cooperation agreements
- Fair boosts market opportunities for Vientiane farmers, producers
- Over 190 bridges build in Meiktila-Kalaw road
- Capital goods import value reaches over \$890m in about two months this FY
- Garment export target of \$40 billion a long shot
- Vietnam attracts foreign fast-fashion brands



## Revenue, visitors at Angkor temples down again



*Cambodia News | 3 December, 2019*

Visitors to the world-famous Angkor Archaeological Park, Cambodia's most important tourist draw, were down significantly during the first eleven months of the year. According to the latest report from Angkor Enterprise, who manages ticket sales at the temple complex, from January to November, revenue from the sale of entrance passes dropped by 14 percent (\$1.99 million) compared with the same period last year, reaching just \$89 million. In November only 193,260 foreign tourists bought entrance passes, 17 percent less than in 2018. Revenue was \$8.8 million, a 16 percent drop compared with the same month last year. The Ministry of Tourism has attributed the decrease in revenue to a drop in the number of Chinese tourists to Siem Reap province, where the temples are located. To reverse the trend, the ministry has urged the relevant authorities and the private sector to improve and expand the province's tourist offer. The number of Chinese tourists maybe down in Siem Reap but it is increasing in other areas of the country, particularly Sihanoukville, noted Ministry of Tourism spokesman Top Sopheak. "The number of tourists in Siem Reap is down, but in general the country's tourism industry is growing," Mr Sopheak told Khmer Times yesterday. "The ministry continues to work to attract more tourists by cooperating with relevant parties and the private sector to promote and strengthen the quality of

tourist service." According to the Ministry of Tourism, 4.8 million foreign tourists visited Cambodia in the first nine months of the year, a 10 percent hike. Chinese people accounted for 38 percent (1.8 million) of this figure. Last week, the government established the National Tourism Development Committee to aid the development of one of Cambodia's most important economic drivers. The move is seen as a response to the lower than expected number of visitors at the Angkor Archaeological Complex.

Source:

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50666505/revenue-visitors-at-angkor-temples-down-again/>

## Global tourism conferences to be held in Phnom Penh in February



*Cambodia News | 3 December, 2019*

Four days of the Tourism and MICE Biz Fair 2020 will kick off in February next year in Phnom Penh. MICE stands for meetings, incentives, conferences and incentives for the travel market. The Tourism and MICE Biz Fair 2020 is organised by B2B Park Mall, and endorsed by the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Commerce. The Tourism and MICE Biz Fair 2020, effectively two separate events at the same time and in the same venue, is a gathering of both local and international sellers and buyers in Phnom Penh to enable them to meet and exchange ideas for creating new opportunities, renew relationships and, more importantly, bring tourism and industry stakeholders together to brainstorm

about the industry. The event will run from Feb 29 to March 3 at B2B Park Mall on Phnom Penh's Hanoi Road. Through this event, local and international sellers can promote their destinations, reach new markets and update current network partners about their products and services to international buyers, and about their specific markets. The Tourism Biz Fair 2020 is targeting 100 international buyers from 15 countries and includes an invitation to local buyers. The MICE Biz Fair 2020 will target 60 international buyers from 10 countries. Invitations will focus on those already featuring Cambodia and neighbouring countries. "We want to join forces with the government to grow more tourism as well as other sectors to develop the economy," said Thourn Sinan, Pacific Asia Travel Association chairman and CEO of B2B Park Mall. "You cannot just look at tourism: We have so many things," he added. "Compared with Thailand, Vietnam and even Laos, plenty of events are hosted every year in those countries, while, Cambodia has limited events like this," Mr Sinan said. He said that it is good to have more events in Cambodia. When there are more events, he said, there will be more investment, more relations, new networking available to the country. "We plan to do 12 events a year," Mr Sinan added. He said it will provide an opportunity for local entrepreneurs to link with other international operators from all over the world. "By participating in the expo, local businesspeople can showcase their products not only for one day or for a week. There will also be time to build a network and allow for

future communications," Mr Sinan said. "The fair is not only to showcase our products, but to help our products to sell out. We enable outsiders to connect with insiders and meet local producers. More expos will generate profit for the economy, investors, trade and tourism."

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50666348/global-tourism-conferences-to-be-held-in-phnom-penh-in-february/>

## Laos, Korea sign three cooperation agreements



*Laos News | 4 December, 2019*

Laos and the Republic of Korea (ROK) have signed three memorandums of understanding (MOUs) to further strengthen their cooperation. The MOUs on port management information, intellectual property, technical cooperation and vocational cooperation were signed on the occasion of the bilateral meeting between Lao Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith and President of the Republic of Korea, Mr Moon Jae-in, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Laos. The bilateral meeting was held on the occasion of Prime Minister Thongloun attending the Asean-Republic of Korea special summit in Busan last week. During the bilateral meeting, the two sides highly valued their friendship and reviewed cooperation of the past, especially the implementation of results from the visit to Laos by President Moon in September, when he met Lao President Bounnhang Vorachit and discussed enhancing bilateral cooperation in the fields of

politics, diplomacy, trade and investment, agriculture, energy, and infrastructure development, and witnessed the signing of four cooperation documents in the areas of ICT, industry-trade, agriculture, and economic development. At the bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Thongloun and President Moon in Busan, the two sides also exchanged views on enhancing cooperation in various sectors, such as connectivity on infrastructure, education, health, investment, tourism, and support for the promotion of SMEs and start-up businesses. Also, the two sides discussed the celebration of the 25th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Laos and the Republic of Korea in 2020, and also exchanged views on regional and international cooperation. President Moon thanked the Lao delegation for attending the Asean-ROK special summit and expressed his delight to continue strengthening the friendly relations between the two countries and linked the New Southern Policy of South Korea towards benefits for people of the two nations. According to the Korea Herald, President Moon said his country would help Laos achieve its goal of becoming a transportation and logistical hub in the region. President Moon told Prime Minister Thongloun that Seoul would actively cooperate in the Mekong country's efforts to emerge as a regional transportation and logistical hub.

Source : [http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContenten\\_Laos262.php](http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContenten_Laos262.php)

## Fair boosts market opportunities for Vientiane farmers, producers



*Laos News | 3 December, 2019*

Farmers and producers in Vientiane hope to expand their markets after the government arranged a fair to promote their products and boost sales. The Lao Agricultural and Domestic Products Fair took place last weekend in the Lao-ITECC parking lot. The fair was organised by the Vientiane Administration and Ad Hoc Committee on Promoting Production and Consumption of Domestic Products and Consumer Goods Import Management. The opening ceremony took place on Saturday morning and was attended by officials, entrepreneurs, local farmers and other groups. “The fair aims to encourage local people to use and consume local products. It is also aims to expand markets for local producers and farmers,” a Vientiane official said. “The event also allows local entrepreneurs and buyers to discuss their ideas and their needs. Producers and farmers can benefit by exhibiting their goods to buyers at the same time,” he added. “Many locally produced goods are of good quality but buyers don’t know that, so this is a chance for producers to promote their goods to the public, which could ultimately help to reduce the amount of imported goods,” he said. Over 300 local business exhibited their goods at the fair, comprising agricultural products such as organically farmed vegetables, ODOP products, processed products, and items produced by model families in Vientiane. “As our committee was only established this year,

this is the first fair for us. We plan to arrange the fair as a weekend market for every district in Vientiane in the future and we hope it will support local farmers and producers,” said a representative of the Ad Hoc Committee on Promoting Production and Consumption of Domestic Products and Consumer Goods Import Management, Mr Tung A Synuanchanh. “At present we only plan to do this in Vientiane but of course we hope to stage fairs like this in the provinces in the future,” he added.

Source : <http://annx.asianews.network/content/fair-boosts-market-opportunities-vientiane-farmers-producers-109501>

### Over 190 bridges build in Meiktila-Kalaw road



Myanmar News | 3 December, 2019

Over 190 out of 200 bridges in Meiktila-Kalaw road are built and the company is using more workers and machinery to complete the remaining bridges in the open season, said Tun Tun Lin, construction director of Robust Goal Group of Companies (High Land Road Construction Co. Ltd.). The company had been granted to build Meiktila-Kalaw-Taunggyi road under 40-year agreement with BOT system and the opening ceremony of Kalaw-Taunggyi road is held on May 1. The road is about 500 miles in length and passed Meiktila, Kalaw, Taunggyi, Hopone, Loilin, Nantsan, Takaw, Kengtong and Techilek, according to Road Department. A 45-mile long Kalaw-Taunggyi road, a section of Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtong-

Kalaw road, is finished and a 17-mile long Nantpantat-Kalaw road is left to build. Only six out of 200 bridges are left to build in that section of road and the biggest bridge which is left to build is a 40-meter length bridge near Makway Village. The cost of a mile long road is over Ks1.7 billion and if the road has many bends, it will cost more and the expense will be over Ks2 billion per mile.

Source: <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/over-190-bridges-build-in-meiktila-kalaw-road>

### Capital goods import value reaches over \$890m in about two months this FY



Myanmar News | 3 December, 2019

Myanmar has imported capital goods worth over US\$890 million in about two months this fiscal year, exceeding by over US\$60 million compared to the same period of last fiscal year, according to sources released by the Ministry of Commerce. From October 1 to November 22 in the current 2019-2020 fiscal year, import value of capital goods reached US\$890.210 million while last year's value amounted to US\$833.025 million. So, this year's amount exceeded US\$57.185 million. From October 1 which is the beginning of the current financial year to November 16, 35 businesses with a total foreign investment US\$496.282 million were approved. The amount of foreign investment allowed at Thilawa Special Economic Zone in line with the special



economic zone law has reached US\$14.303 million. Therefore, a total foreign investment of US\$529.189 million including improved existing investment was allowed in one and a half months this fiscal year. Myanmar is trying to receive a total foreign investment of over US\$220 billion in 20 years and see responsible investment. Myanmar is implementing foreign investment promotion projects with the aim of becoming a moderate-income country by 2030. Those projects are being implemented in short- and long-term periods—short-term period from 2016-2017 FY to 2020-2021 FY, short-term period from 2021-2022 FY to 2025-2026 FY and long-term period from 2026-2027 FY to 2035-2036 FY.

Source: <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/capital-goods-import-value-reaches-over-890m-in-about-two-months-this-fy>

## Garment export target of \$40 billion a long shot



*Vietnam News | 3 December, 2019*

The domestic textile and garment industry was still striving to reach its export revenue target of US\$40 billion this year despite facing many difficulties, said Vu Duc Giang, chairman of the Viet Nam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS). To achieve this target, the industry needs export value growth of at least 11-12 per cent for the rest of the year, he said. According to the association, growth reached only 9.1 per cent in the third quarter, much lower than the

same period in 2018. However, it was higher than other textile producers including China, India and Bangladesh. The association is hoping textile enterprises will be able to deliver big orders to push export value up in December. The most important thing is for textile and garment enterprises to search for markets and alternative partners. Currently, the businesses can take advantage of the Vietnam-EU Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) to promote export expansion to some markets in the EU as well as Canada and Australia. Canada holds a lot of potential for Viet Nam with import value of textiles and garments reaching more than \$13 billion each year, while Viet Nam's textile and apparel exports to this market reach only about \$550 million per year. Viet Nam does not have a free trade agreement (FTA) with Canada so the CPTPP opens the door for Viet Nam's textile and apparel products. Businesses need to seize this opportunity and seek partners in Canada. Than Duc Viet, general director of Garment 10 Corporation, said to achieve export success, enterprises needed to be aware of requirements on price, quality, quantity and production time. Moreover, they must also ensure production stability. At the same time, enterprises also needed to cooperate with each other through affiliate programmes and support from the association to meet the rules of origin stated in FTAs. Enterprises, especially small businesses, should build a production chain to meet the demand of large

contracts in terms of quantity, quality and time of delivery, as well as to create a name for themselves. In recent years, the textile and garment industry had developed strongly and exports had grown year by year, according to the association. However, it still faced many challenges in production and business, such as low labour productivity, lack of high quality human resources and mainly processing products rather than manufacturing them. In addition, challenges from export markets had also put pressure on them, including increasing protectionism, higher quality demands, and environment and technical tests. According to VITAS, local apparel producers were facing falling export orders. Since mid 2019, some businesses had been able to sign export contracts for small quantities each month. Meanwhile, in the same period last year, many large enterprises had export orders stacked up till the end of the year. Cao Huu Hieu, CEO of Viet Nam Textile and Garment Group (Vinatex), said most textile and garment businesses did not have enough orders to keep them operating until the end of the year. Large businesses such as Garment 10 Corporation, Duc Giang Garment Joint Stock Company, Hòa Thọ Textile Garment Joint Stock Corporation, Ha Noi Textile and Garment Joint Stock Corporation (Hanosimex) had export contract to maintain production until November, but only Viet Tien Garment Joint Stock Company was going to be busy until the year-end. Hieu said given the current situation, the industry would find it difficult to reach the export target of \$40 billion this year.

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/569282/garment-export-target-of-40-billion-a-long-shot.html#IGuhOAC3rkrqwYh.97>

## Vietnam attracts foreign fast-fashion brands



*Vietnam News | 3 December, 2019*

Zara's revenue reached VND1.7 trillion in 2018, six times higher than 2016 thanks to the Vietnamese people's preference for fast fashion styles. Introducing herself as a fan of foreign fashion brands, Kim Ngan in Go Vap district, HCM City, said she goes 'hunting' for Zara and H&M products regularly when she has free time. "The products are not as expensive as people think, priced at between VND300,000 and VND900,000. Foreign brands often run sale promotion programs, so you can buy good products at reasonable prices," she said. Ngan is excited that Uniqlo will follow the steps of Zara and H&M to enter Vietnam, because she will have more choices for clothes. "Previously, I had to order foreign products on foreign websites or through some retail channels. As I could not try on clothes, I sometimes felt unsatisfied about the items I bought. But things are different now: foreign brands are now present in Vietnam," she said. Having been present in Vietnam for three years, Zara and H&M proved their attractiveness to Vietnamese consumers: the revenue of the two brands is far higher than that of domestic ones, such as Blue Exchange, Ivy Moda

and Kowil. Zara's finance report showed that with just two shops in Hanoi and HCM City, the revenue of the brand in 2018 hit VND1.7 trillion, which was even higher than high-end fashion chains such as Tam Son Fashion and Mai Son International Retail. Meanwhile, with the opening of four new shops, H&M raised revenue to over VND653 billion in the 2018 fiscal year, a 4.3 times increase compared with 2017. With seven shops in HCM City and Hanoi, H&M Vietnam has the highest expansion speed in the H&M global system. Fredrik Famm from H&M told the press that being a young and developing market, Vietnam has made a significant contribution to H&M's growth in Southeast Asia. Topshop and Gap, which filed for bankruptcy protection in the US, still maintains business in Vietnam. Topshop and Topman are being run by Maison Retail Management International, the 'common home' of more than 20 famous brands in the world, including Charles & Keith, Coach, Karen Millen and Puma. Uniqlo will have to compete with 10 international fast-fashion brands and tens of domestic names in Vietnam.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/economy/vietnam-attracts-foreign-fastfashion-brands-407027.vov>