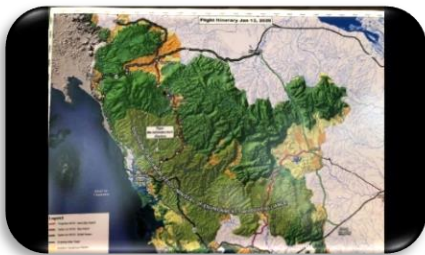




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## Plans for new airport in Koh Kong province unveiled



*Cambodia News | 14 January, 2020*

Plans for a new airport investment have been unveiled in Koh Kong province, southwest of Phnom Penh. The district currently has two airports – one under construction and another which has been abandoned for years. The government agreed to the investment for the new airport in Bakklong commune, Mondul Seima district, according to the announcement of the Council of the Ministers dated Dec 27 and published on Jan 13. The investment was reportedly a joint venture between local Ly Yong Phat Group and Bangkok Airways. The new airport will be built on between 400 hectares to 600 hectares of land in Mondul Seima district. Sin Chansereyvutha, the spokesman for the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation, said that the new airport is in a location that is moved from the investment at the old airport, located in Khemarak Phoumin city, Koh Kong province. Mr Chansereyvutha said that the high price of land surrounding the old airport location and high cost of compensation for social impacts are the main factors pushing for the new airport. “At the new location, the investment companies may want to have space for bigger land than at the old airport location not only for the airport but also building hubs of commercial and industries because investors want to link with transport,” Mr Chansereyvutha said. From the Government’s agreement, a master plan will be taken in the next step, he said, the new

location airport is some 20 km away from the location of the old airport. The specific cost for the new location was not unveiled. But according to investment at the old airport, the joint venture would cost approximately \$40 million.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50679398>

</plans-for-new-airport-in-koh-kong-province-unveiled>

## Two more telecom firms join 5G scramble



*Cambodia News | 14 January, 2020*

Two more telecom operators in Cambodia are preparing pilot trials for the fifth generation wireless technology for digital cellular networks known as 5G. This will massively increase download times and enable Cambodia to join the Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0), essential to a successful future digital economy. Three main telecom operators are already piloting 5G here and aim to launch it across the country this year to align with a government target, said a senior official from the Telecommunication Regulator of Cambodia (TRC). 5G will enable robotics in industry and government functions run efficiently by the internet, among other advantages. Im Vutha, spokesman for Cambodia’s telecoms regulator, told Khmer Times that so far there are six mobile operators operating and providing the service in the Kingdom. He said that among the six companies, the three biggest players have already tested their 5G network and will launch the service by this year. They are Smart Axiata Co Ltd, Cam GSM, commercially known as Cellcard,

and Metfone. Im said; however, that the South East Asia Telecom Group Pte Ltd (SEATEL Group) and Kingtel aim to pilot 5G as well. There were 22million Sim-card subscribers among the six mobile operators by the end of 2019. Internet subscribers numbered 16.5million, according to TRC's statistics. "At present, the government is focusing on the digital economy. Therefore, it needs the digital infrastructure connected. This comes in the form of 5G. If there is no 5G, we cannot run a digital economy effectively," Im added. "For our economic foundation, we can use 4G, but 5G must be aligned with Industry 4.0 to access the latest technology and artificial intelligence and the internet of things [IoT]. "To launch 5G, we must have a clear policy set by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Cambodia and to align with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which sets the standards on what are the range of frequencies of 5G in the world and in the region." He said that to allow the mobile operators to launch 5G, the ministry will set up a policy to support and ensure the investment security of companies doing business in Cambodia. "The three big telecom companies are ready for 5G, but the government has to make sure that they can run it," he said. Each company has to have at least \$250 million for the first stage. Therefore, the private sector asked the government to set up a policy to show to the private sector that they can generate profits once they invest in 5G and serve the various sectors and consumers affordably," Im said, adding because Cambodia is

not a heavy industry- or manufacturing-based country it will take time to see its full benefits. Recently, China has devised a customized 5G training programme for Cambodian telecoms officials to enable them to understand China's policy on supporting 5G development and its IT application.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50679516/two-more-telecom-firms-join-5g-scramble>

## Lao-Chinese partnership to develop industry and agriculture in Savannakhet



Laos News | 14 January, 2020

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - Lao authorities and a Chinese company will survey and design an industry and agriculture development project in Xepon district, Savannakhet province. Sun Paper Holding Lao Co., Ltd. will provide a grant of more than 177 billion kip (US\$20 million) to carry out the project on 800 hectares of land. Director of the Planning and Investment Department in Savannakhet province, Mr Valiya Sichanthongthip, and Director of Sun Paper Holding Lao Co., Ltd., Mr Chen Wen Jun, recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement on the project. Savannakhet provincial Governor, Mr Santiphab Phomvihane, attended the signing ceremony. The project plans to allocate parcels of land for crop cultivation, fish farming and tree planting, with a view to sustainable production that will provide income for local people. At the same time, good yields from these initiatives will provide

people with consumable produce. The authorities and the company also plan to develop the 800-hectare project site as a tourist attraction by ensuring green production and a flourishing natural environment. Sun Paper Holding Lao Co., Ltd., located in Xepon district, owns the first modern pulp mill in Laos which was established in 2008. It is a wholly-owned company of the Shandong Sun Paper Group, one of China's top 500 enterprises. The company has created a large number of jobs and spurred socio-economic development in the area. In 2009, the Sun Paper Group signed an investment agreement on "Forest-Pulp-Paper Integration" with the Lao government. The company has worked with local people to plant trees and has brought prosperity to many village families. In addition, the company has actively engaged in charitable activities, and spent several million dollars on the repair of bridges, roads and building schools in nearby villages.

Source : <http://annx.asianews.network/content/laos-chinese-partnership-develop-industry-and-agriculture-savannakhet-111968>

## 100 charging stations to jump-start electric vehicle use



Laos News | 14 January, 2020

EV Lao Company Limited has teamed up with Electricite du Laos (EDL) and will utilise state of the art technology to install 100 charging stations for electric vehicles (EVs) this year. Managing Director of EV Lao, Mr Anchalit Burananit, said on Friday that

last year, the company in cooperation with EDL installed seven charging stations aiming to increase the domestic take-up of EVs. Mr Anchalit pointed out that further charging stations could be installed at public and private locations in the capital and on routes to Vientiane and Savannakhet provinces. In August, the company conducted a pilot project to compare the operating costs between EVs and those running on fossil fuels. The project used a Nissan Leaf to operate around Vientiane for 16 days, driving a total of 680 km. The experiment showed that the EV consumed 135.7 kWh, costing only 150,000 kip (1,101 kip/kWh). However, over 680 km, an ordinary car would consume at least 500,000 kip of fuel. Mr Anchalit noted that while there was currently tremendous potential to expand the EV market in Laos, they were waiting for further Lao government policy direction. Nevertheless, EV Lao plans to provide further incentives for customers in cooperation with Banque pour le Commerce Exterieur Lao Public (BCEL) with the implementation of a charging card or Jumbo Card. The local development of EV systems took a step forward last year when the Ministry of Energy and Mines approved the pilot project for charging stations. The ministry is working with the private sector on the project as part of efforts to promote the use of EVs in Laos and support the government's move to minimise the use of fossil fuels. Laos is promoting the use of clean energy in the transport sector as part of measures to translate the government's policy into

an action plan until 2025, a strategy for 2030, and a vision for 2050 for supplying energy to the sector.

Source : <http://annx.asianews.network/content/100-charging-stations-jump-start-electric-vehicle-use-111969>

## Better jewellery market needed in Myanmar: official



*Myanmar News | 14 January, 2020*

Myanmar's neighbours have been developing better markets for raw gems, U La Hpai Khun Sa, chair of the Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs' Federation, told state media. This is the case despite Myanmar being a producer of precious stones. He said raw gems produced in Myanmar are exported to countries like Thailand and China, where the gems are used to make expensive jewellery using "state-of-the-art technologies." To catch up with its neighbours, Myanmar must add more value and talent to its fledgling jewellery market, U La Hpai Khun Sa said. Currently, weak cooperation between entrepreneurs, the associations and related departments hold back growth and development in the jewellery market in Myanmar. While there is a small market for Myanmar-made jewellery, many of the finished goods are sold for much cheaper prices compared to other countries. One reason is the gems can be sourced locally, but quality is also lacking, U La Hpai Khun Sa said

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/better-jewellery-market-needed-myanmar-official.html>

## Myanmar earns US\$270 M from fishery export



*Myanmar News | 14 January, 2020*

Myanmar has earned over US\$270 million from fishery export from October 1 to January 3 in this fiscal year and it is more US\$37 million in compared with the same period in last fiscal year, according to figures from Ministry of Commerce. At the present, Myanmar is needed tenfold or more to reach the amount of fishery export made by neighbouring countries. The exporters need to advance their breeding techniques instead of fishing naturally, according to fisheries department. Myanmar will cooperate with technicians from Indonesia, Taiwan and China to build fish food factories, cold-storage factories and modernized factories to earn US\$3 billion from fishery sector, said Htay Myint, Chairman of Myanmar Fisheries Federation. It can create 100,000 job opportunities and Ministry of Planning and Finance will give loans to buy land to build the factories and fish and prawns.

Source: <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/myanmar-earns-us270-m-from-fishery-export>

## Tan Son Nhat airport to serve over 3.7 million passengers during Tet



*Vietnam News | 14 January, 2020*

Tan Son Nhat International Airport in Ho Chi Minh City plans to serve more than 3.7 million passengers during the upcoming Lunar New Year (Tet) festival.

According to the airport's representative, about 965 flights will come in and out the airport on the peak day before Tet, which falls on January 22 or the 28th of the last lunar month. Meanwhile about 954 flights will take off from and land in the airport on the peak day after Tet, which falls on January 30 or the sixth day of the lunar new year, up 56 flights compared to the same period last year. To meet the increasing demand of travel during Tet holidays, infrastructure facilities have been invested synchronously. The national flag carrier Vietnam Airlines installed 10 more check-in kiosks at the domestic terminal to better serve and reduce congestion at the check-in counters. Scanning and security areas have been also added, while 14 more aircraft parking lots have been put into operation.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/economy/tan-son-nhat-airport-to-serve-over-37-million-passengers-during-tet-408789.vov>

## Vietnam 2019 trade surplus \$11.12 billion, beating \$9.94 billion forecast: customs



*Vietnam News | 14 January, 2020*

Vietnam recorded a trade surplus of \$11.12 billion last year, widening from a surplus of \$6.8 billion in 2018, customs data released on Monday showed, with smartphones, garments and electronic home appliances among the largest export earners. Exports in 2019 rose 8.4% to \$264.189 billion, while imports rose 6.8% to \$253.071 billion, the Customs

Department said in a statement. Key imports were electronics and machinery, the department said. Vietnam's exports of smartphones and spare parts, mostly produced by Samsung Electronics (005930.KS), rose 4.4% last year to \$51.38 billion, the data showed. In December, Vietnam's exports fell 1.0% from November to \$22.56 billion, while imports were up 4.5% at \$22.30 billion, resulting in a trade surplus of \$259 million. The General Statistics Office late last month forecast the 2019 trade surplus at \$9.94 billion, and December's trade deficit at \$1 billion. Monday's data also showed Vietnam's trade surplus with the United States, Vietnam's largest export market, widened to \$46.98 billion last year from \$34.87 billion a year earlier. Vietnam is at risk of being labeled a currency manipulator by the U.S. because of its trade surplus with the U.S., a highly positive current account balance and because its central bank has been quite active in terms of net foreign exchange purchases. Vietnam has been seeking to import more U.S. goods to help narrow the trade gap following threats by President Donald Trump to impose tariffs on its products amid the Sino-U.S. trade war. Vietnam's trade deficit with China rose to \$34.04 billion last year from \$24.15 billion a year earlier. Vietnam relies on China, its largest trading partner, for materials and equipment for its labor-intensive manufacturing.

Source : <https://tuoitrenews.vn/news/business>

[/20200114/vietnam-2019-trade-surplus-1112-billion-beating-994-billion-forecast-customs/52583.html](#)