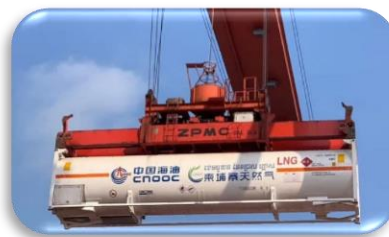


Highlight News | January 17/2020



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Gov't bond to enter the local exchange



Cambodia News | 16 January, 2020

Senior Officials at Cambodia Securities Exchange (CSX) said government bonds are expected to enter the local bourse within possibly the next two or three years. CSX CEO Hong Sok Hour, told Khmer Times yesterday much work needs to be done to bring it into reality because the government bond issuance involves many parties such as the Ministry of Economic and Finance, the National Bank of Cambodia and the Cambodia Securities Exchange. "As to when the government will list bonds on the bourse – it would probably be available for investors in the next two to three years, he said. Mr Hour noted once the bond gets officially listed, it will definitely bring a huge positive impact to the Kingdom's securities industry a whole. He added that government bonds are considered to be the most stable security and will attract big companies to invest such as insurance, banking and state-owned institutions including the National Social Security Fund. The government corporate bond is expected to provide a new avenue for companies to raise funds for capital improvements, expansions, debt refinancing or acquisitions. Chou Vannak, deputy director general of the General Department of Financial Industry at the Finance Ministry, previously said government securities will serve to support economic growth, reduce reliance on foreign currencies and risks associated with currency exchange rates and will allow the central bank to take control of the country's monetary

policy. "The bonds will play a crucial role... when Cambodia becomes a wealthier... nation."

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50680050/govt-bond-to-enter-the-local-exchange>

LNG imported from China to Cambodia



Cambodia News | 16 January, 2020

Local business Cambodian Natural Gas Co Ltd and Chinese firm CNOOC Gas Power Group Co Ltd teamed up in importing liquefied natural gas (LNG) to distribute within Cambodia's market. The company's officers said the cooperation is to import the LNG to supply demand in the local market, as the company focuses on hotels and restaurants in the first-step plan. Pheng Sros Choronei, administration officer at Cambodia Natural Gas, said yesterday that the LNG containers were shipped in from China and arrived at Cambodia's Sihanoukville port on Tuesday. "The demand of LNG consumption in Cambodia will increase as we see the ongoing demand of using the LNG in other countries going high," Choronei said. The company plans to expand to 25 provincial capitals. Currently it focuses on Phnom Penh and Preah Sihanouk provinces. According to the Chinese embassy in Cambodia, CNOOC Gas & Power Group Co Ltd teamed up with Cambodia Natural Gas Group to achieve China's export of natural gas to Cambodia for the first time. The embassy wrote on its Facebook page dated on Tuesday stating that the close relationship of the two countries has opened up new investment between them. "Under the leadership of the leaders of the two countries, the China-Cambodia joint construction of the 'Belt and Road' has

continued to go deeper and further,” the embassy said. “CNOOC seized the new opportunity of ‘going-out-of-country’ and achieved the strategic plan in Southeast Asia and Cambodia Natural Gas, which relied on CNOOC’s professional capabilities to take the steps of storage, transportation and sales. Both parties worked together to make the first use of LNG in Cambodia and supplied some of the Cambodian energy market and it will open a new chapter in the application of clean energy in Cambodia,” the embassy wrote. CNOOC Gas & Power Group Co Ltd is an enterprise in China with its main office in Beijing. It operates in the Natural Gas Distribution industry.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50680059/lng-imported-from-china-to-cambodia>

Water supply department riding wave of international cooperation



Laos News | 17 January, 2020

The Department of Water Supply under the Ministry of Public Works and Transport is targeting an expansion of projects across the country this year after racking up achievements in the sector during 2019. To achieve its goal to develop provincial water supply and sanitation systems, the department will continue to partner with international organisations. This includes utilising a loan of about US\$44 million from the Economic Cooperation Fund (Republic of Korea) and US\$28.3 million in finance from the Asian Development Bank. Additional assistance will come

via grant aid from the European Commission’s Asia Investment Facility (AIF) with US\$3 million, 150,000 euro from EMO, and US\$5 million from UN-Habitat. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has also supported the development and construction of water supply projects in the capital and in Luang Prabang and Khammuan provinces. Water supply work this year will comprise the construction and repair of pipes and distribution system in Kham district, Xieng Khuang province. It follows projects to construct water systems in Chomphet and Pakxaeng districts of Luang Prabang province as well as Bounneua district in Phongsaly province. Other plans for the department this year include sourcing funding for a sanitation project in Pakxe, Champassak province, following similar programmes in other provinces. Last year, the Department of Water Supply handed over a completed project in Nakai district, Khammuan province which was funded by the Lao government. It also finished a water system in Anouvong district, Xaysomboun province. The work programme is being undertaken as part of the department’s 10-year water and sanitation sector strategy (2016-2025) and five-year sanitation plan (2016-2020).

Source : <http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/>

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Environment Protection Fund gives boost to natural resource management



Laos News | 17 January, 2020

The Environment Protection Fund is providing 10.122 billion kip for the preservation of natural resources in six target areas. The funding will support environmental protection activities in Vientiane, Borikhamxay, Khammuan, Xieng Khuang, Luang Prabang and Savannakhet provinces. The one-year project will also work with the National Academy of Politics and Public Administration in Vientiane with the aim of enhancing natural resources and social impact management, along with capacity building in the field of environmental protection. The funding agreement was signed on Tuesday between the Fund's Vice President Ms Bounphama Phothisane and officials from participating provincial agriculture and forestry departments. The project will focus on protected areas and enhanced protection measures to preserve upper-forested watersheds in the six target provinces. Under the agreement, these projects will ensure the proper dissemination of information relating to their activities and operations among local people. Project activities will improve environmental protection by providing relevant data and information, raising public awareness, and

educating citizens so they recognise the importance of the environment in their daily lives. The projects include community management of the Phou Meud-Phou San Kheuan Provincial Protection Area in Vientiane province. Other initiatives involve the administration of communities in the National Protected Area of Nam-Moune in Borikhamxay province, which is home to ample natural resources and valuable preserved wildlife habitats. Project objectives include supporting the strict implementation of policies, laws and regulations concerning the environment, as well as enforcing the environment law in Savannakhet province, and managing other forest protection schemes. These initiatives support the government's reform agenda towards improved environmental management. A senior project official with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment said the Environment Protection Fund provides funding for the management of trails and land, protection of natural resources and preservation of wildlife habitats, and makes critical capital improvements concerning conservation. The Fund also works to strengthen biodiversity conservation in district protected area management and provides support for communities in sustainable environmental management activities. The provinces involved will provide information on the administration and protection of the natural

environment to environmental experts, he said. The Environment Protection Fund was established in 2005 as a financially autonomous organisation to strengthen environmental protection, sustainable natural resources management, biodiversity conservation, and community development in Laos.

Source : http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_Environment12.php

State-owned steel mill seeks investors



Myanmar News | 16 January, 2020

The Ministry of Planning, Finance, and Industry is seeking expressions of interest from both domestic and foreign investors interested in participating in the recommissioning of the Myingyan Steel Mill. The steel mill, located near Sar Khar village, Myingyan Township in Mandalay Region, is reported to have a production capacity of 1.8 million tonnes a year. Besides the Myingyan mill, the government also owns another mill in Pangpet Now, the state-owned entity No. 1 Heavy Industrial Enterprise, which operates the Myingyan mill, is seeking investors to participate in the running of the mill. No. 1 Heavy Industrial Enterprise is under the control of the Ministry of Planning, Finance, and Industry. A spokesperson from No. 1 Heavy Industrial Enterprise said an estimated K225 billion is required to complete the mill and

investors are being sought to help finish the mill and operate it. The spokesperson added that the government is willing to consider a range of proposals for different types of public-private partnerships including the possibility of limited disposal of certain designated product lines currently located at the mill. At present, some 90 percent of the country's steel needs is imported, with the other 10pc coming from local production. The South East Asia Iron and Steel Institute estimates that Myanmar's steel demand will continue to expand at an average growth rate of 8pc a year, with steel demand in the country could exceeding 3 million tonnes in 2020 and reaching 5 million tonnes in 2025.

Source : <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/state-owned-steel-mill-seeks-investors.html>

Falam airport upgrades with navigation facilities



Myanmar News | 16 January, 2020

Falam airport (Surbung), which is a gateway for Chin State, is upgrading with navigation facilities used for airports in mountainous areas, according to Department for Civil Aviation (DCA). The construction work of the airport will be finished in 2020-21 FY and the kind of ATR-72 planes can land. The airport is located in the middle of Chin State and towns such as Falam, Lonpi Taung, Haka, Thantlang and Tiddim Reik

Lake can reach all airports in states and regions via this airport. Navigation facilities such as DVOR, AWOS, Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAP), runway lighting, rotation beacon, HF and VHF systems are planned to install at the airport. The construction work of Falam airport and upgrading work of Thandwe airport are financially supported by the state fund, said Deputy Minister Kyaw Myo for Transportation and Communications. The ministry requested a budget of Ks141.112 billion for projects, which will be implemented with foreign aid and loans in 2019-20 FY. At the present, more than 4,000 out of over 6,000 feet of runway are finish built at the airport, according to the DCA.

Source : <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/falam-airport-upgrades-with-navigation-facilities>

Viet Nam-China import-export turnover reaches \$117 billion



Vietnam News | 16 January, 2020

HA NOI — The import-export turnover between Viet Nam and China set a new milestone, reaching nearly US\$117 billion last year. In a report on import and export activities of Viet Nam last year, announced by the General Department of Customs, the total import and export value of the whole country reached \$517.26 billion, a year-on-year increase of 7.6 per

cent. Of which, the value of exported goods was \$264.19 billion, up 8.4 per cent, and the value of imports was \$253.07 billion, up 6.8 per cent. The trade surplus of goods reached \$11.12 billion last year, the highest ever level. The country's trade surplus increased by 62.9 per cent over the previous year. Notably, among more than 200 countries and territories with which Viet Nam has foreign trade relations, China maintained its position as the largest market. The year is also the second consecutive year that the turnover between the two countries surpassed \$100 billion. Specifically, last year, the total import-export turnover between the country and China reached \$116.87 billion, of which, Viet Nam's exports were \$41.41 billion and imports were \$75.452 billion. The import-export turnover between the country and China increased by more than \$10 billion from \$106.71 billion in 2018. The Chinese market alone accounted for 22.6 per cent of the country's total import-export turnover last year. However, the increase in turnover was mainly due to a sharp increase in imports from China, while Viet Nam's exports to this market increased insignificantly. The country's import turnover from China increased by \$10 billion last year over a year ago, while export turnover increased by nearly \$150 million. Therefore, the country's trade balance with China has a very large deficit of over \$34 billion. — VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/571193/vietnam-china-import-export-turnover-reaches-117-billion.html>

Japanese firms wish to scale up business in Vietnam



Vietnam News | 16 January, 2020

Hanoi (VNA) – Tidy profits have motivated around 64 percent of Japanese firms in Vietnam to consider expanding their business in the Southeast Asian country, according to the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO). Last year, Japanese investors poured some 2.89 billion USD into 655 projects in Vietnam, up 1.9 percent in the number of projects as compared to 2018. Sixty-six percent of Japanese investors reported good profits from their Vietnam operation in 2019, JETRO said. Nakajima Takeo, Chief Representative of JETRO's Hanoi Office, said along with the US-China trade war that has driven further investment into Vietnam, sound investment and business climate is behind the fact that more Japanese firms want to increase their presence in the country. Vietnam has become a destination of Japanese businesses' interest as the Government and local administrations have worked to remove bottlenecks for them in a timely manner, and it is proactively engaging in value chains of Japanese enterprises, he added. A total of 38.02 billion USD of foreign direct investment (FDI) had been poured into Vietnam as of December 20, 2019,

a 10-year high, according to the Foreign Investment Agency (FIA) under the Ministry of Planning and Investment. The amount, representing a 7.2 percent increase on a yearly basis, included newly registered capital, additional capital to existing projects, and share purchase by foreign investors. The Republic of Korea and Japan remained the largest investors of the nation. Hanoi absorbed the lion's share of the FDI flow with 8.45 billion USD or 22.2 percent of the total figure. It was followed by Ho Chi Minh City with 8.3 billion USD. The disbursement of FDI capital also reached a record of 20.38 billion USD./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/japanese-firms-wish-to-scale-up-business-in-vietnam/167422.vnp>