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## Campu Bank accredited as cash settlement agent's security market



*Cambodia News | 22 January, 2020*

The Cambodian Public Bank Plc on Wednesday was officially recognised as acting as a cash settlement agent in the local stock market. A cash settlement agent is subjected to settling the completion of a transaction, wherein the seller transfers securities or financial instruments to the buyer and the buyer transfers money to the seller. Agents are accredited and admitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Cambodia, the security regulator and the Cambodia Securities Exchange. The bank will contribute to the progress of the securities market. Datuk Phan Ying Tong, regional head of Indo-China operations, Cambodian Public Bank Plc, said he is confident that the bank will be able to play an instrumental role to promote financial inclusion by educating customers in the long-term benefits of investing their money in the capital market. "As a cash settlement agent, Cambodian Public Bank would capitalise on its synergy with Campu Securities Plc in order to promote the securities trading to our customers and to reach out to our large customer base through our wide network branches," he said.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50682363/campu-bank-accredited-as-cash-settlement-agents-security-market>

## State-run Vietnam rubber firm plans expansion in Kingdom



*Cambodia News | 22 January, 2020*

The Vietnam Rubber Group (VRG) is planning to expand its current plantations in the Kingdom. The VRG, a state-run enterprise in Vietnam has invested in large-scale rubber farms in seven provinces in Cambodia. It disclosed the expansion plan during a meeting with Agriculture Minister Veng Sakhon in Phnom Penh. At the meeting, the Vietnam Rubber Group was represented by Chairman Tran Ngoc Thuan. Tran noted that the company collected 50,000 tonnes of latex from its 47,000 hectares of Cambodian land last year. "We would like to thank the Ministry of Agriculture that has always supported our investment here in Cambodia. In this respect, we are planning to expand the plantation areas of our rubber farms in order to increase rubber production for processing in the country," he said, adding that the rubber plantations of the company will increase in size from 47,000 to 65,000 hectares this year. Vietnam Rubber Group operates through 19 subsidiaries in the Kingdom. Its investment is reportedly valued at about \$800 million. In 2019, the company overall exceeded by 23 percent its annual target – making an estimated \$1.28 billion in revenue. However, several local sources noted that its pre-tax profit was \$220.82 million – 98 percent of its target. The commodity – which is collected from farmers in eight provinces including, Kampong Cham, Tboung Khmum, Kratie, Preah Vihea, Ratanakiri and Monduliri, is priced at

an average \$1.18 per kilogramme (kg) for fresh rubber latex, while dried rubber latex on average sells for \$0.61 per kg, according to official data from the General Directorate of Rubber released yesterday. Try Pheap, the owner of the local conglomerate Try Pheap Group, said the commodity is in high demand in the international market and a valuable investment. The company, which has nearly 10,000 hectares granted by the government for its rubber plantation in Preah Vihea province, has invested \$40 million providing 3,000 jobs for workers, Try said. "The amount of investment includes a processing facility and other amenities within the farm and this amount will increase further as we need to expand the production," he said. Try added the facility has the capacity to process between 20 and 30 tonnes of latex a day. "We are now trying to produce high quality rubber latex. "For our next move we will seek development partners to process the finished product into products such as tyres to serve demand," said Try. According to the National Bank of Cambodia, the Kingdom generated more than \$200million last year from rubber exports last year, down 1 percent when compared with the same period in 2018.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50682038/state-run-vietnam-rubber-firm-plans-expansion-in-kingdom>

## Vientiane commerce dept proposes new pork price amid limited supply



Laos News | 23 January, 2020

The Vientiane Industry and Commerce Department's goods price and service management committee has proposed a new price for pork to resolve the

short-term impact of limited supplies. The farm gate price for pigs should be set at 23,500 kip a kg, 28,500 kip a kg for pig carcasses sold at the slaughterhouse, and 40,000 kip for grade A pork and 38,000 kip for grade B pork sold in markets, Vientiane Industry and Commerce Department Director, Mr Berlin Phetchantharath, told members of the Vientiane's People Council this week. "Previously, the committee set the price of grade A pork at 35,000-36,000 kip a kg and 33,000-34,000 kip a kg for grade B, but vendors are currently unable to sell pork at the set government price," he said. Merchants are now selling grade A pork for 43,000-45,000 kip per kilo as they have to purchase it at higher wholesale prices. Pork prices had increased since December due to a shortage of pigs from farms in the provinces, Mr Berlin said. The number of large-scale pig farms in Vientiane has also decreased from 187 to 113 on the back of increased production costs and the outbreak of African swine fever. Recent currency fluctuations and inflation had also increased the cost of imported stock feed and vaccines, he noted. The demand for pork to supply Vientiane is 59.5 tonnes or 700-750 pigs a day, while during special occasions this increases to about 800-900 pigs a day. Larger producers can supply only 450-500 pigs a day or about 77.27 percent of total demand with the remainder coming from smallholder farmers. "However, the price of pork in

Laos is still lower than in neighbouring countries, especially Thailand and Vietnam,” Mr Berlin said. “The price of grade A pork in Thailand is currently about 48,000 kip per kg, which is about 33 percent higher than Laos, while grade A pork in Vietnam is 60,000 kip per kg which is 66 percent more than in Laos,” he reported. If authorities set a domestic grade A pork price of at least 40,000 kip a kg it would still be significantly lower than in these countries, he added. Mr Berlin said the increased pork prices were a result of a shortage of supply combined with numerous factors such as currency variations affecting imported production ingredients, inflation, and the price of electricity and fuel for production and transporting pigs to market, as well as the outbreak of African swine fever.

Source : <http://annx.asianews.network/content/vientiane-commerce-dept-proposes-new-pork-price-amid-limited-supply-112539>

## Asean textile industry reps eye seamless export trade



Laos News | 22 January, 2020

Members of the Asean Federation of Textile Industries (AFTEX) gathered in Vientiane for two days to hear reports and learn about the activities of each participating country, as well as discuss collaboration. The AFTEX 43rd Council Meeting and 40th Plenary Session took place last week and was

hosted by the Association of Lao Garment Industries. The meeting shared information about garment business operations in Asean, considered the global garment market, and discussed ways to collaborate in the export of garments worldwide. Participants also discussed products, raw materials, trade policies, adaptation, and the creation of strategies for problem solving. Laos and some other Asean countries are preparing to graduate from Least Developed Country status and to embrace the Industry 4.0 era, which means streamlining trade using electronic systems, and market integration within the region and the world. The meeting also heard about the introduction of cooperation projects, trading, new technologies, new products, joint exhibitions and opportunities for new markets in China and the Republic of Korea.

Source : <http://annx.asianews.network/content/asean-textile-industry-reps-eye-seamless-export-trade-112459>

## Myanmar, Japan sign \$1.1bn loan agreement for four projects



Myanmar News | 22 January, 2020

Myanmar and Japanese governments have signed a memorandum of understanding and loan agreements to get an ODA loan of about US\$1,100 million for implementing for development projects including Yangon urban

development project. The ceremony to sign the exchange of notes and loan agreements took place at the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry in Nay Pyi Taw on January 21. The four projects are named Yangon sewage system development project, Yangon urban development project, urban area power supply improvement project and regional infrastructure development project stage 3. ODA (official development assistance) loan is worth Yen 120.915 billion (about US\$1,100 million). Interest rate is 0.01 percent and the loan period is 40 years—grace period and repayment period. The exchange of notes was signed by Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry Maung Maung Win on behalf of the Myanmar government and the head of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Myanmar Office) on behalf of the Japanese government. The loan will be spent on developing sewage system and building a water treatment plant for public health improvement in Yangon, upgrading drainage system and solving traffic problems in Yangon and upgrading sub-power stations and power lines in Yangon and Mandalay regions and infrastructural development (roads, bridges,

electricity and water supply) in other regions and states.

Source : <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/myanmar-japan-sign-11bn-loan-agreement-for-four-projects>

## Sub-power stations will be built in Ayeyawady under the ADB loan



*Myanmar News | 22 January, 2020*

PATHEIN-With the aim to distribute more electricity in Ayeyawady Region, plans are underway to build 17 sub-power stations with the assistance of Asia Development Bank's (ADB) loan, according to the sources. Feasibility studies are currently being carried out in some townships in Ayeyawady Region. "We have plans to start major construction of sub-power stations under the ADB loan. In our region, there are 11 power lines and National Electrification Program (NEP). There are over 100 of 66\33 KV Sub-power stations. Later, more sub-power stations will be built at the 17 Townships. We are now discussing about EIA/SIA reports with land owners, MPs, Regional Electricity Affairs Committee and locals. At the meeting, we asked the advice from the locals and MPs and we are going to implement the projects under the supervision of the ADB. However, we request the regional

government to locate more places for extension on construction of 6 sub-power stations,” said Win Htay, Electricity, Industry and Road Transport Minister from Ayeyawady Region Government Committee. Although there are 50 percent of power consumption across the nation, Ayeyawady Region enjoys over 20 percent of power consumption.

Source : <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/sub-power-stations-will-be-built-in-ayeyawady-under-the-adb-loan>

## Vietnam targets 5 billion USD from fruit, vegetable exports in 2020



*Vietnam News | 22 January, 2020*

Hanoi (VNA) – The veggie and fruit sector aims to gross 5 billion USD from exports this year on the back of new-generation free trade agreements, the Vietnam Fruit and Vegetable Association (VINAFRUIT) said. As the EU – Vietnam Free Trade Agreement is expected to take effect in 2020, tariffs on Vietnamese fruits and vegetables will fall to zero, helping their value increase significantly. Besides, the clinched Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) will open new markets for the Vietnamese products. According to Dang Phuc Nguyen, the association’s general secretary, the target is achievable, especially when a large area of fruits and vegetables is being grown under VietGAP and Global GAP to

meet requirements of choosy markets. Last year, shipments of fruits and vegetables lagged behind expectations as they brought home only 3.8 billion USD, a year-on-year slide of 1 percent. The Ministry of Industry and Trade said that 2019 was really a tough year with the veggie and fruit sector. China, the largest importer of Vietnam, tightened requirements for imports from Vietnam via applying strict quarantine measures and enhancing origin traceability. However, growth was seen in the shipments to several markets such as ASEAN (26.6 percent), the US (10.7 percent) and the EU (32.2 percent)/.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-targets-5-billion-usd-from-fruit-vegetable-exports-in-2020/167667.vnp>

## Beer sale drops remarkably ahead of Tet



*Vietnam News | 22 January, 2020*

Hanoi (VNS/VNA) - Beer is often a best seller during the Lunar New Year (Tet) festival but many retailers have been forced to lower their prices to encourage customers to buy. Sales of beer have dropped dramatically after the Government's announced a crackdown on drink drivers. Nguyen Van Dinh, owner of a shop selling imported wine and beer in Hang Huong Alley, Hoan Kiem district in Hanoi told Vietnam News: “This time last year, I did not have enough beer to sell. This year, I just sit here waiting

for orders.” To encourage customers, Dinh knocks off 15,000 VND for every 24 pack of Saigon Special, offering at 285,000 VND. But despite reducing the prices, Dinh has not seen as many customers as he hoped. He estimates a 70 percent drop compared to previous holiday seasons. He says: “Last Tet, I sold more than 1 billion VND worth of beer and wine. This year, I estimate to get about 300 million VND at maximum.” Other retailers in the busy streets of To Hieu, Hoang Hoa Tham and Thai Ha experienced the same issues and have reduced the prices of some cases of beer by up to 15,000 VND. Nguyen Thi Nga, a shop owner in Hoang Hoa Tham Street said: “Instead, many consumers buy imported, light alcohol and local apricot wine.” As an e-buyer on the site bachhoaxanh.com, Hoang Tuyet Loan from Go Vap District, HCM City, even buys cases of Saigon Special for just 239,000 VND - an 80 percent drop on normal prices. Loan tells Vietnam News: “Less people buy beer. So they must reduce the prices.” Since January 1, any caught driving under the influence of alcohol on a motorbike can be fined up to 8 million VND (345 USD) and banned for two years. Car and truck drivers face up to 40 million VND fines and immediate licence suspension. As of January 17, traffic police have stopped 6,279 drink drivers and collected more than 21 billion VND in fines. None of the biggest brewers like Sabeco, Habeco, Heineken and Carlsberg have commented

on the new law, but many supermarkets have said sales dropped between 25 and 30 percent. According to the Vietnam Beer Alcohol Beverage Association, Vietnamese people consumed 4.6 billion litres of beer last year, a 10 percent growth from 2018./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/beer-sale-drops-remarkably-ahead-of-tet/167669.vnp>

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