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## New international travel hub seeks development cooperation



*Cambodia News | 6 February, 2020*

Cambodia Airports and the Overseas Investment Corp (OCIC) have shown progress in discussions on the development of a new Phnom Penh International Airport which is expected to be finished next year. Their cooperation has been signalled through a draft memorandum of understanding (MoU). Stating Cambodia Airports will join with the OCIC to develop a new airport in Kandal province, said Sin Chansereyvutha, a spokesman for the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation (SSCA), where the meeting was held on Tuesday. Discussions focused on cooperation between Cambodia Airports and the OCIC on the development of the new airport, he said. "The two sides agreed to establish the MoU, which will be used as the foundation in further discussions on how the SSCA would help with the development of the new airport," Sin said. Khek Norinda, communication and public relations director of Cambodia Airports, said they are at the very early stage discussions and they are currently deemed confidential. Cambodia Airports has constantly expressed to Cambodian authorities a commitment to fulfilling its missions according to a concession agreement signed in 1995. This includes extending those missions to new international airports projects contemplated by the Royal Government (RGC), he stated. "At yesterday's meeting, we reiterated our stance. Therefore, Cambodia Airports remains available and committed to a constructive dialogue on the new PP [Phnom Penh]

Airport project under the guidance of the RGC and the SSCA," Khek said. The project was announced in early 2018 and is projected to cost \$1.5 billion under the investment company name Cambodia Airport Investment. OCIC chairman Pong Khiev Se said last December that the construction of new the airport will be a 4F-class airport. The airport progress is developing well. Sin said, adding the runway is being built, a study for the terminal is being conducted and compensation for affected landowners is being processed.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50687604/new-international-travel-hub-seeks-development-cooperation>

## Mondulkiri Airport will aid plans for biggest eco-tourism region in Cambodia



*Cambodia News | 6 February, 2020*

Mondulkiri province has been flagged for transformation into the biggest agro- and eco-tourism destination in Cambodia, according to the Ministry of Economy and Finance. A feasibility study includes upgrading an airport for the capital, Sen Monorom, for domestic and international destinations. Mondulkiri is Cambodia's biggest and most sparsely populated province, measuring more than 14,000 square metres, with Sen Monorom 390 kilometres from Phnom Penh. It is home to three rivers and the famous waterfall Bou Sra. It also contains tropical seasonal virgin forests and protected wildlife areas. Traditional Phnong houses contain jars more than 1,000 years old and gongs, among the most valuable possessions of indigenous people and for which the area

is famous. Vongsey Vissoth, Permanent Secretary of State at the Ministry of Economy and Finance, said at the Public Forum on Macroeconomic Management and Budget Law 2020 that the government is preparing a master plan for Monduliri to transform into the agro-tourism destination of Cambodia. He said the government will hire a foreign company to research and prepare the master plan. Last year a feasibility study for its future was conducted. Vongsey added that over the next 20 years, Cambodia needs to think about innovation and creativity in the tourism sector. "We want to see the master plan to describe the reality of the tourism sectors, tourism destinations, issues and potential. We also have to think about the investment, strategy, policy, connectivity, security and social order," Vongsey added. "We have to think about the longer-term strategy and master plan for keeping the tourism sector growing, healthy and sustainable. We now have an airport, good connectivity and roads but we have to ensure we have the hospitality to attract the tourists too," he added. Ministry of Tourism spokesperson Chuk Chumno told Khmer Times that the government has tasked his ministry to oversee the preparation of the master plan. "At present, the ministry has designed and prepared three main master plans for Siem Reap, Kep and Monduliri province," Chuk added. "We look at Monduliri as having the most potential to transform into the best agro-tourism destination. We want Monduliri to be the hub to supply fruit, vegetables and other agro-products for the national economy," he added. Chuk also added that Monduliri can be the main hub for eco-tourism and adventure tourists. Regarding agro-tourism, Chuk stated Cambodia also has many other suitable areas and destinations. There are rubber

plantations, mango plantations, cashew nut and palm oil plantations that could all be used, allowing tourists to see the cultivation, harvesting and processing of these foods. Chhay Sivlin, president of the Cambodia Association of Travel Agents, said that the tourism sector has dropped off in recent years and this has been affecting the private sector. "On behalf of representatives of the private sector working in the tourism industry, we would like to ask whether the government has drive to incentivise the private sector because of the drop in tourists mainly to Siem Reap province," Chhay added. She said restaurants, hotels, resorts and tour operators are being affected by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50687605/airport-will-aid-plans-for-biggest-eco-tourism-region-in-cambodia>

## Special economic zones

attract US\$5.7 b



Laos News | 6 February, 2020

Twelve special economic zones (SEZs) established across the country have attracted investment of almost US\$5.7 billion and created thousands of jobs for local people, a report this week showed. The zones' developers have invested US\$4.28 billion, individual companies invested US\$1.36 billion, and the Lao government has underwritten the remaining more than US\$52 million. The number of zones increased from 10 in the 2013-2014 fiscal year to 12 in 2018, with an estimated total investment of US\$43.77 billion and registered capital of US\$14.30

billion. As of 2018, the zones had attracted actual investment capital of almost US\$5.7 billion, according to a report presented at the second meeting of the Party Committee of the SEZ Promotion and Management Office on Monday. Some 806 companies have invested in the zones comprising 26.34 percent in the industrial sector, 25.26 percent in trade, and 48.4 percent in the services sector, Party Secretary of the SEZ Promotion and Management Office, Mr Champa Khamsouksai told the meeting. Manufactured goods exported from the zones were worth US\$1.75 billion as of 2018. In addition, the zones have contributed more than 349 billion kip in the form of various taxes and fees to the state budget. The zones have created 55,771 jobs, including 12,596 positions for Lao workers. In total, some 29,489 hectares of land have been granted for the development of the 12 SEZs following signed contracts. However, just 14,960 hectares have been handed over so far including 11,678 hectares whose owners have been compensated for the loss of their land. Authorities are currently studying the establishment of another special economic zone called 'Smart & Eco-City' straddling Luang Namtha and Oudomxay provinces with site surveys already undertaken. Mr Champa pledged the Party Committee of the SEZ Promotion and Management Office would push to improve the administration of the zones including a one-stop service to better

facilitate investment and business operations as part of its five-year 2019-2024 work plan. Such efforts would expedite services in a transparent manner, he told the meeting. He underlined the need to attach greater importance to labour management at the zones and to creating community-based projects to enable nearby residents to participate and benefit from the zones. The Party Committee will lead efforts to draw up a SEZ strategic development plan for 2021-2030 to replace the 2011-2020 plan. In addition, the Party Committee will work with relevant sectors to explore untapped potential associated with the Belt and Road Initiative and the under-construction Laos-China railway. New development zones or new special economic zones could be established in this regard. The committee will continue to assess and follow up the development of the existing SEZs to ensure their effectiveness and maximise revenue collection along with compensating the remaining affected landholder

Source : <http://annx.asianews.network/content/special-economic-zones-attract-us57-b-113321>

## Vientiane eyes measures to boost pork supply amid chronic shortage



Laos News | 6 February, 2020

The Vientiane Agriculture and Forestry Department will encourage pig farmers to register for a farm licence so they can officially supply pork to local markets. This year the department is hoping that

190,000-200,000 piglets will be bred and at least 360,000-370,000 pigs will be raised to meet the high demand for pork, it was stated at a meeting of the Vientiane's People Council last month. Most of the city's pig farms are in Naxaithong, Xaythany and Pakngum districts. While large numbers of farmers breed pigs for household consumption, they have not officially registered their operations. Last year, farmers produced an additional 210,000 pigs for market sale, an increase of 26.5 percent compared to the target for the year. Increasing the number of pig farms is seen as the most viable option in resolving the current pork shortage. Vendors in Vientiane markets are now selling pork for almost 50,000 kip per kg for Grade A meat, which is a significant increase in the retail price. The Vientiane Industry and Commerce Department fixed the price of Grade A pork at 35,000-36,000 kip per kg and 33,000-34,000 kip for Grade B, but vendors cannot make a profit if they sell pork at the set government price. The spike in the price of pork is the result of a supply shortage. The shortage is the result of currency fluctuations which raise the price of imported farm inputs, along with inflation, which make pig breeding an unattractive prospect for farmers. Other deterrents are the cost of electricity and fuel used by farms, including the cost of transporting pigs to market. The number of large-scale pig farms in Vientiane has dropped from 187

to 113 on the back of increased production costs. In addition, a severe outbreak of African swine fever has killed off large numbers of pigs across the country. Pork prices have spiked sharply since December due to the shortage of pigs supplied by farms in the provinces, Vientiane Industry and Commerce Department official told Council members. The demand for pork in Vientiane is about 59.5 tonnes or 700-750 pigs a day, while during special occasions this increases to 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 such as Thailand and Vietnam. In a bid to resolve the impact of limited supplies, the Vientiane Industry and Commerce Department set new prices for pork. The farm gate price for pigs was set at 23,500 kip per kg, 28,500 kip per kg for pig carcasses sold at the slaughterhouse, and 40,000 kip for Grade A pork and 38,000 kip for Grade B meat sold in markets. The next challenge will be ensuring that vendors stick to these prices.

Source : <http://annx.asianews.network/content/vientiane-eyes-measures-boost-pork-supply-amid-chronic-shortage-113324>

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## Winning bidder for Yangon highway project to be announced soon: ministry



Myanmar News | 06 February, 2020

The Ministry of Construction says that it intends to select the preferred bidder for the first phase of the Yangon Elevated Expressway (YEX) project by May of this year. The ministry said in a press released on Tuesday, that once the bidder is announced, preparatory work for the project is expected to begin by the middle of the year. The ministry released the final request for proposals (RFP) to develop phase 1 of the YEX as a public private partnership (PPP) to 10 prequalified bidders. In the REP, the bid submission deadline was set for March 31 of 2020.

In December 2018, the ministry received 12 prequalification applications to develop the YEX under a public-private partnership (PPP). Of the 12, 10 companies met the criteria to be considered as prequalified bidders. The prequalified bidders were then invited to access relevant data and documentation related to the project and submit bids. The bidders were required to submit technical and financial proposals for the project. Phase one of the YEX project, the first transport project to be developed under a PPP scheme, is a priority project for the government, the ministry says. The

construction of YEX is expected to take about three and half years. The project will see the creation of a four-lane elevated road of 47.5 kilometres that will link the south of Yangon, which includes Yangon Port and Thilawa Special Economic Zone, to the north side of the city, where the Yangon International Airport, Mingaladon Industrial Park and the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway are located. Phase one of the project will involve a 27.5 km four-lane ring road connecting east and west of Yangon, as well as the Yangon International Airport. The tendering of the second phase of the project is expected to commence later this year, the ministry said. The project aims to alleviate the traffic congestion in Yangon and improve connectivity for businesses and communities in the country's commercial hub.

Source : <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/winning-bidder-yangon-highway-project-be-announced-soon-ministry.html>

## Approval given for €50 million loan for waste-to-energy project in Yangon



Myanmar News | 6 February, 2020

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Assembly of the Union) has approved the acceptance of a €50 million loan from Poland to be used for a waste-to-energy project in Yangon. The approval of the loan was granted during the sitting of the

assembly on January 31, with 534 votes for and 12 against. The project will be implemented at the Hteinpin landfill in Hlaing Tharyar township, Yangon, and is expected to be complete by 2022. Once the project is up and running, and estimated 1,000 tonnes of waste out of 2,500 tonnes produced daily in Yangon will be processed to produce compressed natural gas (CNG), carbon dioxide, refuse-derived fuel (RDF), and compost. Officials say the 30 tonnes of CNG produced daily from the project will be directly sold to CNG vehicles. Negotiations with businesses such as brick-making factories have also been conducted for other products that will be generated by the plant. For example, an estimated 40 tonnes of liquefied carbon dioxide could be sold to soft drinks manufacturers and cold storage facilities for meat and vegetables daily. The terms for the loan call for a repayment period of 62 years, with a grace period of five years, at an interest rate of 0.1 percent a year. "Yearly revenue from products like CNG, carbon dioxide, RDF, and compost is projected to be at least K1.75 billion or about €950,000, so repayment of the loan will come from the income generated by the project," said U Maung Maung Win, deputy minister of Planning, Finance and Industry. Studies show that Yangon's 33 townships generate between 2,300 and 2,500 tonnes of household waste a day. Another 150 tonnes of industrial waste and 2.4 tonnes of medical

waste can be added to the total. Of the total, 1,500 tonnes is sent daily to Hteinpin by rubbish trucks. In addition to the waste-to-energy project, other negotiations are also being made to deal with another 500 tonnes of daily waste in Hteinpin. "Other negotiations are also being made for a pilot project with the Right Person Group from Germany to generate energy from another 120 tonnes of waste from Hteinpin and for processing 380 tonnes of waste in cooperation with South Korea. According to a study, in the next four years, Yangon will no longer have space in its landfills for its waste," U Maung Maung Win said.

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/approval-given-eu50-million-loan-waste-energy-project-yangon.html>

## Tiền Giang sets export target of \$3.4 billion in 2020



Vietnam News | 6 February, 2020

**Tiền Giang** — The Mekong Delta province of Tiền Giang has set a target of earning US\$3.4 billion in export turnover in 2020, a year-on-year rise of 9.8 per cent. Director of the provincial Department of Industry and Trade **Đoàn Văn Phương** said production and export activities are expected to go smoothly this year thanks to the Government and ministries' efforts to remove difficulties for businesses, as well as support start-ups and innovation. Additionally, free trade agreements which have come into force will help the province

attract foreign investors and open up new opportunities for export growth. The province has defined solutions to realising the target such as increasing the productivity and competitiveness of local firms, improving the business environment, and expanding markets. Notably, the locality will adopt policies to make it easier for businesses to access credit and promote trade activities while intensifying administrative procedure reform. According to the provincial People's Committee, in the first month of 2020, local export turnover was estimated at more than \$178 million. Key export products with high growth include rice, vegetables and fruit. — VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/591878/tien-giang-sets-export-target-of-34-billion-in-2020.html>

## Shrimp exports expected to enjoy fruitful advantages throughout 2020



*Vietnam News | 6 February, 2020*

VOV.VN - Domestic shrimp firms are expected to enjoy a wealth of opportunities that will ease the export of their products to the EU, the United States, and Japan thanks to the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA), the ongoing US-China trade war, and the upcoming 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Last year saw Vietnam's shrimp exports drop by 5.4 per cent to US\$3.36 billion in comparison with the previous year, according to the Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers. Despite this slight decrease, current figures indicate positive signs for the country's shrimp exports to major

importers over the course of the coming year. Last year, the export of white leg shrimp suffered a fall of 3.4 per cent to US\$2.4 billion, accounting for 70.1 per cent of the total shrimp export value. In addition, tiger shrimp plummeted by 15.9 per cent to over US\$687 million, accounting for 20.4 per cent, while other types of shrimp reached US\$ 317.6 million, making up approximately 9.4 per cent of the total shrimp export value. Prices of raw shrimp experienced falls during the first half of 2019 in spite of the nation's shrimp output increasing. This can be attributed to shrimp inventories in several markets remaining high while the supply source of shrimp from other countries also surged, causing the price of imported shrimp in markets to be lower than the previous year. Elsewhere, China has made moves to tighten its control over quality, the traceability of the origin of products passing through border areas, and dealing with the unpredictable developments of the US-China trade war, all of which have caused a decrease in shrimp exports. In the face of these factors, shrimp exports were able to recover in the second half of 2019 as a result of the increase in raw shrimp prices. The EU remains the nation's largest shrimp importer, accounting for 20.5 per cent of the country's total shrimp export value with 2019 seeing the export of Vietnamese shrimp to the EU reach US\$689.8 million, down 17.7 per cent compared to 2018. Following 2019, the export of Vietnamese



shrimp to the EU is expected to gain momentum as soon as the EVFTA comes into force this year. The US is ranked second in terms of importing shrimp from the Southeast Asian nation, making 19.4 per cent of the country's total shrimp export value. Indeed, 2019 saw shrimp exports to the US market reach US\$653.9 million, up 2.5 per cent in comparison to 2018. The increased level of US demand for shrimp imports from Vietnam in late 2019 indicates a positive sign as the US is in the midst of reducing imports from India, Thailand, and especially from China. In August 2019, the US Department of Commerce released the final results of the 13th period of review, officially imposing zero per cent tariffs on a total of 31 Vietnamese shrimp exporters. This move has given fresh impetus to domestic shrimp enterprises who are seeking to export to the US in the near future. The escalating trade tensions between the US and China has led the US to increase tariffs to 25 per cent on US\$250 billion worth of Chinese imports, including shrimp products. This has, therefore, created opportunities for rivals, including those from Vietnam, to penetrate the US market. Furthermore, 2019 also saw the nation's shrimp exports to Japan decrease by 3.3 per cent to over US\$618.6 million in comparison with 2018. Despite this the 2020 Tokyo Olympics are projected to increase seafood consumption in the Far East country, with shrimp products in particular set to

boom, presenting an array of opportunities to shrimp exporters globally. This year, shrimp exports are forecast to recover as a result of a number of favourable factors. The anti-dumping tax imposed on the US market has been slashed to zero per cent, while the EVFTA is expected to come into force in June 2020 which will ultimately serve to increase shrimp exports to the EU market on the back of advantageous taxes. With regard to the Chinese market, between 75 per cent and 80 per cent of the country's seafood products are exported via official channels, which will play an important role for shrimp exports to rebound in the Chinese market in the near future.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/economy/shrimp-exports-expected-to-enjoy-fruitful-advantages-throughout-2020-409701.vov>

## Heineken Vietnam invests additional 70 million USD in Vung Tau factory



*Vietnam News | 6 February, 2020*

Hanoi (VNA) – The southern coastal province of Ba Ria-Vung Tau has recently allowed Heineken Vietnam Brewery - Vung Tau JSC to increase its investment capital from 312.5 million USD to 381.3 million USD. With the additional capital, the company expects to raise the annual capacity of its factory in Vung Tau from 610 million litres to 1.1 billion litres in 2020. In early 2020, the province also granted approval decisions and investment licences to several investment projects, including those of

Japan-based Seiko PMC Corporation (28 million USD), SeAH M&H Vietnam (35.3 million USD) and Arakawa Chemical Industries (45.6 million USD). Last year, Ba Ria-Vung Tau attracted 108 new projects, including 49 foreign-invested ones valued at about 623 million USD, and 59 domestically-financed ones capitalised at 13.13 trillion VND (566 million USD). During the year, it also allowed 40 existing projects to increase investment capital by 524 million USD./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/heineken-vietnam-invests-additional-70-million-usd-in-vung-tau-factory/168247.vnp>

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