

Highlight News May, 29/2020



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ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)

Calls for cellular improvement



Cambodia News | 28 May, 2020

The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPTC) has called all cellular operators to improve their signals in the Kingdom, as the network experiences a surge in use because of growth and COVID-19 isolation policies. The MPTC stated, there are “spotty” cellular signals in some areas and assigned the Telecommunication Regulator of Cambodia (TRC) to conduct inspections of cellular signals. The ministry has also urged all operators to install the necessary equipment and additional cell towers needed to improve their signals. It noted that demand for both cellular and internet services have significantly increased – especially for schools online learning during the pandemic. “All cellular operators must improve their signal in all areas, notably urban areas and new development zones by promptly installing additional equipment and new cell towers. They must also ensure quality cellular services for their consumers under their licence agreements,” they said. It added that any low-quality services demonstrates unethical practices as stated under the law of consumer protection. According to the TRC in 2019, SIM-card subscribers in Cambodia numbered 21.67 million, up to 12 percent from the previous year. Yusos Sary, senior regulatory and government affairs principal of Smart Axiata, said on behalf of all telecom operators we are working hard to solve any issues. “We have found, regarding poor quality services, that there are several challenges.

First, is the unreliable electric network which causes delays for our infrastructure expansion. Second, is the height of some construction projects that are acting as a barrier to our signals, while others have cut through our optical cables. And, finally, some residential projects are not allowing an antenna to be installed on their projects,” Yusos said. “To improve the overall quality of service will require involvement from all relevant stakeholders,” he added

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

[/50727793/calls-for-cellular-improvement/](https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50727793/calls-for-cellular-improvement/)

ACLEDA Bank posts

\$120M annual net profit



Cambodia News | 28 May, 2020

ACLEDA Bank Plc. – Cambodia’s largest commercial bank – recorded a net profit of almost \$120 million in 2019, representing a 1.3 percent increase compared to 2018, according to the bank’s audited annual report. The report stated, that the bank’s gross income was \$550 million last year, and the profit before income tax was \$153 million with net profit after tax at \$120 million. Total assets reached \$6.17 billion in 2019, compared with \$5.68 billion in 2018. Total loans was worth \$3.84 billion in 2019, up around 7 percent from \$3.59 billion in 2018. Deposits increased by 13 percent to \$4.36 billion and shareholders’ equity values at 13.09 percent from \$852.84 million to \$964.46 million. Non-Performing Loans were contained at 1.24 percent and the bank has 316 offices operating across Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar. ACLEDA became the first

public listed bank on the Cambodia Securities Exchange on Monday raising around \$17.6 million, with the number of IPO shares at 4,344,865 in the primary market. According to the Cambodia Stock Market, the banks trading value hit 5.11 billion riel (\$1,242,297) on Wednesday.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50727935/acleda-bank-posts-120m-annual-net-profit/>

Investment ministry launches revised website



Laos News | 29 May, 2020

The Ministry of Planning and Investment has launched a new version of its website, making it easier for investors to access important economic and business information. The website www.investlao.gov.la, which is administered by the ministry's Investment Promotion Department, provides essential and comprehensive information needed by investors to start a business in Laos. The key information provided by the newly designed website includes statistics that businesses can use to analyse investment trends in Laos, an investment application form, and how to obtain a business visa. Other important information relates to special economic zones in Laos as well as the particular fields in which central and provincial authorities encourage investment. Important government announcements that affect the operation of businesses are also posted on the website. One of the main changes to the website is the addition of a section on the reforms being undertaken to improve

the ease of doing business, as well as updates on the progress that has been made. The website also posts key government decisions on ways to improve the business climate, which business operators can use as reference when seeking permission to invest and operate in Laos. According to the website, the government has eliminated some of the steps required to start a business. For example, business operators can register their enterprise and obtain a tax ID at the same time. This is possible because the government has separated business registration from the issuing of a licence to operate. This means operators can establish their business first and then use this legal identity to enter into deals with business partners. In the past, the authorities issued the enterprise registration certificate and licence at the same time, which was not practical. Another key change to the start-up process is that after receiving a business registration certificate and tax ID, businesses will automatically be given an enterprise stamp. In the past, an enterprise stamp had to be applied for separately. The most important information provided by the website relates to the roles and duties of ministries and state agencies in implementing the government's business reform initiative and the steps taken by each ministry to put these into practice. This information provides clear guideline and states the time it will take for government officials to provide these services.

Source : http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_Investment_102.php

Myanmar Airways International to continue cargo transportation



Myanmar News | 28 May, 2020

Myanmar Airways International which has been operating the Incheon-Yangon route since December 4, 2019 announced that it will continue to enhance transportation capacity by enabling loading of cargo in the passenger aircraft cabin as well as in belly space on May 20th on certain China routes, operates passenger flights with no passengers but only cargos in the belly space, and will further enhance transportation capacity by loading cargo on the passenger cabin in the future. Due to the worldwide spread of Covid-19, Myanmar Airways International currently operates relief flight only on Yangon - Incheon – Yangon route but at the same time, it has been carrying relief supplies, medical goods such as mask/protective clothing/test kit to be used in combatting coronavirus. Furthermore, Myanmar Airways International will be deploying A320 with increased cargo capacity up to 40% on May 27th, 2020. In addition, Myanmar Airways International will resume operation in a limited manner from June. Two weekly flight from June 1 to June 14 (Tuesday and Thursday) and four weekly flights from June 15 to June 30 (Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday) As part of the largest airline group in Myanmar, together with its sister airlines, Air KBZ, Myanmar Airways International is a Yangon-based airline, boasts a strong network, and operates 15 domestic

destinations, including Heho, Bagan, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw. It will continue to enhance access to Myanmar from Korea and provides opportunities to meet a variety of Myanmar.

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/myanmar-airways-international-continue-cargo-transportation.html>

Petrol prices continue to rise in latest adjustment



Vietnam News | 28 May, 2020

Hanoi (VNA) - Retail petrol prices were adjusted upwards on May 28 in the latest review by the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Finance. From 3pm on May 28, the price of E5 RON92 biofuel rose 882 VND to a maximum of 12,402 VND (0.53 USD) per litre and RON95-III by 890 VND to 13,125 VND (0.56 USD) per litre. Prices of diesel 0.05S and kerosene, meanwhile, are now 10,749 VND and 8,757 VND per litre, up 892 VND and 875 VND per litre, respectively. Mazut 180CST 3.5S is now selling for 9,492 VND per kg, up 947 VND per kg. The two ministries review fuel prices every 15 days and make adjustments in accordance with fluctuations in the global market. As the COVID-19 pandemic is showing signs of easing in the world, many countries have begun to resume production and business activities, pushing up demand for fuel, resulting in rising prices of petrol and oil./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/petrol-prices-continue-to-rise-in-latest-adjustment/174029.vnp>

Vietnam, US promote footwear trade post-pandemic



Vietnam News | 28 May, 2020

Washington DC (VNA) - An interactive video conference on “Promoting Vietnam - US Trade in Footwear Post COVID-19” took place in Washington DC on May 27 (US time) to connect Vietnamese producers and American distributors and retailers. The conference was co-hosted by the Ministry of Industry and Trade’s Vietnam Trade Promotion Agency (Vietrade), the Vietnam Trade Office in the US in partnership with Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA), the Vietnam Leather, Footwear and Handbag Association (Lefaso), and USAID Linkages for Small and Medium Enterprises (LinkSME), to boost the export of footwear - one of Vietnam’s main foreign currency earners - to the US. It was the first video conference ever held bringing Vietnam’s footwear sector and a foreign market together. As both countries gradually reopen their economies, the conference and its business matching session provided a platform for Vietnamese firms and US importers to learn about each other’s needs and capacity, seek deals, and promote trade in the “new normal”. The event presented Vietnamese firms with the latest updates on the US’s footwear market and how it is being affected by COVID-19. US experts also advised Vietnamese footwear makers on specific market segments they should focus on and how to improve competitiveness and properly

access the US market. The conference also offered Vietnamese companies a chance to discuss the challenges facing them in exporting footwear to the US. Vietnam exported 18.3 billion USD worth of footwear products in total last year, up 12.8 percent against 2018. The US remained Vietnam’s largest footwear market, buying 6.65 billion USD, a year-on-year increase of 14.2 percent. Shipments of footwear to the US grew 10 percent year-on-year to 1.56 billion USD in the first quarter of this year./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-us-promote-footwear-trade-postpandemic/174044.vnp>
