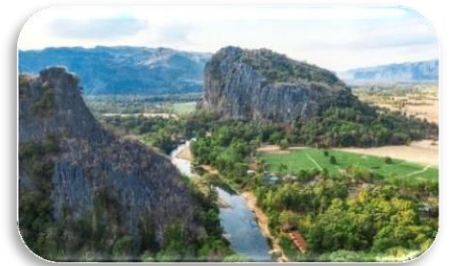


Highlight News / February 11/2021



- Over 10,000 Cambodian products can Be exported to China under CCFTA
- SSCA to conclude new Mondulkiri province airport study
- Laos to create new district in Vientiane
- Trade union in Myanmar to prosecute those taking legal action against CDM participants
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Over 10,000 Cambodian products can Be exported to China under CCFTA



Cambodia News | 10 February, 2021

Under the Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement (CCFTA), Cambodia can export more than 10,000 items to China, which in turn could export over 8,000 items to Cambodia. The figure was shared at a workshop on Free Trade Agreements (FTAs): Trends, Challenges and Opportunities for Cambodia, organised here by the European Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia (EuroCham). Of these items, added EuroCham, only a few hundreds would not be subject to tariff elimination or planned tariff reduction. According to EuroCham, the workshop brought together representatives from the Ministry of Commerce, the General Department of Customs and Excise, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport and the private sector to discuss the FTAs and its benefits, the customs regulations and procedures, logistics plans and activities, and the opportunities and challenges from the private sector's perspective. One of the many speakers, Mr Rath Saravuth, Ministry of Commerce's Director General of International Trade, and a member of the CCFTA negotiation team was able to give the participants useful insights on one of Cambodia's most anticipated FTAs. C. Ratha – AKP

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50812421/over-10000-cambodian-products-can-be-exported-to-china-under-ccfta/>

SSCA to conclude new Mondulakiri province airport study



Cambodia News | 10 February, 2021

The State Secretary of Civil Aviation (SSCA) is about to conclude a six-month feasibility study on new airport construction in Mondulakiri province. Sin Chansereyvutha, SSCA's spokesman said the results of the study will be handed to the inter-ministry for review. Following that the study will then be submitted to Powerchina, the company given the rights to study the project as part of their investment-making decision process. It is proposed the new airport will have an area of 600 hectares. Previously estimates of the cost of building the airport were set at \$60 million. However, the preliminary estimates generated by the study now predict that cost to be in the neighbourhood of \$90 million. Earlier this year, the government approved in principle the construction under a public-private partnership (PPP) and chose Powerchina as its potential partner in the project. The company is responsible for all expenses of the feasibility study. Currently, three international airports are under construction in Kandal, Siem Reap and Koh Kong provinces. Those three airports are scheduled to be completed and commence operations in 2023. The construction of the three airports is running on schedule, Chansereyvutha said.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50812474/ssca-to-conclude-new-mondulakiri-province-airport-study/>

Laos to create new district in Vientiane



Laos News | 10 February, 2021

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN): Vientiane authorities are in the process of creating a new district, which will be the tenth in the capital, although the completion date is not currently known. The new district will be located between Pakngum and Xaythany districts in the northeast of Vientiane. It will have 24 villages, including five that already exist in Pakngum district and three in Xaythany district. Work to develop the district began in 2018 and authorities are now preparing to build other infrastructure such as office buildings, which are expected to be completed this year, according to the Vientiane Mai newspaper. The Mayor of Vientiane, Dr Sinlavong Khoutphaythoune, said the new district is in a rural environment and has wooded areas and hills, as well as rivers. The district contains the popular Tad Soyvoy waterfall, which has potential for development as a tourist attraction. Neighbouring Pakngum district is the site of Nam Piem Yorla Pa, which is also popular with visitors. The construction of the new district is part of Vientiane's development strategy towards 2025 and the plan to develop the suburbs into commercial and residential areas. Xaythany district is large and has more than 100 villages comprising over 43,900 households. Due to its relatively rural setting, there is strong potential for agriculture and tourism. Development of the new district will provide more facilities and public

services for the residents of Xaythany district, and help to ease overcrowding. - Vientiane Times/Asia News Network

Source : <https://www.thestar.com.my/aseanplus/aseanplus-news/2021/02/10/laos-to-create-new-district-in-vientiane>

Trade union in Myanmar to prosecute those taking legal action against CDM participants



Myanmar News | 10 February, 2021

One of the country's largest labour group vowed to prosecute officials who take punitive actions against government workers who are participating in the ongoing civil disobedience movement. The Confederation of Trade Unions of Myanmar (CTUM) said any official who forced protesting employees to resign or to leave their housing provisions, would face charges. The group condemned the aged practice of some officials who punish protesting government employees by forcing them to quit public service and to leave their housing provisions. CTUM is monitoring the government workers participating in the current protest against the newly established military rule. It said that once the situation returns to normal, it would ask the civilian government to reinstate those government workers forced out of their jobs because of their political beliefs. CTUM said it will provide free medical services to those who suffered from fear and serious trauma because of the actions of some unscrupulous officials, who allegedly misused their authorities.

Earlier CTUM quit from the tripartite body comprised of government, business and labour representatives that discuss workers-related issues, to protest against the February 1 takeover and detention of senior leaders of the country, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. – Translated

Source : <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/trade-union-myanmar-prosecute-those-taking-legal-action-against-cdm-participants.html>

Thailand's second largest bank to open first branch in Vietnam



Vietnam News | 10 February, 2021

Thailand's second-largest lender by assets, Kasikornbank, plans to open a branch in Ho Chi Minh City in the third quarter this year. "Attention is now focused on Vietnam as a regional investment hub that has attracted the world's leading companies – including those from Thailand – thanks to its strong economy," said executive vice president Pattarapong Kanhasuwan, noting its recovery should be helped by the country's success containing COVID-19. The move comes as other Thai banks have expanded in Southeast Asia, said Reuters. Kasikornbank's new branch, which gained regulatory approval in January, will provide services to local customers, including Thai and foreign businesses investing in Vietnam. It is targeting lending of 10 billion baht (\$333.11 million) in its first year of operations while investing in startups in digital technology, it said in a statement. Other services planned for the future include retail

banking, such as deposits and personal loans. (\$1 = 30.0200 baht) (Reporting by Chayut Setboonsarng Editing by Ed Davies), according to The Star. The new branch gained regulatory approval in January and plans to lend THB10 billion (\$333 million) in its first year of operation. The bank will focus on Thai and foreign businesses investing in Vietnam and startups in digital technologies. Thailand was the seventh-largest foreign investor in Vietnam last year with \$292 million, according to the Ministry of Planning and Investment. Kasikornbank often stylized as KBank and formerly known as the Thai Farmers Bank is a banking group in Thailand. KBank was established on 8 June 1945 (2488 BE) by Choti Lamsam, with registered capital of five million baht. It has been listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand since 1976. On 8 April 2003, Thai Farmers Bank PCL changed its English name to Kasikornbank PCL (official abbreviation, KBank).

Source : <https://vietnamtimes.org.vn/thailands-second-largest-bank-to-open-first-branch-in-vietnam-28087.html>

Ministry imposes anti-dumping tax on sugar from Thailand



Vietnam News | 10 February, 2021

Hanoi (VNA) - The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoIT) has decided to levy a temporary anti-dumping tax of 33.88 percent on sugar imported from Thailand. This tax rate will be regularly reviewed to ensure a fair competition environment if there is a strong shift from importing refined and white sugar to

importing raw sugar in order to avoid anti-dumping tax at a higher rate. The decision comes after the MoIT launched an investigation in September 2020 to see if sugar imported from Thailand had received subsidies from the government. It later found that Thai businesses shipped nearly 1.3 million tonnes of subsidized sugar to Vietnam last year, an increase of 330.4 percent against the previous year. The sharp increase in import volume caused serious damage to Vietnam's sugar industry, forcing plenty of sugar processing mills to halt operation and lay off workers. According to the ministry, as many as 3,300 workers have lost their jobs and more than 93,000 farmers have been affected. Therefore, in the coming time, to make the final conclusion about the case, the MoIT will continue to work with relevant parties, verify data and hold a public consultation session. The investigation is expected to end in the second quarter of 2021./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/ministry-imposes-antidumping-tax-on-sugar-from-thailand/196207.vnp>
