

Highlight News / March 15/2021



- China speeding up Cambodia's mango assessment reports
- International Business Chambers request GDT to extend tax deadline amid outbreak
- Laos govt launches new civil registration, vital statistics systems
- China urges Myanmar to stop violence, punish perpetrators after plants smashed
- Auto sales up 21 pct in 2021
- Vietcombank named Vietnam's Strongest Bank by Balance Sheet for six consecutive years



China speeding up Cambodia's mango assessment reports



Cambodia News | 13 March, 2021

The People's Republic of China is speeding up assessment reports of Cambodian mangoes to allow imports to the Chinese markets. The pledge was made recently by a China's customs delegation from Guangxi province following a virtual review of nominated Cambodian mango farms. The process was facilitated by a working group of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' General Department of Agriculture in order to push the fruit exports. The Chinese delegation spoke highly of Cambodian mangoes and how they are processed, and encouraged the Cambodian side to ensure proper packaging and storage, and broaden awareness among farmers on the sanitary and phytosanitary for the fruit. The Cambodian team welcomed the recommendations and expressed commitments to address them. Lim Nary – AKP

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50824342/china-speeding-up-cambodias-mango-assessment-reports/>

International Business Chambers request GDT to extend tax deadline amid outbreak



Cambodia News | 12 March, 2021

In response to the Feb 20 community outbreak, nine International Business Chambers are calling on the General Department of Taxation (GDT) to delay the

annual tax on Income (TOI) deadline. A copy of the letter addressed to GDT General-Director Kong Vibol and reviewed by Khmer Times, revealed that signatories including chambers of commerce from the US (AmCham), UK, Australia, Europe, India, Japan, Malaysia and the Philippines, requested that the GDT extend its annual Tax on Income deadline past March 31. The signatories stressed that necessity for suspension of in-person meetings for new taxpayers who wish to register for tax and those currently ongoing audits. Vibol was unable to immediately provide Khmer Times with a comment on Friday evening. AmCham President Anthony Galliano told Khmer Times that he was hopeful that the GDT would agree to the request. He added that the GDT had previously granted extensions under exceptional circumstances, such as in 2016 when the deadline was pushed by one month due to taxpayers amending historical returns under the tax amnesty programme. "With the nine chambers signing the letter (including IBCC) requesting the deadline for the extension of the TOI, they are hopeful that this appeal is given serious consideration and empathy, as they represent a substantial portion of the business community," Galliano said. The letter also urged the GDT to conduct digital meetings between taxpayers or their representatives via messaging platforms such as Telegram or WhatsApp. It also asked that the department conduct essential audit meetings via Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Authorities have urged the following of pandemic-related safety protocols,

including maintaining a safe social distance from others and limiting movements. Following the Feb 20 incident, authorities called on 90 percent of the Kingdom's workforce to stay at home to help contain the transmission, with Prime Minister Hun Sen saying "the current situation requires more caution than before". Hun Sen also called on public institutions to stop activities and 90 percent of employees at private firms to work from home. "The Feb 20 incident has changed the psychology of most, with much greater emphasis on caution. The Royal Government has encouraged people to stay at home and most companies have allowed their workforce to almost wholly or at least partially stay at home," Galliano stressed.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50824262/international-business-chamber-of-commerce-requests-gdt-push-tax-deadline-amid-outbreak/>

Laos gov't launches new civil registration, vital statistics systems



Laos News | 14 March, 2021

VIENTIANE, March 14 (Vientiane Times/ANN): The government has launched e-civil registration and vital statistics (eCRVS) systems and District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2) to ensure more accurate population registration. The systems will be shared and operated by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Home Affairs, which signed agreements on their use in Vientiane on Wednesday. Representing the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Deputy Director General of the Citizen Management

Department, Mr Vandy Chanthalideth, signed the agreement with the Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Health's Planning and Cooperation Department, Dr Soutthanou Nanthanonty. The signing was witnessed by the Minister of Home Affairs, Dr Thongchanh Manixay, and Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Bounfeng Phoummalaisith. The initiative will see the two ministries share information in using the eCRVS and DHIS2 systems, aimed at improving the quality of civil registration and vital statistics. Speaking at the event, Dr Thongchanh said the Ministry of Home Affairs would roll out the eCRVS in four stages. The first stage of implementation is currently underway in Vientiane and the provinces of Luang Prabang and Champassak. The second phase will see the inclusion of Phongsaly, Huaphan, Oudomxay and Xieng Khuang provinces and the third phase will add Borikhamxay, Khammuan, Savannakhet and Bokeo provinces to the system. The fourth phase will see the extension of the system to Vientiane, Xaysomboun, Luang Namtha, Xayaboury, Attapeu, Saravan and Xekong provinces. The two ministries will use the system in collaboration with the Lao Statistics Bureau under the Ministry of Planning and Investment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Public Security. Vientiane Times/ANN

Source : <https://www.thestar.com.my/aseanplus/aseanplus-news/2021/03/14/laos-govt-launches-new-civil-registration-vital-statistics-systems>

China urges Myanmar to stop violence, punish perpetrators after plants smashed



Myanmar News | 14 March, 2021

The Chinese Embassy in Myanmar on Sunday urged Myanmar to take effective measures to stop violence and punish perpetrators after several Chinese-funded factories were smashed and burned by lawbreakers on Sunday, which led to several Chinese being injured. "China urges Myanmar to take further effective measures to stop all acts of violence, punish the perpetrators in accordance with the law and ensure the safety of life and property of Chinese companies and personnel in Myanmar," read the statement. China also called on the people of Myanmar to express their demands in a lawful manner and not to be incited or used in a way that undermines Sino-Myanmar ties, according to the statement. The statement came after over 10 factories, including some Chinese-funded enterprises, were vandalized and set on fire at an industrial zone in Myanmar's Yangon city on Sunday. Carrying iron rods, axes and gasoline, the arsonists smashed the security personnel and set fires at the factories' entrances and in warehouses. Vehicles and nearby shops were also vandalized. Per reports, several people were injured but identities of arsonists have not been ascertained yet.

Source : <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2021-03-14/Two-Chinese-funded-garment-factories-set-on-fire-in-Myanmar-YCP1cUIQIE/index.html>

Auto sales up 21 pct in 2021



Vietnam News | 14 March, 2021

Auto sales in the first two months of the year jumped by 21 percent to 40,017 units. Passenger vehicles dominated sales at 71 percent, according to the Vietnam Automobile Manufacturers Association. Local company Truong Hai Auto (Thaco) led the market with 14,964 units representing a 39 percent year-on-year increase. It was followed by Toyota (6,848), and Mitsubishi (4,605). Honda and Ford rounded off the top five. Last year sales had fallen by 8 percent to 296,634 units as the Covid-19 pandemic badly affected the economy, hitting people's incomes and discretionary spending.

Source : <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/business/data-speaks/auto-sales-up-21-pct-in-2021-4247873.html>

Vietcombank named Vietnam's Strongest Bank by Balance Sheet for six consecutive years



Vietnam News | 13 March, 2021

The Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Foreign Trade of Vietnam (Vietcombank) topped the rankings in Vietnam and placed 55th in Asia-Pacific in The Asian Banker's Strongest Bank by Balance Sheet this year. This was the sixth consecutive year it has been awarded the title. It was also one of nine among the 500 largest banks in the region honoured at this year's virtual awards ceremony. Speaking at the ceremony, Vietcombank's Chief Accountant Le

Hoang Tung said that in the face of the unprecedented and complex impact of COVID-19, Vietcombank fulfilled the dual goals of maintaining safe and effective operations and sharing difficulties of affected borrowers last year, thanks to its strong financial foundation and sound strategy. It contributed over VND9 trillion (US\$389.8 million) to the State budget in 2020. Its total assets, deposits, and borrowings grew 8%, 11%, and 14%, respectively. The Asian Banker has been publishing the Strongest Bank rankings annually since 2007, based on balance sheet strength. Rankings are determined on a detailed and transparent scorecard that evaluates commercial banks in six areas of balance sheet financial performance: the ability to scale, balance sheet growth, risk profile, profitability, asset quality, and liquidity.

Source : <https://vov.vn/en/economy/vietcombank-named-vietnams-strongest-bank-by-balance-sheet-for-six-consecutive-years-843012.vov>
