

Highlight News / August 10, 2023



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Toyota to produce auto wire harness in Poipet



Cambodia News | 09 August, 2023

Japan's global enterprise Toyota Tsusho Corporation (Toyota Tsusho) plans to establish another factory to produce automotive wire harness in Cambodia, said the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) in a statement. The new investment projects of Toyota Tsusho were revealed during a meeting between CDC's Deputy Secretary General Chea Vuthy and representatives of Toyota Tsusho which has been operating in a special economic zone in Banteay Meanchey province since 2016. The statement released by CDC—Cambodia's highest decision-making body for private and public investments—pointed out that Toyota Tsusho will start the production of automotive wire harness products in the special economic zone in Poipet city of the province. "Most recently, the company has expanded its investment activities including the establishment of a new project to produce automotive wire harness products," the statement pointed out, adding that the production is expected to start in December 2023 at Sanco Poipet Special Economic Zone. Toyota Tsusho—listed on the prime market of the Tokyo Stock Exchange and premier market of Nagoya Stock Exchange—also plans to recruit approximately 800 people to work at the project, while some Cambodian workers have been being trained in Thailand and Yazaki (Cambodia)

Products Co Ltd in Koh Kong province. The construction of the Phnom Penh assembly plant worth about \$36.7 million of Toyota Tsusho Manufacturing (Cambodia) Co Ltd—Toyota Tsusho's vehicle assemble company located in Royal Group Phnom Penh Special Economic Zone—is expected to be completed this year after CDC approved the project in early September last year. Cambodia has several automobile assembly plant projects including the Ford Automotive Assembly Plant located in Kroko Special Economic Zone in Sna Ansa in Krokor district of Pursat province. Other automotive assembly plants are located in Phnom Penh, Pursat and special economic zones in Poipet of Banteay Meanchey and Bavet of Svay Rieng province. Aun Pornmoniroth, Minister of Economy and Finance and Chairman of the Economic and Financial Policy Committee, said that the government has identified automotive and electronics as priority sectors for promoting Cambodia's participation in the global value chain and promoting economic diversification and, in particular, economic recovery.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501339087/toyota-to-produce-auto-wire-harness-in-poipet/>

Kingdom collects \$2.79 billion in tax revenue in 1H



Cambodia News | 09 August, 2023

Cambodia collected 11,497.98 billion riels (approximately \$2.79 billion) from all sources of

taxes in the first half of 2023, which is equivalent to 49.1 percent of the target (\$5,692 million) for the year, according to the Ministry of Economy and Finance's report. The Kingdom has two institutions responsible for collecting taxes. One is the General Department of Taxation (GDT), which focuses on interior taxes such as income tax, salary tax, value-added tax and property tax, and the other is the General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE), which collects taxes on goods entering and leaving the country. The ministry stated that tax revenue collected by the GDCE amounted to 4,607.65 billion riels (approximately \$1.12 billion), representing 41.4 percent of the target set in 2023, a year-on-year decrease of 10 percent. The tax revenue collected by the GDT (collected at national level) reached 6,890.33 billion riels (approximately \$1.67 billion), equal to 56.1 percent of the target and an increase of 0.9 percent compared to the same period last year, the report said. Tax revenue collected by GDCE decreased in the first half of this year due to a decline in vehicle and machinery import taxes and implementation of free trade agreements in the framework within ASEAN and in the framework between ASEAN and its trade partners, which wiped away tariffs on goods imports, the ministry said. "The tax revenue by GDCE is projected to reach 90 percent of plan by end of this year while tax revenue from the GDT to exceed 107.5 percent of target," the ministry said. The GDT's tax collection has been good, exceeding its target, said GDT's director-general Kong Vibol. The increase in

tax revenue collection was due to the tax system reforms, including the provision of services to taxpayers and good registration services, good audits, debt management and resolving issues to make it easier for taxpayers to pay their taxes, he said.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501339088/kingdom-collects-2-79-billion-in-tax-revenue-in-1h/>

Investor gets financing boost for Laos' smart city development



Laos News | 09 August, 2023

Amata City Lao Company, a developer of smart cities in northern Laos, has received a financing boost to build the Amata Smart & Eco City in Luang Namtha province, Thai media reported. The company on August 3 signed a Credit Facility Agreement with the Export-Import Bank (EXIM Bank) of Thailand under which the latter provides 150 million Thai baht as a loan for the investor to develop the industrial complex, Bangkokbiz News reported. The funds will be used to buy land use rights and build a new industrial city in Natuey in the northern province, which borders China. Thailand-based SET-listed Amata Corporation Plc (Amata), a leading industrial estate developer and operator, announced earlier last year its plan to allocate US\$1 billion to develop the industrial complex in Natuey, through which the Laos-China railway passes. The company

said on its website that it has been granted a concession to develop the project's first phase on 410 hectares of land with a potential site expansion of up to 200 square kilometres (20,000 hectares) in total. The groundbreaking ceremony for the project took place on January 11, 2022, attended by senior Lao officials and company executives. The new financing was granted as the EXIM Bank has envisaged the Thai entrepreneur's promising business prospects for the construction of a smart and eco-friendly city following the zero-waste discharge policy in the Amata Smart and Eco City in Natuey, aiming to achieve the ultimate goal of a low carbon city that prioritises the protection of natural resources and the environment under the Amata Group's 'All Win' philosophy. This reflects EXIM Thailand's role as a development bank committed to promoting industries of the future. EXIM Thailand President Dr Rak Vorrakitpokatorn said the Bank has sought to promote and support Thai entrepreneurs such as Amata City Lao in integrating both Thai and Lao SMEs into the supply chain and building an ecosystem to foster the development of future industries. Thailand's Bangkok Post quoted the chairman and chief executive of Amata, Vikrom Kromadit, as saying previously that his company would develop the industrial complex as a model for modern industrial parks, with energy-efficient infrastructure and sustainable environmental

management. The project is designed to serve international investors in various industries, including logistics and warehousing, machinery, rubber and plastic products, and food and beverage processing, as well as chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Amata is one of three firms selected by the Lao government to build a dry port in Natuey to tap the growing potential of the area, notably the improved logistics and transport services resulting from the Laos-China railway, which is becoming an increasingly important trading gateway between China and Southeast Asia. Amata also announced that it has secured a concession from the Lao government to develop another Amata Smart and Eco City in Namor district of Oudomxay province, which borders Luang Namtha. The company plans to spend US\$500 million on its first-phase development covering 8,075 rai through a joint venture, Amata City Laos Company, according to the Bangkok Post, citing Mr Vikrom as saying.

Source: https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_153_Investor_y23.php

MAEX records high trading volume in bullish stock market



Myanmar News | 09 August, 2023

Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd (MAEX) was listed on 3 July 2023 and had the highest trading

volume among the eight listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange in July. The equity market showed an upward trajectory with a total trading value of K2.068 billion from 958,368 shares traded last month (July), as per the monthly report released by the exchange. The base price of MAEX is K1,800 per unit. The share is traded between the upper limit (K2,050) and the lower limit (K1,550) based on supply and demand. At present, shares of eight listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co Ltd (TMH), the Ever Flow River Group Public Co Ltd (EFR), Amata Holding Public Co Ltd (AMATA) and MAEX were traded in the security market. The total trading volumes were recorded 11,678 shares of FMI worth K94.753 million, 68,043 shares of MTSH worth K193.304 million, 43,324 shares of MCB worth K311.93 million, 121,267 shares of FPB worth over K182.5 million, 1,653 shares of TMH worth K4.07 million, 11,036 shares of EFR worth K25.99 million, 2,573 shares of AMATA worth K12.44 million and 698,794 shares worth \$1.24 billion respectively last month. Mainboard trading (continuous and block trading) of 81,410 shares valued at K352.995 million were recorded on the exchange in January 2023 and the trading volume rose to 122,859 shares in February, with an estimated value of K381.69 million. The equity

market saw trading of 112,465 shares with an estimated value of K401.83 million traded on the exchange in March. The trading value touched a low of K175.956 million with 69,365 shares in April. The value reached a high of K746.414 million with 206,414 shares in May. A trading value of over K454.893 million from 201,701 shares was recorded in June. The share prices per unit stood at K8,400 for FMI, K2,950 for MTSH, K7,100 for MCB, K1,450 for FPB, K2,350 for TMH, K2,400 for EFR and K4,900 for AMATA and K1,850 for MAEX on the last day of July 2023. Furthermore, block trading of YSX can be done with the minimum order quantity (10,000 stocks) or with the stocks of trading value of K30 million starting from 1 September 2022. The Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM) has allowed foreigners to invest in the local equity market since 20 March 2020. Foreign participation would entail better capital inflows, long-term and sustainable investment, encourage good corporate governance, and support market orientation, YSX stated. Moreover, YSX stock investment virtual series 2022 launched in December through the YSX YouTube channel and other social media platforms every weekend of December 2022, including three sessions; Insights talk with listed companies, Investment presentations by securities companies and Panel discussion with market experts. Additionally, YSX welcomes group

tour programs from Universities and Private Educational Institutes across the country. For enquiries, please contact YSX Ph: 01 3371274. The YSX was launched in 2016 to improve the private business sector. It disseminates rules and regulations regarding the stock exchange and knowledge of share trading through stock investment webinars and training courses. — KK

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/mrf-to-sell-off-170000-rice-sacks-under-subsidy-scheme/#article-title>

Vietnam to impose anti-dumping duty on sugar imports from Thailand



Vietnam News | 09 August, 2023

HCMC – The Ministry of Industry and Trade is set to levy anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on sugar imports from Thailand. Decision 1989/QD-BTC, issued by the ministry, marks the first review of the imposition of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on sugar originating from Thailand. The duties will be in effect from August 18, 2023 to June 15, 2026. These duties will apply to some Thai firms such as Mitr Phol Sugar Corp., Ltd. and its four affiliates, Czarnikow Group Limited, and Thai Roong Ruang Industry Co., Ltd., along with five affiliates. According to the decision, the minimum anti-dumping duty is 25.73% and the maximum rate is

32.75%. Additionally, the anti-subsidy duty cap stands at 4.65%.

Source: <https://english.thesaigontimes.vn/vietnam-to-impose-anti-dumping-duty-on-sugar-imports-from-thailand/>

Vietnamese tuna exports to Italy skyrocket due to tax incentives



Vietnam News | 09 August, 2023

VOV.VN - Vietnam's tuna exports to Italy in June witnessed a 12-fold rise thanks to preferential tariffs implemented under the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA), according to details given by the General Department of Vietnam Customs. Statistics indicate that despite experiencing a downward trajectory in January, the country's tuna exports to the Italian market witnessed continuous three-digit growth rate in the following months. In line with this, six-month tuna exports to this market surged by 37% to reach US\$5.8 million against the same period from last year. The Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP) assesses that Italy imported the most canned tuna from the nation, duly accounting for more than 50% of tuna export value to this market. Along with canned tuna, the country's frozen tuna meat/loin exports coded HS0304 to this market also surged by 71% against the same period from last year. Local

businesses revealed that the tariff preferences set out under the terms of the EVFTA is one of the main reasons that has made Vietnamese tuna products become attractive to Italian importers, especially amid the current high price of raw tuna. Experts point out that being the preferential tariff quotas being used up in the second half of the year, it is likely that exports to Italy will start to slow. Furthermore, if the European Commission's inspection outcomes of the anti-illegal, undeclared, and unregulated (IUU) fishing next October fail to meet the requirements of removing the yellow card, Vietnamese tuna exports to EU member countries will be negatively affected.

Source:

<https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/vietnamese-tuna-exports-to-italy-skyrocket-due-to-tax-incentives-post1038172.vov>
