

Highlight News / November 10/2023



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Contest to rate village products planned



Cambodia News | 9 November, 2023

The National Committee for the Promotion of One Village, One Product (OVOP) is planning to organise a contest for rating the products, an initiative expected to encourage producers to improve quality and increase exports. The contest was announced at a workshop for OVOP members in Phnom Penh on Tuesday in the presence of Ouk Rabun, Senior Minister and President of the National Committee for OVOP. The products of the 'One Village, One Product' movement will be rated by an expert committee and given 1,2,3,4,5 stars. The committee will be composed of representatives from ministries and other organisations and they will judge each product, based on the standard principles of One Village, One Product. "This is another initiative to motivate local producers to work hard and improve the quality of their products," OVOP said. Currently, there are about 680 items registered under the OVOP programme, and the majority of them are available on the shelves of local malls and supermarkets, according to Suong Noy, secretary-general of the National Committee for the Promotion of OVOP. Some products are gaining popularity and entering the international market, while some are appearing in local supermarkets, he said. OVOP is a mechanism to encourage local communities to effectively utilize their resources and skills to create unique products for domestic and international

markets, promote people's income and reduce poverty, Rabun said. "Members of the One Village, One Product movement are encouraged to improve the quality of the products to international standards to make them enter the international markets," Rabun said. This innovative approach has not only contributed to the economic development but has also provided a platform for the promotion of Cambodian culture and heritage.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501389363/contest-to-rate-village-products-planned/>

More airlines set to operate from Siem Reap Angkor International Airport



Cambodia News | 9 November, 2023

The newly-opened Siem Reap Angkor International Airport (SAI) will see more airlines launching operations soon, according to Sin Chansereyvutha, Under-Secretary of State at the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation (SSCA), recently. The number of airlines operating from SAI will increase from the current seven to 10 in the coming weeks as the tourism season is about to begin. "In upcoming winter 2023, there will be nine to 10 airlines operating from the new airport," Chansereyvutha told Khmer Times. Of the seven airlines operating now, six are foreign airlines and one local airline. The number of air passengers passing through SAI is steadily growing, an increase to 3,200 a day now from 2,600 recorded on October 24, according to the SSCA's report on Monday. The airport recorded 42 daily

flight movements, increasing from 34 recorded last month. The destinations are mostly in ASEAN and China, he said, citing that about 75 percent of total air passengers are from these parts of the world and the rest, from Europe. Located in Tayek commune of Sotr Nikum district and lying way 50 kilometres from Siem Reap city, the 4E-level international airport commenced operations on October 16. The airport can accommodate long-distance flights from across the globe with a 3,600-metre-long runway and 38 berths. SAI can manage seven million passengers annually now and the capacity is expected to increase to a staggering 12 million passengers a year from 2040. Cambodia recorded some 3.92 million international visitors in the first nine months of 2023, a sharp increase of 211 percent from 1.26 million over the same period last year, a Ministry of Tourism report showed on Friday. Thailand topped the chart among the international arrivals to the Kingdom during the January-September period this year, followed by Vietnam, China, Laos, and the US, he said. According to the SSCA report, as many as 1.34 million tourists arrived in the Kingdom via international airports, a year-on-year increase of 185 percent, and the rest came via land and waterways.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501389376/more-airlines-set-to-operate-from-sai-airport/>

GSM launched electric taxi service in Laos, aiming to promote green mobility in Southeast Asia

VIENTIANE, LAOS - Media OutReach - 9 November 2023 - Vietnam's Green and Smart Mobility JSC. (GSM) has launched its pure electric taxi service in Vientiane, Laos, under the brand name "Xanh SM". Expanding into the first foreign market marks a step further in GSM's "Go Green Global" strategy to establish itself as an international electric mobility services provider and promote the adoption of green mobility beyond borders. Xanh SM Laos embraces the customer-centric approach of its Vietnamese counterpart and pledges to provide eco-friendly transportation services. The company commits to providing customers with 100% pure electric vehicles and 5-star service standards including premium vehicle quality, and a dedicated team of professional drivers that contribute to enhancing the standard of passenger transportation services in the "Land of a Million Elephants". Xanh SM Laos is planning to expand its operations throughout the country and is expected to create thousands of new job opportunities for local residents. These opportunities offer attractive career development prospects and come without requiring initial capital investment while providing optimal income and professional training. In particular, Green SM drivers will be oriented to become "green ambassadors" that directly connect the brand with customers and contribute to enhancing Laos' eco-friendly image.

Source : <https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/5036912>



Myanmar, Ethiopia to cooperate in trade, industrial, agriculture sectors



Myanmar News | 9 November, 2023

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Myanmar ambassador to India and the Ethiopian ambassador to India held talks on cooperation between Myanmar and Ethiopia in the development of trade, industry and agriculture sectors. Discussions were held on 6 November regarding the political cooperation and trade situation between Myanmar and Ethiopia, as well as the prospects for cooperation between the two countries, including the development of industry and the development of the agricultural sector. At the Myanmar Embassy in India, the Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung and the Ethiopian Ambassador to India Mr Demeke Atnafu Ambulo held talks about the issues. In such a meeting, the ambassadors of the two countries openly discussed strengthening the friendly relations between Myanmar and Ethiopia.

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myanmar-ethiopia-to-cooperate-in-trade-industrial-agriculture-sectors/#article-title>

Myanmar, China sign agreement to purchase electricity from three solar power plant projects



Myanmar News | 9 November, 2023

According to a statement from the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar, the signing of an agreement between Myanmar and China for the purchase of electricity for three solar power plant projects was held in Nay Pyi

Taw on 7 November. The statement said that the total capacity of the three solar power plant projects of Kyeoon Kyeewa, Kinda and Sedoktaya in Magway and Mandalay Region, a collaboration between PowerChina Resources Ltd and Myanmar's Ministry of Electric Power, is 90 megawatts, which will guarantee the development of the regions. The Union Minister for Electric Power praised the progress of solar energy cooperation projects and discussed the attitudes that will continue to develop China-Myanmar electricity cooperation, providing services for the development of the two countries, and bringing more interest to the people of Myanmar. They exchanged views on the implementation of the agreement results of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, the development of China-Myanmar electricity interconnection, the assistance to solve the "electricity needs" of Myanmar, and the guarantee for the construction of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor.

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myanmar-china-sign-agreement-to-purchase-electricity-from-three-solar-power-plant-projects/#article-title>

Vietnam's average labor productivity set to grow 6.5 pct per year



Vietnam News | 9 November, 2023

HANOI, Nov. 9 (Xinhua) -- Vietnam has set a target of raising the average labor productivity growth by 6.5 percent per year by 2030, according to a newly-approved national program on labor productivity

improvement. The average labor productivity growth of the processing and manufacturing industry is set at 6.5-7 percent, agro-forestry-fishery 7-7.5 percent, and service sector 7-7.5 percent, Vietnam News Agency reported Thursday. Key economic regions and five centrally-run cities look to have labor productivity growth rate higher than the national average in the 2022-2030 period, according to the program. Vietnam also strives to be among three leading ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries in labor productivity growth by 2030. The average productivity increased by 4.65 percent in 2021-2022, far below the targeted 6.5 percent per annum growth rate.

Source : <https://english.news.cn/20231109/643d4fa42d6749719fb8ae7a3ea79c1d/c.html>

Intel Backs Out of Planned Vietnam Chip Expansion, Report Claims



Vietnam News | 9 November, 2023

On Tuesday, Reuters reported that the U.S. chipmaker Intel has shelved a planned investment in Vietnam that would have nearly doubled the size of its operations there, a significant setback to the country's ambitions to insert itself into the global supply chain for semiconductors. Intel's existing \$1.5 billion manufacturing plant in Ho Chi Minh City, which opened in 2010, is its largest for the assembling, packaging, and testing of chips. The facility, which employs 2,800 people, has shipped over 3 billion product units over 15 years of operation, according to a report by VNExpress. In

February of this year, Reuters reported that Intel was considering an estimated \$1 billion expansion of the factory, though nothing was ever officially announced. The report noted that the company was also considering Singapore and Malaysia as alternative destinations. This week's report, which cited an anonymous source who was briefed on the company's plans, stated that Intel had decided against the Vietnam expansion plans "around July." American officials later relayed this decision to "a select group of U.S. businessmen and experts" shortly after U.S. President Joe Biden's state visit to Vietnam in September, which saw the two nations announce a significant upgrade in their diplomatic relationship, as well as deals aimed at upgrading Vietnam's chip-making sector. The reason for Intel's decision was not immediately clear, but Reuters cited a second source who attended two separate meetings in recent weeks between U.S. companies and top Vietnamese officials. At these meetings, the source said that Intel had raised concerns "about the stability of power supplies and excessive bureaucracy," in Reuters' paraphrase. Both are long-standing challenges for foreign investors in Vietnam. In recent years, Vietnam's fast-growing economy has put severe strain on the country's power grid. In June, unseasonably hot weather brought rolling blackouts that halted work at industrial parks in the country's northern provinces, where leading global manufacturers such as Foxconn and Samsung have factories. Likewise, Vietnam's clogged bureaucracy has long been a bugbear of foreign companies

operating in the country. Inherent to the country's political system, this has been significantly worsened by the Communist Party of Vietnam's current anti-corruption campaign, which has pushed many bureaucrats to drag their feet for fear of falling into the campaign's furnace. As Bloomberg reported it earlier this year, "Do a lot, get in trouble for a lot. Do less, get in trouble for less. Do nothing, get in trouble for nothing." The news of Intel's decision marks a significant setback to Vietnam's ambition to present itself as an attractive alternative for companies wishing to reduce their reliance on China and Taiwan, in light of the growing Sino-American friction and increased tensions across the Taiwan Strait. Over the past year, the Vietnamese government had been directing a full-spectrum charm offensive at foreign chip-makers, hoping to attract investments in all three of the main stages of chip-making, including the establishment of the extremely costly foundries in which chips are manufactured. Given its established presence in the country, Intel's planned expansion was a big part of its plans, though as one Vietnam-based lawyer told Reuters, "You cannot take for granted that because Intel has already invested here it will invest more." The revelation demonstrates that Vietnam's semi-conductor ambitions, which seek to build on the remarkable successes of its industrialization over the past two decades, have seemingly exceeded the limits of its capacity. The country is still advantageously positioned, but it may take some time, and some

reform, before it is able to catch up with its breakneck growth of recent years.

Source : <https://thediplomat.com/2023/11/intel-backs-out-of-planned-vietnam-chip-expansion-report-claims/>
