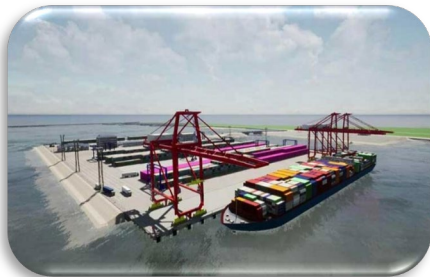




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Sihanoukville Autonomous Port to be transformed into regional port and logistics hub



Cambodia News | 1 May, 2024

The Royal Government of Cambodia has an ambition to develop Sihanoukville Autonomous Port in Preah Sihanouk province into not only a deep seaport in Cambodia, but also a regional port and logistics hub by 2050. The ambition was highlighted by Prime Minister Hun Manet at a get-together with civil servants, workers and employees at the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port this morning, on the occasion of the 138th anniversary of the International Labour Day (May 1) under the theme “One enterprise as One Peaceful Community”. The Premier added that the port sector is one of the priority sectors to which the Royal Government pays attention by increasing investment funds and mobilising financing to further develop the port infrastructure. Sihanoukville Autonomous Port is considered as a national economic gateway with character as a strategic entity in supporting international trade activities for economic growth in the past, at present and in the future, he said, stressing that this port not only increases revenue on the spot, but can also be a driving force for economic growth in Sihanoukville as well as the country’s whole coastal region. According to Peng Ponea, Minister of Public Works and Transport, the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port plans to further expand its capacity through the construction project of a new deep

container terminal-phase 2 of 400 metres long and 16.5 metres deep, and the phase 3 of 430 metres long and 17.5 metres deep, along with supporting modern technical equipment. The phase 1 began in December 2023 under the presidency of Prime Minister Hun Manet and Ishibashi Rintaro, Parliamentary Vice Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan. The construction project of the 350-metre-long-and-14.5-metres-deep container terminal-phase 1 will last 36 months and cost some US\$243 million, an ODA loan from the Government of Japan. Once in operation, the new container terminal-phase 1 will be able to handle 93 percent of regional vessels, up from the current 18 percent, while the costs of sea freight will be reduced by US\$200 per TEU, a similar cost to that of other countries in the region. AKP

Source :

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501481387/sihanoukville-autonomous-port-to-be-transformed-into-regional-port-and-logistics-hub/>

Cambodia to have five more vehicle assembly factories



Cambodia News | 1 May, 2024

According to the Ministry of Commerce, five automobile manufacturers are reportedly building production facilities in Cambodia. The five car companies, including HGB Motors Assembly, EM Automotive, GTV Motor, Toyota, and China Matrix Technology, are structuring their production in preparation for opening their assembly plants in

Cambodia Ms. Cham Nimul, Minister of Commerce, said in the 1st Auto Show 2024 held here last Saturday. Toyota will officially launch the operation of its assembly factory located in the Royal Group Phnom Penh Special Economic Zone this week. "The Auto Show not only showcases the innovations and modernity of automobiles, but also reflects the rapid growth of the automotive sector in the fast-growing market in Cambodia," she said. The minister encouraged businesses and investment partners to consider expanding their business ventures and establishing production bases in Cambodia to benefit from ASEAN Plus trade agreements, trade preferences, national trade and investment facilitation framework, as well as investing in car factories, especially EVs, to supply the domestic market and for export. The new factories will bring the total number of vehicle assembly plants in Cambodia to nine. Other operational vehicle assembly factories include Hyundai in Koh Kong province, SsangYong in Svay Rieng province, FORD in Pursat province, and Isuzu in Kampong Speu province. AKP

Source :

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501481029/cambodia-to-have-five-more-vehicle-assembly-factories/>

Central bank issues warning about counterfeit notes.



Laos News | 1 May, 2024

The Bank of Lao PDR (BOL), the nation's central bank, has warned members of the public to be

aware of the unlawful distribution of forged notes. Following the recent distribution of counterfeit 50,000-kip notes of the 2004 edition in the northern part of Laos, especially Bokeo province, the BOL cautioned the people through a notification issued on April 26. The forged notes detected by the authorities bore serial numbers from AZ 0218001 to AZ 0218999. The fake notes were printed by using a special printing machine, and had a colourful pattern similar to the original 50,000-kip note of the 2004 version. However, they are different from fake banknotes detected in recent years. Therefore, before accepting and paying with 50,000-kip notes of the 2004 version, people should carefully study the details of the notes. The BOL highlighted the characteristics of the real notes in an appendix attached to the notification. People can also report the detection of forged notes at various commercial banks nationwide. The central bank is cooperating with the relevant authorities to quickly implement measures as defined in the laws of Laos to take action against the group of people creating chaos and breaking the law by circulating counterfeit notes.

Source :

https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freefreenews/freecontent_81_Central_y24.php

Lao Economic Growth Remains Below 2019 Levels, World Bank Report Reveals.



Laos News | 1 May, 2024

World Bank website. Looking ahead to 2024, GDP is projected to grow by 4 percent, supported by further growth in services and investment in the power sector and special economic zones. However, challenges such as kip depreciation, high inflation, and the need to repay high external debts are expected to persist. To address these challenges, the report recommends prioritizing reforms in critical areas such as debt management, revenue mobilization, public investment management, financial sector stability, and business environment. While recent revenue reforms show promise, the report emphasizes the need for accelerated reform efforts to restore macroeconomic stability.

source : <https://laotiantimes.com/2024/04/30/lao-economic-growth-remains-below-2019-levels-world-bank-report-reveals/>

Myanma Port Authority: 52 container vessels scheduled to call in May



Myanmar News | 1 May, 2024

A total of 52 container vessels will dock at the Yangon Port in May 2024, the Myanmar Port Authority announced. In May, seven container vessels run by Maersk A/S Line, six each by Cosco Shipping Line and Samudera Shipping Line, five each by MSC Line and SITC Shipping Line, four by Ti2 Container Line, three each by BLPL Shipping Line, CMA CGM Line, ONE Line and RCL Line, two each by Evergreen Line, IAL Shipping Line and PIL Line are slated to enter the Yangon Port. Myanmar Port Authority stated that 49 vessels in January, 53 in

February, 55 in March and 50 in April arrived at the Yangon Port. Yangon Port handled 629 container vessels in 2023. Thanks to the draft extension, the international ocean liners can access the inner port for now, according to the Myanmar Port Authority's statement on 22 June 2022. After the new navigation channel (Kings Bank Channel) accessing the inner Yangon River had been found, the draft extension work was accelerated. Afterwards, the port can now handle larger ships. The container vessel (185.99 metres LOA, 35.25 m Beam, 29,232 GRT and 2,698 TEU) Hong Kong-based SITC Shipping Line docked at Asia World Port Terminal for the first time on 22 June, which is the largest ship that AWPT Port handled. Since May 2021, the arrival of ships at terminals in Yangon has increased again. To fulfil the seaborne trade requirements, three new container vessels by Maersk Line Myanmar (SeaLand Maersk) started to run in 2021. Earlier, the larger ships had draft problems preventing their sailing on the Yangon River. With the draft being extended up to 10 meters, the larger ocean liners can enter the Thilawa Port.

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myanma-port-authority-52-container-vessels-scheduled-to-call-in-may/#article-title>

Myawady-Mae Sot border requires UID certificate for entry/exit



Myanmar News | 1 May, 2024

The Township Immigration Department has announced that beginning 1 May, entry and exit at

the Myawady-Mae Sot border will exclusively require a UID card. This measure aims to monitor the number of individuals crossing the border precisely and to regulate the movement of people using counterfeit or outdated identification. The plan to mandate the use of UID cards for border crossings applies not only to Thailand but also to crossings from China and India. A UID card is a document that electronically collects and records the personal and biological information of individuals over the age of 10. It is a national identification certificate with a 10-digit number administered by the respective Department of Immigration and Population.

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myawady-mae-sot-border-requires-uid-certificate-for-entry-exit/#article-title>

New foreign investments in Jan-Apr put at US\$9.3 billion


 *Vietnam News | 1 May, 2024*

Fresh foreign investment approvals in Vietnam in the year to April had expanded by 4.5% year-on-year to nearly US\$9.27 billion, according to the General Statistics Office. The figure encompasses new capital registrations, upward capital adjustments, capital contributions to projects and acquisitions of stakes at businesses here in the country. A total of 966 new projects got investment certificates, with total pledged capital of US\$7.11 billion, up 28.8% in project numbers and 73.2% in investment capital. The processing and manufacturing industry attracted the lion's share of newly registered capital

during this period, amounting to nearly US\$5 billion, or 70.2% of the total. Meanwhile, the real estate sector received US\$1.6 billion, accounting for 22.5%. Singapore was the top investor among the 50 countries and territories with newly licensed investments in Vietnam totaling US\$2.59 billion during the first four months of 2024, making up 36.4% of the total. Hong Kong followed with US\$898.6 million, constituting 12.6%. There were 345 operational projects increasing their investment capital by US\$1.23 billion, 25.6% below the same period last year. Moreover, 902 transactions involving capital contributions and stake acquisitions were recorded, with total capital of US\$929.6 million, up by a sharp 70.1% year-on-year. Meanwhile, Vietnam approved US\$98.3 million for 36 outbound investment projects in the four-month period, down by 29.8% against the same period last year. Three projects also adjusted their capital by US\$580,000, down by a significant 95.7% year-on-year. Overall, Vietnam's outward investments, including newly licensed and adjusted, reached US\$98.9 million, down by 35.6% over the same period last year.

Source : <https://english.thesaigontimes.vn/new-foreign-investments-in-jan-apr-put-at-us9-3-billion/>

Digital transformation – optimal choice for Vietnamese garment & textile firms

 *Vietnam News | 1 May, 2024*

Digital transformation is considered a “key” to help Vietnamese garment and textile enterprises expand

while meeting sustainable development, heard a recent conference held in Ho Cho Minh City. Entitled “Superior Choice of Vietnam's Textile and Garment Enterprises for Sustainable Development”, the conference was held as part of the SaigonTex and SaigonFabric 2024 exhibition organised by the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS). Nguyen Thi Tuyet Mai, Deputy General Secretary of VITAS and head of its representative office in HCM City, told the conference that the Government recently approved the Vietnam Textile and Garment Industry Development Strategy to 2030, vision to 2035. Its objectives include enhancing the production of high-quality items, improving competitiveness in the international market and meeting domestic demand, she said. The VITAS representative said one of the major solutions is digital transformation across the entire textile industry. This requires enterprises to strategically shift their business and innovate technology if they want to ensure competitiveness and sustainability, she said. Tran Thi Ha, CEO of Pro-sports Trading Company, said though her company has used various software and digital transformation solutions, it has failed to meet customer requirements, especially in terms of information transparency and connection with customer software systems. Moreover, company management requires strategic decisions based on synchronised data sources rather than waiting for aggregation from multiple sources, she said. Nguyen Thi Hong Phuong, Deputy General Director of Phong Phu International

Joint Stock Company, said as her company expands scale and aims for sustainable development, it needs to standardise management and production operations based on synchronised databases. When deploying digital transformation solutions, the company could easily manage the flow of goods from raw material imports to selling finished products, she said. The company has been successful in digital transformation in the textile sector, and next it plans to expand to other areas such as yarn, dyeing and fabric, she added. Jatin Paul, CEO of WFX, said textile enterprises are using various standalone software and so lack cohesion. But WFX's solution offers comprehensive integration and could integrate with existing software, he said. WFX is a global company operating in over 50 countries and territories that provide integrated software solutions for the textile industry.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/digital-transformation-optimal-choice-for-vietnamese-garment-textile-firms/285158.vnp>
