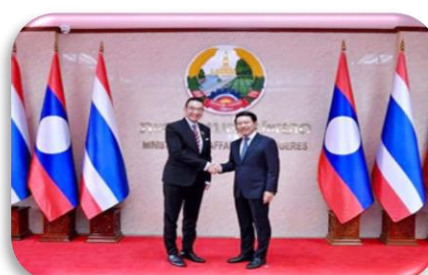
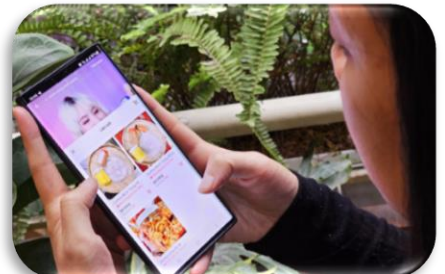
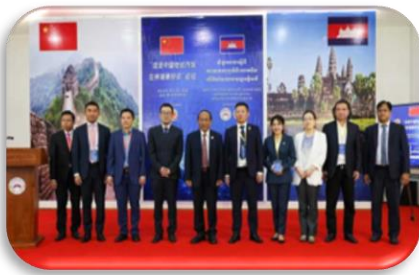




- Cambodia seeks Chinese investment in EV sector.
- Vinci's sustainable initiatives and technology to be used in €94 million water plant extension project in Cambodia.
- Luang Prabang Approves New Economic Zone for Tourism, Economic Growth.
- MoC to enforce penalties for premature arrival of imports without licenses starting 1 July.
- Myanmar signs MoU with Vietnam to bolster coconut sector.
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Cambodia seeks Chinese investment in EV sector



Cambodia News | 4 JUNE 2024

Cambodia has invited Chinese investors to look into the opportunities unfolding in the electric vehicle (EV) sector in the country. The invitation came from Nuth Un Vanra, Deputy Secretary General of the Cambodian Investment Committee of the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC), who spoke at length about the emerging opportunities in the sector while taking part in a workshop on Friday. The workshop, organised by the Cambodia-China Friendship Association (CCFA), saw the participation of nearly 100 Chinese investors, representing major companies operating in Cambodia, as well as about 40 other major stakeholders, a statement by CDC said. Ek Samol, President of CCFA, officials of CDC, the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Chinese Embassy in Cambodia and members of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia were present at the event. The Deputy Secretary-General, in a presentation on the 'Policy to encourage investment in establishing an automobile assembly plant and automobile sector development in Cambodia,' emphasized the role of CDC in stimulating investment, as well as the efforts of the Royal Government of Cambodia in improving the investment environment in the country. Cambodia, he added, has set up the most rewarding and favourable incentive regime in the automotive sector as in any other potential sector. The new

Investment Act of the Kingdom provided the incentives made available to the investors, he noted. Vanra also highlighted the long-term vision of the Cambodian government for the sector through the adoption of the Cambodia Automotive and Electronics Development Roadmap in December 2022 which clearly set out the pathways to promote the sector. Cambodia is expecting to have over a million electric two and three-wheelers in the country between 2030 and 2040 and about 100,000 electric cars between 2035 and 2042, according to the Electric Vehicle (EV) Roadmap for Charging Stations, released recently by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT). This scenario envisages a massive jump in the number of EVs from 1,489, counted by the ministry as recently as December 2023, clearly calling for a rapid support system for these vehicles including charging stations. The ministry, in fact, envisages three scenarios for EVs for 2050. Scenario One is the most conservative estimate, while Scenario Two is the most likely one and Scenario Three is the aspirational one. All three scenarios suggest that there will be over a million two and three-wheeler electric vehicles in the Kingdom between 2030 and 2040, reaching between 2.1 million and 7.3 million units by 2050. "Given that Cambodia's car stock is still growing significantly, there is a clear opportunity to electrify them. The scenarios provide that there will be over 100,000 electric cars in Cambodia sometime between 2035 and 2042, and by 2050 between 300,000 and more than a million," the roadmap said.

In Cambodia, the use of an electric vehicle makes it possible to reduce fuel expenditure for users by an average of \$133 per year for electric motorcycles and \$1,069 for electric cars. The potential savings for all households together will amount to between \$14 million and \$78 million per year by 2030. By 2050, these savings could reach between \$509 million and \$1.76 billion every year. The country will also need a large infrastructure of charging stations to support the growth of the electric vehicle stock. The estimated number varies between 9,900 and 33,800 charging points by 2050 (depending on the scenarios) and this will require investment between \$168 million and \$576 million as well. The Kingdom will further need battery disposal facilities. By 2040, several hundreds of MWh of batteries need to be decommissioned and directed to secondary applications. By 2050, between 0.7 GWh and 2.5GWh will need to be decommissioned each year for secondary uses and between 0.3 GWh and 1.4 GWh will need to be recycled, covering six to nine percent of the demand for new batteries. The government intends to meet the investment requirement for the infrastructure with the support of the private sector and the roadmap recommended an early incentive programme to kickstart the development of a network of fast charging stations.

Source :

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501498921/cambodia-seeks-chinese-investment-in-ev-sector/>

Vinci's sustainable initiatives and technology to be used in €94 million water plant extension project in Cambodia



Cambodia News | 4 JUNE 2024

France-based construction company Vinci has been awarded a €94 million contract to design and build an extension to Cambodia's major water treatment plant. The municipal water supply authority for Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, has commissioned Vinci's Construction Grands Projets (CGR) division for the project. The extension, a testament to Vinci's capabilities, will serve the area of Bakheng in the north of Phnom Penh and aims to supply clean drinking water to about 750,000 people. This ambitious project is part of the Cambodian government's program to ensure access to drinking water for the entire population by 2030. The extension, a massive undertaking, is expected to be operational by 2028, marking a significant milestone in Vinci's journey towards sustainable development. Vinci's scope of work includes constructing a new raw water intake from the nearby Mekong River and a new water line that can treat 195,000 cubic meters (255,050 cubic yards) of water daily. During the peak of construction, the company will employ over 1,600 laborers, with the majority being Cambodian workers. Vinci plans to train women workers to account for 30% of the workforce, promoting gender diversity in the construction industry. In addition to

the construction itself, Vinci is dedicated to implementing sustainable initiatives and utilizing innovative technology in the project. The company's use of concrete that emits 30% less carbon than standard local equivalents is a significant step towards reducing the environmental impact. Furthermore, Vinci's installation of a 3,500-panel photovoltaic array covering 9,000 square meters (approximately 15% of the facility's energy requirements) to harness solar energy is a beacon of hope for a greener future. The subsidiary of Vinci, WMI, has developed an innovative solution named Smart Users, which will be deployed to measure and manage water consumption at the construction site and facilities, including offices and the concrete plant, furthering their commitment to sustainability. The completion of this water plant extension will significantly improve access to clean drinking water for thousands of people in Cambodia. It follows the successful completion of the first two phases of the plant, which currently supplies water to approximately two million people and was handed over in June 2023 and March 2024.

Source :

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501499156/vincis-sustainable-initiatives-and-technology-to-be-used-in-e94-million-water-plant-extension-project-in-cambodia/>

Luang Prabang Approves New Economic Zone for Tourism, Economic Growth



Laos News | 4 JUNE 2024

Luang Prabang is set to launch a new economic zone for the development of ecology, agriculture, and tourism at a 7,693-hectare site in Luang Prabang City and Xiengngeun district. On 23 May, during the 1st Ordinary Session of the Luang Prabang Provincial People's Council (Series 2), local authorities in Luang Prabang approved two draft agreements to outline the plan. However, a start date and an estimated cost for the project are yet to be disclosed. According to local media, the primary goal of the scheme is to enhance tourism and foreign investors to Luang Prabang. The project also aims to improve agricultural production and enhance agricultural exchanges in the region. Meanwhile, the officials have delineated the rights and provisions for people affected by the economic zone's construction, including the expected compensation for those impacted by the project. During the meeting in Luang Prabang, the provincial Natural Resources and Environment Department further provided the participants with feedback and clarifications.

Source: <https://laotiantimes.com/2024/05/30/luang-prabang-approves-new-economic-zone-for-tourism-economic-growth/>

MoC to enforce penalties for premature arrival of imports without licences starting 1 July



Myanmar News | 4 JUNE 2024

The Ministry of Commerce has notified that disciplinary action will commence on 1 July in accordance with the Export/Import Law if imported commodities arrive at airports and terminals before obtaining licences or permits. Except for commodities permitted for storage in customs warehouses, imported goods lacking permission are prohibited from arriving at ports and airports. A directive issued on 8 July 2020 states that import companies will face penalties under the Export/Import Law if such goods arrive without an import licence or permit. However, it is often found that import items arrive at the ports before the licence is issued. The report also states that the Customs Department only allows essential goods for domestic manufacturing and health sectors to be stored in customs warehouses as per regulations. Therefore, the ministry urges import companies to abide by the law and adhere to the rules and regulations.

Source: <https://www.gnfm.com.mm/moc-to-enforce-penalties-for-premature-arrival-of-imports-without-licences-starting-1-july/>

Myanmar signs MoU with Vietnam to bolster coconut sector



Myanmar News | 4 JUNE 2024

Myanmar signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Vietnam to boost cooperation in the development of the coconut sector at Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon on 29 May, according to the Ministry of Commerce. Myanmar held a workshop for the “Potential Product (coconut) value chain” project under the ACEMES-ROK Fund at Pan Pacific Hotel on 29 May. Myanmar’s Orchard Company Limited and Vietnam’s Hoa Binh Hiep Agricultural Service Cooperative signed the MoU to provide coconut saplings and technical assistance for coconut plantations. At the workshop, experts led by Mrs Nguyen Thi Kim Thanh, chairperson of the Vietnam Coconut Association, elaborated on coconut plantations and production methods, carbon credit and creating Macapuno – a new product. Representatives from the Agriculture Department, Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporter Association, Myanmar Coconut Producer and Trader Association attended the workshop. The delegation led by the chairperson of the Vietnam Coconut Association, experts and attendees also went on a study tour to coconut farms in Yinkadit village, Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region on 30 May. Vietnam’s delegate left for Vietnam in the evening of 30 May from the Yangon International Airport. Under the ACEMES-ROK Fund, the “Potential Product (coconut) Value Chain” project

also includes coconut handicraft courses in Ayeyawady Region between May 2023 and April 2024. This course offered practical approaches to turning waste coconut shells into a craft that is commercially valued. The trainees learnt know-hows of choosing coconut shells, designing and cutting, polishing, drying and decorating with the use of equipment step by step. A basic drawing subject was included as well. The trainees had to make practically coconut crafts such as lamps, DIY lamp shades, curtains, necklaces, keychains and earrings. They received a completion certificate. The three-day coconut-based products expo and competition was held in Patheingyi from 22 to 24 January 2024.

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myanmar-signs-mou-with-vietnam-to-bolster-coconut-sector/>

Vietnamese men's online purchases grow by 100% in six months

 Vietnam News | 4 JUNE 2024

Men's purchases saw a 100 percent growth rate in the last half of 2023 against the previous six months. The items were listed among the top 5 bestsellers. E-commerce and retail will be one of the major driving forces for the national economy in the time to come, according to analysts. Vietnam's GDP is predicted to grow by 6.7 percent in 2023-2028, and retail by 12.1 percent and e-commerce 25 percent (the figure is calculated based on the statistics of large e-commerce platforms, not including tourism and hotel service sale pages). YouNet ECI, a market analysis

firm, has found that consumers not only make purchases on 'mega sale' days, but make deals every day. The two major factors affecting their habits and shopping behaviors are prices and convenience. According to Buzzmetrics, in 2022-2023, the daily frequency of accessing e-commerce platforms increased by three times, while the number of orders surged from 10-20 orders per month in 2022 to 20-30 in 2023 and the value of each order increased by 10.5 percent. Meanwhile, a report from Meta and Bain & Company showed that three out of every four consumers shopping on e-commerce platforms belong to Gen Z. As the major labor force of Vietnam in the next five years (31 percent) with average income of VND200-600 million, Gen Z will be the key consumers that businesses should target. Nguyen Phuong Lam from YouNet ECI, said in the first days of e-commerce, women were the major buyers, who mostly ordered fashion and beauty care products. But male consumers have also increased their purchases recently. They mostly buy technological products and electric household appliances. The sales witnessed a 100 percent growth rate in the second half of 2023 compared with earlier that year. Surveys have found big changes in gender and ages of e-commerce shoppers. Essential goods, products which are mostly bought offline, have recently seen considerable growth rates online. YouNet ECI has predicted two tendencies in online shopping in the next five years, including the purchase of valuable products and entertainment. Phones and vacuum cleaners are two examples for

the first tendency. In the fourth quarter 2022, the average phone selling price on an e-commerce platform was VND7.5 million, while the figure increased by twofold 12 months later to VND15 million. Nowadays, e-commerce is not only a place for consumers to buy products with low value of up to VND1-2 million. Sellers, with post-sale service policies, can persuade consumers to buy more valuable products worth tens of millions of dong.

Source: <https://vietnamnet.vn/en/vietnamese-men-s-online-purchases-grow-by-100-in-six-months-2286711.html>

Thailand becomes Viet Nam's second largest durian importer



Vietnam News | 4 JUNE 2024

HÀ NỘI — Thailand, the world's biggest durian exporter with a total export turnover of US\$7 billion, became Việt Nam's second largest importer of this fruit in the first four months of 2024. In the period, Thailand spent up to \$22.5 million importing Vietnamese durian, a year-on-year surge of 82 per cent. This figure is much higher than that of the third ranked market, China's Hong Kong, with only \$3.6 million. In 2023, Hong Kong was the second largest import market with a turnover of \$20 million, followed by China's Taiwan with \$16 million. **Đ**ặng Phúc Nguyễn, General Secretary of the Vietnam Fruit and Vegetable Association (Vinafruit), explained that in recent times, Thailand increased imports of Vietnamese durian because during that time, Việt Nam was the only country supplying this kind of fruit

in the world. Although Thailand is the largest exporter of the fruit, its durian has decreased significantly in quantity and quality due to severe drought, so it has to buy this fruit from other countries to serve domestic and tourist needs, stated Nguyễn. Vinafruit Chairman Nguyễn Thanh Bình added that while China is the largest importer of Vietnamese fresh durian, Thailand is Việt Nam's top frozen durian importer thanks to competitive prices. Some of the imported frozen durian is to serve processing activities, but the majority is exported to third countries, mainly China, Bình said, adding that currently, Việt Nam is not allowed to export frozen durian to China while Thailand and China have a protocol on frozen durian. Therefore, the Vietnamese business community is looking forward to the early signing of a protocol between Việt Nam and China, so that products do not have to detour to benefit both Vietnamese farmers and Chinese consumers. In April, Vietnam earned \$217 million from shipping durian abroad, up 487 per cent against the same period last year. The figure for the first four months of this year reached \$470 million, a year-on-year rise of 146 per cent. China was the largest importer, accounting for 92 per cent of the market share. — VNS

Source:

<https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1656753/thailand-becomes-viet-nam-s-second-largest-durian-importer.html>