



- Cambodia-Guangxi trade volume to expand: Commerce Ministry
- SMEs seek support to boost market competitiveness
- Vientiane-Vangvieng Expressway 40 percent complete
- Laos to boost trade, investment through Huanan tourism festival
- YIA provides 33 international flights
- Construction of 22 hotels and guesthouses approved in Yangon within five months
- Vietnam's e-commerce market hits US\$8 billion in 2018
- Cassava exports enjoy August boost



Cambodia-Guangxi trade volume to expand: Commerce Ministry



Cambodia News | 24 September, 2019

A Commerce Ministry official on Sunday pledged to boost the trade volume with China's southern Guangxi province by the end of this year by about 30 percent. Chhoun Dara, a secretary of state at the Commerce Ministry, made the statement during the 16th China-Asean Expo in the province's capital city Nanning. Mr Dara said trade between the Kingdom and the Chinese province was valued at \$54 million last year and will reach roughly \$80 million by the end of this year. "Guangxi, among other potential provinces in China, is a significant trade partner for Cambodia," he said. The province borders Vietnam, located in southern China. Mr Dara said Chinese investors and holidaymakers, especially those from Guangxi, should visit the Kingdom and invest. "The government has reformed and outlined concrete measures with the aim of helping facilitate the private sector in operating their businesses in Cambodia, ensuring that their business operations will have a competitive advantage," he said. Commerce Minister Pan Sorasak said during the expo that economic cooperation between Cambodia and China in the sectors of trade, investments and tourism is growing. "Based on the win-win approach and trusting each other, the cooperation between the two countries has brought a fruitful result," Mr Sorasak said. "China has become the top foreign direct investor in Cambodia." He added that

Cambodia has taken part in the expo since 2004. He said involvement in such an event has brought benefits to the Kingdom because it lures Chinese investors who invest billions of dollars and tourists who bring in millions. Mr Sorasak noted that overall trade between Cambodia and China was valued at about \$6.4 billion in 2018, while China invested about \$3.6 billion that same year. Chinese investors are involved in almost every economic sector in Cambodia, including energy, infrastructure, tourism, real estate and finance.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50645741/cambodia-guangxi-trade-volume-to-expand-commerce-ministry/>

SMEs seek support to boost market competitiveness



Cambodia News | 24 September, 2019

The Federation of Association of Small and Medium Enterprises of Cambodia is calling on support from the government to give incentives on taxes to reduce production costs and increase market competitiveness of SMEs. Te Taing Por, president of the Federation of Association of Small and Medium Enterprises of Cambodia, said the association continues to support SMEs that use local raw agriculture materials, including by increasing their capacity. He noted that the efforts aimed to improve the competitiveness of local products, especially when compared to imported products. The association plans to talk with relevant ministries and institutions to discuss issues faced by SMEs and ask

for help to improve businesses that work with raw agriculture materials. “We want to boost businesses that use raw agriculture materials to produce food products, so we work closely with the relevant ministries to find ways to reduce the cost of production, time and expenses in order to boost local products,” Mr Taing Por said yesterday. “Currently, local products involve high production costs in comparison to imported finished products, so we try to reduce the cost of production to make our products more competitive,” he added. The SME Bank, a government initiative to enhance access to funding for local small and medium-sized enterprises, will be available online late this year. Mr Taing Por said the bank will allow more local SMEs to expand their operation. In addition to customs and excise, other issues faced by SMEs including electricity cost and labour forces, will be raised in the government-private working group meeting on SMEs planned to be held next month. According to FASMAC, Cambodia has over 500,000 SMEs, of which 150,000 SMEs are enterprises processing raw agricultural material to food products. An estimated 10 percent of 150,000 SMEs exports to foreign markets, the association said. Speaking during a workshop held on Friday, Kun Nhim, director-general of the General Department of Customs and Excise of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, encouraged SME owners to discuss incentives on customs and excise for SMEs. “SMEs are the core backbone of the country’s economy and are driving growth and creating jobs,” Mr Nhim said.

Source : [https://www.khmertimeskh.com/645740/smes-
seek-support-to-boost-market-competitiveness/](https://www.khmertimeskh.com/645740/smes-
seek-support-to-boost-market-competitiveness/)

Vientiane-Vangvieng Expressway 40 percent complete



Laos News | 25 September, 2019

Construction work is around 40 percent complete on an expressway linking the capital of Vientiane with Vangvieng, a well-known tourism district in Vientiane province. The construction of the 113.5-km road, which kick-started last April, is expected to take three years to complete, officials in charge said. Lao officials are reviewing the project’s implementation that will also take into consideration the potential problems during implementation, a Lao government official in-charge of the project told Vientiane Times on Tuesday. The new road, which includes a 679-metre tunnel at Phoupha Mountain, will shorten the distance by 43 km when compared to the existing national Road No. 13 North. Once it is opened for public use, commuters will be required to pay a service fee. The existing national 13 North Road will remain open for traffic without fee. Road users are expected to pay 550 kip per kilometre or about 62,000 kip for a one-way trip between Vientiane and Vangvieng. Chinese investors will operate the 50-year concession project that is likely to cost US\$1.2 billion. However, the Lao government holds five percent share of the project. It was reported that the expressway would be developed in parallel with 13 North Road and the under-construction Laos-China railway. It will link Sikeuth village in Naxaithong

district, Vientiane, to Vangvieng district. Speeds on the expressway are designated at 100km per hour on the flat terrain from Sikeuth village in Vientiane to Phonhong district in Vientiane province, and at 80 km per hour through the more mountainous sections between Phonhong and Vangvieng district, according to an earlier report. With higher speeds set for the shortcut and cut-straight expressway, officials said travelling on the road will be save significant time for commuters. An agreement to develop the project was signed in 2017 during the state visit to Laos by Chinese President Xi Jinping. The Vientiane-Vangvieng expressway is the first section of a planned expressway starting from Vientiane running through northern provinces toward Boten in Luang Namtha province that shares border with China.

Source : http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Vientiane.php

Laos to boost trade, investment through Huanan tourism festival



Laos News | 24 September, 2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - A Lao delegation joined the Hunan International Cultural Tourism Festival 2019 last weekend to promote cooperation between the two nations in tourism, trade and investment. Deputy Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Mr Savankhone Razmountry led the delegation and was joined by ministry officials and Lao tour companies at the event in Hunan, China. Speaking at the opening ceremony, Mr Savankhone said the festival would increase

friendly relations and cooperation between Laos and China, particularly in tourism, trade and investment. Hunan province, China and Laos have been increasing their cooperation on culture and tourism since July 2018 with the first project to invite 10,000 Hunan visitors Laos was undertaken successfully. "The number shows that Hunan travellers are interested in Lao tourism sites and we would like to thank the party, leader committees and authorities of Hunan province in promoting the project," he explained. Both nations arranged an official launch in Vientiane early this year for Visit Laos-China Year 2019, and have various bilateral activities planned until the end of this year, Mr Savankhone reported. "Hunan province still has one more event which will be arranged next month, so we hope the authorities and people will continue to give it good support to make it a success," the Deputy Minister said. More than 2 million tourists visited Laos in the first six months of Visit Laos-China Year 2019, a 5 percent increase compared with the same period in 2018. Chinese visitors made up about 500,000 of the total. Mr Savankhone also said that his delegation would travel with other foreign visitors to sample the local views, culture and taste the excellence Hunan cuisine as well as learn lessons to benefit the Lao sector. Deputy Minister Savankhone also urged Hunan media to promote Visit Laos-China Year and invite more Chinese investors to do businesses in Laos. 2019 Hunan International Cultural Tourism Festival is being held from September 21-28 at Mangshan Mountain, Yizhang County, Chenzhou

City. The Lao delegation's itinerary included travelling to a waterfall, snake museum, tasting Yizhang tea, and visiting the Mao Zedong Museum and other highlights.

Source : <http://annx.asianews.network/content/laos-boost-trade-investment-through-huanan-tourism-festival-104809>

YIA provides 33 international flights



Myanmar News | 24 September, 2019

Yangon International Airport is providing 34 international airlines and 33 international flights until September 20 in 2019 as it is an entrance of foreign visitors to Myanmar, said a source from Yangon International Airport (YIA). IndiGo airline, the 34th international flight linking with the Yangon International Airport, started providing the direct flight service from Kolkata to Yangon on September 20. "On behalf of the YACL, I am delighted at the further airline service between India and Myanmar. We, the YACL, partnered with Myanmar travel market promotion association three months ago. It is a result of travel exhibition. We hope further airlines from India would come to Yangon International Airport," said Mr. Jose Angeja, Chief Operation Officer of the YACL. Mingalar Sky Premium Lounge was opened on August 21 and it is five stars hotel. It will provide round the clock service. Mingalar Sky Premium Lounge can provide service to 80 transit passengers and 10 passengers in the free seating area. 24 hours' service will be provided to the passengers.

Source: <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/yia-provides-33-international-flights>

Construction of 22 hotels and guesthouses approved in Yangon within five months



Myanmar News | 24 September, 2019

Yangon Region accepted the construction of 22 hotels and guesthouses within five months worth of K 130,161 million and US\$ 238.29 million, according to the press conference of Yangon region travel work committee held on September 23. Yangon region travel work committee approved 37 hotel licenses, a hotel temporary license, 9 guesthouse licenses, 19 hotels with 2,360 rooms, 3 guesthouses, 315 travel licenses, 121 foreign tourism licenses, and 218 guide licenses. Total investment volume of these businesses reached K 130,161 million and US\$ 238.29 million. The foreign investment volume was K 5,490 million and US\$ 25.22 million. The JV investment was US\$ 213.07 million and Myanmar citizen investment K 124,221 million. All the businesses approved Yangon region travel work committee provided 2,943 job opportunities. "At present work permits are being issued eligible applicants by Yangon region travel work committee. There are inadequate staffs to scrutinize the businesses. Therefore, the proposal to appoint more staffs has been submitted to the Union level," said Naw Pan Thinzar Myo, Minister for Kahin Ethnic

Affairs. During September in Yangon Region, Yangon region travel work committee approved four hotel licenses, a guesthouse license, a hotel with 224 rooms and 39 domestic tour licenses.

Source: <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/construction-of-22-hotels-and-guesthouses-approved-in-yangon-within-five-months>

Vietnam's e-commerce market hits US\$8 billion in 2018



Vietnam News | 24 September, 2019

NDO - Vietnam's e-commerce market size in 2018 was estimated at US\$8.06 billion, up 30% from a year earlier, according to a white paper released by the Ministry of Industry and Trade's Department of E-Commerce and Digital Economy. It was the highest growth rate in the past three years, compared with 23% and 24% in 2016 and 2017, respectively. The white paper noted that e-commerce activities have made a notable contribution to Vietnam's trade growth and overall economic growth. In 2018, the number of Vietnamese consumers doing online shopping was 39.9 million, up 6.3% against the previous year, with an average consumer spending US\$202, an increase of US\$16 from 2017. Revenues of business-to-consumer sales accounted for 4.2% of Vietnam's total retail and service revenues in 2018, according to the paper. More and more people are using mobile devices to place their orders, reaching 81% in 2018 while the ratio of using computers for online shopping dropped from 65% to 61%. The

main online purchases were clothes, footwear and cosmetics; books and stationery items; household appliances; tech and electronic gadgets; movie and music tickets; food; travel tickets; hotel and tour bookings. E-commerce websites are the most popular channel for online shopping, followed by shopping apps on mobile devices and social media networks. According to the report, the primary issue causing consumers to be reluctant to shop online is goods of lower quality than advertised, with poor customer service and personal information disclosure being the second and third biggest concerns.

Source : [https://en.nhandan.com.vn/business/item/7948902-vietnam%E2%80%99s-e-commerce-market-hits-us\\$8-billion-in-2018.html](https://en.nhandan.com.vn/business/item/7948902-vietnam%E2%80%99s-e-commerce-market-hits-us$8-billion-in-2018.html)

Cassava exports enjoy August boost



Vietnam News | 24 September, 2019

VOV.VN - Vietnam's exports of cassava and cassava-based products hit 180,720 tons with a total value of US\$71.82 million during August, according to statistics released by the General Department of Vietnam Customs. These figures indicate a surge of 88.2 percent in volume and 70.1 per cent in value in comparison to the same period last year. The Import-Export Department under the Ministry of Industry and Trade reported that since the beginning of September to the present, the raw material price of cassava in several provinces has increased slightly due to a fall in the supply source. Currently, several

factories across Tay Ninh and Tay Nguyen provinces have entered their new production season for the 2019- 2020 period. Despite this, the raw material source for fresh cassava remains unstable. Statistics from the General Department of Vietnam Customs show that the average export price of cassava fell 9.6 per cent to US\$397.4 per ton during August, against last year's corresponding period. Except for the Republic of Korean market, exports of cassava and cassava-based products to foreign markets skyrocketed in August compared to the same period from last year. Most notably, exports of cassava and cassava-based products to the Chinese market reached 162,460 tons worth US\$ 64.78 million in August. These figures represent sharp rises of 117 per cent in volume and 92.2 per cent in value on-year. This surge in demand for cassava and cassava-based products can be attributed to the low inventories of cassava occurring at enterprises in China, which has served to increase import demand. The demand from the Chinese market will be boosted further as several food processing plants are set to re-open during September in order to meet the increasing demand for food items in the build up to the Lunar New Year festival. Furthermore, the export price of cassava starch in Vietnam remains lower than in Thailand, causing many Chinese customers to make purchases of Vietnamese cassava starch. As of

September, the cassava starch market is expected to witness robust growth due to a rise in the domestic supply source of starch coupled with the increased purchasing demand from China. Due to the ongoing US-China trade tensions, in addition to the devaluation of the Yuan, both Vietnamese and Chinese businesses will become more cautious with regard to transaction activities. As a result, the nation's export price of cassava starch to China is unlikely to soar in the short term.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/economy/cassava-exports-enjoy-august-boost-403605.vov>