

[Asianintegration] Weekly Asian Integration News – 14.06.-21.06.

S. Korea-Australia FTA spurs capital flows to Australia

Source: MK Business News

“South Korea’s capital is heading to the ‘land of opportunity’ Australia after the Korea-Australia free trade agreement (FTA) was sealed.

Korea’s investment, which was limited to the resource development led by state-run energy firms, is expanding to include Australia’s promising companies, as well as core real estate and infrastructure.

This seems to have largely stemmed from the FTA, which spared a separate approval procedure for Korea’s investment of up to one billion Australian dollar (about 960 billion won) into Australia. Korean institutions’ investment into Australia is expected to increase further, as the Australian government has recently offered Korean pension funds to invest in infrastructure.”

You can read more

at: <http://news.mk.co.kr/english/newsRead.php?sc=30800003&cm=Economy&year=2014&no=907122&selFlag=sc&relatedcode=&wonNo=&slID=308>

Asean energy meetings boost cooperation

Source: Vientiane Times

“The 32nd Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on Energy and other associated meetings held in Luang Prabang province have encouraged teamwork in energy development between Asean countries and their development partners.

The meeting, which ran over five days from June 9-13, saw Asean senior officials on energy and dialogue partner countries discussing different energy development issues such as conservation of energy and production of energy for security and sustainability.”

You can read more at: http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/FreeContent/freeCont_Asean.htm

Investment in ASEAN sought

Source: ChinaDaily

“Companies in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, are being encouraged to cooperate on infrastructure projects in member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

It is part of an effort by local authorities to boost interest in the “21st Century Maritime Silk Road”, the city’s mayor said on Friday.”

You can read more at: http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2014-06/14/content_17587031.htm

Understanding Asean cultures: the call for an Asean volunteer organisation

Source: The Nation

“The focus of this article is the critical need to create an Asean Volunteer Organisation as an important pillar of preparation for the AEC era and being successful in this new international regime.

This idea does not originate with me, but I think was first suggested by Surin Pitsuwan, the dynamic Thai secretary-general of Asean from 2008-12.

Surin, a southern Muslim who earned a doctorate at Harvard, was greatly influenced and inspired by one of his teachers, who was a US Peace Corps volunteer.”

You can read more at: <http://www.nationmultimedia.com/opinion/Understanding-Asean-cultures-the-call-for-an-Asean-30236302.html>

Envoy confirms ally leader's stop in Beijing

Source: The China Post

“A visiting senior official from Taiwan's African ally Sao Tome and Principe yesterday confirmed that President Manuel Pinto da Costa did visit both Shanghai and Beijing during his just-concluded China tour, a Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) official said yesterday.

During a 45-minute meeting with Foreign Minister David Lin (林永樂) yesterday, Amaro Pereira do Couto, the chief of staff of the Presidency of the Republic Democratic of Sao Tome and Principe, confirmed that President Pinto da Costa visited the two cities during a recent China tour from June 8 to June 11, said David Wang (王建業), head of MOFA's Department of West Asian and African Affairs.”

You can read more at: <http://www.chinapost.com.tw/taiwan/intl-community/2014/06/17/410333/Envoy-confirms.htm>

Japan, OSCE start talks in Tokyo, focus on Ukraine, Asian security

Source: Mainichi

“Japan and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe opened a two-day meeting Monday in Tokyo at which officials from the two sides are expected to focus on regional security issues such as the crisis in Ukraine, China's muscle flexing in the East and South China seas, as well as North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

Japan and the Vienna-based OSCE will also discuss economic and energy issues, as well as women's empowerment, according to Japanese Foreign Ministry officials.”

You can read more at: <http://mainichi.jp/english/english/newsselect/news/20140616p2g00m0dm024000c.html>

Chinese premier eyes closer parliamentary exchanges with Greece

Source: xinhuanet

“Chinese Premier Li Keqiang met with Greek Parliament Speaker Evangelos Vasileios Meimarakis here on Thursday, calling for joint efforts to beef up bilateral parliamentary exchanges.

Li said parliamentary cooperation, an important part of the Sino-Greek comprehensive strategic partnership, has played an irreplaceable role in cementing mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples.

China is ready to boost exchanges and cooperation with the Greek parliament and political parties, he said, calling on the Greek parliament to continue its contribution to stronger China-Greece cooperation.”

You can read more at: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-06/20/c_126645472.htm

The poor gets poorer

Source: Kashmir Times.com

"Land grabs" in Laos are driving poor farmers, including ethnic minorities, off their land, away from livelihoods they know and into further poverty, activists and experts say.

"When these lands [are given] to companies and converted to industrial agriculture or other uses, it destroys the foundation of rural people's lives, livelihoods and knowledge systems, as well as their access to food, nutrition, medicines and incomes," Shalmali Guttal, a senior analyst with Focus on the Global South, a Bangkok-based NGO which campaigns for social justice in Laos, told IRIN.”

You can read more at: <http://www.kashmirtimes.com/newsdet.aspx?q=33477>

New Asean literary prize launched

Source: Bangkok Post

“Talented young writers from Asean countries are invited to enter the “Asean Young Writers Award” to vie for cash prizes and royal trophies.

Held for the first time by Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) in collaboration with the SEA Write Award organising committee and Mahidol University's Faculty of Liberal Arts, the literary competition is open to aspiring writers aged 15-24 who bear the nationality of any Asean member country.”

You can read more at: <http://www.bangkokpost.com/lifestyle/family/415505/new-asean-literary-prize-launched>

Brunei hosting ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly caucus this week

Source: The Cambodia Herald

“Brunei will be hosting the sixth ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Caucus at the International Convention Centre in Berakas on June 18-19.

The meeting, which will see the participation of Parliamentary members from Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries as well as the ASEAN Secretariat and AIPA Secretariat, will be launched by Pehin Isa Ibrahim, the Speaker of the Legislative Council.”

You can read more

at: <http://www.thecambodiaherald.com/world/detail/9966?page=16&token=OTNhZGE3OD>

CIMB banking on growth in Asean

Source: The Nation

“Group firmly 'committed to Thailand'; eyes presence in every market in the region by 2015

CIMB Group is set to put together all the pieces of the jigsaw and become an Asean bank with a presence in every market in the region by 2015, its chief executive Nazir Razak said.

Razak said the bank hoped to get a licence to operate in Vietnam this year.

He said CIMB would open its first branch in Laos in July or August through its subsidiary CIMB Thai Bank."

You can read more at: <http://www.nationmultimedia.com/business/CIMB-banking-on-growth-in-Asean-30236323.html>

Territorial disputes 'must not dominate China-Asean agenda'

Source: Asia News Network

"The relationship between China and Asean is a multifaceted one and should not be dominated by the issue of simmering territorial disputes in the South China Sea, Foreign Minister K. Shanmugam said yesterday.

Speaking to reporters in Beijing after an hour-long private discussion with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi that he described as "wide-ranging, frank and candid", Shanmugam said this was a common view held by Singapore and China. "

You can read more at: <http://www.asianewsnet.net/Territorial-disputes-must-not-dominate-China-Asean-61327.html>

Stressed ties 'don't hurt' investment flows

Source: ChinaDaily

"Relations with ASEAN still on strong footing, says commerce ministry official.

Stressed ties between China and some Southeast Asian countries haven't affected investment flows, even though foreign direct investment in the world's second-largest economy significantly eased in May, a senior commerce ministry official said on Tuesday."

You can read more at: http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2014-06/18/content_17595706.htm

China vetoes shipping alliance

Source: People's Daily Online

"An application by three leading global shipping firms to build an operational alliance has been rejected by China due to monopoly concerns, the Ministry of Commerce said on Tuesday.

Major container shipping lines, Maersk Line, Mediterranean Shipping Company and CMA-CGM, in October 2013 agreed to establish an operational alliance named P3 Network to provide customers with more frequent and flexible services. The network would involve three trade lanes: Asia-Europe, Trans-Pacific and Trans-Atlantic."

You can read more at: <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/n/2014/0618/c90883-8742582.html>

Bangladesh, Cambodia ink four deals to bolster cooperation

Source: xinhuanet

“Bangladesh and Cambodia have signed three agreements and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) during a landmark three-day visit by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen to the South Asian country.

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held talks with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen here on Tuesday.

Both the leaders pledged to cement friendship and boost cooperation between the two nations, sources close to the meeting said.”

You can read more at: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2014-06/17/c_133414871.htm

Laos, Hungary, China further education cooperation

Source: Vientiana Times

“Three universities from Laos, Hungary and Hong Kong of China have agreed to promote intercollegiate studies and cooperation between their respective institutions.

The memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the tripartite agreement was signed yesterday at the National University of Laos (NUOL) between Vice President of NUOL Assoc. Prof. Lammai Phiphakhavong, Vice-Rector of the King Sigismund Business College (ZsKF) Prof. Dr Peter Szatmari and Dean of the Alfred Nobel Open Business School (ANOB S) Prof. Dr Georges Suha. “

You can read more

at: http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/FreeContent/freeCont_Laos_Hungary_China.htm

Cambodian migrants in 'exodus' from Thailand

Source: Aljazeera

“Tens of thousands of Cambodians are fleeing neighbouring Thailand to return home, fearing a crackdown on migrant workers under Thailand's new military government, a senior Cambodian official has said.

More than 110,000 workers have returned this month through the border crossing at the western Cambodian town of Poipet, said Kor Samsarouet, the governor of Banteay Meanchey province, on Sunday.”

You can read more at: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2014/06/cambodian-migrants-exodus-from-thailand-20146156426204373.html>

RI sees no need to rush on ASEAN integrated capital market

Source: Jakarta Post

“The Financial Services Authority (OJK) has said Indonesia will need time to improve its capital market infrastructure before joining the integrated capital market to be developed as part of the 2015 ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

The agency's deputy commissioner, Sardjito, said the country would only agree to open its capital market when all its infrastructure and companies were ready.”

You can read more at: <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2014/06/16/ri-sees-no-need-rush-asean-integrated-capital-market.html>

Rising Asean consumption to drive electronics exports

Source: Bangkok Post

"The electrical and electronics industry predicts 2% growth in export value this year as shipments to neighbouring countries surge. Wisanu Limviboon, chairman of the electrical club at the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI), said shipments to Asean would drive exports this year.

Overall export value is projected to rise by 30 billion baht to 1.73 trillion.

"We've seen opportunities growing, particularly in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, where demand for electricity use has surged in line with increasing infrastructure development," he said."

You can read more at: <http://www.bangkokpost.com/business/news/416076/rising-asean-consumption-to-drive-electronics-exports>

Brunei speaker says ASEAN parliaments need to expand cooperation

Source: The Cambodia Herald

"Closer cooperation between the national assemblies of ASEAN member states is needed to achieve the goals of the ASEAN community, said the speaker of Brunei's Legislative Council.

The ASEAN Inter Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) "recognises the importance of close collaboration and cooperation among member countries," Pehin Isa Ibrahim said yesterday during the opening of the 6th AIPA Caucus"

You can read more at: <http://www.thecambodiaherald.com/cambodia/detail/6739?page=11&token=MDIiYWU4YmZmZDI>

Foreign envoys seek meeting with junta chief

Source: The Nation

"A number of foreign ambassadors - three of them from Asian countries - have sought to meet with junta leader General Prayuth Chan-ocha as efforts to create a "good understanding" about the power seizure in Thailand appear to be paying off, according to a junta spokesman.

The Asian diplomats are India's ambassador to Thailand and two unnamed envoys from Asean member countries, said Colonel Werachon Sukondhapatipak, deputy spokesman for the Army and the ruling National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO)."

You can read more at: <http://www.nationmultimedia.com/politics/Foreign-envoys-seek-meeting-with-junta-chief-30236415.html>

ASEAN Looks to Best Practices in Developing Metrology Laws

Source: asean.org

"Legal metrology experts from ASEAN Member States (AMS) discussed best practices for developing metrology laws during a workshop held in Siem Reap, Cambodia earlier this month. This is part of AMS efforts to increase confidence in each other's measurements focusing on regulated areas. The event took place in advance of the Working Group on Legal Metrology Meeting of the ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ)."

You can read more at: http://www.asean.org/news/asean-secretariat-news/item/asean-looks-to-best-practices-in-developing-metrology-laws?category_id=27

China-ASEAN Logistics Industry Cooperation Committee established

Source: xinhuanet

“The 5th China-ASEAN Industry Cooperation Conference was held in Kunming, SW China lately.

After discussions, the China-ASEAN Logistics Industry Cooperation Committee was officially set up.

During this conference, representatives of logistics industry from China and ASEAN countries exchanged ideas on situation of international logistics industry and the feasibility of mutual benefit and win-win results by strengthening cooperation under the framework of China-ASEAN ASEAN Free Trade Area.”

You can read more at: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2014-06/15/c_133407814.htm

China premier visits UK to boost trade

Source: The China Post

“Chinese Premier Li Keqiang arrived Monday in Britain for a visit that includes an unusual meeting with Queen Elizabeth II and talks aimed at boosting fragile diplomatic relations.

The three-day visit — Li's first since he became premier 15 months ago — is expected to focus on trade and investment cooperation in areas including nuclear power, high-speed railways and finance. It will also aim to rebuild political ties that have cooled since Prime Minister David Cameron met with the Dalai Lama in 2012.”

You can read more at: <http://www.chinapost.com.tw/international/europe/2014/06/18/410410/China-premier.htm>

Rail, nuclear tech tighten links

Source: ChinaDaily

“Premier Li Keqiang, acting as a super salesman for Chinese products, promoted the nation's high-speed rail and nuclear power technologies to Britain on Tuesday, with a series of landmark deals signed.

Twenty-six agreements worth \$25 billion were signed on the second day of Li's three-day visit to Britain, his first to the country since taking office last year.”

You can read more at: http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2014livisitbritaingreece/2014-06/18/content_17595541.htm

Interview: Chinese premier's visit to rev up China-Britain comprehensive strategic partnership: ambassador

Source: People's Daily Online

“Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's upcoming visit to Britain will be of great importance to promoting bilateral relations and will lay a solid foundation for comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries, Chinese Ambassador to Britain has said.

Li is scheduled to visit Britain on June 16-19. During his stay in London, the Chinese premier will meet Queen Elizabeth II and Prime Minister David Cameron, attend a banquet with the two countries' business representatives and deliver a speech to British think tanks.”

You can read more at: <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/n/2014/0616/c90883-8741475.html>

President thanks Norwegian envoy

Source: Viet Nam News

“President Truong Tan Sang hosted a reception in Ha Noi yesterday for outgoing Norwegian Ambassador Stale Risa.

The leader spoke highly of the diplomat's contributions to strengthening multi-faceted cooperation between the two countries and acknowledged his role in encouraging Norwegian investors to do business in Viet Nam.

He also thanked Ambassador Risa for encouraging the Norwegian Government maintain its official development assistance (ODA) to Viet Nam and recognise Viet Nam as a market economy.”

You can read more at: <http://vietnamnews.vn/politics-laws/256339/president-thanks-norwegian-envoy.html>

ASEAN needs to open market for engineers

Source: The Cambodia Herald

“In order to open up the ASEAN market for engineers in the region, issues surrounding professional mobility need to be addressed.

This was one of the points discussed during the retreat session for the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (AFEO), according to Mohd Nazri Mohd Yusof, vice president of the engineering division of the Association for Engineers, Architects and Surveyors (PUJA) of Brunei.”

You can read more

at: <http://www.thecambodiaherald.com/world/detail/9982?page=16&token=NDU4NWY1Y2>

ASEAN Green building rating index mooted

Source: Brunei Times

“AN ASEAN Green Building Rating Index was mooted during the 13th mid-term meeting of the regional engineering federation which was held recently.

As part of the outcomes from the mid-term meeting of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (AFEO), common green-building standards in all ASEAN countries were brought up by the technical committee for energy and environment, said the Secretary-General of AFEO Dato Ir Lim Chow Hock.”

You can read more at: <http://www.bt.com.bn/business-national/2014/06/18/asean-green-building-rating-index-mooted>

Philippine president, Japan PM to hold talks in Tokyo

Source: Asia News Network

“Philippine President Aquino and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe are scheduled to hold talks in Tokyo next week in a summit meeting between leaders of two countries locked in territorial disputes with China.

No details have been released about the Aquino-Abe meeting on June 24 at the prime minister’s official residence in Tokyo.”

You can read more at: <http://www.asianewsnet.net/Philippine-president-Japan-PM-to-hold-talks-in-Tok-61466.html>

RMB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES forum held in Manila

Source: ChinaDaily

“On Tuesday night, RMB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES was one of the hottest topics among people in the financial market and business community in metro Manila. Sponsored by the Bank of China, co-sponsored by the Economic and Commercial Counselor’s Office and Consular Office, Embassy of China in the Philippines, RMB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES FORUM was held at Makati Shangri-La. Almost 300 people from the financial market and business community of both China and the Philippines attended.”

You can read more at: http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2014-06/18/content_17597690.htm

Dengue vaccine could be ready by end 2015: media report

Source: xinhuanet

“A drug giant has achieved breakthroughs in the development of a dengue vaccine, which could be ready by the end of next year, the Straits Times reported Monday.

Guillaume Leroy, head of the dengue vaccine unit of drug giant Sanofi Pasteur, announced the success of a clinical trial in Asia to test the effectiveness of the vaccine at the two-day ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Dengue Summit held in Angeles City, the Philippines over the weekend, the newspaper said.”

You can read more at: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/health/2014-06/16/c_133410157.htm

China rejects Philippine proposal for construction ban in South China Sea

Source: South China Morning Post

“China rejected a suggestion by the Philippines for a regionwide ban on construction in the South China Sea after Beijing began building a school on a rugged outpost it created to strengthen its claims to disputed waters.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said he would propose that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations call for such a moratorium.”

You can read more at: <http://www.scmp.com/article/1533893/philippines-propose-asean-moratorium-south-china-sea-construction>

Brunei proposes ASEAN student visas for internships across countries

Source: The Cambodia Herald

“Brunei has proposed that governments in ASEAN make it a common policy to provide a special student work visa or permit for internship at companies across countries in the regional grouping.

Pehin Yaakub Zainal made the recommendation yesterday during the 6th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Caucus.”

You can read more

at: <http://www.thecambodiaherald.com/world/detail/10008?page=16&token=MDQzNzg1Nj>

China's economy is at a 'tipping point'

Source: CNBC

“China's economy is at a "tipping point" and the property sector will determine how it lands, Credit Agricole warns.

"We are at a tipping point: either prices, sales and investment in real estate gradually recover as a result of the recent easing of administrative curbs, in which case the economy will rebound in the second half, or the real estate downturn will continue, causing a further slowdown in overall growth and threatening a crisis," Dariusz Kowalczyk, senior economist/strategist, Asia ex-Japan wrote in a report. “

You can read more at: <http://www.cnbc.com/id/101771868>

Indian policy towards Thailand will not change, says ex-envoy

Source: The Nation

“India will not change its policy towards Thailand and will look forward to expanding economic diplomacy, said Shri Anil Wadhwa, secretary (East) of his country's Ministry of External Affairs.

Amid the transition periods of both India, which just elected a new government this month, and Thailand, where power has been seized by the military, Wadhwa - previously the Indian ambassador to Thailand - said there would not be much change in his country's foreign policies except that it would put mor emphasis on economic diplomacy.”

You can read more at: <http://www.nationmultimedia.com/business/Indian-policy-towards-Thailand-will-not-change-say-30236437.html>

Lao, Korean diplomats discuss cooperation, assistance

Source: Vientiane Times

“Senior diplomats from Laos and the Republic of Korea held talks in Vientiane yesterday on bilateral cooperation and assistance extended to Laos by Korea, a Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement detailed.

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea Mr Shin Dong Ik led a Korean delegation to Laos for a three-day visit from June 17-19.

Mr Shin Dong Ik paid courtesy visits to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Thongloun Sisoulith and Minister of Planning and Investment Mr Somdy Duangdy.”

You can read more at: http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/FreeContent/freeCont_lao.htm

China, Vietnam Fail to Break Deadlock in South China Sea Talks

Source: Radio Free Asia

“Beijing and Hanoi reached an impasse in talks Wednesday over their latest territorial spat, as China’s top diplomat Yang Jiechi warned Vietnam against disrupting the deployment of a controversial oil rig and Vietnam’s Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung urged its giant neighbor to withdraw the equipment.

Tensions have spiraled since May 2 when a Chinese state-run oil company deployed the rig near Vietnam’s coast. Many had expected the visit to Hanoi by State Councilor Yang, who ranks higher than China’s Foreign Minister, to ease the strain.”

You can read more at: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/vietnam/talks-06182014173047.html>

China, ASEAN to have South China Sea talks

Source: People’s Daily Online

“China is willing to work with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to promote a code of conduct (CoC) in the South China Sea, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said on Thursday.”

You can read more at: <http://english.people.com.cn/n/2014/0619/c90883-8743845.html>

Agribusiness opportunities growing in Laos

Source: Bangkok Post

“Laos has become one of the most captivating countries in the region for foreign investment in recent years, with a focus on natural resources.

Besides its mineral wealth and plentiful power supply, Laos also has 47% of unexploited forest and land areas that are suitable for various plantation activities, especially for rubber, coffee, timber and corn.”

You can read more at: <http://www.bangkokpost.com/business/news/415625/agribusiness-opportunities-growing-in-laos>

Hard choices as Asean forges ahead

Source: New Straits Times Online

“COME next year Asean is set to become a rules-based and people-oriented organisation. This will bring to a close the long process of consensus-building within the grouping that began in October 2003 to prepare the Road map towards the Asean Community.

Along the way, however, different opinions have surfaced between those who support a gradual evolution and those who prefer a fast-track approach. The former can be labelled as “the people” and the latter, “the institutionalists”.

You can read more at: <http://www.nst.com.my/node/3481>

PM receives Dutch counterpart, vows strategic partnership on agriculture

Source: Viet Nam News

“Viet Nam and the Netherlands have agreed to establish a strategic partnership on sustainable agriculture and food security.

This followed talks yesterday between Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and his Dutch counterpart, Mark Rutte.

Dung said that Viet Nam regarded the Netherlands as one of its leading European Union partners.”

You can read more at: <http://vietnamnews.vn/politics-laws/256261/pm-receives-dutch-counterpart-vows-strategic-partnership-on-agriculture.html>

Laos continues building controversial dam on Cambodian border

Source: The Cambodia Herald

“Construction work on the controversial Don Sahong Hydropower Project in southern Laos is continuing despite opposition from neighboring governments, an American anti-dam group says.

In a statement released in Bangkok Wednesday, International Rivers said work at the site, located on the Cambodian border, confirmed fears that the dam is taking the same "dangerous trajectory" as the Xayaburi Dam in northern Laos.”

You can read more

at: <http://www.thecambodiaherald.com/cambodia/detail/1?page=13&token=ZTFmZjA3ZTUxODA>

EU may delay signing pact with Thailand

Source: The Nation

“The European Union has decided it will delay signing an agreement on closer economic and political ties with Thailand and is demanding a swift return to democracy, a draft document seen by Reuters on Wednesday showed.

General Prayuth Chan-ocha seized power in May, vowing to restore order and push through reforms following six months of political turmoil.

"Official visits to and from Thailand have been suspended; the EU and its member states will not sign the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with Thailand, until a democratically elected government is in place," said the draft, drawn up for adoption by the bloc's foreign ministers next Monday.”

You can read more at: <http://www.nationmultimedia.com/politics/EU-may-delay-signing-pact-with-Thailand-30236678.html>