

Russia-China ties boon for all: Putin

Moscow

Stronger ties between Russia and China are good for everyone, Russian President Vladimir Putin said, adding that Moscow and Beijing would remain long-term strategic partners. Putin also told his annual news conference that China was looking with great interest at Russia's northern sea route in the Arctic which could significantly cut the time for shipments of goods between Asia and Europe.



Disney to buy Fox film for \$52bn

Washington

Walt Disney Co has struck a deal to buy film, television and international businesses from Rupert Murdoch's Twenty-First Century Fox Inc for \$52.4 billion in stock. Disney acquires significant assets from Fox, including the studios that produce the blockbuster Marvel superhero pictures and the "Avatar", as well as hit TV shows such as "The Simpsons."



Should the United States and its followers try to enforce the naval blockade against our country, we will see it as an act of war and respond with merciless self-defensive counter-measures as we have warned repeatedly,"

North Korea's Foreign Ministry spokesman

through KCNA new agency



Tips FOR START-UP BUSINESSES

No matter how good the product or service being offered, the success of a business often comes down to its structure, cash flow, funds, staff and marketing. Here's a checklist of things you need to do once you have decided to take the plunge to join burgeoning ranks of entrepreneurs.

Seek help

Even well established businesses find it helps to have a sounding board for new ideas so don't be afraid to seek out advice or support or to find out how others have solved or are managing similar challenges.

The structure

The options to choose from are a limited company, a limited liability partnership (LLP), a traditional partnership or a sole trader. The first two offer greater personal protection but there is no right option – it will depend on your circumstances and particular needs, so do some research in order to see what will work best for you.



The market

Image is an important part of any marketing activity, but you first need to establish your market. Test the idea and test the market. You first need to define your boundaries and start to write the business plan. This will be essential if you are seeking funding and to keep you on track with your plans for growth.

CASH FLOW

Key for every small business is cash flow. That's where good credit lines come in. If you are buying in goods or services before selling on, it's helpful if you can delay paying your suppliers until you have been paid.

Money management

You will need to find an accountant or at the very least a bookkeeper (which is often cheaper) and open a business bank account. But don't abdicate responsibility. You will need to keep a firm handle on the finances and have a pretty good idea of what your revenues, margins and gross profits should be, especially if you are looking for investment.

IMAGE

First get the right name. Companies House will show which ones have been taken. There are websites that will generate suggestions based on keywords and which also show which URLs are free. The URL is important, because it will be used throughout your marketing, including online, on email and in social media. In tandem you need to explore the logo and brand. But for that you'll need some creative inspiration. (The Telegraph)

Other bureaucratic hurdles

Will you be employing staff (then there will be NI and pension issues to consider)? Do you need to protect your IP or designs with patents? Are export/import licences required? Use your business plan to help scrutinise all areas that may be exposed to legal, regulatory, tax or other requirements.

On a mission

Tamkeen announces new strategy

DT News Network

Manama

Tamkeen yesterday announced its new strategy for 2018-2020 which focuses on "diversification of offerings, acceleration of delivery, and sustainability of impact."

The strategy, according to Tamkeen's Chief Executive Dr Ebrahim Mohamed Janahi, aims at assessing the status of the labour market and ways to address its specific needs and gaps.

He was speaking during a press conference held on the sidelines of Tamkeen's 2018-2020 Strategy Consultation Forum which saw the participation of over 500 participants representing different economic sectors in the Kingdom.

The strategy, he said, follows "a number of research analysis and studies aimed at assessing the status of labour market and ways to address its specific needs and gaps."

He also pointed out that this helps ensure "proper visualisation of the new development."

Tamkeen Chairman Shaikh Mohammed bin Essa Al Khalifa pointed out, during the forum, that Tamkeen is keen on introducing "new



Shaikh Mohammed bin Essa Al Khalifa, Tamkeen Chairman products and services to better cater to evolving market needs".

Highlighting Tamkeen's key achievements, Janahi said: "Since its establishment, Tamkeen served more than 165 thousand individuals and enterprises and launched more than 210 initiatives in different fields, of which 145



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