

**Highlight News**

**April, 22/2019**



- **Cambodia Shifts from Balanced Economic Approach to Dependent on China: US Embassy**
- **Laos eyes increased exports to China**
- **Myanmar's border trade reaches nearly 5 bln USD in mid FY 2018-19**
- **Nearly 2 bln USD foreign investments enter Myanmar in first half of FY 2018-19**
- **VN exports first batch of mangoes to the US**

ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)



## Cambodia Shifts from Balanced Economic Approach to Dependent on China: US Embassy



Cambodia News | April, 19/2019

The US Embassy Phnom Penh said Friday that Cambodia has shifted from a more balanced and diverse economic approach to one more dependent on China, according to the Embassy's Facebook page earlier today. "China is Cambodia's largest trade partner, but this relationship is heavily skewed in China's favor. About 87% of trade are Chinese imports, which do not support jobs or industry in the same way Cambodia's trade relationship with the United States or EU does," the Embassy wrote, attached with trade statistics. "This is just one more way Cambodia has shifted from a more balanced and diverse economic approach to one more dependent on China," it added. The Chinese Embassy has not yet issued any statement regarding the above concern. In early February, the US Embassy Phnom Penh commented on its page that, "The United States did not engage in a coup that evoked the then-Premier Lon Nol's to power. On the contrary, substantial evidences showed that the Chinese government actively supported the Khmer Rouge regime from 1975-1979 and afterwards." Shortly, the Chinese Embassy in Cambodia claimed that the Central Intelligence Agency, intelligence service of the federal government of the United States, was behind the Cambodian coup of 1970, generally seen as a turning point in the Cambodian Civil War. "Indeed, the Cambodian coup in 1970 had nothing to do with the US, but with the CIA," the Chinese Embassy wrote on Friday, attached with a

daily news's cover entitled "Nixon Sends GIs into Cambodia"..

Source: <http://en.freshnewsasia.com/index.php/en/localnews/13721-2019-04-19-12-47-49.html>

## Laos eyes increased exports to China



Laos News | April, 21/2019

Lao exports to China are expected to increase to 1,510 million U.S. dollars in 2019, while imports will decline to 985 million U.S. dollars, according to the latest projections from the Lao Ministry of Industry and Commerce. In 2018, Laos planned to earn 1,478 million U.S. dollars from exports to China but achieved only 1,406 million U.S. dollars, and expected to spend 945 million U.S. dollars on imports but the final figure was 1,381 million U.S. dollars. Laos' main exports to the northern neighbor are ore sand, rubber and rubber products, copper and copper products, bananas, maize and fertilizers. In turn, Laos imports electrical appliances, vehicles and spare parts, mechanical and electronic equipment, steel and steel equipment, local daily Vientiane Times on Friday reported. China is now the biggest foreign investor in Laos and the country's second largest trading partner. In 2016, Laos exported about 1,133 million U.S. dollars worth of goods to China which rose to 1,233 million U.S. dollars in 2017. The increasing number of Chinese investors in Laos and cooperation projects by both governments is a major reason for the increase in imports from China. The China-Laos railway, the launch of Laos' first satellite, hydropower development and other projects funded by China have helped to promote connectivity between the two nations. The government is optimistic that

exports to China will rise this year in view of increasing trade and economic cooperation. Agriculture is seen as an important sector to bolster Lao exports to China especially bananas, rubber, fertiliser, cassava and corn. The Lao Ministry of Industry and Commerce has asked China to consider a rice import quota of 50,000 tons along with accepting other industrial goods as part of efforts to bolster trade.

Source: <http://en.brinkwire.com/news/laos-eyes-increased-exports-to-china/>

and with India through Tamu, Reed and Thantlang border gates. From October 2018 to March 29 this year, the total foreign trade reached 16.93 billion U.S. dollars while its sea trade amounted to 12.09 billion U.S. dollars, according to the ministry. The country's agricultural products, animal products, fisheries, minerals and forest products are mainly exported, while capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods are imported.

Source: [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-04/19/c\\_137990733.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-04/19/c_137990733.htm)

---

## Myanmar's border trade reaches nearly 5 bln USD in mid FY 2018-19

 Myanmar News I April, 19/2019

Myanmar's trade with foreign countries through border gates reached over 4.83 billion U.S. dollars as of March 29 in fiscal year 2018-19, according to the figures from the Commerce Ministry Friday. In present fiscal year 2018-19 which started in October 2018, the country's export via border gates amounted to 3.4 billion U.S. dollars while its import shared 1.43 billion U.S. dollars. This fiscal year's figures increased by 191 million U.S. dollars compared to the same period of last FY 2017-2018 when it showed 4.64 billion U.S. dollars. Muse topped the list of border checkpoints with the most trade value of 2.43 billion U.S. dollars, followed by Myawady with 438.9 million U.S. dollars. Myanmar mainly conducts border trade with neighboring China through Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kanpikete and Kengtung, with Thailand through Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese. Border trade is also conducted with Bangladesh through Sittwe, Maungtaw

---

## Nearly 2 bln USD foreign investments enter Myanmar in first half of FY 2018-19

 Myanmar News I April, 20/2019

Over 1.87 billion U.S. dollars of foreign investments entered Myanmar's sectors in first half of present fiscal year 2018-2019, according to the figures from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). As of March 31 in FY 2018-19 which started in October 2018, a total of 139 foreign projects were permitted. Transport and communication sector topped the list with over 680 million U.S. dollars, followed by manufacturing with over 601 million U.S. dollars. During the period, Singapore was listed as largest investor with over 1.1 billion U.S. dollars investments, the figures said. Regionally, Yangon region attracts 60 percent of investments from both home and abroad, followed by Mandalay with 30 percent and the rest flows into other regions and states. Meanwhile, the total foreign trade reached 16.93 billion U.S. dollars while its sea trade amounted to 12.09 billion U.S. dollars from October 2018

to March 29 this year, according to the figures from the Commerce Ministry.

Source: [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-04/20/c\\_137993073.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-04/20/c_137993073.htm)

---

## VN exports first batch of mangoes to the US

 Vietnam News | April, 19/2019

The Chanh Thu Fruits Import Export Co on Thursday exported eight tonnes of Hoa Loc mangoes to the US, making it the first Vietnamese enterprise to ship mangoes to the strict market. All exported mangoes were harvested at the My Xuong Mango Cooperative in the southern province of Dong Thap's Cao Lanh district, according to company director Nguyen Thi Hong Thu. Mangoes were carefully selected and met VietGAP standards, Thu said at a ceremony in the province on the same day. The mangoes were provided with a code from the Vietnamese Plant Protection Department and the US Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for management and traceability. All pre-export shipments must be irradiated, quarantined and granted phytosanitary certificates by the APHIS, she said. Dong Thap has more than 9,650ha of mango varieties with annual output of 127,000 tonnes, leading other provinces in the Mekong Delta region, the provincial People's Committee vice chairman Nguyen Thanh Hung said at the event. Two specialty mango varieties, Cat Chu and Hoa Loc, were granted certificates of intellectual rights by the National Office of Intellectual Property of Vietnam, he said. The fruit is one of Dong Thap's key products in its agriculture restructuring programme. The province's

mangoes, which are mostly exported to China, have also been exported to South Korea, Japan and New Zealand.

The province, which has set up two cooperatives and 29 cooperative teams that grow mangoes, has contracted with companies to guarantee outlets for their mangoes. VIETNAM NEWS/ANN

Source: <https://www.phnompenhpost.com/business/vn-exports-first-batch-mangoes-us>

---