



- Cambodia's rubber export up 30 percent last year
- Positive move of derivatives after trading volumes rise
- Xieng Khuang coffee growers profiting from quality crop
- Myanmar earns US\$280 M from rice and broken rice export
- Carmaker VinFast to roll out new automobile models this year
- ADB provides loan for 50MW solar power plant in Tay Ninh



## Cambodia's rubber export up 30 percent last year



*Cambodia News | 27 January, 2020*

Cambodia exported 282,071 tons of dry rubber in 2019, an increase of 30 percent from 217,501 tons in the year before, according to Agriculture Ministry on Sunday. The Southeast Asian nation made a gross revenue of roughly 377 million U.S. dollars from exports of the commodity last year, up 31.8 percent from 286 million U.S. dollars in a year earlier, said the ministry's annual report. "A ton of dry rubber averagely cost 1,336 U.S. dollars in 2019, about 19 U.S. dollars higher than that of 2018," the report said. The kingdom exports the commodity mainly to Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore and China. According to the report which was released on Saturday, the country has planted rubber trees on a total area of 406,142 hectares, in which 247,113 hectares, or 61 percent of the cash crop, are old enough to be tapped.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50684115/cambodias-rubber-export-up-30-percent-last-year>

## Positive move of derivatives after trading volumes rise



*Cambodia News | 27 January, 2020*

Although it is still in its infancy, the derivative market is moving forward positively as traders become more interested in, and acquainted with the market, a senior official said last week. Sou Socheat, director-general of the Securities Exchange Commission of Cambodia (SECC), the Kingdom's securities

regulator, said the market's trading volume has increased remarkably in recent years. He said in 2019, trading volume reached \$120 million when in 2018 it was just \$84 million. "This year, we expect that the market's trading volume will go up to around \$200 million," he said, adding the forex derivatives show great liquidity, allowing investors to easily trade 24 hours a day. "We had investors conducting derivative trading before the market was not managed by a competent authority, but we have now prepared a proper system in managing trading activity in the market. That is to say, the market is growing rapidly," he explained. He said the SECC is committed to promoting the market further, but, at the same time, warned pride comes before a fall. "While encouraging investors to invest in the market, we, as regulator, and our licensed operators, have to educate them [investors] about understanding the risks involved. Forex [foreign exchange] poses higher risks when compared with stocks or bonds," he pointed out. In other words, values can go up and down more wildly and quickly: Buyer beware. He said some investors think that the derivative market has a high risk but somehow it brings in more profits, which simply translated means "high risk, high return". "What we have been doing is keeping investors informed about the risk in the market." Educating and fulfilling the thirst for investment knowledge among the public is considered to be key to the sustainability of the derivatives market. Lawrence Kook, director of Cambodian Derivatives Exchange (CDX), said the derivatives market in the

Kingdom is getting bigger and bigger annually. He also believes awareness among the industry's players has increased notably in recent years. "We can see the fulfillment of our mission to educate and guide Cambodian people towards this industry in the right way," he said. Last week, the CDX and the SECC successfully completed a roadshow in all cities and provinces of Cambodia, aimed at educating thousands of participants and exposing the significance of the derivatives market all over the country. "Doing derivative trading is one thing, but we are aiming higher than that. We want to activate the economy of this country by having a strong financial sector, a strong backbone," Kook said.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50683840/positive-move-of-derivatives-after-trading-volumes-rise>

## Xieng Khuang coffee growers profiting from quality crop



*Laos News | 27 January, 2020*

Coffee growers in Khoun district, Xieng Khuang province, are making good money from their crop, more than is being made from coffee farmed in plantations on the Bolaven Plateau in the southern province of Champassak. Growers in Keoset cluster villages, a group of coffee producers in Khoun district, earn 4,000 kip per kg of cherries and 40,000 kip per kg if they process the cherries and sell them as green coffee beans. Meanwhile, the price of coffee cherries in the south of Laos recently fell below 2,000 kip per kg. This is less than the cost of the labour required for picking, which led some

farmers to replace their coffee trees with other crops in the hope of making a better living. According to the website [laocoffeeproductprice.la](http://laocoffeeproductprice.la), red Arabica coffee beans sold for the highest price at 3,200 kip per kg in December, and the lowest price of 1,500 kip per kg in October. White Arabica beans fetched a high of 16,500 kip per kg, while the lowest price paid was 15,000 kip per kg. Xieng Khuang coffee growers are doing so well because of the high demand from the numerous cafes in Vientiane and Luang Prabang. The farmers have a good relationship with their buyers, who help them produce superior quality beans to meet the needs of discerning consumers.

Coffee farmers in the Keoset cluster in Khoun district are now working with two companies - Meuang Xieng Coffee and Comma Coffee - which supply cafes in Laos in collaboration with the Lao Upland Rural Advisory Service (LURAS). These two companies have provided training in processing techniques and grading, which enables farmers to get a higher price. According to the National Project Director of LURAS, Mr Souvanthong Namvong, the benefits of commercial agriculture depend on market conditions and the relationship between small farmers and the companies that buy their products. "If farmers and companies work together to produce high quality coffee for niche markets, the benefits will be far greater than producing ordinary coffee that goes to global markets," he said. "The same situation exists for many other farm products such as tea, vegetables and rice," he noted, adding

that the profit depends on quality not just quantity, and cooperation with the private sector is essential if farmers are to achieve the requisite standards.

The head of the coffee farmers' group in Keoset, Mrs Chandy, said her group and other companies are now partnering to work together, learn together, and benefit together. "This is different from coffee traders in the past, who would come and go, and who provided no advice or support," she said. Keoset has now become a 'learning centre' for other coffee farmers in northern Laos. Several hundred small-scale producers have visited the coffee gardens and processing centre in Keoset to learn how to achieve the same quality and hope to make the same profits as these farmers do in Xieng Khuang. Located in northeastern Laos, Xieng Khuang is rich in natural resources and ethnic diversity. The Keoset cluster of villages is home to 200 families who have been growing coffee for more than a decade. The climate and geography of Xieng Khuang provides the perfect conditions to produce high-quality Arabica coffee. The farmers of Keoset grow their coffee in natural forest at elevations between 1,100 and 1,400 metres. Recently they have been working with LURAS to improve both the quality and quantity of their coffee beans. LURAS is implemented by the Department of Technical Extension and Agro-Processing, and Helvetas, an International NGO, with funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Source: <http://annx.asianews.network/content/xieng-khuang-coffee-growers-profiting-quality-crop-112702>

## Myanmar earns US\$280 M from rice and broken rice export



*Myanmar News | 27 January, 2020*

Myanmar earned over US\$280 million from over 980,000 tons of rice and broken rice export from October 1 to January 10 this fiscal year, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF). It earned over US\$200 million from over 684,000 tons of rice export to 55 countries and over US\$78 million from over 302,000 tons of broken rice export to 46 countries in this period. Myanmar is exporting rice and broken rice to the EU market and African market via maritime trade routes and China through Muse border trade. It earned over US\$37 million from over 144,000 tons of rice and broken rice export from border trade route and it is over 14 per cent of total rice and broken rice export. It earned over US\$245 million from over 842,000 tons of rice and broken rice export from maritime trade and it is over 85 per cent of total rice and broken rice export. The MRF announced that Myanmar earned over US\$709 million from over two million tons of rice and broken rice export in 2018-19 FY. Myanmar exported about 3.6 million tons of rice and broken rice in 2017-18 FY and it broke the record in over 50-year history. It is dealing with the issues caused by the low market price this year. It said that farmers are facing difficulties not having enough silos, paddy drying system and vehicles to carry rice, announced the MRF on May 18. A total of 11 companies were

officially exported rice to China previously and now more than 40 companies are chosen to export rice to China. If the companies' list is sent to China, the rice export will resume, replied Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Commerce to farmers from Danubyu on June 28. State and regional governments will supervise the buying of paddy in accord with a law to protect the rights of farmers and promote their interests and the state and regional governments need to submit about the union government. The government is planning to buy paddy from Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon regions using state fund and it planned Ks8 billion for Bago Region and Ks5 billion for Ayeyawady Region, said Aung Htoo in early November. If the market price for paddy lowers more than the base price, the government planned Ks15 billion to buy out the paddies, said the deputy minister.

Source:<https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/myanmar-earns-us280-m-from-rice-and-broken-rice-export>

## Carmaker VinFast to roll out new automobile models this year



*Vietnam News | 27 January, 2020*

The VinFast company of the Vingroup has said it plans to roll out various luxury and high efficiency models this year in an attempt to help deal with noise and air pollution in major urban centres. The Lux V8 was put on show at the Geneva international automobile exhibition last May, and will be produced with a limited quantity. Meanwhile, the electricity-

powered VinBus will hit the streets of major cities of Hanoi, Hai Phong, Da Nang, Ho Chi Minh City and Can Tho in March this year. A leading official of VinGroup said the production of the safe, comfortable and high-quality electric buses is a solution to the poor public transport infrastructure in Vietnam. VinGroup hopes to join hands with others in solving the noise and air pollution in metropolis centres and create a healthy and modern living environment for the people in Vietnam, he added.

Source: <https://english.vov.vn/economy/carmaker-vinfast-to-roll-out-new-automobile-models-this-year-409335.vov>

## ADB provides loan for 50MW solar power plant in Tay Ninh



*Vietnam News | 27 January, 2020*

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a 37.8 million-USD loan deal with TTC Energy Development Investment JSC (TTC Energy) to provide long-term financing to develop and operate a 50-MW photovoltaic solar power plant in the southern province of Tay Ninh. TTC Energy, established in 2017, is 90 percent owned by the Gulf Energy Development Public Company (GED) – a leading private power generation company that has the largest portfolio of gas-fired power projects in Thailand. The project will develop and operate the 50 MW solar power plant and its associated facilities in Tay Ninh, which is about 50 kilometers northwest of Ho Chi Minh City. The solar power plant will

directly serve the electricity demand of residents and businesses of Ho Chi Minh City and surrounding areas. It will reduce annual carbon dioxide emissions by 29, 760 tonnes annually when operational in 2020. The Government of Vietnam plans to increase the share of renewable energy sources, such as hydropower, solar, wind, and biomass, as a percentage of total installed capacity to 21 percent by 2030 to meet rapidly growing energy needs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 25 percent by 2030. GED Executive Director Yupapin Wangviwat said “We are confident that the project will be developed successfully according to plan.” ADB’s assistance for the Gulf Solar Power Project was provided through an innovative project finance structure, which ensured the bankability of the project. The loan is composed of an A loan of 11.3 million USD and a B loan of up to 18.9 million USD. An additional 7.6 million-USD loan was provided by the Leading Asia’s Private Infrastructure Fund, which is supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency. The loan marks the first transaction under the fund’s Non-Parallel programme and improves the bankability and financial viability of the project to allow other lenders to provide long tenor, US dollar-denominated financing. The B loan will be funded by Bangkok Bank PCL, Siam Commercial Bank PCL, and Standard Chartered Bank (Thai) PCL. Jackie B. Surtani, Director of Infrastructure Finance Division of ADB’s Private Sector Operations Department, said “ADB is excited about this transaction because the project will have a significant impact on the

sustainability and security of Vietnam’s energy sector for years to come. Apart from providing much-needed financing to develop solar power in Vietnam, the project will also help reduce perceived risks in the country’s renewable energy sector.”

Source: <https://english.vov.vn/economy/adb-provides-loan-for-50mw-solar-power-plant-in-tay-ninh-409334.vov>

---