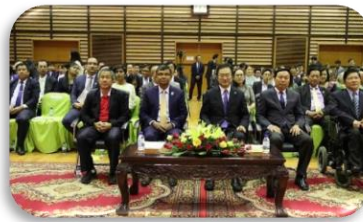


*Highlight News / February 27/2020*



- Ministry sends letter outlining less red tape and import costs for raw garments
- Japan pledges nearly \$900,000 to improve Kingdom's agriculture
- Laos' earnings from rice sales to China rise
- Value of imports dips, trade deficit plummets in Laos
- Chicken prices causing difficulties for local breeders
- Myanmar watermelon losses reach \$50m
- Thailand imposes anti-dumping duty on Vietnamese steel products
- Vietnam's motorbike sales second highest in ASEAN



## Ministry sends letter outlining less red tape and import costs for raw garments



*Cambodia News | 26 February, 2020*

To facilitate and support the garment sector currently encountering a lack of raw materials and to reduce logistics and transportation costs, the Ministry of Economy and Finance yesterday sought urgent measures to help the sectors importers and exporters. It sent a letter to the General Department of Custom and Excise signed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance, Hun Sen, saying the Customs Department will need to add more “green lanes” for the importation of garment raw materials as well as other garments accessories required in the manufacturing process. The Minister ordered the custom and excise department to facilitate the procedures and release goods as soon as possible. “All Customs officials and relevant officials should cooperate with the Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia (GMAC) to discuss with the freight forwarder and custom brokers to find a solution for transparent fees,” the letter read. President of the Cambodia Freight Forwarders Association (CAMFFA) Sin Chanthy, welcomed the move. He said that the official Customs processing fee, Customs documents and Customs clearance is acceptable. However, there is an issue with unofficial fees in the port and during transportation. “We are happy to see the ministry’s

measure, but what we are waiting to see is the implementation. The implementation should be better,” Sin added. “We are happy to see more green lanes because it will facilitate the process quickly for the raw material imported for the garment sector.” The Ministry of Economy said: “If it is found that there are illegal fees being implemented there must be a legal measurement in response immediately. To implement the guidance with efficiency and effectiveness, the Customs Department must facilitate with relevant stakeholders and the authority in the ports and transport companies to ensure that the services provided go smoothly. In case of emergency, officials can extend the administration working hours,” the statement read. GMAC said yesterday that it welcomed the government move for the active and urgent measurements. It said the association will continue discussions with the government, other ministries and other relevant stakeholders on the actual implementation of the policies stated as well as studying the possibility of other policies based on the data they have. “We applaud the government measures to build trust among the investors in the garment, shoe and travelling bag sector,” said GMAC.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50695224/ministry-sends-letter-outlining-less-red-tape-and-import-costs-for-raw-garments>

## Japan pledges nearly \$900,000 to improve Kingdom's agriculture



*Cambodia News | 26 February, 2020*

The Japanese government has donated a total of \$890,471 for the development of irrigation systems, maternal and child healthcare and youth capacity building in the Kingdom. The grant contract was signed this week between Japanese ambassador Masahiro Mikami and the representatives of the said sectors. A budget of \$85,019 will be allocated for the first project, said Mr Mikami, which will focus on the development of irrigation systems aimed at enhancing agriculture in the Preah Vihear eco-village. The money will be given to the Nongovernmental Organisations (NGOs) Pride of Asia Preah Vihear Association Japan to support the construction of reservoirs and water facilities in the province's eco-village. The association's representative Noritada Morita said farmers in the area will benefit from the project because it will increase agricultural production (especially in the dry season), enhance agricultural technology and improve facility management for sustainable regional development. "Most of the villagers in Preah Vihear province migrated from other areas, so they should be educated regarding agricultural technology in order to lift them out of poverty," said Morita. The second project will receive funds of \$452,427 to improve access to integrated healthcare, safe water and sanitation and nutrition services in Preah Vihear. Spearheaded by World

Vision Japan, the project will focus on providing healthcare education and training workshops for health workers and local communities in order to promote good maternal and child health in the province. World Vision Japan representative Takuya Matsuoka said the initiative will instil healthy eating habits and grant access to clean water for the residents and will be implemented in Chey Saen, Chhaeb, Tbaeng Meanchey and Kuleaen districts. The third project will concentrate on youth development in Pailin province. An amount of \$353,025 will be donated to NGO Kokkyo naki Kodomotachi (Children without Borders) to support youths and equip them with life and employability skills for their future. "Japan hopes these projects will help Cambodia's reconstruction and development efforts at the grassroots level, mainly in the fields of primary education, health, agriculture and mine clearance via Japanese NGOs," added Mikami.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50695195/japan-pledges-nearly-900000-to-improve-kingdoms-agriculture>

## Laos' earnings from rice sales to China rise



*Laos News | 26 February, 2020*

Laos has earned more from the sale of rice to China in the past few years thanks to trade preference arrangements between the two countries. In 2017, the value of rice sold by Laos to China was US\$5.6

million. This figure increased to US\$7.25 million in 2018 and to US\$14.54 million last year, according to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. However, the value of rice sold by Laos to other countries dropped from more than US\$30 million in 2017 and 2018 to just over US\$25 million last year. The Chinese market is increasingly attractive to businesses across a range of fields. This is driven by rapidly changing demographics in China, along with rising incomes, increased consumer spending and an increasingly open business environment. China's economic growth has increased and plays an important role in the Asean economy. The Trade Preferences which Laos and China are party to include using Form E under the Asean-China Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA), Form SPT under the Special and Preferential Tariff Treatment for CLM, and SPT and Form APTA under the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement. As a result, trade growth between Laos and China has sharply increased, particularly under ACFTA. The Trade Preferences offer Lao entrepreneurs the chance to export more goods to China as these arrangements provide special and differential treatment, mainly in terms of tariff reduction or exemption and foreign investment attraction. Laos has an export quota of 50,000 tonnes of polished rice from the Chinese government, and has so far exported just over 1,000 tonnes. The first shipment is being sent in July and

August with further amounts to follow to achieve the total target by 2021. However, the effects of natural disasters may pose challenges for Lao rice exporters in meeting the target. China is Laos' largest rice export market, and the country's second-biggest trading partner, but it has stringent quality requirements. The government is planning to encourage farmers to produce at least one million tonnes of paddy rice for sale in Laos and for export this year. To ensure the production of rice for export, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will increase the quantity of white rice production to 35 percent of total rice production. This is in line with the government's policy to cultivate sticky rice, which has the potential for growth in most regions. Sticky rice, including black rice, kay noi rice and Thadokkham, phonngarm, home and Thasano rice, is in high demand. The ministry will produce rice in line with good agriculture practices (GAP) in order to access more regional and international markets, especially China. The ministry's plan will encourage farmers to produce 4.7 million tonnes of paddy rice by 2020 and expand production by 5 percent a year. Of this, rice field expansion will be about 2 percent with yields of 3-3.5 tonnes a hectare. The yield is expected to be less than the target due to natural disasters. However, the target figure for rice exports remains stable at one million tonnes a year.

Laos has earned more from the sale of rice to China in the past few years thanks to trade preference arrangements between the two countries. In 2017, the value of rice sold by Laos to China was US\$5.6 million. This figure increased to US\$7.25 million in 2018 and to US\$14.54 million last year, according to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. However, the value of rice sold by Laos to other countries dropped from more than US\$30 million in 2017 and 2018 to just over US\$25 million last year. The Chinese market is increasingly attractive to businesses across a range of fields. This is driven by rapidly changing demographics in China, along with rising incomes, increased consumer spending and an increasingly open business environment. China's economic growth has increased and plays an important role in the Asean economy. The Trade Preferences which Laos and China are party to include using Form E under the Asean-China Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA), Form SPT under the Special and Preferential Tariff Treatment for CLM, and SPT and Form APTA under the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement. As a result, trade growth between Laos and China has sharply increased, particularly under ACFTA. The Trade Preferences offer Lao entrepreneurs the chance to export more goods to China as these arrangements provide special and differential treatment, mainly in terms of tariff reduction or exemption and foreign investment

attraction. Laos has an export quota of 50,000 tonnes of polished rice from the Chinese government, and has so far exported just over 1,000 tonnes. The first shipment is being sent in July and August with further amounts to follow to achieve the total target by 2021. However, the effects of natural disasters may pose challenges for Lao rice exporters in meeting the target. China is Laos' largest rice export market, and the country's second-biggest trading partner, but it has stringent quality requirements. The government is planning to encourage farmers to produce at least one million tonnes of paddy rice for sale in Laos and for export this year. To ensure the production of rice for export, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will increase the quantity of white rice production to 35 percent of total rice production. This is in line with the government's policy to cultivate sticky rice, which has the potential for growth in most regions. Sticky rice, including black rice, kay noi rice and Thadokkham, phonngarm, home and Thasano rice, is in high demand. The ministry will produce rice in line with good agriculture practices (GAP) in order to access more regional and international markets, especially China. The ministry's plan will encourage farmers to produce 4.7 million tonnes of paddy rice by 2020 and expand production by 5 percent a year. Of this, rice field expansion will be about 2 percent with yields of 3-3.5 tonnes a hectare. The yield is

expected to be less than the target due to natural disasters. However, the target figure for rice exports remains stable at one million tonnes a year.

Source:<http://annx.asianews.network/content/laos%E2%80%99-earnings-rice-sales-china-rise-114545>

## Value of imports dips, trade deficit plummets in Laos



*Laos News | 19 February, 2020*

The value of products imported by Laos declined slightly from US\$5.8 billion in 2018 to US\$5.7 billion last year, with construction equipment topping the list of more than 10 categories of imported goods. According to recent data compiled by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the value of imports has increased year-on-year from 2013-19. The most imported products are divided into more than 10 categories, coming from countries around the world. The top five categories of imported goods were construction equipment, fuel and gas, items used in industry, electronic products, vehicle parts, and food. The key export goods were industrial products, electricity, mineral items and agricultural produce. The main imports included fuel, vehicles other than tractors and motorcycles, iron, iron and steel products, mechanical appliances, insulated wire, cables, electrical machinery and equipment, plastics, bars and steel rods and formed structural steel sections, vehicle parts, and communication

equipment. Last year, Laos made a significant improvement in earnings from exports, with the figure increasing to more than US\$5.6 billion from US\$5.4 billion in 2018. Two-way trade volume was recorded at more than US\$11.3 billion in 2019, up from more than US\$11.2 billion in 2018. Additionally, the trade deficit significantly decreased from US\$437.8 million in 2018 to US\$137.4 million last year. Laos trades with more than 130 countries worldwide. Vietnam, China and Thailand have dominant trade and investment roles in the Lao economy, alongside participation in certain sectors by the Republic of Korea, France, Japan, Australia, Malaysia and Singapore. Thailand has been a longstanding trade partner with Laos and continues to hold the top spot, with electricity being its largest import from Laos. Laos mainly imports goods from Thailand, China, Vietnam and other trading partners in Asia, Africa, Europe and the US.

Source:<http://annx.asianews.network/content/value-imports-dips-trade-deficit-plummets-laos-114627>

## Chicken prices causing difficulties for local breeders



*Myanmar News | 26 February, 2020*

Low prices are causing problems for small- and medium-size poultry farms in Myanmar, industry officials say. The entry of foreign companies into the



domestic poultry breeding industry is causing an imbalance between production and consumption, leading to prices falling below production costs, says Mandalay Region Livestock Breeding Federation chair Dr Kyaw Htin. “It is now concern for local small and medium-size farms, while big companies are expanding their breeding. This situation may cause a quite big challenge for local breeders and I think no more foreign companies should not be granted permission for chicken breeding,” Dr Kyaw Htin said. “Foreign companies should be allowed only to be involved in species production and food production leaving only local breeders to breed for the local consumer market, so the situation can improve for everyone. If not and breeding businesses will face bigger losses,” he said. “The low price of chicken is not because of imports, but because of supply exceeding demand. Some of the big foreign companies have basic operations like chicken farms as well. As the supply increases, the price drops. It is best for the local people to operate chicken farms so things can still be under control,” said he said. The production cost for one viss (roughly 1.63 kilogrammes) of chicken is around K2,800, but since the coronavirus issue started at the end of last year, the price of a broiler chicken has dropped to around K2,000 and K2,300, causing difficulties for local poultry breeders. There are 10 foreign companies involved in chicken breeding and around 3 million chickens are raised around Mandalay, Pyawbwe, and Myingyan of Mandalay Region. “We would like the authorities to

release accurate data for farms and chicken incubators so we can obtain an accurate picture of how many chicks are produced. With accurate information we can make estimates, but right now the true market conditions are like enigma,” said U Nay Thu, vice-chair of the Rain Myanmar Poultry Business Association during the meeting of the Poultry Businesspeople Meeting at the end of last year.

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/chicken-prices-causing-difficulties-local-breeders.html>

---

## Myanmar watermelon losses reach \$50m



*Myanmar News | 26 February, 2020*

Export losses from this year’s disastrous watermelon season have reached nearly US\$50 million (K71.4 billion) and target’s for this year won’t be met, says an industry official. “Our losses have now reached about US\$50 million. Muskmelons are still getting good prices to some extent, but it is a total loss for watermelons. In addition to losses from exports, cessation of exports has worsened the situation,” says U Naing Win, chair of the Myanmar Watermelon and Muskmelon Producers and Exporters Association. During normal times, some 500 to 600 truckloads a day cross the border to China, but now only 30 to 40 per day are doing so, and this has been going on since January 27, after the Lunar New Year, U Naing Win said. The association is urging its

members to attempt exports only after acquiring sound and thorough information from potential buyers. "Some growers are exporting based on guessing conditions will become better without knowing the actual situation. The revenue from sales right now merely covers the cost of transportation and growers are getting almost nothing for their crops. Growers should seek concrete information from wholesalers and brokers first," he advised. The recent coronavirus breakout has affected trade between China and Myanmar along the border, with melons being especially hard hit. However, U Naing Win added that the number of watermelon buyers from China had recently increased from about 50 to over 200 in the last few day indicating the market may be returning to normal. "Market will rebound, it is just a question of time. The buyers appear to be making arrangements for transportation, and sales to restaurants and hotel. So there it a a possibility of a rebound," he said. However, as the watermelon season is until May, the association said projections for watermelon exports this year will definitely be affected. "We projected exporting 800,000 tonnes of melons this year, but have only sold around 300,000 tonnes so far. It's safe to say this year's total exports of melons will be affected," said U Naing Win. Moreover, he said just a little more than 40,000 tonnes of muskmelons have been exported so that crop has also been hit. In late 2018, melons exports from Myanmar were also hit by the closure of the Jin San Jiao border gate for two weeks due to conflict in the area. The border gate was one of the major

routes for watermelon and cucumber exports into China, and the closure led to thousands of truckloads of watermelons being stuck at the border, leading to losses. The closure of the border gate for just two weeks resulted in a decline of total melon exports to US\$66.45 million for 748,472 tonnes of melons in fiscal year 2018-19, U Naing Win said. According to the association's figures, melon exports to China generated US\$77.46 million in revenue from 804,024 tonnes of fruit in FY2017-18. To boost sales, a melon fair will be held for five days at the end of February to give farmers a chance to offload stocks, U Naing Win said. This will be held at Myay Paday Tha Garden (Sin Park) in the eastern part of Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon from February 27 to March 1. If the fair is successful, a second one will be held in Mandalay.

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/myanmar-watermelon-losses-reach-50m.html>

---

## Thailand imposes anti-dumping duty on Vietnamese steel products



*Vietnam News | 26 February, 2019*

Thailand will impose anti-dumping tariffs ranging from 6.97 percent to 51.61 percent of cost, insurance and freight (CIF) prices on some imported steel products from Vietnam, the Trade Remedies Authority of Vietnam under the Ministry of Industry and Trade said. The Vietnam Trade Office in Thailand has informed the authority on Thailand's



final conclusion of an anti-dumping investigation on a number of iron and steel pipes and tubes originating or imported from Vietnam including 169 HS codes. The move aims to protect the Thai domestic manufacturing sector. However, anti-dumping duties are exempted from the importation of related goods for production for export, goods imported for special use or goods classified as special categories. In accordance with the Anti-Dumping Agreement, the anti-dumping duty will be applied for a maximum of five years and members can carry out any reviews every year. Therefore, the Trade Remedies Authority of Vietnam recommended that relevant Vietnamese exporters continue to consider participating in the reviews to ensure their rights and interests.

Source: <https://english.vov.vn/economy/thailand-imposes-antidumping-duty-on-vietnamese-steel-products-410542.vov>

---

## Vietnam's motorbike sales second highest in ASEAN



*Vietnam News | 26 February, 2019*

Though motorbike sales in Vietnam ranked second in ASEAN last year, domestic demand showed a decline against regional growth. The country recorded 3.27 million units sold, second to Indonesia at 6.53 million, according to Italy-based market research firm Motorcycles Data. Vietnam's figure

was almost twice that of third-ranking Thailand with 1.73 million units sold. Domestic sales dropped 3.7 percent from 2018 while ASEAN region grew 3.1 percent thanks to rising demand from Indonesia and Malaysia. While Honda sales recorded a new peak at 2.57 million units, up 0.2 percent, most major producers like Yamaha, Piaggio and Suzuki posted dwindling figures. Globally, Vietnam ranked fourth in motorbike consumption behind India, China and Indonesia, unchanged from 2018. The motorbike market in Vietnam is still growing despite previous forecasts that it had reached a saturation point. High taxes and infrastructure limitations are constraints for cars and there is still a demand for this type of transport, according to the Vietnam Association of Motorcycle Manufacturers. "Although the market will not see remarkable changes in the future, it will continue to grow steadily with 3 - 3.5 million motorbikes sold each year," the association said

Source: <https://english.vov.vn/economy/vietnams-motorbike-sales-second-highest-in-asean-410556.vov>

---