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ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)

## Cambodia's exports to Thailand soar 115 percent



*Cambodia News | 27 April, 2020*

Cambodia's exports to Thailand skyrocketed in the first three months of this year, although the two countries have faced strict movement of cross-border trade because of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic. From January to March this year, Cambodia's total exports to the neighbouring country were valued at \$612 million, a 115 percent increase compared with the same period a year before. Cambodia imported from Thailand \$1,891 million of goods, a 17 percent increase year-on-year rise, according to official data from Thailand's Ministry of Commerce. The data shows that the bilateral trade between the Kingdoms grew by 31 percent in the first three months to \$2,503 million. The increased amount of bilateral trade between the two countries reflects the good relations between the two nations, particularly government-to-government, said Seang Thay, a spokesman at Cambodia's Ministry of Commerce. "The relationship between the governments of the two countries, particularly between the two ministries of commerce, has seen strong cooperation that has pushed the value of trade... and we agreed to promote the bilateral trade to further increase it," Thay told Khmer Times in a previous interview. Agricultural products accounted for the majority of Cambodian exports to Thailand, while Thai exports to Cambodia primarily consisted of energy resources, agriculture fertiliser, cement,

food supplies and cosmetics. In 2015, the leaders of the two governments agreed to triple bilateral trade to \$15 billion by 2020 from \$5 billion in 2015. Although the target will not be reached, the growth in trade is on a rising trend. Last year, the two-way trade between the two countries grew by 12 percent to \$9.4 billion.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50717339/cambodias-exports-to-thailand-soar-115-percent/>

## Securities market grows despite the pandemic



*Cambodia News | 27 April, 2020*

The Cambodian stock market (CSX) has looked healthy during the last two months despite the global Coronavirus pandemic. The CSX Index rebounded to 700 points after two months, according to its data. Within the two-month period, the index has shown a significant fluctuations. It started decreasing from 704.74 points in late February until being stable for a while at around 590 points in early April. Since mid-April, it has presented a robust growth until recovering back to 703.24 points as of Thursday last week. The increase in share prices of PWSA, GTI, and PAS contributed to a 2.51 percent increase, with levels reaching 6,000 riels, 4,000 riels and 17,540 riels respectively, according to data from the CSX. Hong Sok Hour, CEO of the CSX, told Khmer Times that the market saw a decline from December to February because of the virus outbreak. However, the price rebounded as investors' expectations turned optimistic, saying that the crisis will end

shortly. “The prices started to decline in December and when COVID-19 broke out, they fell even more,” he said. However, because investors may think that the virus crisis will not take a long time to overcome, people started buying shares, causing market prices to pick up and become stable during the last two months. “They think that after COVID-19 is eradicated, prices will increase more and they will make a profit,” Hong said. There are now five companies listed on the equity side – Sihanoukville Autonomous port, Phnom Penh Special Economic Zone, Phnom Penh Autonomous Port, Grand Twin International Cambodia and Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority. Hong said because the Kingdom’s stock market is still too young. It needs more time to grow. He said the virus crisis will not last for long and then it would provide impetus for the market to continue its growth. “I don’t expect the crisis will last for a long time. We are young so all parties need to develop more experience about stock markets. We need support from the government and development partners. We need more time to develop the market and to raise the public’s awareness of it,” he said. For almost a decade, the CSX has gradually evolved in its role as a source for local companies to find funds to grow businesses and operations. Beside the equity-listed firms, the market has corporate bond issuers Hatta Kasekar Ltd, LOLC Cambodia and Advanced Bank of Asia Ltd and PPCBank. PRASAC, a microfinance institution, has successfully completed its corporate bond subscription process. Hong Sok Hour from the CSX, said that the market

will see more activity in the next few years. “We do not have more products for them so they will not be interested in the market. But now, in the last two years, they have been made more aware of the market and we expect to see more growth in the future as we can now have more companies listed,” he said. However, the CSX Index on trading Friday closed at 653.95 points, a drop of 49.29 points from 703.24 on Thursday. Trading volume on Friday was 23,201 shares with a total trading value of 148,545,170 riels. The share price of all listed firms trading on Friday, which is the last day of trading in the week, saw PPAP fall from 11,300 riels a share on Thursday to 11,100 riels, PAS fall from 17,540 to 16,000 riels a share. Another state-owned enterprise, PWAP, saw its price fall from 6,000 riels to 5,500 riels. Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50717297/securities-market-grows-despite-the-pandemic/>

## The Signing Ceremony of the Clearing House of Laos-Vietnam Bank



Laos News | 27 April, 2020

On the morning of April 24, 2020, Star Telecommunications Headquarters signed a cooperation agreement between the Lao-Vietnamese Joint Venture Bank and StarTel Training Limited under a trademark of United Kingdom (u-money), signed and signed by Mr. Nguyen Van Binh, Managing Director. The solitary confinement with guests was attended by Ms. Monkman Mohammed

Vong, Deputy Director of the Banking System Management Department of the Bank of the Lao PDR, together with the two executives, the Departments, the Central Steering Committee, the Star Telecommunications Company and the Lao-Vietnamese Joint Venture Bank. The purpose of the contract in this research link payment wide open to people accessing services, financial banking convenient, safe, fast readers fold, especially customer accounts wallet file electronically in Germany (u - money) can transfer money from one account directly withdraw money at the box ATM, payment services through bank venture Lao and vice versa child Water with a bank account in his business's can transfer the wallet of electronic u-money can be withdrawn - money transfer, payment services Unitel easily, quickly, safely, which will provide services such soon. In the past, Static Tech has been affiliated with the Bank of the Lao Trade Bank (MB Bank), the Foreign Trade Bank of Laos. The partnership will provide a good foundation for the future of digital banking to make people more familiar with the simple and easy-to-use technology that many countries around the world are now using to make payments through electronic payments. Companies with Marshfield Texas limited only under the trademark in Germany (u-money), a subsidiary company Star Telecom, which has been licensed by the Bank of Lao P.D.R. to provide services bags electronically only service u-money company first PDR can be provided through mobile phones can pay the money - withdraw cash through mobile

phones create a more Hello to customers using mobile across the country and especially through networks of Unitel users more than 3 million can use it in the payment of Unitel and get discount special payment in Germany, service Germany will work financially for his people easier access to money - the money - the money people to use money in Timeline on Builders provides timely, safe access, especially to people living in remote provinces. The future will come through this company with Sheffield Texas under the slogan "Bank mobile of his" will continue to cooperate with the banks and the financial institutions to research the new products tailored to the era of transformation to digital to bring maximum benefits offered to the people along the development of economic society continued development of the company as part of creating a Application service payment model to replace the use of cash that plays more.

Source: <https://laoedaily.com.la/2020/04/27/77145/>

**Good news for 2 more weeks! April 27 No confirmed cases of cocaine-19 were added while 7 were hospitalized**



*Laos News | 27 April, 2020*

So far, there have been no cases of cocaine-19 infection, still missing in 19 cases, including: recovered and discharged 7 cases; Continued treatment in 12 cases. So far, out of a total of 61

cases, no new cases were found. On April 27, 2020 at the COVID-19 Control Center Task Force, the Ministry of Health held a press conference reporting the situation of Kow-19 by the statement of Dr. Dr. Rattanakhetpan Souvanh, Director of Department of Infectious Disease Control, Ministry of Health, together with the committee and stakeholders. Dr. On the 26th of April, 2020, a total of 61 patients were recruited, including five patients with no symptoms, 27 patients with no symptoms, 29 Lao migrant workers (all laborers with no symptoms), and a total of 61 were non-infected. That means that on April 26, 2020, there were no new cases. To date, Lao PDR has only 19 cases of measles-19 cases, with seven cases treated and returned home and sustained at 12 hospitals. Dr. In the case of Lao PDR, it is still 15 days without new infections. Of the total 19 patients who were discharged, 07 have been discharged and the remaining 12 will continue to be closely monitored. This is due to the fact that the ethnic people are cooperating in implementing Order 06 / PM, but we will not reduce surveillance measures to detect any suspects, especially those who have limited access to their centers and homes. For those who are crossing the border again, measures must be taken from the country of origin to the border and the arrival and entry of Laos properly and strictly to prevent the second epidemic.

Source: <https://laoedaily.com.la/2020/04/27/77144/>

## Mandalay takes precautions as migrant workers return from China



*Myanmar News | 27 April, 2020*

More than 1000 migrant workers who returned to Myanmar from China near Wet Wan village on the border between Mandalay Region and Shan State between April 26 and 27 have been escorted home by their township administrators in Mandalay, Bago, Sagaing and Magwe. Most of them are undocumented Myanmar migrant workers who worked in sugarcane and tissue-culture banana farms in China. And, they returned to Myanmar via illegal routes. "More are expected to arrive this evening too. The volunteer groups from nearby areas and villagers also give them food," said U Aung, a volunteer from Naung Cho township, Shan State. More than a third of the returning workers were escorted back to Mandalay, where the regional Committee for Emergency Response and Control against COVID-19 has issued an announcement saying that those who come back into the region from areas with positive cases of the disease must complete a 21-day compulsory facility quarantine and 7-day home quarantine. Those who come back from areas which are still free of COVID-19 will first have to receive medical checkups. Quarantines will be carried out only if necessary. So far, just three people have tested positive for COVID-19 in Mandalay Region, and one has recovered. Authorities have also completed COVID-19 inspections of more than 50 factories at the

Mandalay Industrial Zone, according to the industrial zone management committee. Inspection began with two teams on April 25 and expanded further on April 26 with five teams. "Most of the foodstuff and medicine factories have restarted now," said the industrial zone management committee secretary U Ye Win Aung. "Inspections will continue at packaging factories that are related to food and medicine manufacturing. We have also told machine repair businesses in the industrial zone prepare for inspections," he said.

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/mandalay-takes-precautions-migrant-workers-return-china.html>

## Việt Nam's FDI hits \$12.33 billion in the first 4 months



*Vietnam News | 27 April, 2020*

**HÀ NỘI** — Total foreign investment inflows in Việt Nam reached US\$12.33 billion in the first four months of this year, a year-on-year decrease of 14.5 per cent due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, according the Ministry of Planning and Investment's Foreign Investment Agency (FIA). The figure, however, was much higher than that of the same period of 2018 and 2017 with \$5.8 billion and \$9.2 billion, respectively, the FIA said. The four-month period saw 984 new foreign-invested projects licensed with a total registered capital of \$6.78 billion, down 9 per cent in term of number of projects but up 27 per cent in value year-on-year. Of them, the Bạc Liêu LNG-to-power project marked the first

billion-dollar project in 2020 with investment capital of \$4 billion, accounting for 59 per cent of the total registered FDI. Meanwhile, 335 existing projects were allowed to raise their investments by more than \$3.07 billion, surging 46 per cent over the same period last year. From January to April, foreign investors spent nearly \$2 billion buying shares or contributing capital to Vietnamese firms, down 65 per cent year-on-year. According to the agency, FDI disbursement reached \$5.15 billion in four months or equivalent to 90.4 per cent of the last year's corresponding period. Foreign investors pledged to pour capital in 18 sectors, in which manufacturing and processing took the lead with nearly \$6 billion, accounting for 48.4 per cent of the total capital. It was followed by power production and distribution (\$3.9 billion); wholesale and retail (\$776 million); and real estate (\$665 million), the FIA said. Singapore was the country's largest source of FDI as the committed volume accounted for 41 per cent or \$5.07 billion. Thailand and Japan were the runners-up with \$1.46 billion and \$1.16 billion, respectively, followed by mainland China, Taiwan and South Korea. Among 54 localities receiving FDI in the four-month period, the southern province of Bạc Liêu ranked top with \$4 billion. Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu Province came next with \$1.9 billion and HCM City placed third with \$1.31 billion, followed by Hà Nội, Hà Nam and Bình Dương provinces. Foreign-invested sector's exports rose by 1.5 per cent against last year to \$55.75 billion, making up 69.3

per cent of the nation's four-month export value. Meanwhile, the sector's import value also picked up 3 per cent to \$46.32 billion, accounting for 58 per cent of the nation's import volume. Despite the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the sector gained a trade surplus of \$10.2 billion, according to the FIA. The study from Standard Chartered forecast that FDI inflows will see a plunge to below \$10 billion this year, with downside risks if virus worries continue in the second half of the year. Construction activity is likely to decline on subdued sentiment and declining FDI investment. Export growth is likely to slow sharply given lower global demand while import growth will also likely moderate with a slower growth, keeping the trade balance in surplus in 2020. — VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/715866/vietnams-fdi-hits-1233-billion-in-the-first-4-months.html>

## Vietnam to export first batch of litchi to Japan in late May JETRO Vice Chairman: Foreign firms laud Vietnam's improving global trade policies



*Vietnam News | 27 April, 2019*

Tokyo (VNA) - Foreign enterprises have applauded Vietnam's efforts to improve its international trade policies through a close watch on global trends, according to Hironobu Kitagawa, Vice Chairman of the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO). In an interview granted to Vietnam News Agency (VNA)

on the occasion of Vietnam's 45th National Reunification Day (April 30), Kitagawa noted that the country has a trade agreement with the US and has joined the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as well as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Its economy has grown strongly since it undertook its "Doi Moi" reform policy in 1986, said Kitagawa, who was once JETRO's Chief Representative in the country. He quoted figures from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as saying that Vietnam's national GDP jumped from 5 billion USD in 1986 to 245 billion USD in 2018 - the highest rate in ASEAN. Its growth is partially attributable to its efforts in attracting foreign enterprises and expanding exports, which stood at more than 240 billion USD in 2018. He also highlighted the Vietnam-Japan Joint Initiative which offers a forum for Japanese enterprises to have discussions with the Vietnamese and Japanese Governments, and the Vietnam Business Forum which involves Western enterprises. In a survey conducted by JETRO last year on the operations of Japanese enterprises in Asia and Oceania, they gave the best assessment to Vietnam among the ASEAN member countries, with 63.9 percent saying they plan to expand their operations in the country. The best comments were for market scale and growth potential, together with socio-political stability, Kitagawa said. He also pointed out enterprises' concerns relating to labour costs, high staff turnover, investment incentives, and power shortages, and suggested Vietnam clear up

such concerns. Exchanges between young people and workers from the two countries would play a role in boosting cooperation, he added, suggesting Vietnam and Japan could also step up collaboration in agro-forestry-fishery./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/jetro-vice-chairman-foreign-firms-laud-vietnams-improving-global-trade-policies/172418.vnp>

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