

Highlight News / April 29/2020



- Cambodia logged 21 percent increase in Inflow of FDI into the Real Estate sector in 2019
- Coronavirus takes its toll on garment industry with 130 factories suspending operations, affecting 100,000 workers
- International income tax revenue is only 58%
- Central Bank cuts interest rates again
- Uniqlo to open second store in HCM City next month
- Thai firm acquires Vietnamese cable makers in 240 million USD deal



Cambodia logged 21 percent increase in Inflow of FDI into the Real Estate sector in 2019



Cambodia News | 28 April, 2020

The inflow of foreign direct investment into the real estate sector (combined all type of real estate and condominium) in Cambodia was estimated at over \$437.3 million in 2019, according to data from the NBC's Annual Banking Supervision Report 2019, issued on April 27, 2020. Among the total inflow of FDI into the real estate sector, China had the largest investments in Cambodia. China contributed around 58.8 percent (or over \$262 million) of the total FDIs, followed by Singapore 15.2 percent or \$67.75 million, \$53.5million from United State, \$27.25million from South Korea, \$15.5million from Japan, and \$19.5million from other countries. The NBC report read that by the end of 2019, the growth of credit of banking and finances to real estate sector were 37.9 percent and 13, 9 percent respectively. The market share of the banking sector into the real estate was 24.8 percent among total loan portfolio of \$25.1billion. It said that more than 97 percent of banks were offering credit to the real estate while microfinance institutions shared only 3 percent. Credit to the real estate sector was mostly in real estate activities such as construction, and personal mortgage. The credit growth for mortgage was 41.7 percent, real estate activities was 43, 3 percent and construction was 27, 6 percent.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com>

[/50717905/cambodia-logged-21-percent-increase-in-inflow-of-fdi-into-the-real-estate-sector-in-2019/](#)

Coronavirus takes its toll on garment industry with 130 factories suspending operations, affecting 100,000 workers



Cambodia News | 28 April, 2020

Cambodia's garment and footwear industries are being severely impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic with exports affected in the upcoming months. Up to 130 factories have thus far submitted notices requesting for suspension and these will impact up 100,000 workers, government official said yesterday. Labour Ministry spokesman Heng Sour said in a press conference that garment exports had felt the pinch much from January to February because its, major markets, particular European Union and U.S remained open for the product exports. For the second quarter of this year, garment and footwear exports will see a 50 to 60 percent decline over the same corresponding period last year, Sour noted. "Cambodia has yet to receive any orders from buyers for May and June, as well as for the foreseeable future. We can conclude that export in garment and footwear will be hit hard in the second quarter this year," he said. The EU and U.S, the main market destination for the Kingdom's garment exports, have adversely affected by the global CoVid-19 pandemic. Thus, Sour said, their markets continue to close and people were no longer

spending money. "That said, the pandemic has led to the demand for garment and footwear and other products to be dramatically reduced." The government and factory owners have agreed to provide a minimum wage of \$70 per month for each suspended worker. Of which, the government contributes \$40 and the remaining \$30 is to be borne by factory owners.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50717977/coronavirus-takes-its-toll-on-garment-industry-with-130-factories-suspending-operations-affecting-100000-workers/>

International income tax revenue is only 58%



Laos News | 29 April, 2020

By 2020, the international customs office in Borikhamxay province has received 415 billion kip in revenue, with a specific plan of 83 billion kip, but through a 58.98 percent implementation, a factor from Vietnam and China exporting new year-end goods by importers and importers. According to Mr. Viengsay Pheaktra, Deputy Director of the International Customs Office, the Customs International Customs Office comprises two working divisions: the border (505) and the main point (515) comprising 3 units, 2 customs checkpoints and a customs administration unit, a customs inspector and a customs inspector. For the 2020 plan, the International Customs Clearance has received 415 billion kip, assigned by the checkpoints to be collected monthly, quarterly and divided into

categories of goods. Specifically, Phase I plans to be 83 billion kip, through implementation of Phase I (January-March 2020), earning 48.9 billion kip, equal to 58.98% of the plan, or 11.80% of the yearly plan. Causes of non-compliance due to foreign businessmen ending Vietnamese and Chinese New Year shipments, importing of goods to international checkpoints and other causes are reduced passenger fees, termination of import of certain products during inspection, and the spread of the virus. Customs authorities are now strict with the implementation of top-level orders, such as: Receiving goods are replaced by importers and exporters, as well as spraying trucks for all essential imports, most of which are imported within the licensing range. However, for the implementation of the project, it was difficult to find: unfavorable facilities, heavy machinery was not available, warehouse system was not standardized. However, it is also good because of the attention and leadership of the Party Committee, top leadership, Department, Customs V and local authorities coordinating with the relevant sectors regularly, most entrepreneurs cooperate, have advanced equipment, tools, tools and tools. Take note, the staff is very active.

Source : <https://laoedaily.com.la/2020/04/29/77216/>

Central Bank cuts interest rates again



Myanmar News | 28 April, 2020

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has slashed interest rates by another 1.5 percent, making it the third time it has done so since COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic. The decision to cut rates was announced under Directive No. (8/2020), issued on April 27 and effective May 1. The CBM first cut rates by 0.5 pc on March 12. A second 1pc cut was announced on March 24. The April 27 cut brings total rate cuts to 3pc within two months. Starting from May 1, bank deposit rates in Myanmar will be reduced to a minimum of 5pc and lending rates will not exceed 10pc for collateralised loans, according to the CBM's new directive. However, rates for unsecured loans will remain at 14.5pc. The reduction of interest rates is expected to provide some relief for borrowers and help support the economy, the CBM said. "As the Central Bank, we are making efforts to support the country's economy by using monetary policy tools during this period. The main purpose of reduced interest rates is to enable more liquidity for businesses and we believe this will provide some support to businesses," U Soe Min, Deputy Governor of the CBM, told The Myanmar Times today. U Maung Maung Lay, vice chair of the Union of Myanmar Federation Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said that the lower interest rates can help businesses facing financial or operational problems as a result of COVID-19. "This is what businesses have always demanded," he said. U Zeyar Nyunt,

CEO of Small and Medium Industrial Development Bank, welcomed the move, but said that his bank is preparing for depositors to withdraw larger volumes of cash. U Soe Min acknowledged that depositors would prefer higher interest rates but said that for the time being, the deposit volumes have not fallen substantially. However, some existing borrowers said the new rates do not apply to existing loans and that very few banks are making new loans at this time.

Source : <https://www.mmmtimes.com/news/central-bank-cuts-interest-rates-again.html>

Uniqlo to open second store in HCM City next month



Vietnam News | 28 April, 2020

Japanese apparel retailer Uniqlo will open its second store in Ho Chi Minh City at SC VivoCity shopping mall in District 7 on May 15, indicating its continued interest in this market. This will be Uniqlo's third outlet in Vietnam, following the opening of the first store at Parkson shopping mall in HCMC's District 1 and the second store at Vincom Pham Ngoc Thach shopping mall in Hanoi's Dong Da District. With a sales floor of over 2,000 square meters, Uniqlo SC VivoCity provides customers a full line-up of LifeWear products for men, women, children and babies; a Spring/Summer collection; and other limited offers during its opening week. "We are doing our best to create a world-class store to showcase LifeWear products to meet the needs of everyone's daily

lifestyles in harmony with the community around us. Through the opening of our third store in Vietnam, we remain committed to contributing to the local community," said Osamu Ikezoe, general director and chief operating officer of Uniqlo Vietnam. Using the government's guidance to ensure safety for customers and employees during the COVID-19 pandemic, Uniqlo will strictly follow sanitization measures, including providing masks and hand sanitizers and conducting body temperature checks.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/economy/uniqlo-to-open-second-store-in-hcm-city-next-month-413067.vov>

Thai firm acquires Vietnamese cable makers in 240 million USD deal



Vietnam News | 28 April, 2019

Hanoi (VNS/VNA) - Thailand's Stark Corporation has completed the acquisition of Vietnam-based Think Phat Cables (ThiPha) and Dong Viet Non-Ferrous & Plastic (Dovina) for a combined value of 240 million USD. The transaction was implemented by Stark Corporation's subsidiary Phelps Dodge International (Thailand) Co Ltd, a leading Thai and Southeast Asian wire and cable manufacturer. Through the deal, Stark aims to increase productivity and cable production capacity, as well as expand to become a leading producer of power cables in the region. "The overall business of the company and the target companies is similar and complement the company's core business and also enhance the

competitive advantages of the group company for domestic and international markets," newswire dealstreestasia quoted Stark Corporation as saying in a stock exchange filing. Phelps Dodge International produces and exports wires and cables to various countries, while the Vietnamese businesses operate in the same sector and have also reached several Southeast Asian markets. The transaction represents the largest inbound private sector industrial transaction in Vietnam in the last three years, according to Mergermarket. It reflected the continued attractiveness of the Vietnamese domestic market, and Vietnam's strong regional position within ASEAN. According to news site nhadautu.vn, ThiPha was established in 1987 in HCM City and is the second largest manufacturer of electrical wires and cables in Vietnam. At the end of 2009, ThiPha's shareholders established Dovina to import and process copper and aluminum for the production of electrical wires and cables. Dovina sells processed copper and aluminum to ThiPha and other businesses in Vietnam and abroad. Both are among the 100 largest private companies in Vietnam. By the end of September 2019, the total assets of ThiPha and Dovina had reached 4.7 trillion VND (201 million USD). Total combined revenue and net profit also reached 7.1 trillion VND and 344.8 billion VND, respectively. ThiPha's projects include Park Hill Building in Hanoi, E-Home 3, 4, 5 in HCM

City and Binh Duong province, Tan Son Nhat International Airport in HCM City, Diamond Bay Resort 2 in Khanh Hoa province, and Phu Quoc Airport in Kien Giang province. ThiPha also provides products to projects in foreign markets such as the Vatanac Tower in Cambodia, Hong Kong Land in Cambodia and the Coca Cola factory in Myanmar./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/thai-firm-acquires-vietnamese-cable-makers-in-240-million-usd-deal/172485.vnp>
