

*Highlight News / April 30/2020*



- Japan jumps in on energy
- Banks to partner on competitive agribusiness development
- Deputy Prime Minister-Minister Pham Binh Minh will attend a meeting of the National Assembly on May 3.
- Govt seeks investment to manufacture Covid-19 medical equipment at inoperative factories
- April CPI down 1.54 percent month-on-month
- FDI to Da Nang surges despite COVID-19



## Japan jumps in on energy



*Cambodia News | 29 April, 2020*

Two Japanese renewable energy firms plan to build rice husk-fired energy plants and solar panels in Cambodia in the aim to help secure the Kingdom's regular power supply. The report, by the Japanese news agency NNA, says the two companies are Aura Green Energy Co and solar panel system provider WWB Corp. They have teamed up to launch a hybrid power generation business, combining biomass and solar energy in Cambodia in 2021. Lun Yeng, Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF)'s secretary-general, welcomed the plan, saying that the investment will help reduce production costs for some rice millers. "Investing in renewable energy such as rice husk-fired power will help rice millers to reduce costs," he said, adding the investment should be located in a cluster of rice millers that could provide a self-sufficient supply of energy. Under the \$3.7 million project, the combined green energy facilities, with a total output capacity of 1,500 kilowatts, will supply power to the rice mill of Angkor Kasekam Roongroeung Co, a major local rice producer, in Kandal province, adjacent to the capital, with a plan to sell any surplus to a local power company. "Even though the companies could produce both rice husk power and solar energy, they will still not benefit much from it if they are still connected to the national grid for power supplies," he said. For Yeng, the high cost of electricity is still

the main challenge for the rice sector that creates higher production costs. However, he said the quality of electricity supply is more important. "We could offset the cost of electricity by reducing other costs, but the issue right now is the poor quality of electricity supply that interrupts the production chain," he said, adding the poor quality of electric supply cost more than its actual price. "Sometimes, when the electricity is cut off, it damages 400 to 500 tonnes of paddy rice that is being dried, the damage is the cost of investment," he said. Cambodia aims to produce at least 390 megawatts from solar farms by next year – 15 percent of total power supply. A host of solar energy projects was approved earlier this year after the country was hit by power shortages last year. Some of these recently approved projects will come this year. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 2019 approved a \$7.64 million loan to support the construction of a 100 megawatt (mW) solar power park in Cambodia to help to contribute to the development of renewable energy and diversify the power supply that can improve the country's competitiveness. The two Japanese companies established a joint venture in Cambodia in February for the business. The project is partly subsidised by the Japanese government to the tune of about 110 million yen (over \$1 million), under the Joint Crediting Mechanism, a greenhouse gas emission reduction plan to exchange reduced carbon dioxide emissions. Aura Green Energy estimates the project will contribute to cutting 1,316

tonnes of CO2 emissions annually from biomass power generation and 565 tonnes from solar power.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50718101/japan-jumps-in-on-energy/>

## Banks to partner on competitive agribusiness development



*Cambodia News | 29 April, 2020*

Cambodia's state-run Agriculture and Rural Development Bank (ARDB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have initiated a scheme to boost agricultural development through added value into production chains of farming in Cambodia. Called the Competitive Agriculture Development Project, it will contribute funds to farmers and agricultural cooperatives to expand into the whole production cycle, from A to Z. The initiative was raised in a video conference meeting held between ARDB and ADB yesterday. ARDB director-general Kao Thach said that the project is in line with the government's target of boosting local agricultural production. "The purpose of the project is to focus on increasing added value to each main factor of agricultural production chains for boosting their development," Thach told Khmer Times on Tuesday. To implement the project, \$110 million will be funded at a lower interest rate to farmers and agricultural cooperatives and it would run from 2021 to 2027, according to Thach, who added that agricultural production bases in six provinces would be selected to benefit from the project. "The project focuses on development of agriculture, from the farm to the

post-harvest stage, which includes the post-harvest infrastructure cool room and pre-cool room," Thach said. The project was raised while the government is seeking to boost agricultural production to supply the domestic market, particularly to eliminate dependence on imports of agricultural products – including vegetables from neighbouring countries. The call to boost agricultural production is also aimed at increasing food security in the country as the government and people fight against the potentially fatal Novel Coronavirus pandemic. "The project is important because some farmers and agricultural cooperatives are in need of loans with low interest rates to expand and support their production," Thach said. ARDB is also providing special loans to rice millers for the purchase of paddy rice and to build rice storage facilities and recently it started providing loans to small and medium enterprises for processing agricultural products.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50718266/banks-to-partner-on-competitive-agribusiness-development/>

## Deputy Prime Minister-Minister Pham Binh Minh will attend a meeting of the National Assembly on May 3.



*Laos News | 30 April, 2020*

The Prime Minister-Vice-President's Meeting focused on exploring measures to be implemented after May 3, with some measures being mitigated and some measures being continued. The draft

report on measures to address the economic impact of the cholera outbreak has been considered, with some specific policies and measures that have not yet been specifically formulated, especially public policy related to electricity and water costs. On the morning of 28 April 2020 at the Prime Minister's meeting with Prime Minister - Deputy Prime Minister to discuss about the prevention, control and modify the spread of Clovis - 19 solution impacts the economy of the outbreak of the disease COVID - 19 by the President's Affairs Sisulit Prime Minister, with the Deputy Prime Minister, the Prime Minister on Measles, the specific activities to prevent, control and solve outbreaks of disease Clovis - 19 and specific business economy to address the impact of the spread of the disease Clovis - 19 attend the meeting to consider and guidance on key issues such as: The meeting considered the report on the prevention, control and response measures for cholera outbreaks - 19, forward-looking directions, provincial risk assessments, mitigation plans, and some measures to be implemented after May 03, 2020 to be implemented as a sub-committee, body and body. Allowing people, staff - civil servants, police, police to leave their homes and travel within the province by ensuring preventative measures; Training, formal meetings, religious activities and other activities; Authorization to operate activities of large companies, factories and projects in accordance with the requirements and preventive measures in accordance with the recommendations of the Special Committee No. 031 / MOH; Continuing

closure of some activities, school opening, border closure and more. Congratulations to the Task Force on the Prevention, Control and Reduction of the Epidemic Epidemic - 19 and all concerned parties have undertaken to carry out their duties responsibly and have focused on preparing measures to be implemented after 03 May 2020. In addition, the Meeting directed the Task Force to prevent, control and address the outbreak of the pandemic - 19 To report the report in a clear, comprehensive, clear way to the meeting's comments on the risk assessment, the future direction to be clearly defined, and not to define; Interim mitigation measures to be implemented after May 03, 2020 periodically, in the absence of new cases, and measures will continue if new infections occur. After that, submit a report to the Central Party Political Party meeting for consideration and guidance. 2. The meeting considered a report on measures to address the effects of economic pandemic disease Clovis - 19 deep some policies and measures have not been set out clearly the direction of meeting the government on 23 April 2020 as policy support workers and informal social policies of people linked to lower electricity and water supply, the Edit obstacle transportation and traffic within the country and import - export goods at the border, to encourage the production of agricultural crops and livestock for food and goods, restore health services and tourism policies on money, including to promote small and medium-solving debt abroad and offers a number of transactions Yes. Congress has directed

the board because the economy to address the impact of the spread of the disease Clovis - 19 in conjunction with stakeholders research further detail some points to ensure that policies issued to implement the action with an effective draft report such as the meeting of the Congress to the contents tidy, complete and clear to the presentation Congress a central consideration and further guidance.

Source : <https://laoedaily.com.la/2020/04/30/77273/>

## Govt seeks investment to manufacture Covid-19 medical equipment at inoperative factories



*Myanmar News | 29 April, 2020*

New investments have been invited for the production of medicines and medical equipment necessary Covid-19 at inoperative State-owned factories, said Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Thaung Tun. As Myanmar purchases medicines and medical equipment from international market, plans have also been made to buy personal protective equipment (PPE) and face masks from local manufacturers, the minister commented his news article “The Measure of a Nation: Myanmar’s “Whole- of-Nation Approach” to Combating Covid-19” published in State-owned newspapers. For the prevention, control and treatment of Covid-19, measures are being taken to build more hospitals and clinics and provide more

diagnostic equipment and ventilators. The new Cobas 6800 analyser for Covid-19 tests will start operation this week. So, the National Health Laboratory in Yangon will be able to test over 1,000 people daily. The Ministry of Commerce on March 13 announced in a notification that medicines and medical equipment for Covid-19 and foodstuffs had been declared emergency commodities. The notification also says legal action will be taken against sale or distribution of those products at a higher price in local markets and stockpile of those products for speculation.

Source : <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/govt-seeks-investment-to-manufacture-covid-19-medical-equipment-at-inoperative-factories>

## April CPI down 1.54 percent month-on-month



*Vietnam News | 29 April, 2020*

Hanoi (VNA) - Significant falls in the price of petrol, oil, non-food items, and foodstuffs were behind a month-on-month decline of 1.54 percent in the CPI in April, the General Statistics Office (GSO) said on April 29. The CPI rose 2.93 percent, however, against April 2019. In the first four months it increased 4.9 percent year-on-year. Compared to March, six of 11 commodity groups reported falling prices, including transport (13.86 percent), housing and construction materials (2.33 percent), and other goods and services (0.13 percent). The April CPI was down 1.63

percent in rural areas and 1.45 percent in urban areas. Gold prices increased 0.69 percent against March and the USD exchange rate was up 0.95 percent. The GSO also noted that basic inflation (the CPI minus foodstuffs, fresh food, energy, health care, and education services) fell 0.15 percent in April against the previous month but was up 2.71 percent year-on-year. The figure for the first four months was up 2.96 percent year-on-year./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/april-cpi-down-154-percent-monthonmonth/172557.vnp>

USD. Meanwhile, Da Nang has attracted four state-owned projects with a combined capital of over 8.61 trillion VND since the start of the year, bringing the total to 335 projects and 112.6 trillion VND in investment./

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/fdi-to-da-nang-surges-despite-covid19/172547.vnp>

## FDI to Da Nang surges despite

### COVID-19



*Vietnam News | 29 April, 2019*

Da Nang (VNA) – Foreign direct investment (FDI) disbursement in the central city of Da Nang has neared 1.8 trillion VND (76.54 million USD) since the start of 2020, a year-on-year surge of 92.1 percent despite the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the city's statistics office. Da Nang's total development investment was estimated at over 7 trillion VND in the first quarter, down 8.1 percent compared to the same period last year. The FDI sector has seen a rise in investment attraction thanks to the implementation of several big projects, notably the Sunshine aerospace components manufacturing facility launched by the Universal Alloy Corporation Vietnam, and the Japan-invested Mikazuki Spa & Hotel Report project. To date, the city has welcomed 844 FDI projects totalling 3.47 billion