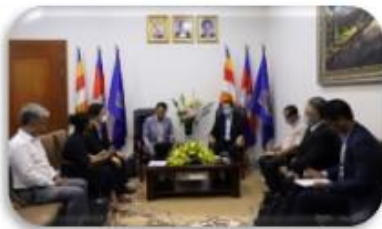




- Two Japanese firms eye agricultural opportunities
- Listed Chinese firm licensed to build another solar park
- ADB approves US\$20m for Laos' response to Covid-19
- ADB to extend loans in support of development in Myanmar
- Mandalay to beef up 5,000 tons of national reserve rice
- US becomes Vietnam's largest supplier of fruits, vegetables
- Exports shrink to lowest in first half of May



## Two Japanese firms eye agricultural opportunities



*Cambodia News | 25 May, 2020*

NIPPON Express and Xamato Green expressed their interest after seeing a potential investment in Cambodia's agriculture sector. The plan was disclosed during a meeting last week led by Yamato Green company's Chairman Nabeshima Katsuhito and Ngin Chhay, the director-general of the General Directorate of Agriculture at the Ministry of Agriculture. Nabeshima said the company is piloting a project investment on vegetable and fruit in Cambodia, adding that the company is also planning to process and package for export to the international market. "The project is already appearing and it will be implemented after an agreement signed with General Directorate of Agriculture, ensuring the project to be smoothly implemented," he was quoted as saying. Ngin Chhay said he firmly support the project investment, which he said, it will be line with the government policy attracting such an investment in the agriculture sector. He pledged to speed up work on the memorandum of understanding to get it signed soon so that the firm can begin implementing the project. "This project will be an additional contribution to the value chain, adding the value on vegetable and fruits, and we believe that investment cooperation between the two firms will eventually attract more companies to invest in Cambodia's agriculture sector, he said. He added once the

investment is realised, it will certainly help to reduce importing vegetable and fruits from foreign markets, while helping to increase agri-processed products for export and creating additional income to the local people. Takahashi Fumiaki, president of the Japan-Cambodia Association (JCA), said the association is planning to delegate representatives of leading Japanese companies interested in exploring the Kingdom's business climate and investment policy. The official visit is scheduled for December this year. Takahashi previously said Japanese investors' main focus was the agriculture sector. Figures released for 2019 from the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC), a government arm responsible for overseeing investment, show that there are currently 143 registered Japanese investment projects representing a capital investment of \$2.7 billion. According to the CDC, some of the businesses and sectors that have benefited include electronic and vehicle auto parts production, technical equipment, food processing, agro-industry, healthcare and tourism.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50726611/two-japanese-firms-eye-agricultural-opportunities/>

## Listed Chinese firm licensed to build another solar park



*Cambodia News | 25 May, 2020*

The Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) granted a business licence to Chinese panel maker Risen Energy (Cambodia) to build a 60 megawatt (mW) solar farm in Battambang province.

According to the CDC, the project has a capital investment of \$50.9 million, and it is expected to create 50 jobs. Founded in 1986 and listed as a Chinese public company in 2010, Risen Energy is one of the pioneers in the solar industry. The company's solar farm investment in Cambodia was among the four solar parks that the government approved during a cabinet meeting last year July. Also, it is among the total of nine power projects, which according to Mine and Energy Ministry, are being constructed. In its report, the ministry stated five solar parks across five, including the Battambang project are having their construction works accelerated so they can be connected to the national grid not later than this year.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50726630/listed-chinese-firm-licensed-to-build-another-solar-park/>

## ADB approves US\$20m for Laos' response to Covid-19



*Laos News | 26 May, 2020*

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on May 25 approved a US\$20 million loan to support Laos' response to the novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic, the bank announced on its website. The loan, as additional financing to the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Health Security Project, will assist the Ministry of Health in procuring personal protective equipment, laboratory equipment, testing kits, medical devices, and ambulances. It will also help the government provide supplies and training to

frontline health workers on infection prevention and control, lab testing, and clinical care for Covid-19 patients. It will also cover the government's costs for contact tracing, risk communications, and other interventions. "The additional financing will boost the resources and capacity of the Lao PDR's health system to address the impacts of the pandemic," said ADB Health Specialist Ye Xu. "The Lao PDR has been managing the outbreak relatively well, thanks to improved communicable disease surveillance and response capacity over the last decade. It still needs to maintain maximum preparedness and strengthen the health care system to be able to respond to any resurgence of Covid-19." As of May 25, Laos had 19 confirmed Covid-19 cases including 14 discharged patients, according to Laos' National Taskforce Committee for Covid-19 Prevention and Control. However, the ABD said Laos remains highly vulnerable, as the outbreak in the region has forced many migrant workers to return from heavily-affected neighbouring countries. The health system, with limited medical personnel, supplies, and equipment, could be overwhelmed by the rapid spread of the virus. The new loan builds on ADB's assistance in early 2020, when the ongoing GMS Health Security Project was reprogrammed to provide the Lao government with US\$860,000 to purchase personal protective equipment, real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) machines, infrared thermometers,

autoclave/UPS, and education and communication materials, among others. The project, which ADB originally approved in 2016 with a US\$125 million loan, is helping to strengthen health security in Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam, focusing on regional cooperation and subnational communicable disease control systems, particularly in border areas of the GMS. The other two members of the GMS, Thailand and China, are also participating in the GMS Working Group on Health Cooperation, which is supported by ADB. ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members - 49 from the region.

Source:[http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten\\_ADB99.php](http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_ADB99.php)

## ADB to extend loans in support of development in Myanmar



*Myanmar News | 25 May, 2020*

Myanmar is planning to take a US\$60 million loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to establish a Credit Guarantee Corporation (CGC), U Maung Maung Win, the Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Planning, Finance, and Industry, said in Parliament on May 21. The proposal was sent by the President. U Maung Maung Win said small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Myanmar lack a credit guarantee system which limits the amount of

unsecured loans the banks are able to extend to an SME. In Myanmar, 98pc of the economy comprises SMEs, while 95pc of the workforce is employed by this sector, according to government data. Yet, bank lending for business in Myanmar comprises just 37 percent of GDP, which is low compared to other countries in the region. "Establishing the CGC will help solve the problem of SMEs having insufficient collateral and documentation, which prevents them from getting a loan from the banks," he said. The ADB will extend the loan at an interest rate of 1pc per year during a grace period of eight years, and 1.5pc per year during the repayment period over the next 24 years. The CGC will be formed in three stages. Under the first and second stages, to be complete before the end of the year, a wholly-owned CGC will be established by the government utilising the ADB loan. The third stage will see the CGC sign agreements with financial institutions to establish the necessary financial systems required. This will be implemented between 2021 and 2025. Meanwhile, Myanmar will also receive some \$1.8 billion in financial support for development projects in the country from the ADB, according to the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MIFER). This will include a \$1.7 billion concessional loan and a grant of \$70 million to build infrastructure for transport and energy as well as for education, healthcare and urban and rural development, said U Than Aung Kyaw, Director General of the Foreign Economic Relations Department under MIFER. This aligns with the ADB's business plan for Myanmar

over the next two years, released on May 18, as well as the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan. It also comes on the heels of the World Bank's Country Partnership Framework for Myanmar for the next three years. The World Bank last month fast-tracked a US\$50 million loan to Myanmar to help with the country's COVID-19 response. During 2013–2019, ADB extended funds totalling \$2.4 billion to support development in Myanmar.

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/adb-extend-loans-support-development-myanmar.html>

## Mandalay to beef up 5,000 tons of national reserve rice



*Myanmar News | 25 May, 2020*

Mandalay Region is going to beef up 5,000 tons of national reserve rice for emergencies in case the COVID-19 outbreak drags on. At present, the region is storing over 1,800 tons of rice. The Ministry of Commerce announced on April 22nd that it would buy and stockpile 50,000 tons of rice and 12,000 tons of palm oil as reserve food for emergencies. And then, the ministry will purchase the items at a reasonable price. "5,000 tons of rice will be stored in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region. Now, over 1,800 tons of rice has been stored in Kyaukse Township. There are totaling 37,196 rice bags till May 21st. Currently, a warehouse in Phaung village fills up with rice bags. We don't receive palm oil yet. However, we are now carrying out the palm oil receiving plan," said Oakkar Kyaw, Secretary of Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and

Industry (MRCCI). The Ministry of Commerce is also working on the national reserve food plan with the private sectors as well as the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation and Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association.

Source: <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/mandalay-to-beef-up-5000-tons-of-national-reserve-rice>

## US becomes Vietnam's largest supplier of fruits, vegetables



*Vietnam News | 25 May, 2020*

Hanoi (VNA) - The US has become Vietnam's largest supplier of fruits and vegetables in the first four months of the year, recording a 44 percent increase year-on-year in export value to 102.1 million USD, according to the Vietnam Fruit and Vegetable Association. Vietnam's overall fruit and vegetable imports fell 42 percent to 376.9 million USD, but imports from several countries such as New Zealand, the US and Korea increased. In the same period last year the US had accounted for only 10 percent of imports. Pham Thien Hoang, owner of GreenSpace Store, a fruit importer, said fruits from the US are very popular among Vietnamese consumers. Apples, grapes and cherries are among the biggest imports from that country. Vietnam is also a substantial exporter of vegetables and fruits, and in the first four months earned 1.2 billion USD these products, a 12.5 percent drop./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/us-becomes-vietnams-largest-supplier-of-fruits-vegetables/173843.vnp>

---

## Exports shrink to lowest in first half of May



*Vietnam News | 25 May, 2019*

Hanoi (VNA) – Exports totalled 8.22 billion USD in the first half of May, the lowest recorded on a fortnightly basis since the beginning of this year excluding the last two weeks of January when the Tet holiday took place. According to the Ministry of Industry and Trade, sharp declines have been seen in a number of key export items, such as phones and parts, down 16.9 percent, and machinery, tools and components, down 14.5 percent. Meanwhile, imports rose 1.9 percent to 9.2 billion USD during the period. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused disruptions to global supply chains, considerably affecting Vietnam's import and export activities, the ministry said. Foreign trade will bounce back in the second half of 2020 if the disease is brought under control by the end of the second quarter, it added./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/exports-shrink-to-lowest-in-first-half-of-may/173836.vnp>

---