

Highlight News / May 28/2020



- Cambodia exports \$265 million in electrical equipment in 1st quarter
- Road tax on vehicles gears up next month
- Laos, ADB ink US\$20m loan agreement for Covid-19 response
- Govt seeks parliamentary approval for additional Dala Bridge loan
- Hanoi aims to lure 38.3 mln USD of investment in first half
- Tuna export market still unstable



Cambodia exports \$265 million in electrical equipment in 1st quarter



Cambodia News | 27 May, 2020

Cambodia exported electrical equipment, machinery and mechanical appliances worth in total US\$264.89 million to foreign markets in the first four months of this year, according to a report from the Ministry of Commerce. The figure represented an increase of over 33 percent compared to the same period last year. The major markets for the electrical equipment, machinery and mechanical appliances made in Cambodia were China, Japan, Thailand, and the US, it continued. The exported electrical equipment included electrical cables, weaving, weighing and drilling machines, home appliances, and so on, pointed out the report. Phal Sophanith/AKP

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50727353/cambodia-exports-265-million-in-electrical-equipment-in-1st-quarter/>

Road tax on vehicles gears up next month



Cambodia News | 27 May, 2020

The General Department of Taxation (GDT) has announced that the window for paying vehicle tax will be from next month until November. The deadline for paying not later than Nov 30 or vehicle owners will face a penalty charge. A report noted that tax payments can be made at various banks including ACLEDA Bank, Canadia Bank, Vattanac Bank and

Cambodia Public Bank, all of which have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Road tax will be imposed on private vehicles, while public service vehicles – such as motorbikes, ambulances, military vehicles, police cars, agricultural vehicles, embassy cars and those used by international organisations – will be exempt. The road tax for vehicles depends on engine size. For instance, a Lexus RX300 is required to pay \$150. The GDT warned that those who fail to pay on time will be fined in accordance to fiscal law. “From Jan 1, 2021, onwards, the General Department of Taxation will cooperate with relevant competent authorities to monitor and fine those who have not fulfilled their road tax obligations,” it added. Last year, the GDT collected more than \$1 million in fines from more than 5,000 vehicle drivers who did not pay their 2019 tax on time. According to a report from the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, it put the number of newly registered vehicles this year at 640,183 in total. Consisting of 15,956 heavy vehicles, 92,958 cars and 531,269 motorbikes.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50727329/road-tax-on-vehicles-gears-up-next-month/>

Laos, ADB ink US\$20m loan agreement for Covid-19 response



Laos News | 28 May, 2020

Laos and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday signed an agreement under which ADB will provide an additional US\$20 million loan to support Laos' response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Deputy Minister of Finance Mr Bounchom Oubonpaseuth, on behalf of the Lao government, and ADB Country Director to Laos Mr Yasushi Negishi, on behalf of ADB, signed the loan agreement. “ADB stands by the side of the Lao PDR to respond to the Covid-19 outbreak to save lives and ensure the country’s sustainable and inclusive growth during the pandemic,” Mr Negishi was quoted as saying in a press release from the ADB office in Laos. “The additional financing will help support the Lao PDR to provide quality healthcare, equipment, and materials to contain the spread of Covid-19 and treat cases of infection effectively.” Senior officials from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Planning and Investment attended the signing ceremony. The agreement was signed after the Bank approved the loan on Monday. The loan, as additional financing to an original US\$12 million loan and grant provided by ADB, for the ongoing Laos component of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Health Security Project, will assist the Ministry of Health to procure personal protective equipment, laboratory equipment, test kits, medical equipment, and ambulances, according to the press release. 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. With 19 confirmed Covid-19 cases and despite there being no new infections for 45 consecutive days as of May

27, Laos remains highly vulnerable to the disease, the ADB said. The fact that migrant workers are returning from heavily-affected neighbouring countries, foreign workers employed for essential projects in Laos are travelling from affected areas, and truck drivers bring goods from affected neighbouring countries into Laos poses an increased risk of the spread of Covid-19. This means that the healthcare system, with limited medical personnel, supplies, and equipment, could be overwhelmed by the rapid spread of the virus. The original project, which ADB approved in 2016 with a US\$125 million loan and grant, is helping to strengthen health security in Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam, with a focus 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 the People’s Republic of China, are also participating in the GMS Working Group on Health Cooperation, which is supported by ADB.

Source : http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_Laos101.php

Govt seeks parliamentary approval for additional Dala Bridge loan



Myanmar News | 27 May, 2020

The Ministry of Construction last week submitted a proposal to Parliament for an additional US\$20 million loan from South Korea for the construction of the Myanmar-Korea Friendship Bridge, or Dala Bridge. The loan, which will be drawn from Korea’s

Economic Development and Cooperation Fund at a rate of 0.01 percent, will be used to cover additional costs for changes to the design of the bridge, said U Kyaw Lin, Deputy Minister of Construction. The changes include extending the width of the waterway to 300m from 250m before and bridge opening to 370m from 320m before. An agreement on the initial loan of US\$137.8 million from the Koreans for the bridge was signed on November 16, 2015. As such, the changes will bring the total borrowed to \$157.8 million. As part of the 2015 agreement, the Myanmar government will also fork out a further \$30.3 million for the construction of the bridge. After including the additional costs for the design change, the total cost to build the Dala Bridge is now expected to amount to \$188.1 million. Once completed, the 1.9km bridge will ease travel between Yangon City and Dala, Twante and Kawhmu townships and also reduce traffic congestion in Yangon City. The bridge will also connect Dala, one of the region's poorest townships, to more urban development. Construction, which began in December 2018, is expected to be complete in October 2022, ten years after it was first announced in May 2012.

Source : <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/govt-seeks-parliamentary-approval-additional-dala-bridge-loan.html>

Hanoi aims to lure 38.3 mln USD of investment in first half



Vietnam News | 27 May, 2020

Hanoi (VNA) – Hanoi hopes to attract a total investment of 38.3 million USD in the first half of 2020, equivalent to 64 percent of the figure in the same period last year. The capital comes from five new projects totaling nearly 15 million USD, and 10 capital-added projects worth a combined 23.3 million USD. Le Quang Phong, vice head of the Management Board of the Hanoi Industrial and Export Processing Zones said local enterprises have been facing difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. They are making every effort to diversify material sources for production and seek new consumption markets, towards fulfilling their production targets for the second half and the whole year. According to the management board, industrial and export processing zones in Hanoi generate jobs for nearly 160,000 labourers, including 1,219 foreigners. The capital city led the country in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) in the first four months of this year, with 4.75 billion USD, or 30.6 percent of the total capital poured into the Vietnamese economy./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/hanoi-aims-to-lure-383-mln-usd-of-investment-in-first-half/173969.vnp>

Tuna export market still unstable



Vietnam News | 27 May, 2019

Hanoi (VNS/VNA) - In the difficult economic context caused by the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP) suggested tuna processors and exporters tap the domestic market. Tuna exporters said that in case Vietnam had been able to control the pandemic, but it still existed in Europe and the US, the tuna export market would be difficult and unstable. In addition, tuna is an "expensive dish" at restaurants for people with high incomes but due to COVID-19, many have lost income, causing consumption to decrease even when the pandemic is controlled. Nguyen Thi Thu Thanh, Director of Sustainable Seafood Limited Company in the southern province of Khanh Hoa, which exports tuna to the US market, said that over the past month, the company purchased about 25-30 billion VND (1.06 million-1.29 million USD) of raw materials but its export volume was about 2-3 billion VND monthly. Despite inventories, businesses still have to pay money to fishermen and interest rates for banks. They also have to suffer soaring electricity costs due to cold storage, which adds a significant burden on costs for businesses. Nguyen Thi Thu Sac, chairwoman of the seafood committee of VASEP, said that Việt Nam was not only a major seafood exporter, but also a potential consumption market of many other countries. The country has a system of restaurants and hotels for international and domestic

tourists; population in the age of high consumption; increasing income, especially in urban areas, accompanied by the tendency to choose meals outside. "All create a diversified seafood consumption market," she said. "Therefore, tuna processors and exporters can exploit this potential." If we did not take advantage of the domestic market, consumers would choose seafood imported from other countries, she added. Facing this situation, in order to ensure tuna is consumed, localities with ocean tuna fishing fleets have strengthened the consumption solution, helping the fishing and processing industry overcome the difficulties. Specifically, the south-central province of Phu Yen has encouraged businesses to focus on promoting tuna products and boosting domestic consumption through service and tourism activities. At the same time, the provincial People's Committee discourages fishermen from increasing the number of fishing vessels but concentrate on preservation stages to improve the quality of tuna and boost domestic consumption. Especially, a number of restaurants, hotels and large tourist areas of the province have regularly invited culinary experts to perform the demonstration of slaughtering and processing of tuna to serve customers in the past year. These activities have contributed to bring the provincial tuna specialty to many domestic consumers, improving the value and brand of tuna. Facing the current difficulties of the tuna fishing, processing and exporting industry, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has proposed

management agencies and associations to proactively develop scenarios of agricultural and aquatic exports to meet the increasing demand of world consumers when the pandemic is over./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/tuna-export-market-still-unstable/173962.vnp>
