



- World Bank approves \$15 million aid for Cambodia's education system for health professionals
- Cambodia's rice exports up by 42 percent in first five months
- Govt eases more virus prevention rules on road to 'new normal'
- MOEE to go ahead with oil and gas bidding round this year
- HCM City: CPI down 0.33 percent in May
- Fruit, farm produce week underway in Hanoi



World Bank approves \$15 million aid for Cambodia's education system for health professionals



Cambodia News | 31 May, 2020

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved a \$15 million credit from the International Development Association (IDA) for the Cambodia Strengthening Pre-Service Education System for Health Professionals Project to strengthen Cambodia's pre-service education system for health professionals to improve the quality of care for better health outcomes. Cambodia faces a shortage of qualified health professionals, especially in the public sector. Cambodia has only 1.4 doctors and 9.5 nurses and midwives per 10,000 people. These ratios are significantly below the average of 9 doctors and 19 nurses per 10,000 people among low- and lower-middle income countries in the East Asia and Pacific region. In Cambodia, doctors typically work at secondary- and tertiary-level facilities, while primary care facilities are almost entirely staffed by nurses and midwives. While a majority of general practitioner doctors work at the provincial level (63 percent), most specialists are deployed to hospitals at the central level (79 percent). To help Cambodia address these challenges, this project will support the Human Resources Development Department of the Ministry of Health to strengthen the governance of health professional education, including regulations and standardisation for health professionals' education,

National Competency-based Exit Examination, and technical assistance and knowledge exchanges on health professional education. The project will also support the development and delivery of competency-based training programmes by the University of Health Science and Regional Training Centres in six health professional programmes: general medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, midwifery, and laboratory. These programmes were prioritised by the recently developed National Strategic Plan for Pre-service Education in Health Sector in Cambodia 2020–2025. Gender aspects and social inclusiveness will be mainstreamed in the development and delivery of these competency-based training programmes. "Investing in capacity building for health professionals by equipping them with better knowledge and skills to deal with emergencies such as the COVID-19 outbreak and strengthening health sector governance are crucial for Cambodia's health service delivery system," said Ms. Inguna Dobraja, World Bank Country Manager for Cambodia. "The World Bank is committed to help Cambodia improve healthcare for the Cambodian people, particularly the poor and the most vulnerable. Heng Panha/AKP

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50728651/world-bank-approves-15-million-aid-for-cambodias-education-system-for-health-professionals/>

Cambodia's rice exports up by 42 percent in first five months



Cambodia News | 31 May, 2020

Cambodia has exported 356,097 tonnes of milled rice to foreign markets during the first five months of this year. The figure shows an increase by 105,925 tonnes or 42.34 percent compared to the same period in the previous year, according to Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Veng Sakhon. Cambodia's milled rice were shipped to 54 countries around the world, including 24 countries in the European Union, China, six ASEAN member countries, and 23 other countries, pointed out H.E. Minister, adding that five out of 49 companies exported the most rice. The rice exports saw an increase in all destinations compared to 2019 – EU up 51.10 percent, China up 25.26 percent, ASEAN nations up 45.39 percent, and other destinations up 79.40 percent, stressed H.E. Veng Sakhon. In May 2020 alone, he continued, about 55,845 tonnes were exported, an increase by 53.30 percent compared to May 2019. Phal Sophanith/AKP

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50728658/cambodias-rice-exports-up-by-42-percent-in-first-five-months/>

Govt eases more virus prevention rules on road to 'new normal'



Laos News | 1 June, 2020

The government has lifted more of the restrictions put in place to curb the Covid-19 outbreak, enabling

people to gradually return to a 'new normal' based on Laos' good track record in keeping the virus at bay. The Prime Minister's Office on Friday issued an announcement detailing the restrictions that will be lifted during the period of June 2-30. Preschools, kindergartens, and the remaining classes of primary and secondary schools (whose final-year classes resumed earlier) – will reopen on Tuesday (June 2). Final-year classes at technical colleges, pedagogy colleges and universities can also reopen on Tuesday. But their remaining classes are instructed to reopen on June 15. Restrictions have been further relaxed given that there have been no new confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Laos for 49 consecutive days as of Sunday. Sixteen of the 19 people who contracted the virus and were hospitalised have been discharged while three remain in hospital. The transport of goods across international borders will return to normal. The government will permit the organisation of all forms of sport competitions, but no spectators will be allowed to attend. Night markets and cinemas can reopen, while investment projects, factories and businesses can resume operations as normal. Although restrictions have been eased, everyone is instructed to continue to take precautions. These include maintaining a distance of at least one metre from other people, frequently washing hands with alcohol-based hand gel or soap, wearing a face

mask, and regularly checking one's temperature. The Prime Minister's Office said the easing of restrictions was temporary and that if further cases of Covid-19 were found, the rules would be reimposed in the province where the infection was detected. If clusters of infections occur in two or more provinces, the lockdown that was imposed under the Prime Minister's Order will be reintroduced nationwide.

Source: http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Govt_eases_103.php

MOEE to go ahead with oil and gas bidding round this year



Myanmar News | 30 May, 2020

Myanmar will launch a major new bidding round for oil and gas exploration this year, according to a senior energy ministry official. "It is almost certain that it [the bidding round] will be launched during this year," said the Ministry of Electricity and Energy deputy permanent secretary U Htay Aung on May 26. The government is revising the Production Sharing Contracts, he added. "After amending [the terms and conditions], open blocks will be launched for international bidding," officials said. This will be the first international bidding round under Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's government. The ministry pledged to open 33 new blocks for foreign bidding in the first quarter of last year but that has been delayed because the authorities had wanted to draft a petroleum law to regulate the round. It is unclear

whether the ministry will enact the legislation before the bidding. If so, the timeline would be tight given the need to consult stakeholders and revise the draft law. Major oil and gas producers complained that the initial draft law - if not amended - could keep investors away. Others said the draft legislation as it stands does not address the many state-owned enterprise governance and contract disclosure issues. The last bidding round, under U Thein Sein's government, succeeded without such a law. Analysts warn that since oil prices will likely stay below \$40 for the foreseeable future, and are currently heading towards \$20 because of a build-up in stocks, Myanmar may need to offer its blocks at a discount. The oil and gas sector is of huge importance to Myanmar's fiscal health. In 2017-18, natural gas shipments accounted for US\$3.1 billion, or roughly half of the country's total export revenues.

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/moee-go-ahead-oil-and-gas-bidding-round-year.html>

HCM City: CPI down 0.33 percent in May



Vietnam News | 31 May, 2020

HCM City (VNA) - Ho Chi Minh City's consumer price index (CPI) in May went down 0.33 percent from the previous month and 1.38 percent compared to December 2019, according to the city's Statistics Office. However, the May CPI rose 1.4 percent on-year, the office said. Three of the 11 groups of goods and services used to calculate the CPI saw month-

on-month price declines. The transport group saw the strongest fall of 2.29 percent, followed by food and catering services with 0.41 percent and housing, electricity, water, fuel and building materials with 0.97 percent. The groups of garment-headgear-footwear and education saw no fluctuations during the period, while all other groups recorded price increases. In the first five months of 2020, the municipal average CPI increased 3.76 percent annually./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/petrol-prices-continue-to-rise-in-latest-adjustment/174029.vnp>

Fruit, farm produce week underway in Hanoi



Vietnam News | 31 May, 2019

Hanoi (VNA) – A wide range of fruits and other agricultural specialties from various localities are being offered to consumers at the Big C Thang Long shopping mall in Hanoi. The fruit and farm produce week, opened on May 30, is the first held in the capital this year, aiming to stimulate consumer demand. Those on display include lychees from Bac Giang, Hung Yen and Hai Duong provinces; mango and plum from Son La; grapes from Ninh Thuan; aquatic products of Quang Ninh and Nam Dinh; along with various vegetables grown in other localities. The event also aims to create an occasion for the 17 participating provinces and cities to partner with Big C and other retail networks to ensure stable sales for their products. Deputy Director of the Hanoi Department of Industry and Trade Tran Thi

Phuong Lan said agricultural crops are currently in the harvest time, so the week is very helpful for localities to boost advertising and sales of farm produce in the post-COVID-19 period. This is also a chance for them and their businesses and cooperatives to learn about ways to distribute their products via the supermarket system. The department pledges to create favourable conditions for enterprises and cooperatives to take part in trade promotion activities in the most efficient manner, she added. The week is scheduled to last through June 3./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/fruit-farm-produce-week-underway-in-hanoi/174141.vnp>