

Highlight News / November 03, 2020



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ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)

## Kampot receives more local investment



*Cambodia News | 2 November, 2020*

At a time when many small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across Cambodia are either closing down or struggling to remain open, Kampot remains positive as more local investment keeps the coastal town booming. Multiple new businesses are popping up around the town of Kampot, ranging from bars, restaurants, guesthouses and even adventure tour companies. However, a lot of the new ventures are aiming specifically towards the local market because of a lack of tourism from outside the country. Kampot seems to be going against the grain compared with other parts of the Kingdom where many businesses are struggling to survive. Johnny Kort, owner of the newly opened JJ's Bar and Restaurant, said: "Kampot still seems to be seeing a lot of people visiting. The town has a lot to offer and it is close to Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville, they are both only a few hours drive away." "I see businesses opening more and more and they are catering to what locals want, whether that be food on the menu or the type of music they are playing." In the first six months of 2020, Kampot province welcomed 838,000 local and international tourists while in the same period last year, there were 1,090,000 visitors, according to the Kampot Provincial Tourism Department. These numbers are a clear indication that Kampot has not seen as much of a struggle in comparison with other places such as Siem Reap. Ny Phally,

Undersecretary of State for the Ministry of Tourism, said yesterday: "During the COVID-19 pandemic tourist behaviour has changed. The majority of tourists are looking for natural tourist destinations. Kampot is for sure one of the best with plenty of adventurous things to do. Because so many people are visiting from around the country, it has given locals the opportunity to open new businesses to cater to domestic tourism." Kampot province, has targeted attracting up to 2.5 million tourists by 2023 because the province is currently developing new tourism destinations, tourism products and upgraded infrastructure to support the sector.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50778639/kampot-receives-more-local-investment/>

## Angkor Resort generates over \$18.5 Million in first 10 months



*Cambodia News | 2 November, 2020*

Angkor Archaeological Park in Siem Reap province generated only \$18,549,905 from the entrance ticket sales in the first ten months of this year. According to a press release of the Angkor Enterprise, the state-owned institution in charge of Angkor income management, issued on Nov. 1, the figure shows a decrease of 77 percent compared to the same period last year. The tickets were sold to 398,485 foreign tourists, a year-on-year decline of 77.91 percent, it added. Of the income, \$796,970 was donated to Cambodia Kantha Bopha Foundation to support the humanitarian activities of Kantha Bopha Children's Hospitals. In October alone, only 2,244

foreign tourists visited the Angkor Archeological Park, generating \$93,598 as income, down 98.41 percent and 98.53 percent, respectively. During the first ten months, Koh Ker Temple in Preah Vihear province received in total \$89,830 as income from ticket sales to 8,983 foreign visitors. Cambodia's tourism sector, like that of other countries around the world, has been being seriously hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. C. Nika – AKP

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50778644/angkor-resort-generates-over-18-5-million-in-first-10-months/>

## Govt vows to smooth the path for investors



*Laos News | 3 November, 2020*

The government has pledged to remove barriers and further improve the business climate in a bid to attract more investment from Laos and foreign countries. In addition, the government will not approve new mining projects for the rest of this year while it reviews the progress of existing projects. With regard to hydropower projects, the government will reassess investment in this sector to ensure that all investments comply with the country's laws and contribute to national development. Addressing the National Assembly on Monday, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and Investment, Dr Sonexay Siphandone, said the government intended to address economic issues and attract more investment from the private sector. Investment by the private sector totalled 26,127 billion kip between 2016 and 2020, representing 50.7 percent of all

investment in Laos, he said. "In the future, investment capital for national development will come from the private sector, which is essential to further boost economic growth," he added. Dr Sonexay said the government will also put into practice the "three opens" policy, relating to an "open mind", "open door" and "open barriers", which Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith introduced a few years ago. "Concerning an open mind, we have to open our minds to welcome foreign investment. Meanwhile, investors need to open their minds by showing us that they really want to invest in Laos," he added. In the past, some investors had obtained concessions for projects without proceeding with operations, planning to sell them on to other investors, he noted. The deputy prime minister called for government bodies to open their minds by providing better services and facilitating investment by the private sector, saying that in the past this had not always been the case. Dr Sonexay said the concept of open doors was very important in enabling Laos to connect to the rest of the region, boosting trade, investment and people-to-people exchanges. In the future, Lao consulates and embassies in foreign countries will be instructed to play a greater role in providing information and encouraging foreign investment in Laos. "Concerning "open barriers", the Party's policy outlines the need to remove barriers which delay socio-economic development, but we have not done well in implementing this policy," he said. The "open barriers" concept is intended to eliminate

administrative barriers that slow or prevent economic development. Many people find it difficult to start or run a business because they need to get approval from a large number of officials, wasting time and money in the process of completing all the paperwork. The government will re-assess the effectiveness of various policies aimed at strengthening the economy, particularly those relating to land rights and real estate. The Covid-19 pandemic has caused rising unemployment in Laos, which currently stands at about 20 percent, and the government pledged to address this issue. "We have to improve the skills of the workforce and ensure workers can find jobs in foreign-funded projects and industrial parks," Dr Sonexay said. In addition, the government will further encourage foreign investors to train and employ Lao people, in line with the law. Chairman of the National Assembly's Law Committee, Mr Saithong Keoduangdy, said collaboration between government sectors was weak and this also needed to be urgently addressed.

Source:[http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent\\_Govt\\_vows\\_214.php](http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Govt_vows_214.php)

## Myanmar coffee market to expand through Singapore



*Myanmar News | 2 November, 2020*

Myanmar will expand its local highland coffee exports through Singapore in a bid to reach new markets, according to the Myanmar Coffee Association. "During the COVID-19 outbreak, local

demand for coffee declined and some traders are trying to expand the market by selling overseas. We are connecting with new markets in the region through Singapore," said U Min Hlaing, Vice Chair of the association. The association last month participated in the Singapore Specialty Coffee Online Auction 2020, which provides a platform for global coffee bean producers to promote and introduce their beans to an Asian market, using Singapore as a hub. Myanmar's coffee garnered international interest during the auction, despite the lack of buyers due to COVID-19. But U Myo Aye, a local coffee entrepreneur, said demand for Myanmar-produced coffee should rise due to its superior quality. "Our coffee production rate and sales will gradually get broader," he said. Myanmar is raising efforts to woo international buyers after coffee exports declined due to the COVID-19 outbreak, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. Exports declined by half in fiscal 2019-20 compared to the previous year, when Myanmar exported more than 1000 tonnes of coffee to the US, Germany, China, Thailand, Japan, Korea and Europe. Coffee exports could decline further in the coming years, in contrast to a rising trend over the past five years, local businesses noted. The value of coffee exported had quadrupled to over US\$6 million in fiscal 2019-20 from US\$1.5 million in 2014, according to the Myanmar Coffee Association. The country's 50,000 acres of coffee plantations produce over 8000 tonnes of beans annually, 80pc of which is higher value arabica beans, while the rest

is lower grade robusta mainly used in instant coffee mix. The coffee plantations can be found in northern states like Kachin and Shan, as well as in Mandalay Region. Domestically, 90 percent of the population drinks instant coffee imported from overseas, and the rest of the population consumes local coffee. - Translated

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/myanmar-coffee-market-expand-through-singapore.html>

### Thailand becomes top corn export market for Myanmar



*Myanmar News | 2 November, 2020*

Thailand is now the top buyer of corn produced in Myanmar, with more than half of Myanmar's corn harvest now being exported to its neighbour, said U Myo Thu, Deputy Director General of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organisation. Corn to be used as industrial or animal feed is in high demand in Thailand. With exports to China suspended since 2018, the bulk of Myanmar's corn produce is being rerouted to Thailand, which bought more than one million tonnes of corn in fiscal 2019-20, up from 700,000 tonnes in previous years. This was despite the fact that corn is mostly traded between Myanmar and Thailand just eight months a year, with the other four months of trade restricted by high import duties under an arrangement between the two governments to protect farmers, U Myo Thu said. Before China suspended imports, the country was buying about two million tonnes of corn from Myanmar. Since 2018, other countries in Asean have

absorbed the excess supply. Corn export rose by nearly 50 percent year-on-year in fiscal 2019-20, according to the Ministry of Commerce, with the annual corn export now about 2.5 million tonnes compared to 1.5 million tonnes in the previous year. There are 1.5 million acres of corn plantations in Myanmar. - Translated

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/thailand-becomes-top-corn-export-market-myanmar.html>

### October index of industrial production continues to rise



*Vietnam News | 2 November, 2020*

Hanoi (VNA) - The index of industrial production (IIP) in October increased 3.6 percent from the previous month and 5.4 percent against the same period last year, reported the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The ministry said that thanks to the effective control of the COVID-19 pandemic, industrial production activities during the month maintained expansion, positively contributing to the country's economic recovery. However, in the first 10 months of 2020, the IIP rose 2.7 percent over the same period last year, much lower than the 9.5 percent increase in the same period in 2019. Specifically, production of the manufacturing and processing industry increased by 4.2 percent, contributing 3.6 percentage points to the general growth, while that of electricity production and distribution rose by 3.2 percent, making up 0.3 percentage point. Meanwhile, production of the mining industry fell by 8.1 percent,

resulting in a decrease of 1.3 percentage points in the overall growth./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/october-index-of-industrial-production-continues-to-rise/189644.vnp>

## Newly-established firms down, registered capital up in 10 months



*Vietnam News | 2 November, 2020*

Hanoi (VNA) - Vietnam recorded nearly 111,200 new enterprises from January-October, a year-on-year decline of 2.9 percent, according to the General Statistics Office (GSO). The new entrants, however, have combined registered investment of more than 1,594 trillion VND (68.3 billion USD), up 11.1 percent against the same period last year. Average registered capital per new enterprise was 14.3 billion VND, up 14.4 percent. Meanwhile, 32,600 operating enterprises registered to increase their capital by more than 2,298 trillion VND in total. The economy therefore received a capital injection of more than 3,892 trillion VND from newly-established and existing enterprises, up 17 percent against the same period of 2019. During the ten-month period, 37,700 companies resumed operations, up 8.2 percent year-on-year. There were also nearly 41,800 businesses temporarily suspending operations, nearly 30,300 firms waiting for dissolution procedures, and 13,500 companies completing dissolution procedures, up 58.7 percent, down 12.4 percent, and up 0.1 percent, respectively. Some 8,600 firms withdrew from the market each month on

average. Director of the GSO's Department of Industrial and Construction Statistics Pham Dinh Thuy said that businesses need to find suitable partners, work to remove bottlenecks, and make good use of their capital. He suggested the Government and the National Assembly consider exempting taxes and fees, extending payment periods, and raising credit growth ceilings for commercial lending. Companies should receive timely support to stabilise and develop their production and business, he added. The GSO proposed that the State have policies to encourage the importation of equipment to expand production while reducing the importation of products where Vietnamese companies possess strengths. Relevant authorities should work to help local businesses find import sources for materials and spare parts, and encourage consumers to buy Vietnamese products during these tough times, he added./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/newlyestablished-firms-down-registered-capital-up-in-10-months/189671.vnp>