

*Highlight News / November 30, 2020*



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ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)

## ADB approves \$70 million loan to strengthen agricultural value chain and food safety in Cambodia



*Cambodia News | 28 November, 2020*

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$70 million loan to improve the capacity of agribusinesses in six provinces across Cambodia to process key agricultural products such as cassava, cashews, mangoes, vegetables, and poultry. Under the agricultural value chain competitiveness and safety enhancement project, it aims to benefit about 230 agricultural cooperatives and 50 agribusinesses in the provinces of Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, Oddar Meanchey, Preah Vihear, Siem Reap, and Tboung Khmum. Agriculture can contribute to Cambodia's economic growth and diversification if local small and medium-sized agribusinesses can improve their ability to process high-value agricultural products and market them domestically and overseas, said ADB Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Economist Takeshi Ueda. "Private investment in agriculture, along with better access to credit and high-quality raw agricultural products, will help Cambodian agribusinesses unleash their growth potential, create jobs, and improve rural livelihoods." Ueda added. Processed agro-based goods now account for just 4 percent of GDP, due to a lack of diverse, value-added products. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has disrupted agricultural supply chains and reduced incomes and market opportunities for farmers and

agribusinesses, according to ADB. According to ADB, the project will facilitate access to credit for agriculture and agribusinesses, which attract only about 10 percent of total formal financing. The project will implement mutually reinforcing financial schemes, including credit lines and credit guarantees, according to ADB. ADB said that the project will support initiatives to strengthen food safety and quality across the value chains for cassava, cashews, mangoes, vegetables, and native chickens. It will help agricultural cooperatives adopt good agricultural practices and upgrade food-safety testing laboratories to gain international accreditation. "The project will also support the research and development of crop seed varieties and poultry breeds by helping agricultural cooperatives access high-yield, drought-resilient, disease-resistant crop seeds and other planting materials. In addition, the project will help improve 110 kilometers of rural roads and help connect farms to markets in the project areas," it said.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50787037/adb-approves-70-million-loan-to-strengthen-agricultural-value-chain-and-food-safety-in-cambodia/>

## Cambodia maintains its position as one of the world's top tourism destinations



*Cambodia News | 28 November, 2020*

Cambodia remains a world's best tourism destination in 2020, the Ministry of Tourism said, stressing that scores of international institutions and

websites specialising in rating the best tourism places around the world have ranked Cambodia among the best places to visit and live. My International Movers, based in the UK, America, and Australia, in January this year rated Cambodia No. 1 among the top ten friendliest countries in the world to move to. Outrage Travel on January 30, 2020 characterised Cambodia as one of five safest places to be in Asia. In March 2020, Cambodia was presented the International Travel Award 2020 by the India-based Pacific Area Travel Writers Association, considering Cambodia as the Best Destination for Heritage. On Oct. 9, 2020, the Big 7 Travel's publication highlighted Cambodia's Siem Reap province as one of the 7 Most Relaxing Locations in the World. Facing the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Tourism has promoted safety measures on travel and tourism and the ministry is also preparing a road map to restore tourism 2021-2025. These ratings reflect the peace and development in all areas of Cambodia, particularly the solidity of the health system, and the participation of all Cambodians in preventing the spread of COVID-19, as well as contribute significantly to attracting more international tourists and investors to visit and invest in Cambodia during and post COVID-19 crisis, underlined the Ministry of Tourism. Chea Vannak – AKP

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50787065/cambodia-maintains-its-position-as-one-of-the-worlds-top-tourism-destinations/>

## China-Laos Railway completes construction of 17.5-km-long tunnel



*Laos News | 29 November, 2020*

Part of the China-Laos railway, a 17.5-km-long tunnel was completed on Saturday in southwest China's Yunnan Province after four years of arduous efforts. The China-Laos Railway is an important infrastructure project linking the two countries. Upon opening to traffic, the travel will be shortened to only eight hours from Kunming of Yunnan Province to Vientiane, the capital of Laos.

Source: <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-11-29/China-Laos-Railway-completes-construction-of-17-5-km-long-tunnel-V0m2zOLc4g/index.html>

## Covid-19 measures update: Entry from outbreak countries banned



*Laos News | 30 November, 2020*

The government will no longer issue entry visas for people travelling to Laos from countries with a community outbreak of Covid-19, the national taskforce has announced. The move is part of new measures being imposed until December 31 to prevent and control the pandemic. The government updates these measures on a monthly basis. Charter flights between countries that have a community outbreak of the virus are also suspended, apart from humanitarian flights, Vice Chairman of the National Taskforce for Covid-19 Prevention and Control Dr Bounkong Syhavong told a press conference on Friday. The tougher measures were introduced after

14 people including a Lao national were confirmed on Monday to be carrying the virus. They tested positive while in quarantine in Vientiane after arriving in Laos. Authorities were asked to scrutinise permitted charter flights to ensure they were not carrying anyone transiting from a country that had a community outbreak. The government is allowing celebrations to mark special occasions as Laos celebrates the 45th National Day and the 100th anniversary of the birth of the late President Kaysone Phomvihane, who spearheaded the revolutionary fight for national liberation. However, the number of participants must be defined appropriately and everyone must comply with Covid-19 prevention measures such as social distancing, hand-washing, and wearing a face mask. The government will also continue to allow the traditional festivals of ethnic groups to take place, as well as social activities. If a festival is planned at the provincial or district level, the organisers must obtain permission from a provincial governor or the Mayor of Vientiane. The Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism has been asked to work with authorities to raise public awareness of the need to remain vigilant as the pandemic is still active in many countries. "This means everyone must step up their responsibilities in actively complying with Covid-19 prevention, control and solution measures," Dr Bounkong, who is Minister of Health, said. The government has

instructed the Ministry of National Defence and Ministry of Public Security to work closely with local authorities to ensure people do not cross the border illegally, to prevent more cases of Covid-19 entering the country. So far, Laos has recorded 39 cases of the virus including 24 people who have been discharged from hospital. The most recent cases were all people who entered Laos from other countries. Laos has not recorded any case of internal infection for more than seven months. Dr Bounkong said authorities would assess the implementation of the measures regularly and revisions would be made as necessary. If changes are made, the authorities will notify everyone concerned.

Source:[http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten\\_Covid\\_233.php](http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_Covid_233.php)

## India, Myanmar to strengthen bilateral trade and investment



*Myanmar News | 27 November, 2020*

Myanmar and India will cooperate to promote bilateral trade and investments, the leaders of the two nations said during the 7th Myanmar-India Trade Joint Committee meeting. U Min Min, Director General of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Department, said discussions to boost trade included raising India's import quota for Myanmar beans and pulses, ensuring the smooth flow of goods, holding trade expos and economic forums, opening up markets at the border areas after solving Myanmar-India border issues, expanding the market

for Myanmar's textile sector, providing Indian technical assistance in agriculture and livestock sectors and accelerating infrastructure projects such as roads and bridges along the Myanmar-India trade route. The Indian Trade Promotion Organisation will also work closely with MyanTrade, Myanmar's export promotion arm, to explore potential collaborations aimed at raising trade volumes between the two countries, said U Than Myint, Myanmar Minister for Commerce. This will also yield new growth opportunities in the Myanmar agriculture, textiles, transport and banking industries, he said. India will continue providing technical assistance and support to other sectors in addition to trade and investment, said Mr Piyush Goyal, India's Minister of Commerce and Industry. The two countries also discussed raising Indian investments in Myanmar's power sector. - Translated

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/india-myanmar-strengthen-bilateral-trade-and-investment.html>

## November CPI edges down 0.01 percent from previous month



*Vietnam News | 29 November, 2020*

Hanoi (VNA) – The Consumer Price Index (CPI) edged down 0.01 percent month-on-month in November on the back of weakening global fuel prices and declining electricity and water prices in the country, according to the General Statistics Office (GSO). The November CPI was 0.08 percent higher than the figure in December 2019 and 1.48

percent higher than that in the same month last year. The CPI in the first 11 months of 2020 was up 2.43 percent year on year. Among 11 groups of products and services in the CPI basket, decreases were seen in three groups, namely transport; post and telecommunications services; and cultural, entertainment and tourism services. The biggest contraction was recorded in the price of transport, 0.47 percent, largely owing to the fact that the average fuel price in November dropped 1.32 percent from the previous month. The price of post and telecom services fell 0.17 percent month-on-month because of a variety of deals offered by mobile service suppliers to attract more customers while similarly, tour operators were offering various discounts to stimulate domestic travel demand, weakening the price of cultural, entertainment and tourism services by 0.06 percent. Meanwhile, seven groups of products and services experienced rises with the largest increase of 0.14 percent reported in the price of garments, hats and footwear. The price of construction materials inched up 0.07 percent month-on-month. The gold price picked up 0.87 percent month-on-month in November, while the price of the US dollar decreased 0.05 percent./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/november-cpi-edges-down-001-percent-from-previous-month/191251.vnp>

## Vietnam Nov trade surplus plunges to \$600 mln, industrial output rises 9.2%



*Vietnam News | 29 November, 2020*

HANOI — Vietnam's trade surplus in November likely plunged to \$600 million from a \$2.94 billion surplus in October, government data released on Friday showed. Exports in November likely rose 8.8% from a year earlier to \$24.8 billion, while imports were up 13.4% to \$24.2 billion, the General Statistics Office (GSO) said in a statement. The GSO traditionally releases data before the end of the reporting period and its trade data is often subject to significant revision. For the first 11 months of this year, exports likely rose 5.3% from a year earlier to \$254.59 billion, while imports were up 1.5% to \$234.50 billion, resulting in a trade surplus of \$20.09 billion. According to the GSO, Vietnam's industrial output in November rose 9.2% from a year earlier. Industrial output in the January-November period rose 3.1% year on year. Vietnam's consumer prices in November rose 1.48% from a year earlier and was down 0.01% from October, it added. Average consumer prices in the first 11 months of this year rose 3.51% from the same period last year.

Source: <https://vietreader.com/business/24941-vietnam-nov-trade-surplus-plunges-to-600-mln-industrial-output-rises-92.html>

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