

*Highlight News / December 01, 2020*



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## Kampot tourism port project 55% complete



*Cambodia News | 30 November, 2020*

Kampot province's new tourism port project has reached 55 percent completion, says the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT), but a redesign has caused additional delays beyond those already visited on the project, courtesy of the COVID-19 pandemic. The \$8 million project made viable with a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), was set to have been completed and open for operations by the end of 2021, but has now been projected for completion in early 2022, according to the MPWT. Heng Sothy, head of the department of Waterway Infrastructure and Port Construction for the MPWT, said: "We decided to have a re-design of the main terminal building and the pier because it was recently observed that the first design was not good enough and therefore additional design and planning for different structural specifications were required." "The physical construction of the whole project is anticipated to be completed during the third quarter of 2021 and the project is expected to be completely finished by the end of 2021. The opening ceremony for the Kampot pier project [is now projected for] early 2022," Sothy concluded. Located in Tek Chhou district, the seaport is 300 metres long and capable of accommodating vessels carrying 300 to 400 passengers. Soy Sinol, director of Kampot Provincial Tourism Department, said: "Once the seaport is completed and put into service,

it will contribute to boosting the province's tourism, particularly via tourism packages that link Kampot province with destinations in Vietnam and Thailand."

An ADB report on tourism in the Greater Mekong Subregion says the seaport is expected to service 360,000 international and domestic tourists per year once it opens.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50787547/kampot-tourism-port-project-55-complete/>

## Vegetable planting up, but not yet feeding local demand in full



*Cambodia News | 30 November, 2020*

Vegetable planting in Cambodia is reported up dramatically, but the nation cannot end imports because local consumption is bigger than production, said Minister of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries Veng Sakhon at the celebration of the seventh national nutrition day in Kampong. Sakhon said the ministry and all stakeholders are working together to successfully motivate and encourage local farmers to plant vegetables. In recent years, the momentum of vegetable cultivation throughout Cambodia has increased significantly, to some 60,000 hectares, he added. "Our vegetable harvesting has reached 640,000 tonnes per year, while our demand for vegetables is about 850,000 tonnes per year," he underlined. "Most of the Cambodian farmers are planting vegetables traditionally, depending on the weather, and have been doing so seasonally, therefore they cannot feed the market demand well enough," said

vegetable seller at Doeum Kar market Sum Sophea. “Most of our local farmers have just started planting chili but our clients need chili daily, so I have to buy chili imported from Vietnam”, she added. According to Sophea, there are many different kinds of vegetables that have been imported from foreign countries, including Vietnam, Thailand and China. Sophea said the crops that local farmers can grow and supply to the market on a daily basis are leafy vegetables such as mostly lettuce, and water spinach plus herbs while some goods such as tomatoes and chili can

be seasonal and tuberous vegetables such as carrots, potatoes and onions need to be imported. Meas Pyseth, programme director of Agriculture Services Programme for Innovation, Resilience and Extension (ASPIRE), said with the support of the government and donors, the programme is introducing new farming technology to local farmers. “In the beginning, ASPIRE was initiated for five pilot provinces – Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, Battambang, Preah Vihear and Kratie – but now all provinces need to increase the resilience of poor and vulnerable smallholder farmers in the Kingdom”, he said. The ASPIRE Programme and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries are trying to provide farming technology to local farmers in all sub-sectors to combat and remove barriers to market product distribution for smallholder farmers. It wants to target producer groups in provinces to traders, investors, and the industrial sector, national and regional markets and corporations, he

underlined. Efforts to increase agricultural production in Cambodia are still a challenge, but the ministry and the government will continue to work to overcome all issues to help farmers increase their respective production capacities, insisted Sakhon.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50787580/vegetable-planting-up-but-not-yet-feeding-local-demand-in-full/>

## China-Laos joint venture of refinery kicks off commercial production



*Laos News | 1 December, 2020*

VIENTIANE, Dec. 1 (Xinhua) -- Lao Petroleum & Chemical Co. Ltd (Laopec), a China-Laos joint venture, has launched first phase production of its three million tons/year refinery project in Lao capital Vientiane on Monday. The Laopec, which is Laos' first refinery, will effectively fill the gap in the petrochemical industry in Laos and change the status quo that all its refined oil depends on imports. The inauguration ceremony, held live online on Monday at two venues, was attended by Chinese Ambassador to Laos Jiang Zaidong, politburo member of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) and Deputy Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone, and Somsavat Lengsavad, advisor to the LPRP Central Committee and former deputy prime minister in Vientiane of Laos and the acting governor of Yunnan Province, Wang Yubo in Kunming. The Laopec project, located in the Saysettha Comprehensive Development Zone in Vientiane, covers an area of 425 mu (about 28.3

hectares) and plans to invest about two billion U.S. dollars in three phases to build a modern oil refinery. It is reported that the comprehensive processing capacity of Laopec's first phase will reach one million tons per year, and will provide Laos with a safe and stable supply of refined oil, thus to play an important role in the development of Laos' industry. "This petroleum refinery project will help reduce fuel imports and cut oil prices in domestic market," said Khemmani Pholsena, Lao Minister of Industry and Commerce, at the ceremony. Enditem

Source: [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-12/01/c\\_139554780.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-12/01/c_139554780.htm)

## Myanmar replies to Japan's offer for cooperation in Dawei SEZ



*Myanmar News | 30 November, 2020*

Myanmar welcomes Japan's offer to invest in the Dawei Special Economic Zone project in Tanintharyi Region, according to the Dawei SEZ Management Committee. An official reply from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been sent to Japan. Japan on November 5 offered to invest in the long delayed Dawei SEZ, expected to be Southeast Asia's largest industrial zone, on a government-to-government level. A letter was sent to both the Myanmar and Thai governments indicating its interest to participate in the Dawei SEZ, U San Myint, Vice Chair of the committee, said. The Japanese will be involved in developing the US\$8 billion, 20,000-hectare SEZ, which will be implemented in phases and include a deep sea port and high-tech zones. A minister-level

meeting is now expected between the three governments, but committee officials are unsure if this will take place before or after the new cabinet is formed. Japan's involvement comes after repeated delays in getting the Dawei SEZ started. The Italian-Thai Development, a Thai construction firm, was to have taken the lead in developing the project when the initial memorandum of understanding between the Myanmar and Thai governments was signed in 2008, but the process was stalled in 2013 when the firm ran out of funds. Talks and proposals to restart development, including several involving the Chinese, have been ongoing until now. "We hope the new government will have a policy to manage delays. More importantly, there needs to be political will to drive the project forward. We hope the government will prioritise this project in its next term. With the Japanese and international community involved, the project will likely be more active than before," U San Myint said. Last week, Japanese ambassador to Myanmar Ichiro Maruyama told the Irrawaddy that his country is currently studying the deep-sea port project and will consider whether to finance the project through official development assistance or other methods. – Translated

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/myanmar-replies-japans-offer-cooperation-dawei-sez.html>

## Pandemic drags down FDI attraction



*Vietnam News | 30 November, 2020*

Hanoi (VNA) - Vietnam had attracted a total of 26.43 billion USD in FDI this year as of November 20, equal

to 83.1 percent of the figure in the same period last year, according to a recent report from the Ministry of Planning and Investment. The global economy has been battered by the coronavirus pandemic, the ministry noted, while investors have been unable to travel due to restrictions. During the period, 2,313 new projects were granted investment registration certificates, a year-on-year decline of 33.5 percent. Total registered capital stood at 13.6 billion USD, down 7.6 percent. Regarding additional capital, 1,051 projects registered to adjust their capital, down 16.3 percent year-on-year, while the total capital topped 6.3 billion USD, a year-on-year rise of 7.8 percent. Some 6.5 billion USD was poured into 5,812 capital contribution and share purchase deals made by foreign investors, a fall of 41.8 percent. Foreign investors channeled capital into 19 fields, with the largest amount, of over 12.7 billion USD, going to manufacturing and processing. Power generation and distribution followed, with more than 4.9 billion USD from foreign investors, then real estate with nearly 3.8 billion USD and wholesale and retail sales with 1.5 billion USD. FDI came from 109 countries and territories, of which Singapore took the lead with nearly 8.1 billion USD, accounting for 30.6 percent of the total. The Republic of Korea followed, with 3.7 billion USD, then China with 2.4 billion USD. Foreign investors invested in 60 cities and provinces nationwide. The Mekong Delta's Bac Lieu province led the way, with one mega project worth 4 billion USD, accounting for 15.1 percent of total capital. HCM City and Hanoi were second and third,

with 3.8 billion USD and 3.2 billion USD, respectively, making up 14.4 percent and 12.2 percent of the total. The ministry's Foreign Investment Agency said export revenue of the foreign-invested sector had picked up after being pinned down for ten months. Excluding crude oil, the sector's shipments totaled 179.5 billion USD for the 11-month period, up 6.9 percent year-on-year and accounting for 70.7 percent of the country's total export revenue. Foreign firms purchased 148.9 billion USD worth of products from abroad in the period, a yearly increase of 9.1 percent and making up 63.5 percent of total import revenue./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/pandemic-drags-down-fdi-attraction/191301.vnp>

## Business formations in Vietnam rise

### 7.3% m/m in November



*Vietnam News | 30 November, 2020*

The Hanoitimes - The total number of newly-registered and reinstated enterprises in the eleven-month period reached 165,100, up 0.9% year-on-year, averaging 15,000 per month. Vietnam's successful realization of the dual target in containing the Covid-19 pandemic and boosting economic recovery has led to further increase in new business formation by 7.3% month-on-month in November and 6.7% year-on-year to 13,100, according to the General Statistics Office. Notably, this month has witnessed a surge of 72% month-on-month in combined registered capital to VND284.8 trillion (US\$12.34 billion) and 65.3% in the number of

workers hired by new enterprises to 119,700. The number of newly-established enterprises in Vietnam in the first eleven months of 2020 was 124,300 with registered capital of a combined VND1,878.9 trillion (US\$81.46 billion), down 1.9% in number but up 19.3% in registered capital year-on-year. Average registered capital per newborn enterprise was VND15.1 billion (US\$654,695) during this period, up 21.7% year-on-year. Taking into account VND3,086.9 trillion (US\$133.83 billion) of additional capital pumped by active enterprises, total registered capital injected into the economy in the January-November period was VND4,965.8 trillion (US\$215.28 billion), up 35.1% year-on-year. The government-run office informed that 40,800 enterprises resumed operations in the period, an increase of 10.7% inter-annually, bringing the total number of newly-registered and reinstated enterprises in the eleven-month period to 165,100, up 0.9%. The GSO added that the number of laborers of newly-established enterprises between January and November was 970,000, down 14.7% against the same period last year. During this period, the number of enterprises temporarily ceasing operations surged 59.7% year-on-year to 44,400. Moreover, the number of enterprises which completed procedures for bankruptcy rose 3.1% to 15,400. This year, Vietnam targets to create 138,000 new enterprises, around the same number in 2019, which is considered a major achievement, given the severe impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic to both the global and domestic economies. Since the outbreak

of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Vietnamese government has been implementing a wide range of support for the business community, with the latest move being a cut of 30% in the corporate income tax for enterprises having their revenue of less than VND200 billion (US\$8.61 million) in 2020. Additionally, other supporting programs consist of a credit aid package worth VND300 trillion (US\$12.87 billion), including a VND180-trillion (US\$7.63 billion) fiscal stimulus package in forms of delay of payment of value-added tax, corporate income tax, and a financial support package for vulnerable people worth VND62 trillion (US\$2.7 billion).

Source: <http://hanoitimes.vn/business-formations-in-vietnam-rise-73-mm-in-november-315065.html>

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