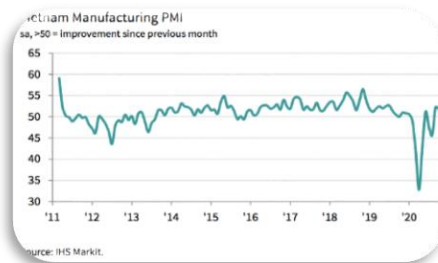
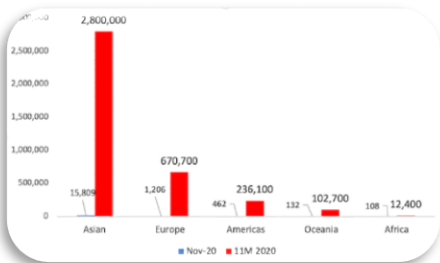


Highlight News / December 02/2020



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## Local goods exhibition hangs in the balance



*Cambodia News | 1 December, 2020*

A senior official of the Ministry of Commerce has said the ministry is considering whether to proceed with or cancel the Cambodian Products Exhibition in Banteay Meanchey as a key part of the “Buy Cambodian Campaign”. Seang Thay, secretary of state at the Ministry of Commerce, said the exhibition is scheduled to be celebrated between Dec 24 and 27. He said that the programme was set before the Nov 28 Community Incident, when Cambodia found the first COVID-19 transmission in the community in the first 11 months of the year. “Because the exhibition is a bit distant from now, the ministry is considering whether to continue organising or cancelling it to help combat the spread of COVID-19.” He added the ministry will inform the public later of their decision. Thay added the Cambodian Products Exhibition is a key part of the “Buy Cambodia” campaign that was launched four years ago. This exhibition has been fully supported by local authorities, companies, producers, customers and relevant stakeholders. He said that the event is important because it promotes the use of locally produced goods and that helps reduce the flow of foreign goods into Cambodia. Thay added it also transfers knowledge to local producers that aids them in producing goods that are high in quality, hygiene and safety, attractively packaged at a low cost that makes them competitive with imported products. He

said the event will help Cambodia to create a good business environment that improves local commerce, to increase production capacity and maximise value-added on local products, to aid the creation of new products that meet local demand and promote the export of those products as well as reduce imports, to diversify new products that can compete in national, regional and global markets and help the creation of new jobs, increase income, help against worker migration and contribute to poverty reduction. The ministry said that 2020 is the year when the whole world was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and it has damaged economic and business activities in the Kingdom and globally. It added that in order to contribute to restore the national economy after the COVID-19 crisis, the ministry set out to organise the Cambodian Products Exhibition in Banteay Meanchey. The event was designed to connect the economic relationship between the capital and provinces across the country and contribute to national development. The ministry will also act on the quality and standard of local products for the safety of consumers from across the country and to display and seek partnerships during the event.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50788020/local-goods-exhibition-hangs-in-the-balance/>

## Kingdom’s airports awarded prestigious accreditation



*Cambodia News | 1 December, 2020*

Cambodia's three international airports have been awarded Airport Health Accreditation (AHA) by Airports Council International (ACI), the only global trade representative of the world's airports. The accreditation of the nations' international airports (Phnom Penh International, Siem Reap International and Sihanouk International) followed audits carried out in November by ACI. The audits focused on health and hygiene measures put in place at the three airports in order to address the threats posed by COVID-19. According to Cambodia Airports, the company that develops and manages Cambodia's network of international airports, the measures included protocols and practices pertaining to cleaning and disinfection, physical distancing, staff protection, physical layout, passenger communications and passenger facilities. Cambodia's three airports are fully aligned with industry best practices and the new health measures are conducive to rebuilding confidence in air travel. Cambodia Airports said that the processes were specifically adjusted to protect passengers, airline and airport personnel when they interact (check-in, boarding or disembarkation), as well as to protect customers and those who cater to them at various airport outlets (duty-free, food and beverage, business lounge). These measures are part of the international campaign "Protecting each other", developed and promoted by VINCI Airports, a global aggregator that develops, finances and provides operations to 45 airports worldwide, including those operated by Cambodia Airports. The measures were

based on hygiene recommendations issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). In the Asean region, the three Cambodian airports are among the first to have obtained the ACI's AHA accreditation, putting them in the same league as bigger regional hubs in Singapore, Jakarta and Manila. Under the category of small and medium airports (fewer than 15 million passengers a year), Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Sihanouk International Airports stand atop the podium, said Stefano Baronci, director-general ACI Asia-Pacific. "We congratulate the Cambodia Airports operations in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Sihanouk provinces for obtaining the ACI's health accreditation to prove to the world and to the communities they serve that effective health measures have been put in place in compliance with the highest standards recommended by the ICAO," said Baronci. Alain Brun, chief executive officer of Cambodia Airports, said: "By putting the health safety of its passengers and airport users first, Cambodia Airports remains true to itself as one of Cambodia's key public service providers. I must commend the outstanding cooperation between Cambodian health authorities and our teams. Having a reliable health system at its airports ensures that Cambodia will be looked at favourably when air travel restarts and people browse around destinations to visit either for leisure or business opportunities." he added. According to data released by Cambodia Airports, overall passenger traffic at Cambodia's international

airports was down 78 percent between January and October of 2020. It decreased 74 percent at Phnom Penh International (1.27million people), 81 percent at Siem Reap International (618,459 people) and 86 percent at Sihanouk International (210,000 people), compared with the same period figures from last year.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50787907/kingdoms-airports-awarded-prestigious-accreditation/>

## Germany supports road repairs in Attapeu



*Laos News | 2 December, 2020*

The Department of Public Works and Transport of Attapeu province on Thursday awarded three contracts for the repair of flood-damaged roads in the province under the Rehabilitation of Infrastructure South Laos project. The project is financed by the Federal Republic of Germany through KfW Development Bank with a grant of about 114 billion kip (more than US\$12 million). The project supports the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment being implemented under the guidance of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in Attapeu province, as a result of the floods that occurred during the 2018 rainy season, together with the collapse of the Xe Pian/Xe Nam Noy saddle dam. The contracts were signed at the Department of Public Works and Transport in Attapeu province by the Project Manager of the Department of Roads, Mr Vongdeuane Syphanlavong, together with directors from the respective contractors. The roads to be

repaired are as follows: 9041 in Sanamxay district, with a length of 14.2km, from National Road 18A at Ban Khokkong to Ban Hinlat at the Xe Pian River; 9002 in Samakkhixai and Xaysettha districts, from National Road 18B to Ban Hadsati, with a length 23.1km, including five bridges; and 9002/9217 in Xaysettha and Sanxay districts, from Ban Sakhae to Muang Sanxay with a length of 26.3km. The purpose of the project is to “provide the flood-affected rural population with climate-resilient access to markets, schools, health stations and other social infrastructure”. This is to “contribute to an economic and social recovery and sustainable positive economic development of the rural population”. The total population of the seven villages in the influence areas of the three project roads is about 12,500, and the rehabilitation will provide all-year accessibility on sealed roads. This should increase traffic, as well as significantly reduce travel time and vehicle operating costs for road users. The medium- to long-term development impacts are expected to result in a rise in market-oriented agricultural production and retail shops, together with an increase in the availability of electricity in the target areas. Improved access should also see an uptake in school attendance, the number and use of hygienic latrines, the frequency of visits to and birth deliveries at health centres, and an increase in women’s development projects. Construction will begin in early December, with a completion period of 18 months for each contract. In addition to the road repairs, a separate budget of about 12 billion kip has been reserved to implement

accompanying rural infrastructure along the rehabilitated road corridors. This can cover a variety of infrastructure, such as schools, footpaths or foot bridges, water supply, small irrigation schemes or water storage tanks, small community foresting or agricultural development, among others. These measures are aimed to extend the benefits to a wider population. Studies are under way to identify suitable candidate measures for further consideration. The government of Germany has been a long-standing partner in rural development with Laos and has provided more than US\$72 million through KfW Development Bank to improve roads and other rural infrastructure in the country since 2004.

Source : [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent\\_Germany\\_234.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Germany_234.php)

## Yangon's Thilawa Port to receive larger ships



*Myanmar News | 1 December, 2020*

The Myanmar Port Authority will permit larger ships with drafts of up to 10 meters to call at the Thilawa Port in Yangon this month, according to its latest announcement. This is expected to enable more containerised cargo throughput at the port and encourage higher volumes of trade. About 95 percent of Myanmar's trade is conducted by sea. In the last fiscal year, cargos worth over US\$10.4 billion was exported and US\$15.6 billion was imported via the maritime route. Yangon's two main ports, Thilawa and the Port of Yangon, are located along the Yangon river where container vessel sizes are

restricted due to sandbars located along the navigation channel. Yangon port is located in downtown Yangon while Thilawa Port is located 16km further downstream. Thilawa Port, which has a draft of 10 meters, is able to handle vessels of up to 20,000 tonnes, or 2000 TEUs in capacity. Up until early this year, only vessels with drafts of up to nine meters were permitted to call at the port. Yangon Port has a draft of nine meters and can handle vessels of up to 15,000 tonnes, or 1500 TEUs. The number of vessels to Yangon is expected to rise now that larger vessels will be permitted to call at Thilawa. According to an analysis by ocean consultancy Royal Haskoning, based on draft levels and hours of high tide, Thilawa Port can accommodate up to 7,300 annual vessel calls while Yangon Port can accommodate up to 4,380 annual vessel calls. With an annual vessel call of 2,483 in fiscal 2015/16, this implies that Port of Yangon volumes could be limited by channel capacity when the vessel calls increase. With an estimated maximum 4,380 calls and an average of 1,200 TEU exchange per call, the navigation channel can potentially accommodate up to 5.3 million TEU annually, according to Royal Haskoning. – Translated

Source : <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/yangons-thilawa-port-receive-larger-ships.html>

## Vietnam's tourism suffers heavily from Covid-19



*Vietnam News | 1 December, 2020*

The Hanoitimes - The number of international arrivals to the country in November was higher than the previous month. About 3.8 million international arrivals entered Vietnam in the first eleven months of 2020, down 76.6% year-on-year as Vietnam suspends foreign entries to contain the spread of Covid-19 pandemic. The international arrivals included foreign investors, experts, highly-skilled workers, business managers and their families who are allowed to travel to the country since borders were closed in March. The figures were part of the latest report from the General Statistics Office (GSO), showing that 17,700 foreigners arrived in Vietnam in November, up 19.6% against October and down 99% year-on-year. In January-November period, international arrivals by air dropped 80.4% year-on-year to around 3.07 million, while 602,600 came by road, down 80.3%, and those arriving by sea decreased by 37.8% to 144,600. Asian visitors accounted for 73.3% of total tourist inflows, with nearly 2.8 million, down 78.4% over the same period last year. The number of visitors from Europe fell 66.2% to 670,700 while arrivals from the Americas plunged 73.5% to nearly 236,100, mostly from the US. Around 102,700 visitors came from Oceania, down 74.3% while those from Africa numbered 12,400, down 71.1%. Speaking at a conference on tourism held recently in the central province of Quang Nam, Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism Nguyen Ngoc Thien said the country's tourism is predicted to lose US\$23-billion in revenue due to Covid-19. The numbers of international and

domestic tourists were estimated to drop by 80% and 45%, respectively, so far this year from a year ago. "The tourism industry needs to continue to be proactive, creative, innovative thinking, methodical in investment, and build more new high-quality tourism products, in line with the needs and trends of tourism consumption in the context of post Covid-19," Mr. Thien said. At the forum, Deputy Prime Minister Vu Duc Dam raised three issues on which the industry should focus on developing the tourism industry including guaranteeing the quality in all segments, restructuring the inbound tourism market, and ensuring safety for tourists.

Source : <http://hanoitimes.vn/vietnams-inbound-tourism-suffers-heavily-from-covid-19-315075.html>

## Vietnam manufacturing index dips amid natural disasters



*Vietnam News | 1 December, 2020*

The Hanoitimes - While purchasing activity and employment were scaled back, business sentiment improved to a 16-month high. The Vietnam Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) dipped fractionally below the 50.0 no-change mark to 49.9 in November, signaling broadly unchanged business conditions during the month, according to Nikkei and IHS Markit. This followed a reading of 51.8 in October and was the first sub-50 figure in three months. A reading below the 50 neutral mark indicates no change from the previous month, while a reading below 50 indicates contractions and

above 50 points to an expansion. Output decreased slightly in November, thereby ending a two-month sequence of growth. That said, anecdotal evidence suggested that the reduction could be temporary as a number of firms indicated that recent stormy weather and subsequent flooding had disrupted their production during the month. The Covid-19 pandemic was also a factor weighing on output. New orders continued to rise, but only fractionally as business was impacted by the stormy weather conditions and flooding, as well as the pandemic. The latter had a particularly negative effect on new export orders, which decreased solidly. On the other hand, a number of respondents indicated that new orders had increased amid improving underlying demand. With new order growth slowing, firms worked through outstanding business, leading to a tenth successive reduction in backlogs of work. The latest fall was solid, but softer than in October. Falling workloads led firms to scale back their employment and purchasing activity during November. The modest reduction in staffing levels followed a slight rise in the previous month. Purchasing activity decreased for the first time in three months. The fall in input buying fed through to a reduction in stocks of purchases. In both cases, however, consumer goods producers bucked the wider trend by posting expansions. Meanwhile, a reduction in output during the month resulted in a decrease in stocks of finished

goods. As well as hampering production, the stormy weather and Covid-19 pandemic combined to disrupt the delivery of purchased items to manufacturers. Suppliers' lead times lengthened for the twelfth successive month and to the greatest extent since August. Raw material shortages were also a factor behind delivery delays. Shortages of raw materials contributed to rises in input costs during November, with difficulties in importing items and higher prices in international markets also cited. Input prices increased sharply, and at the fastest pace since August 2018. The rate of output price inflation also quickened, but remained modest. The rise in charges was the greatest for two years. Blip on road to recovery Despite the setback in November, firms expect production to expand over the coming year. Confidence was centered on expectations that the Covid-19 pandemic would remain under control in Vietnam and cause less disruption globally. "Although at first glance the latest Vietnam Manufacturing PMI figures are a little disappointing, there is reason to believe the setback in November was just a blip on the road to recovery," said Andrew Harker, associate director at IHS Markit, which compiles the survey. "A number of panelists signaled that a succession of storms that have hit Vietnam in recent weeks, and associated flooding, hindered production, new orders and the receipt of deliveries during the month," he noted. "We could

therefore still be on track for a positive end to the year. In fact, business confidence improved to the highest since July 2019 on expectations that the Covid-19 pandemic will prove less disruptive in 2021. IHS Markit forecasts GDP in Vietnam to rise 6.1% next year."

Source : [http://hanoitimes.vn/vietnam-manufacturing-activity-dips-in-nov-amid-storms-and-flooding-](http://hanoitimes.vn/vietnam-manufacturing-activity-dips-in-nov-amid-storms-and-flooding-315078.html)

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