

*Highlight News / December 17/2020*



- U.S. to provide additional \$66.2 million to aid Cambodia's development
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## U.S. to provide additional \$66.2 million to aid Cambodia's development



*Cambodia News | 16 December, 2020*

The Royal Government of Cambodia and the Government of the United States of America have officially inked the exchange of notes reflecting the addition of \$66.2 million to the development project agreement grants for Cambodia. The signing ceremony taking place yesterday was presided over by Cambodian Senior Minister in Charge of Special Missions and Vice-Chairman of the Council for Development of Cambodia (CDC) Chin Bun Sean representing the Cambodian side and Ms Veena Reddy, the Cambodia Mission Director of the Agency for International Development, the U.S. side. According to the CDC's press release, the additional funding will support Public Health and Education (\$43.3 million) and Agriculture and Environment (\$22.9 million). From 1992 to 2019, the U.S. Government provided approximately \$1.5 billion in assistance, equivalent to 6.10 percent of total ODA disbursement by all development partners to Cambodia, focusing on priority sectors such as health, education, environment, agriculture, governance, democratic development, and demining. The assistance is well aligned with the RGC's priority as outlined in the Rectangular Strategy IV and the National strategic Development Plan 2019-2023, added the same source. On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, the Council for the

Development of Cambodia thanked both the U.S. government as well as its citizens for their continued support and commitment to the inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development of Cambodia. Phal Sophanith – AKP

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50793668/u-s-to-provide-additional-66-2-million-to-aid-cambodias-development/>

## Kingdom's garment-related exports down 9 percent January to October



*Cambodia News | 16 December, 2020*

Cambodia's exports in clothes, footwear and travel goods were down 9 percent for the first 10 months of the year measured against 2019 year-to-date (YTD) figures, according to data from the General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE). The total value of these export products between January and October was \$8.215 billion. Broken down by sub-category, clothing exports dropped 10.7 percent to \$6.164 billion, footwear declined 6.86 percent to \$929.57 million with travel goods down 11 percent to \$788.97 million. Other textiles, accounting for the balance of the category, showed an increase of 37 percent in YTD numbers to \$332.80 million. The US market was the leading destination for Cambodian products in the sector, with 37 percent of the total, (up 6.34 percent YTD to over \$3 billion), followed by the European Union at 27 percent, (down 22.14 percent YTD to \$2.181 billion), Japan at 9 percent, (down 10.48 percent YTD to \$731.2 million), the United Kingdom at 7

percent, (down 18.53 percent YTD to \$615.6 million), Asean destinations at 2 percent (up 26.82 percent YTD to \$190.44 million) with the remaining 18 percent (up 11.54 percent YTD to \$1.453 billion) divided among various nations. American Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia President Anthony Galliano noted earlier this week that garments will make a (further) comeback when Western economies revive. He added that the importance of the US as a trading partner will only substantially increase, as consumer demand for Cambodia made goods revives. Kaing Monika, deputy secretary-general of the Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia, said that the global market for Cambodia's garment exports will always be more challenging and that internal reform for better competitiveness should be the focus. He added that the apparel market changing from long-term mass production to small orders and fast delivery has made it difficult to see a full-year complete picture.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50793527/kingdoms-garment-related-exports-down-9-percent-january-to-october/>

## High unemployment among people with disabilities a major concern



*Laos News | 17 December, 2020*

Unemployment among people with disabilities continues to be an unresolved issue, especially in remote areas, according to a report from the Lao Statistics Bureau. The report noted that Laos has a high rate of unemployment among people with

disabilities compared to the overall population. Unemployment among this group stands at 4 percent, while it is just 1.5 percent in the rest of the workforce, the Lao Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Planning and Investment, noted. The figures were reported at a meeting held on Wednesday to disseminate the results of the Monograph Report on People with Disability in Laos, based on data taken from the 4th Population and Housing Census 2015. The meeting was chaired by the Head of the Lao Statistics Bureau, Mrs Phonesaly Souksavath, and UNFPA Representative to Laos, Ms Mariam A. Khan. Speaking at the opening ceremony, Mrs Phonesaly said the main purpose of the disability monograph was to sensitise society about the situation of persons with disabilities. Statistics were very useful for policymakers and planners in changing attitudes towards persons with disabilities as well as in developing equitable services for them, she added. The report identifies critical services needed to enhance inclusivity, education, labour, social protection and disability-related data to ensure persons with disabilities benefit from social, economic, and environmental development. Accurate disability data are crucial to informing policy-making by government agencies, and to plan needs-based programmes targeting persons with disabilities. A total of 160,881 people are known to be living with a disability (among people aged five and over) in Laos. The disability monograph derived from the 2015 Census data indicates that disability prevalence is higher in remote areas (3.33 percent

in rural areas without roads, 2.86 percent in rural areas with roads, 2.48 percent in urban areas), and higher among diverse ethnic groups. The UNFPA supports the collection and analysis of data to identify marginalised groups, including persons with disabilities, Ms Khan said. The findings show that people with disabilities have significantly poorer socio-economic conditions and fewer opportunities. Differences are even more significant when analysed by gender, income, and ethnic group. The data allows decision-makers and budget planners to invest in those being left behind. The government ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which spells out the human rights of persons with disabilities. Several strategies, policies, and action plans targeting persons with disabilities - one of the most deprived groups - have subsequently been adopted in Laos in recent years.

Source : [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten\\_High245.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_High245.php)

## Myanmar in talks with China to resume live cattle exports



*Myanmar News | 16 December, 2020*

Negotiations are still underway with the Chinese customs authorities to resume live cattle exports from Myanmar, said U Tun Lwin, deputy permanent secretary from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. “We are still discussing the details with the General Administration of Customs (GACC)

of the People’s Republic of China,” he said on December 15. The GACC is a recently formed agency and its procedures are new, which is why the two countries have had to negotiate to meet the procedures. “This organisation is responsible for the collection of customs on imported goods and carrying out inspections and quarantines,” he said. The exporting of live cattle requires the Department of Animal Husbandry under the GACC to issue health certificates. U Min Aung Aye, director at 105th Mile Border Trade Post in Muse township under the Ministry of Commerce which is responsible for issuing export licenses, said official live cattle exports to China should be able to resume in January next year. Currently, more than 15,000 live cattle and goats are being held at the border awaiting transportation to China. Myanmar first permitted live cattle exports in December 2017. Aside from the Chinese market, a few exports were made to Thailand, India and Bangladesh. However, after the GACC was established, official exports have stalled as negotiations continue. - Translated  
Source : <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/myanmar-talks-china-resume-live-cattle-exports.html>

## November auto sales achieve year record



*Vietnam News | 16 December, 2020*

Auto sales in November hit 36,359 units, the highest monthly number this year as Vietnam continues to

contain Covid-19. The figure exceeded that of last year by 22 percent, making November the third month to record year-on-year growth in 2020 after February and October as Covid-19 caused sales to slump in other months, according to data from Vietnam Automobile Manufacturers Association (VAMA). Passenger cars accounted for 79 percent of sales, commercial vehicles nearly 20 percent, and special-purpose vehicles for the rest, data shows. However, auto sales in the first 11 months still fell nearly 14 percent year-on-year due to deep plunges recorded in April and August after two major Covid-19 outbreaks. Local brand Truong Hai Auto (Thaco) retained the top spot in the first 11 months with a 35.5 percent share of the market as sales rose two percent to 84,858 units. It was followed by Toyota with 59,394 units, down 16 percent and Mitsubishi with 24,387 units, down nine percent. Ford and Honda rounded off the top five. Last year, auto sales had risen 11.7 percent from 2018 to 322,322 units, according to VAMA.

Source : <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/business/data-speaks/november-auto-sales-achieve-year-record-4207319.html>

## Vietnam ICT industry reaches estimated US\$126 billion revenue in 2020



*Vietnam News | 16 December, 2020*

Vietnam has about 45,500 enterprises in the ICT industry including foreign-invested ones grossing a total estimated revenue of US\$126 billion, according to the Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC). Vietnam is considered one of the 20 countries with the highest internet penetration in the world with 68.17 million users (accounting for 70% of the population). About 94% of Vietnamese people use internet regularly with an average usage time of up to 6 hours per day. Besides, ICT exports account for about 30% of the total national export value and 3% of global ICT exports. Notably, Vietnam's internet economy growth rate in 2020 continues to reach nearly 17%, the highest in Southeast Asia. These are the bright spots in the sector, according to the MIC. Internet has become an essential service for everyone and Vietnamese people see good prospects for the internet. As internet has become an ecosystem for digital transformation, the organizing board of the annual Internet Day chose the theme "Digital Transformation in Vietnam: from Aspiration to Reality" for the annual Internet Day this year. Speaking at the conference on December 16, Mr. Nguyen Trong Duong, Deputy Director of the Computerization Agency (under the MIC) said that in the second half of 2020, international organizations

have been releasing reports on digital society, digital government, digital economics relating to Vietnam. The United Nations (UN) EGDI report showed that, in terms of the e-government development index (EGDI), Vietnam ranked 86th, climbing two spots and scoring higher than the average of Asia and the world. In Southeast Asia, Vietnam currently ranked 6th in the e-government development index, behind the Philippines, Brunei, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. Regarding the telecommunications infrastructure index, in the past year, Vietnam jumped 31 places, ranking 69 in the world. In the human resource ranking index, Vietnam increased three places to rank 117. However, the UN's report was only updated until September 2019. Therefore, Vietnam's digital transformation efforts from the end of 2019 until now have not been recorded and the next evaluation results will be made public soon, Mr. Duong said.

Source : <https://vietreader.com/business/finance/27149-vietnam-ict-industry-reaches-estimated-us126-billion-revenue-in-2020.html>

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