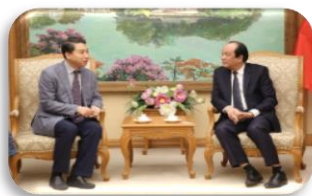
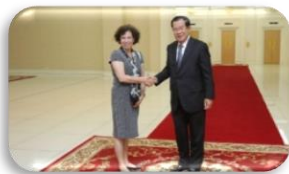


Highlight News / March 05/2021



- EU pledges \$510 million to Cambodia in 2021-2027
- U.S. congratulates Cambodia on arrival of AstraZeneca Vaccine
- Lao exports to Thailand decrease in January
- Mustard, other crops grown on manageable scale using underground water in Minbu Township
- Vietnam willing to offer optimal conditions for foreign investors
- US becomes largest importer of Vietnamese agricultural products during Jan-Feb



EU pledges \$510 million to Cambodia in 2021-2027



Cambodia News | 4 March, 2021

The European Union (EU) said it plans another \$510 million in aid for Cambodia to help the country boost its economic development in the 2021-2027 period, according to a statement by the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) yesterday. EU ambassador to Cambodia Carmen Moreno and Chhieng Yanara, secretary-general of the Cambodian Rehabilitation and Development Board (CRDB) of the CDC met yesterday to formalise the aid package which is similar to that for Cambodia in 2014-2020. Moreno said: “The draft of EU’s Strategy on Development Cooperation for Cambodia in 2021 and the EU Multiannual Indicative Programme 2021-2027 have just been finalised and will be submitted for discussion for more input in the discussion meeting between Cambodia, the EU and the EU’s partners.” The money will go toward improvements in agriculture, education and the country’s governance. Yanara said he valued the achievement made in the EU’s development cooperation for Cambodia in 2014-2020, which contributed to sustainable development and inclusion in Cambodia. He also expressed his thanks to the EU and all the EU’s partners for their contribution to the Cambodian government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, mainly in public health, people’s lives enhancement, food security, economic recovery and job creation. Since 1992, EU partners, 10 EU

member countries and the Swiss Confederation have supported Cambodia with \$4.2 billion or 19 percent of the country’s total cooperation financing.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/820485/eu-pledges-510-million-to-cambodia-in-2021-2027/>

U.S. congratulates Cambodia on arrival of AstraZeneca Vaccine



Cambodia News | 4 March, 2021

The United States congratulated Cambodia on the successful arrival of 324,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine on Mar. 2, 2021. Shipment was made possible through the COVAX Advance Market Commitment, a global initiative to support equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. The United States recently announced the provision of an initial \$2 billion—out of a total planned \$4 billion—to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment, making the United States the single largest contributor to the international response to COVID-19. Cambodia is among the first countries in the region to have received COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX facility. “Supporting Cambodia’s response to COVID-19 through the COVAX facility continues our long-standing public health cooperation and partnership with Cambodia,” said U.S. Ambassador W. Patrick Murphy. “Defeating the pandemic is a global challenge and the United States is working both at home and abroad to stop the spread of the disease. Working together, we can defeat COVID-19 and prepare ourselves for future threats.” The U.S. contributions to COVAX, through the U.S. Agency for

International Development (USAID), will support the purchase and delivery of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines for the world's most vulnerable and at-risk populations in 92 low- and middle-income countries. This support is critical to controlling the pandemic, slowing the emergence of new variants, and helping to restart the global economy. The United States will also work with other donors to make further pledges and commitments to meet the COVAX facility's critical needs. The U.S government is committed to collaborating with partners and governments to support global COVID-19 vaccination efforts. The United States has worked closely with Cambodian stakeholders throughout the duration of the pandemic to protect public health and strengthen the response to COVID-19. Longstanding health partnerships in Cambodia have facilitated this work, including through the U.S. Centres for Disease Control (CDC), the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), the U.S Naval Medical Research Centre, and USAID. These partnership have bolstered the surveillance, contact tracing, research, and public awareness needed to control the pandemic and save lives. In addition, through USAID, the United States has provided more than \$11 million in special funding to help Cambodia prevent, detect, and respond to the pandemic outbreak and to support economic recovery. These resources have helped the Kingdom with risk communication, community engagement, infection prevention and control, case management, laboratory systems, and have provided important

commodities such as basic hygiene supplies, essential viral transport media, cold-chain boxes for safe transport of specimens to labs for analysis, personal protective equipment for laboratory staff and frontline health workers, and IT equipment to strengthen COVID-19 health education related messaging and contact tracing system management. Heng Panha – AKP

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50820557/u-s-congratulates-cambodia-on-arrival-of-astrazeneca-vaccine/>

Lao exports to Thailand decrease in January



Laos News | 5 March, 2021

The value of goods sold by Laos to Thailand in January slumped compared to the same period in 2020, which has been attributed to restrictions imposed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. In January 2020, Laos earned US\$135 million from goods sold to Thailand but the figure fell to \$89 million in January this year, according to the Lao Ministry of Industry and Commerce. According to local daily Vientiane Times on Thursday, the value of goods imported from Thailand remains relatively stable, even though Lao authorities banned the import of fresh and frozen seafood from Thailand in December 2020 after a new outbreak of Covid-19 in the kingdom. Thailand continues to be Laos' top trading partner among all Asean countries, with bilateral trade expanding year-on-year. The Lao Ministry of Commerce and Industry indicates that

Thailand continues to hold the top spot, with electricity comprising Thailand's largest import from Laos. Electricity is the top export commodity after copper and copper products, electricity products, general merchandise, and camera items. Other goods exported to Thailand include vehicles and spare parts, and agricultural produce, according to the report.

Source: <https://www.thestar.com.my/aseanplus/aseanplus-news/2021/03/04/lao-exports-to-thailand-decrease-in-january>

Mustard, other crops grown on manageable scale using underground water in Minbu Township



Myanmar News | 4 March, 2021

The local farmers from Kyauktan village in Minbu (Sagu) Township are growing the vegetables using the underground water. This year, people are growing mustard and other crops on a manageable scale to earn family income, said Daw Mya Kyi, a mustard grower from Kyauktan village. "This is our family business, and we have been growing them for five years. Only our family members are cultivating them. So, we could save the labour charges. We have spent merely ploughing fees and fertilizer costs. Now, the mustard is yielding profusely and is sold every two or three days. We have grown not only the mustard but also other crops," she added. "The

cultivation is a manageable scale, and the labourers are hired when ploughing and cultivating. During the harvest season, the family members are working together to save the labour charges. The villages are growing gourd, coriander plant, garden pea, mustard and chilli. So, we are earning the family income from each crop," said Daw Mya Kyi, a manageable scale grower. — Zayar Htet (Minbu)/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/mustard-other-crops-grown-on-manageable-scale-using-underground-water-in-minbu-township/>

Vietnam willing to offer optimal conditions for foreign investors



Vietnam News | 4 March, 2021

Minister and Chairman of the Government Office Mai Tien Dung has stated the nation's readiness to create favorable conditions locally for foreign investors seeking to do business in the country, including those from the Republic of Korea (RoK). The Minister made the affirmation during separate receptions held on March 3 in Hanoi for Lee Kang-woo, general director of Lotte Properties Thu Thiem in Vietnam, and Horst Geicke, chairman and CEO of Ho Tram Sanctuary Company. During the reception held for Lee Kang-woo, Minister Dung congratulated the Korean Government on its recent success in containing the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and on producing COVID-

19 vaccines, materials, and goods. In addition, there was plenty of praise for the RoK's support in helping the nation combat the pandemic, according to VOV. Mutual co-operation has continued to enjoy steady growth across multiple fields in recent times, Minister Dung said, adding that the Vietnamese Government greatly appreciates the RoK's efforts to maintain its position as the largest foreign investor in the country. At present, the nation is still striving to meet the dual goals of combating the COVID-19 pandemic and boosting socio-economic development. As part of the occasion, Kang-woo also sent a letter of thanks from the CEO of Lotte Group to Prime Minister Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Phuc and Minister Dung. Furthermore, Kang-woo praised Vietnamese pandemic containment efforts, while stating that the RoK is also carrying out the task of fighting the pandemic and ensuring socio-economic development moving forward. Indeed, firms from the RoK, including Lotte Group, will continue to pay attention to investment in the Vietnamese market, he added. Speaking at the meeting, Dung said he hoped Lotte Properties Thu Thiem, owned by South Korea's Lotte Group, would speed up the construction progress of the project so that it will be put into operation after the Covid-19 pandemic is rolled back, Hanoitimes cited. Sharing the difficulties facing the company due to the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Minister Dung stated that

amid the global pandemic, tourism represents one of the most affected industries, therefore it needs time to recover. In response, Geicke told his host that despite suffering difficulties in terms of project implementation, the company has been striving to devise a plan to upgrade cuisine areas, villas, and hotels at Ho Tram resort. This will allow tourism products and services to be available immediately once the pandemic is fully contained globally. In July 2017, four Lotte members and Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee signed a contract for the construction of an Eco-smart City with an initial investment capital of US\$884.4 million, after seven years of proposals. However, the project was halted temporarily after the Thu Thiem scandal over irregularities in granting land to investors. Earlier, the Government agreed with the proposal of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City and the Government Inspectorate that the investor is allowed to continue implementing the project. Minister Dung suggested the South Korean investor needs to cooperate closely with the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City to complete relevant procedures and implement the project on schedule. The Vietnamese Minister emphasized that the cooperation between South Korea and Vietnam are thriving in many spheres. The Vietnamese government highly appreciates the fact that South Korea has been Vietnam's largest foreign investor for many years. On

the same day, Minister Dung also hosted Horst Geicke, Chairman and General Director of Sanctuary Ho Tram. At the meeting, Dung stressed that the Government of Vietnam always supports and creates favorable conditions for domestic and foreign investors, including those of the Sanctuary Ho Tram project in the southern province of Ba Ria-Vung Tau, to expand investment and business activities in Vietnam.

Source : <https://vietnamtimes.org.vn/vietnam-willing-to-offer-optimal-conditions-for-foreign-investors-28795.html>

US becomes largest importer of Vietnamese agricultural products during Jan-Feb



Vietnam News | 4 March, 2021

With an export turnover of \$2.04 billion, the US surpassed China to become the largest consumer of Vietnamese agricultural products in the first two months of 2021. The latest report of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development shows that the total import and export turnover of agricultural, forestry, and fishery products in the first two months of this year is estimated at nearly \$11 billion, of which exports are estimated at \$6.17 billion, an increase of 16.6% year on year. Imports are estimated at \$4.8 billion, up 13.6%, according to Vietnamnet. The trade surplus is about \$1.37 billion, up 28.4% over the same period of 2020. Export turnover of many key

export agricultural products grew strongly during this time. For example, rubber export value reached about \$516 million (up 9.9%); tea \$29 million (up 11.1%); cashew nuts \$442 million (up 21.5%), vegetables \$610 million (up 14.6%); wood and wood products about \$2.44 billion (up 51.0%); and rattan and bamboo products \$128 million (up 43.0%). Notably, with an export turnover of about \$2.04 billion, an increase of 57.3% over the same period, and accounting for more than 33% of market share, the US became the largest customer of Vietnamese agricultural products during this time. Following the US was China, with export revenue of \$1.88 billion, up 57.9% over the same period last year and accounting for 30.53% market share. ASEAN ranked third with an export turnover of \$606 million, up 25.2%, accounting for 9.82%. In the coming time, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development will focus on trade promotion activities. Regarding export markets, it will focus on issues related to market regulations and technical barriers in free trade areas (FTAs) consistent with the development of the Covid-19 epidemic. The Ministry will also strive to increase exports of dragon fruit and passion fruit. In the domestic market, the Ministry will continue to monitor, collect and summarize information and data on prices, production, and supply of agricultural products in the country, especially in Covid-hit provinces, and will implement

the campaign calling for Vietnamese people to use
Vietnamese goods in the 2021-2025 period.

Source:<https://vietnamtimes.org.vn/us-becomes-largest-importer-of-vietnamese-agricultural-products-during-jan-feb-28790.html>