

*Highlight News / March 8, 2021*



- \$8.1 billion recorded as Cambodia-China trade volume in 2020. Showing a 5.2 percent drop
- MAFF expects 2.6 million tonnes of dry season paddy this year
- BRI projects important milestones of Laos-China cooperation in new era: Lao ambassador
- Goat breeders earn good profit on upward market in Kalay
- Vietnam a strategic destination for Samsung's R&D activities
- RCEP smooths way for Vietnam to join global supply chains



ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)

## \$8.1 billion recorded as Cambodia-China trade volume in 2020.

Showing a 5.2 percent drop



*Cambodia News | 6 March, 2021*

The bilateral trade between Cambodia and China last year was valued at \$8,118 billion, sliding down 5.2 percent compared to a year earlier. According to the data from the Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia's exports to the world's second largest economic nation in 2020 saw a year-on-year increase by 8.1 percent to \$1,086 billion. Meanwhile, Cambodia spent roughly \$7.031 billion on goods imported from China, down 6.9 percent compared to that in 2019. The decrease in imports from China was mainly due to the slowdown of importing raw materials for garment factories because of the lockdown or restriction measures imposed to contain the COVID-19 spread. Cambodia mostly exported agricultural products including milled rice, mangoes, and cassava to China, and imported industrial products, raw materials, and construction materials from China. The two countries have placed high hope on the increase of their trade exchange after their bilateral FTA was signed last October. The agreement is expected to be ratified by the governments of both countries within this year, aiming to make it come into effect as early as possible. It also marks a major milestone in bilateral economic and trade relations and is expected to boost the bilateral ties to a new level and bring more

benefits to the enterprises and the people of Cambodia and China. Chea Vannak – AKP

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50821332/8-1-billion-recorded-as-cambodia-china-trade-volume-in-2020-showing-a-5-2-percent-drop/>

## MAFF expects 2.6 million tonnes of dry season paddy this year



*Cambodia News | 6 March, 2021*

More than 642,583 hectares of dry season paddy was cultivated as of March 4 2021, which is up by 140 percent of the cultivated plan (459,200 hectares), though Cambodia and other countries in the Mekong River basin encountered low levels of water in 2020, according to the report from Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). Dry season paddy seasons is between end of December and April or May each year. MAFF's Minister Veng Sakhon said that five among 25 provinces and cities have dominated the dry season paddy cultivation. He added Prey Veng province achieved 111,279 hectares, Takeo province was 107,377 hectares, Kampong Thom achieved 76,956 hectares, Kandal province was 54,047 hectares and Banteay Meanchey was 50,511 hectares. Sakhon said farmers in other regions across the country are also cultivating and harvesting the dry season paddy. As of March 4, 2021, he said around 1.4 million tonnes on 325,613 hectares was harvested, accounting for more than 50 percent and the yield is 4.43 tonnes per hectare. Sakhon added that harvest for the dry seasonal paddy will achieve 2.6 million tonnes.

According to the report from the General Directorate of Agriculture (GDA) at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries show that Cambodia exported paddy to Vietnam for the first two months of the year was 707,595 tonnes. Among this figure, 345,600 tonnes is official export figure. The paddy price this year is between 950 riel per kilogram to 1,170 riel per kilogramme.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50821318/maff-expects-2-6-million-tonnes-of-dry-season-paddy-this-year/>

## BRI projects important milestones of Laos-China cooperation in new era: Lao ambassador



*Laos News | 7 March, 2021*

Projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are important milestones of Laos-China cooperation in the new era, said Lao ambassador to China Khamphao Ernthavanh in a recent written interview with Xinhuanet. Laos has always attached great importance to and supported the Belt and Road Initiative, stressed the ambassador, adding that the Initiative is in line with Laos' strategy to transform the country from being landlocked to land-linked within the region. The ambassador highlighted the China-Laos Railway Project under the Initiative, saying the project is "the symbol under the Initiative" and "the outstanding and the largest partnership project for Laos." The railway project started in December

2016 and is scheduled to be completed and operational in December 2021. The ambassador said the completion of the railway will increase the interaction of people and businesses and will create more favorable conditions for economic and trade cooperation, investment, tourism and other activities between the two countries. She pointed out that the Belt and Road Initiative not only considers the economic interests of participating countries, but also takes into account mutual understanding in society, culture and environmental issues. Noting that this year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of Laos-China diplomatic ties, the ambassador said that bilateral relations have been continuously enhanced over the past 60 years, benefiting both countries and contributing to regional and international development. Laos will continue to strengthen cooperation with China in the fields of economy and trade, energy, processing industries and agriculture, she added. The ambassador also hailed China's support to Laos in the fight against COVID-19 and its achievements in poverty alleviation. She said China has sent medical experts and provided COVID-19 vaccines to Laos, which helps Laos combat the pandemic. This support will strengthen the comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation between Laos and China and their partnership of jointly building Laos-China community with a shared future, she said. The

ambassador said China's achievement in poverty alleviation is "a wonderful history of world poverty alleviation" and expressed her willingness to learn from China to improve Lao people's life. Since the launch of the reform and opening up in the late 1970s, China has contributed to more than 70 percent of global poverty reduction.

Source: [http://www.china.org.cn/world/2021-03/07/content\\_77280738.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/world/2021-03/07/content_77280738.htm)

### Goat breeders earn good profit on upward market in Kalay



Myanmar News | 7 March, 2021

With the high demand for goats in Chin hills in Kalay town, Sagaing region and Tamu, goat breeders are happy with the upward market. They are earning good profit, according to a manageable-scale goat breeder in Kalay township. "For me, I have bred five goats on a manageable-scale. We got 10 cups of goat's milk if we milk the goat once a day. Each cup of goat milk is sold for K1,000, and the breeders are earning around K10,000 daily. Now, the breeders are happy earning a good profit because there are many goat buyers in this open season," said a goat breeder in Thazin ward, Kalay town. There are only a few commercial goat breeders in Kalay Township. Only around ten people are doing a manageable-scale livestock breeding business. Therefore, the goat demand is higher than the supply, and so the breeders are selling them at a higher price. The bucks are sold for around K100,000, while the nanny

is sold for around K50,000 or K80,000, depending upon the size. "Last year, India came to buy the goat in Myanmar. Also, hundreds of goats from Monywa, Pakokku and Myingyan were sold at a good price in the Myanmar-India border. Now, the Myanmar-India border traders are buying less than 100 hundred goats," said a goat trader on the Tamu border. — Chindwinthar/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnlnm.com.mm/goat-breeders-earn-good-profit-on-upward-market-in-kalay/>

### Vietnam a strategic destination for Samsung's R&D activities



Vietnam News | 7 March, 2021

Hanoi (VNA) - Samsung Vietnam plans to expand its investment in Vietnam by setting up a research and development (R&D) centre, strengthening cooperation with domestic enterprises, and taking part in public infrastructure projects, its General Director Choi Joo Ho has said. In an interview with "Tuoi tre" (Youth) newspaper, Choi said Samsung launched the construction of a new R&D centre in Hanoi in March last year, which is scheduled for completion in December 2022. This is Samsung Electronics' first R&D centre outside of the Republic of Korea and the largest of its kind by a foreign-invested enterprise in Vietnam, Choi said. Vietnam is not only an important global production hub but also a strategic destination in Samsung's R&D activities, he added. Looking back on 2020, Choi said it was a memorable year for Samsung. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it suffered a fall in exports in the first half

before recovering in the second half. In the year as a whole, it posted some 57 billion USD in export revenue, a little below its target of 60 billion USD but a positive result amid the pandemic. He said that, in 2021, the company will continue to strictly implement COVID-19 prevention and control measures set by the Vietnamese Government and the Samsung Group, thus completing the twin target of ensuring safety for the company and maintaining production stability while fulfilling its export goals. Regarding the movement of multinational groups in global supply chains to Vietnam, Choi held that Vietnam's advantages in abundant skilled workers, stable socio-political situation, smooth investment environment, diverse infrastructure networks, and effective and successful pandemic prevention and control measures have had a positive impact on such movements. Samsung is now operating six factories in Vietnam, with about 130,000 employees. According to Choi, since the pandemic broke out Samsung Vietnam has abided by pandemic prevention and control regulations defined by the Vietnamese Government and Samsung has applied prevention principles in factories worldwide. Noting that Vietnam has won global praise for its fight against COVID-19, Choi believed it will continue to successfully control the current outbreak and become a global model in the effort./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-a-strategic-destination-for-samsungs-rd-activities/197190.vnp>

## RCEP smooths way for Vietnam to join global supply chains



*Vietnam News | 7 March, 2021*

Hanoi (VNA) - The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement has enabled Vietnam to be connected better with global supply chains compared with other new-generation free trade agreements (FTAs), an official has said. Nguyen Thi Thu Trang, Director of the WTO and Integration Centre at the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), said the signing of the RCEP at the 37th ASEAN Summit in 2020 demonstrated Vietnam's resolve and success as ASEAN Chair. It also showed Vietnam is a trustworthy partner and expressed its prestige in the international arena. Regarding opportunities brought about by the agreement, Trang said it encompasses an economic region that provides the largest source of materials and equipment to Vietnam and serves as the country's largest consumption market. The agreement also covers the largest production chains in the world, thus facilitating Vietnam's connectivity with other RCEP member economies as well as its foreign investment attraction. The country will therefore find it easier to join global supply chains, according to Trang. The agreement has also posed many challenges, she added, explaining that it will increase Vietnam's trade deficit in the region and see it lose institutional momentum with standards that are not too high. In FDI attraction, most RCEP economies are major investors in Vietnam but there are still

partners whose technologies and investment quality are not good. The deal has also generated competitive challenges for Vietnamese firms, with the opening up of goods and services in the domestic market, Trang said. To put the RCEP to best use, she suggested Vietnam adopt three groups of solutions: continuing to reform institutions and improve the business environment; devising clear industrial policies that define spearhead and supporting industries; and reforming control mechanisms and ensuring FDI quality. To effectively implement the agreement, she said businesses need to improve their competitiveness, study the commitments in the deal, and brace for any and all challenges./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/rcep-smooths-way-for-vietnam-to-join-global-supply-chains/197191.vnp>

---