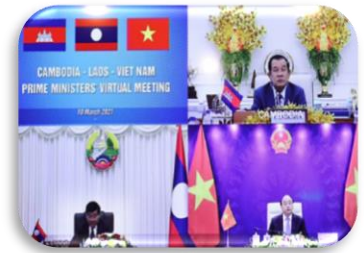


Highlight News / March 12/2021



- Cambodia ready to host 40th ATF in January 2022
- Cambodia supports peaceful solution to current crisis in Myanmar
- Cambodia, VN, Laos agree to boost border gate cooperation
- Hòa Phát steel sales down 25 per cent in February
- HCM City aims to support 1,000 innovative start-ups in next five years



Cambodia ready to host 40th ATF in January 2022



Cambodia News | 11 March, 2021

The Royal Embassy of Cambodia in the United States has confirmed that it is ready to host the 40th ASEAN Tourism Forum in Phnom Penh from Jan. 16 to 22 in 2022. The forum will provide a platform to encourage collaboration between ASEAN member states and holistically promote the region as a single destination, with diverse cultures, cuisines, and communities. It will be held under the theme of “ASEAN – A Community of Peace and Shared Future,” which articulates the Kingdom’s commitment as a key stakeholder in the region’s tourism ecosystem. ATF 2022 is aiming to attract more than 2,000 participants from more than 25 countries with attendees including tourism ministers and officials, sellers, international buyers, foreign and local media as well as trade visitors in the tourism industry. Previously planned to be held from Jan. 17 to 23, 2021 in Phnom Penh, it was delayed to early 2022 due to the COVID-19 global health crisis. The forum was founded in 1981 and involves all the tourism industry sectors of the 10 Member States of ASEAN: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The hosting of the ATF is rotated among the member countries.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50822760/ftas-fdis-and-tourism-essential-for-cambodias-economic-bounce-back/>

Cambodia supports peaceful solution to current crisis in Myanmar



Cambodia News | 11 March, 2021

The Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia this evening made a statement expressing the Kingdom’s support for a peaceful solution to the current crisis in Myanmar. 1. As a friend and a member of the ASEAN Community, Cambodia, like all other ASEAN member states and community at large, is closely following the situation in Myanmar and is saddened by the ongoing escalation of violence that has caused loss of lives. 2. While respecting the core principle of non-interference into internal affairs of members states, Cambodia has supported the “ASEAN Chairman’s Statement on the Developments in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar” issued on 1 February 2021, and the “Chair’s Statement on the Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting” issued on 2 March 2021, that were made in good faith to support a peaceful solution to the current crisis in Myanmar. 3. As stated in His Excellency Foreign Minister’s intervention during the IAMM, Cambodia is ready to join other ASEAN member states to assist Myanmar, on her path to normalcy in any role and in any format that are in line

with ASEAN principles – in our ASEAN Way – and that are agreeable to all. In this spirit, Cambodia also supports the good offices of the Chairman of ASEAN and the Secretary-General of ASEAN in a positive, peaceful and constructive manner. C. Nika – AKP

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50822768>

[/cambodia-supports-peaceful-solution-to-current-crisis-in-myanmar/](#)

Cambodia, VN, Laos agree to boost border gate cooperation



Laos News | 11 March, 2021

Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc and his Lao and Cambodian counterparts Thongloun Sisoulith and Hun Sen agreed to create favourable conditions for customs clearance via border gates during talks held via a videoconference on Wednesday. These were the first online discussions held between the three PMs during the COVID-19 pandemic. They agreed to continue maintaining and promoting the efficiency of cooperation mechanisms, speed up cooperation and exchanges between 13 border localities and boost the construction of border markets and distribution centres between the three countries. They agreed to continue effectively implementing agreements on border management, enhance cooperation in ensuring border security and in transnational crime prevention and control; speed up the implementation of the plan to connect the three economies by 2030, focusing on cooperation and tapping resources from development partners to develop Ha Noi-Vientiane

expressway, Vientiane-Vũng Áng railway and HCM City-Phnom Penh railway. The three PMs said they highly appreciated the talks which were initiated by Cambodian PM Hun Sen, saying that the event would help to enhance the traditional friendship between Việt Nam, Cambodia and Laos. They stressed the special friendship between the three countries was a motivation to stand together in the fights for independence in the past and the current national construction and development cause. They appreciated the achievements of cooperation in politics, security, national defence, border management, economy, trade, investment and education and training. They also agreed to continue boosting cooperation and mutual support in COVID-19 prevention and control, creating conditions for customs clearance for people and goods via border gates as well as investment cooperation activities. They agreed to coordinate to promote gaining access to vaccine sources for developing countries and effectively implement initiatives adopted within the framework of the ASEAN 2020, including the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies and ASEAN travel corridor. They appreciated effective cooperation at sub-regional, regional and international forums in the past and confirmed their commitment to working with other member countries to speed up the construction of the ASEAN Community, boost sub-regional cooperation in ASEAN as well as connect Mekong cooperation with cooperation strategies and plans of ASEAN. They discussed regional and international issues of

common concern and shared their wish for Myanmar to soon stabilise and deal with disputes via peaceful dialogues for Myanmar's interests and for peace and stability in the region; and agreed to continue supporting the role and efforts of ASEAN. They stressed the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the East Sea; agreed to coordinate to build a practical and effective Code of Conduct in line with international laws. The three PMs also agreed to continue enhancing cooperation in managing and sustainably using water sources of the Mekong river and coordinate to handle issues relating to the development of hydropower on the mainstream and promote research cooperation to develop clean and renewable energies. PM Phuc congratulated achievements the people and governments of Laos and Cambodia have made in the fight against COVID-19 and in socio-economic development. He said Viet Nam supported Cambodia to successfully host the Seventh Greater Mekong Sub-region summit scheduled for this month as well as fulfil its role as Chairman of the 13th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit slated for the end of 2021 and supported Laos to successfully hold the position as Chairman of the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Summit in 2021-22. Lao and Cambodian PMs appreciated the socio-economic development of Việt Nam as well as its success in controlling COVID-19. They congratulated Viet Nam for successfully fulfilling its role as ASEAN Chair in 2020 and continuing successfully holding the position as

a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council during the 2020-21 term. — VNS
Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50823412/cambodia-vn-laos-agree-to-boost-border-gate-cooperation/>

Hòa Phát steel sales down 25 per cent in February



Vietnam News | 11 March, 2021

HÀ NỘI — Steel manufacturer Hòa Phát Group sold a total of 439,000 tonnes of steel in February, a decline of 25 per cent compared to the previous month. The group attributed the fall to the Lunar New Year (Tết) holiday, which lasted seven days, and the recent COVID-19 outbreak in various localities. It recorded a slight increase in the sale of construction steel during the month, topping 189,000 tonnes. The supply of hot-rolled coil (HRC) and steel billets to the market were down 30 per cent and 47 per cent, respectively, to 175,000 tonnes and 75,000 tonnes. Regarding exports, the group met orders from major markets such as the US, Japan, China, and Indonesia. It sold one million tonnes of steel in January and February, including 376,000 tonnes of construction steel, 214,000 tonnes of steel billets, and 428,000 tonnes of HRC. Hòa Phát fired up its fourth blast furnace at the Hòa Phát Dung Quất iron and steel production complex in January, helping increase its output to 627,000 tonnes in February.

Notably, it set a target of producing five million tonnes of construction steel and steel billets and 2.7 million tonnes of HRC in 2021. — VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/899521/hoa-phat-steel-sales-down-25-per-cent-in-february.html>

HCM City aims to support 1,000 innovative start-ups in next five years



Vietnam News | 11 March, 2021

HCM CITY — The HCM City People’s Committee has introduced a project to facilitate the development of its innovative start-up ecosystem in 2021-25, with a target of supporting 1,000 start-ups. Its efforts are hoped to put HCM City’s innovative start-up ecosystem on par with the region, gradually becoming a cornerstone of activities and helping businesses improve productivity and sharpen their competitive edge. It also aims to raise the rate of total factor productivity to 45-50 per cent of its gross regional domestic product (GRDP). The project is expected to improve the capacity of 3,000 start-ups, assist 1,000 projects, and help 100 start-ups access venture capital by 2025. The committee has devised seven major tasks to meet such goals, including infrastructure development, the introduction of services serving the start-up ecosystem, support for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and international co-operation, among others. Capitalising on HCM City’s development potential, particularly of its innovative start-up

ecosystem, will provide impetus for the socio-economic development of the southern region, the Mekong Delta, and Viet Nam as a whole. In recent times, the city has rolled out incentives to spark innovative start-up ideas. An average of 700 received aid to improve their capacity between 2016 and 2020, while around 10 start-up contests are held annually. — VNS

Source: <https://vnexplorer.net/ho-chi-minh-citys-industrial-production-index-increase-in-two-months-a2021131032.html>