

Highlight News / April 07/2021



- Cambodia generates almost \$110 million from milled rice exports in Q1
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- Vietnam is 'top priority' for Siam Cement in coming years: CEO
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Cambodia generates almost \$110 million from milled rice exports in Q1



Cambodia News | 6 April, 2021

Cambodia's rice exports in the first quarter of this year reached 153,688 tonnes, generating \$109.73 million. Figures from the Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF) show that the trend of rice export in March 2021 is gradually recovering, resulting in the increase of 84.66 percent compared to February, basically, it is an increase from 41,949 tonnes in February to 77,466 tonnes in March, while February compared to January increased by only 22 percent. Cambodia's milled rice was exported to 41 countries around the world, and China remains the biggest market of Cambodia's milled rice export (55.55 percent), followed by 19 countries in Europe and three countries in ASEAN (Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines). This first quarter of 2021 is the year with the lowest exports in the last five years of the same period, said CRF, explaining that the main reason for the delay in the delivery to overseas buyers, especially to the target countries in the European Union, is mainly the shortage of containers for rice exports and the cost of shipping risen up five times higher comparing to the same period of the last five years. Phal Sophanith – AKP

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50834560/cambodia-generates-almost-110-million-from-milled-rice-exports-in-q1/>

Cambodia wants China to boost milled rice imports



Cambodia News | 6 April, 2021

Cambodia plans to ask China to increase its quota on milled rice imports from Cambodia to 500,000 tonnes , 100,000 tonnes more than the existing allowance. The Ministry of Commerce (MoC) said it plans to negotiate the issue with its Chinese counterparts this year. China is the country's biggest market for the Kingdom's milled rice exports. Lun Yeng, secretary-general of Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF), said: "We need wider markets for milled rice exports. A quota increase from China, which is our biggest market, will be a good move," Yeng told Khmer Times yesterday. The timeframe for the negotiations depends on the ministry, he added. Cambodia's rice exports in the first quarter of this year reached 153,688 tonnes, generating \$109.73 million. Figures from the CRF show rice exports in 2021 gradually recovering, resulting in an increase of 84.66 percent in March compared with February, from 41,949 tonnes to 77,466 tonnes. February's figures compared with January's increased by only 22 percent. Cambodia's milled rice is exported to 41 countries around the world, with China the biggest market, taking 55.55 percent, followed by 19 countries in Europe and three countries in ASEAN (Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines). The first quarter of 2021 was the year with the lowest exports in the last five years for the same period, reported the CRF. It said the main reason for the delay was

problems with delivery to overseas buyers, especially to target countries in the European Union, caused by a shortage of containers for rice exports and by the cost of shipping rising up to five times.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50834638/cambodia-wants-china-to-boost-milled-rice-imports/>

Laos, Vietnam vow to deepen ties, special solidarity



Laos News | 7 April, 2021

President Thongloun Sisoulith has pledged to work closely with Vietnam's newly-elected State President Nguyen Xuan Phuc to raise cooperative relations and special solidarity between the two countries to a higher level. Mr Thongloun held a telephone conversation with his Vietnamese counterpart on Monday following his election as the new State President by Vietnam's National Assembly. The Lao president congratulated Mr Phuc on his election as the new State President, saying he believed that under his leadership Vietnam would further develop substantially, which would enhance the role and reputation of Vietnam in the regional and international arenas. Mr Thongloun also said he believed that under the leadership of his Vietnamese counterpart the cooperative relations, friendship and special solidarity between Laos and Vietnam would continue to deepen and be fruitful. The two presidents said they highly valued their past cooperation which had enabled the implementation of various agreements signed by the two nation's top leaders, according to Laos' Ministry of Foreign

Affairs. The leaders also said they were satisfied with the implementation of agreements reached at the 43rd session of the Laos-Vietnam Inter-Governmental Committee late last year. Mr Thongloun thanked the Vietnamese president for Vietnam's support to Laos in past years, particularly Vietnam's assistance with recovery from disasters. Vietnam was among the first countries to help Laos respond to the Covid-19 pandemic amid the global health crisis and economic slowdown. The Vietnamese government also funded the construction of the new Lao National Assembly building at a cost of US\$100 million (about 831 billion kip). Situated on the That Luang esplanade in Vientiane, the stately building was used for the inaugural session of the Assembly's newly-elected 9th legislature last month. During their telephone talks, the two leaders discussed their future cooperation, agreeing to further push for exchange visits by high-level delegations as well as continuing to monitor and push for the implementation of agreements signed by top leaders of the two countries. The two presidents agreed to mark Laos-Vietnam Solidarity and Friendship Year 2022 and celebrate the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations and the 45th anniversary of the signing of the Laos-Vietnam Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation. These events will enable younger generations to better understand the relations, special solidarity and mutual assistance between Laos and Vietnam in the regional and international arenas. President Thongloun invited the Vietnamese president and his

wife to visit Laos at an appropriate date. Vietnam is the third largest foreign investor in Laos after China and Thailand. As of December 2020, Vietnam's total investment in Laos stood at US\$4.1 billion. Vietnam is also a key trading partner of Laos, with the value of bilateral trade recorded at US\$815 million in the last 10 months of 2020.

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_LaosViet_68.php

Chilli growers from Mong Yawng earning regular income



Myanmar News | 6 April, 2021

According to the chilli growers, the chilli growers from Mong Yawng region in Shan State (East) are harvesting the chili and earning a regular income daily for their family. "Our local farmers are growing the vegetables and crops and selling them in the market. We are also growing seasonal crops such as cucumber, pumpkin, tomato, watermelon, muskmelon and chilli. Now, the chillies are ripe enough. But it couldn't earn us an attractive profit as it did in the early harvest season. We are then selling the chillies back in the market, said a chilli grower from Mong Yawng region. The local people are growing various chilli species. The chillies are grown within an enclosed space. After 15 days, the chillies are transplanted to the farmlands, and it is needed to put the water into the farms every five days. After one month of transplanting into the fields, the chilis bloom and bear fruits. Although the red chillies are priced at K5,000 per kilo in the Mong Yawng region

in the harvest season, the price has dropped only to about K2,000 per kilo recently, according to the chilli growers. Myanmar also exports fresh chilli to China and Thailand. But, the fresh chillies are mainly exported to Thailand through the Myawady border.

— Arr Char/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/chilli-growers-from-mong-yawng-earning-regular-income/>

Vietnam is 'top priority' for Siam Cement in coming years: CEO



Vietnam News | 6 April, 2021

Siam Cement Group, one of Thailand's top industrial companies, sees bright prospects for growth within Southeast Asia beyond its home market, particularly in Vietnam. Nikkei Asia recently published an interview with Siam Cement Group CEO Roongrote Rangsiyopash, where he says Vietnam is the group's priority market. "For the next few years, I foresee that Vietnam will be our top priority," he said. Speaking on which countries SCG is emphasizing, Roongrote stated that: "You can see that most Asian countries do quite OK in terms of fighting COVID. And Asia is relatively young. However, Thailand is relatively old." He added: "That's the strategy we are seeing within this region; that will be the focus for us". SCG, which expanded net profit by 7% last year despite a similarly sized drop in revenue, expects its cement and building materials business to need more time for recovery than do the group's chemicals or packaging segments, the chief executive said. Once a Vietnamese petrochemicals plant comes online,

the company anticipates that revenue from Southeast Asia excluding Thailand will rise to 35% of the total from the current 26%. SCG began its regional expansion with Vietnam as its strategic hub in 1992. Currently, as of the first quarter of 2017, SCG has 22 operations in Vietnam and more than 8,600 local employees. SCG has proved to pay increasing attention and effort to corporate social responsibility activities, strengthening the commitment of the group and the development of Vietnamese people. According to the SCG Vietnam website, since 2007, SCG Sharing The Dream program has awarded 400 Vietnamese students each year with educational consultation workshop. The effort also expands to other human development programs such as the renovation of Disable Children School in Ba Ria-Vung Tau, and the construction of SCG Sharing the Dream playground in Ho Chi Minh. Answering questions about the economy in COVID-19, the CEO said "with our businesses, some are impacted and some are really not that much affected". Automotive part makers, car sales, electrical appliances sales all fell. Cement and other building materials, which account for the majority of SCG sales, "is the one most affected because with COVID, people are not so sure about their income" Nikkei quoted the CEO. "The purchase of homes and condominiums actually stopped." Food delivery, however, sees the development. "We have several projects ongoing, some big ones like a chemicals complex in north Vietnam. That one, fortunately, has had no impact [from the pandemic]," he added. "The pandemic is

still around, but I think that we have started to see the light at the end of the tunnel. The expectation is that with the vaccines, the situation should improve. It might take years before we can vaccinate everyone in the world. But at least we can control the situation. With this in mind, I will say that it might take a while. But again, it also depends a lot on the industry. For chemicals, I don't think they will be affected that much, vaccines or no vaccines."

Source : <https://vietnamtimes.org.vn/vietnam-is-top-priority-for-siam-cement-in-coming-years-ceo-30185.html>

Fruit, vegetable exports

bounce back in Q1



Vietnam News | 6 April, 2021

Hanoi (VNA) – Following a year of negative growth, the export of fruit and vegetables reeled in about 944 million USD in the first quarter of 2021, up 6.1 percent from the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Industry and Trade's Agency of Foreign Trade. China remained the biggest exporter, spending 352.83 million USD buying vegetables and fruit from Vietnam during January-February. The figure made up 62.5 percent of Vietnam's total export value of the products and represented an annual increase of 17.5 percent. In March alone, Vietnam shipped fruit and vegetables overseas for approximately 380 million USD, increasing 6.3 percent year-on-year. The country expects to gain 8-10 billion USD from exporting fruit and vegetables,

with revenue of processed products accounting for at least 30 percent of the total by 2030./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/fruit-vegetable-exports-bounce-back-in-q1/199657.vnp>
