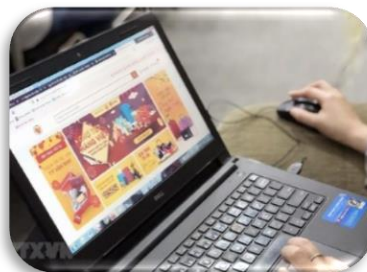


Highlight News / April 08/2021



- Cambodia's exports to South Korea up 5 percent in first quarter
- Trademarks registered up 30 percent, more unique products promoted
- Vientiane Enters Lockdown Following Covid-19 Outbreak
- Construction of retaining wall jetty in Kalewa finished by 40 per cent
- Experts: E-commerce to grow solidly in 2021
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Cambodia's exports to South Korea up 5 percent in first quarter



Cambodia News | 21 April, 2021

Cambodia's exports to South Korea rose by 5 percent to about \$99 million in the first three months this year, despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Data from the Korea International Trade Association showed the trend, adding that Cambodia imported \$146 million from South Korea, a slight decrease of 0.6 percent. Cambodia's major products exported to South Korea are clothes, footwear, travel goods, beverages, and electrical appliances, rubber, and pharmaceutical and agricultural products, while its main imports from the country were vehicles, electronics, kitchen appliances, beverages, and pharmaceutical and plastic products. Bilateral trade between Cambodia and South Korea was valued at \$884 million in 2020, a year-on-year decrease of 14 percent, according to the same source. Last year, Cambodia exported \$317 million to South Korea, a decline of 18 percent compared to the previous year, and it imported \$567 million from the country, down 5 percent. Bilateral trade volume of the two countries is expected to soar once a bilateral free trade agreement comes into effect. Chea Vannak – AKP

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50842371/cambodias-exports-to-south-korea-up-5-percent-in-first-quarter/>

Trademarks registered up 30 percent, more unique products promoted



Cambodia News | 21 April, 2021

Ministry of Commerce registered 7,997 local and international trademarks in 2020, a year-on-year increase of 30 percent, and is determined to further promote national trademarks and unique products. The update was provided in its latest report, stressing that it is further promoting Cambodian products granted with the geographical indications (GI), such as Kampot pepper, Kampong Speu palm sugar and pomelos grown Koh Trong commune of Kratie province, as national trademarks. The ministry also planned to register other products as national trademarks, such as Nom Banh Chok [traditional Khmer noodle] in Siem Reap province; the silver-copper in Kampong Luong and Koh Chin communes in Kandal province; potteries in Kampong Chhnang province; and steamed balut in Takeo province. The ministry has recently registered Ambok [flattened rice] uniquely made in Kampong Thom province for the GI. Other unique products mulled by the ministry for the GI nomination include Khmer silk, organic milled rice in Preah Vihear province, oranges grown in Pursat province, Smach milled rice in Svay Rieng province, durian in Battambang province, and

longan and Neang Am milled rice in Pailin province.

Chea Vannak – AKP

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50842368/trademarks-registered-up-30-percent-more-unique-products-promoted/>

Vientiane Enters Lockdown Following Covid-19 Outbreak



Laos News | 21 April, 2021

The Prime Minister of Laos has ordered a 14-day lockdown for Vientiane Capital in the wake of a surge of coronavirus cases, while other provinces are urged to consider intensifying prevention measures.

The nation's capital announced over twenty new cases of Covid-19 today following an outbreak believed to have begun during the Lao New Year holiday period. Health Minister Dr. Bounfeng Phoummalaysith read from a notice issued by the Prime Minister during a live announcement this evening. The notice stipulates 18 measures for Covid-19 prevention and control that will come into force from 6am tomorrow (22 April) and remain in force until midnight, 5 May. The notice calls on ministries, central organizations, and local authorities at every level to continue educating the public about the dangers posed by Covid-19, as well as ways to protect themselves and their families. Testing centers are to be set up, while contact tracing should continue, and vaccination programs for at-risk groups are to continue despite the lockdown. Civil servants working at government offices in Vientiane Capital are to reduce the number

of workers to ensure social distancing, except for essential personnel such as soldiers, police officers, firefighters, etc. The same applies to private sector businesses. Travel from Vientiane Capital to other provinces and from other provinces into Vientiane Capital is prohibited, except for permanent residents of Vientiane Capital who are returning home from the provinces, commercial trucks and goods, and other authorized individuals. Residents of Vientiane Capital are prohibited from leaving their residences except for essential tasks, including grocery shopping, visiting hospitals, and undertaking essential work authorized by the government. Those who must undertake agricultural work for their livelihoods are allowed to do so but must first seek advice and authorization from their village office. Merchants and shopkeepers are prohibited from stockpiling goods or price gouging, particularly in regard to the sale of face masks, hand gel, petrol, drinking water, and foods. Gatherings, especially cultural and religious ones, may not exceed more than 20 people, while ceremonies such as funerals must be held with extreme care and in line with measures previously announced by the Taskforce, such as wearing face masks, using hand gel, and practicing social distancing. All international and traditional border checkpoints and crossings will remain strictly closed for the next 14 days, while the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will coordinate with relevant authorities should a foreign citizen wish to return home. Entertainment and drinking venues, karaoke bars, internet cafes, massage and spa

parlors, and gyms are to be closed. Large-scale construction projects, factories, banks, financial institutions, the stock market, stock brokerages, hospitals, medical clinics, pharmacies, rescue teams (emergency accidents), post offices, telecommunications providers, utilities (electricity and water companies), waste disposal services, agricultural markets, convenience stores, supermarkets, fuel stations, restaurants, and cafés may remain open. Hotels and resorts may operate but must provide only accommodation and food services. The abovementioned businesses must adhere strictly to Taskforce guidelines, including limiting and rotating personnel so as to lower the chance of infection between workers. Other provinces are advised to increase their Covid-19 prevention measures as necessary and in accordance with the rate of spread in their provinces. The Prime Minister urges all organizations to collectively and strictly abide by the Order's stipulations.

Source : <https://laotiantimes.com/2021/04/21/vientiane-enters-lockdown-following-covid-19-outbreak/>

Construction of retaining wall jetty in Kalewa finished by 40 per cent



Myanmar News | 21 April, 2021

THE construction of retaining wall jetty was finished 40 percent in Kalewa town market, Kalay district, Sagaing region, said an official from Kalay Township Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems Department. "The construction of retaining wall jetty

was completed by 40 per cent today in Kalewa town market jetty. We have expected to complete the whole project in May," said the official from Kalay Township WRRSD. The project was started on 21 January 2021 and completed by 40 per cent so far. The Kalewa town market jetty is being constructed with a 350-foot long retaining wall by Chindwin Dragon (Chindwin Nagar) Company. The retaining wall project started its construction with a spending of over K150 million from the region government's fund for the 2020-2021 financial year. Upon completing the construction project, the jetty will be clean and beautiful to be suited to the city features that will benefit the town's people and prevent landslides. — Lulay/GNLM

Source : <https://cdn.myanmarseo.com/file/client-cdn/gnlnm/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/21-April-2021.pdf>

Experts: E-commerce to grow solidly in 2021



Vietnam News | 21 April, 2021

Vietnam's e-commerce market will maintain its solid growth trajectory this year, analysts said at a ceremony announcing Vietnam's E-Business Index within the framework of the Vietnam Online Business Forum on April 20. Speaking at the event, a representative from the Vietnam E-Commerce Association (VECOM) said enterprises have become more dynamic and gradually adapted to e-

commerce. The growing number of online consumers has resulted in growth in retail, ride-hailing, food delivery, online payments, training, and marketing. Nguyen Binh Minh, member of the VECOM executive committee, said e-commerce is growing primarily in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, and consumers are spending more on luxury and high-value goods or saving to buy necessities. Trinh Khac Toan from Amazon Global Selling Vietnam said e-commerce is developing strongly, with growth of 22 percent recorded over the last five years, which is expected to exceed 20 percent in 2021 alone. Experts said the E-business Index in 2021 was based on three criteria: human resources and infrastructure in information technology, e-commerce transactions between businesses and consumers, and between among businesses. Notably, HCM City still led the index with 67.6 points, ahead of Hanoi with 55.7 points and Da Nang 19. The southern province of Dong Nai rose to fifth place, behind Binh Duong, with 11.14 points. The northern port city of Hai Phong moved down to sixth place from third. During the 2016-2020 period, the e-commerce gap between Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City and other localities remained virtually unchanged. Experts forecast that online businesses will grow 29 percent during the 2021-2025 period, and Vietnam's digital economy is expected to reach 52 billion USD by 2025. Figures from VECOM show that Vietnam's

e-commerce market increased 16 percent last year to over 14 billion USD. Of this, online retail grew 46 percent, ride-hailing and food delivery 34 percent, and online marketing and games 18 percent. Online tourism, meanwhile, fell 28 percent./. VNA

Source : <https://vietnamnet.vn/en/business/experts-e-commerce-to-grow-solidly-in-2021-729420.html>

Hà Nội set to attract up to \$40 billion in FDI over next five years



Vietnam News | 21 April, 2021

HÀ NỘI — Hà Nội has compiled a plan to attract between US\$30 and 40 billion of foreign direct investment (FDI) during the 2021-25 period, Deputy Director of the municipal Department of Planning and Investment Vũ Duy Tuấn said. According to Tuấn, during the 2016-20 period, the city attracted 3,113 foreign-funded projects worth \$26.5 billion, 4.2 times higher than the capital recorded in the previous five-year period. Of 33 key projects, 11 have been completed in line with plans, 15 are under construction, and 12 are about to begin. As of March 31, there were 2,907 projects worth VNĐ1.65 quadrillion (\$71.52 billion) not funded by the local budget. Of these, 967 have been completed and 182 had stopped or had their licences revoked. At a working session with local authorities on Monday, Chairman of the municipal People's Committee Chu Ngọc Anh asked the department to follow the city's goals and working programmes to actively issue related plans or make proposals to local authorities.

He ordered the department to quickly review the local list of key projects and suggest new ones for the 2021-25 period, adding that the proposed projects should boost the city's socio-economic growth and also prove feasible. Anh also requested smooth and close coordination between the department and relevant sectors and localities. —

VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/929376/ha-noi-set-to-attract-up-to-40-billion-in-fdi-over-next-five-years.html>
