

Highlight News / May 12/2021



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Vietnamese firms invest close to \$90 million in Cambodia in first four months



Cambodia News | 11 May, 2021

Vietnamese firms invested \$545.9 million in overseas projects in the first four months of 2021, a year-on-year rise of 7.9-fold, according to Vietnam's Ministry of Planning and Investment. Cambodia secured \$89.1 million in these investments from Vietnam, ranking second in terms of the total investments announced for the first four months. There were 18 new projects receiving investment certificates with total registered capital worth \$142.8 million, up 2.7-fold against the same period last year. In addition, \$403.2 million was pumped into nine existing projects, surging 25.5-fold. A major part of the capital outflow – \$270.8 million – was poured into science-technology projects, accounting for 19.6 percent of the total figure. Wholesale and retails followed with \$147.8 million. The US was the top destination for Vietnamese capital in the period with \$302.3 million, holding a lion's share of 55.4 percent. France, Canada, Germany and the Netherlands followed after Cambodia. As of April 20, Vietnam had 1,417 valid overseas projects totaling \$21.8 billion, mainly in the sectors of mining (36 percent of total capital) and agro-forestry-fisheries. VNA

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50854578>

[/vietnamese-firms-invest-close-to-90-million-in-cambodia-in-first-four-months/](https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50854578/vietnamese-firms-invest-close-to-90-million-in-cambodia-in-first-four-months/)

Another 500,000 doses of Sinovac vaccine has landed in Cambodia



Cambodia News | 11 May, 2021

Cambodia's drive to vaccinate up to 80 percent of its population gained momentum when another 500,000 doses of Sinovac vaccine, arrived in Cambodia this morning. This is the third delivery of Sinovac vaccine, the first dose of 1.5 million doses was delivered to Cambodia on March 26 and the second on April 17. To date, Cambodia has received more than 4 million doses of vaccines, including: 1.7 million doses of Sinopharm which is a grant from the Chinese government, 2 million doses of Sinovac purchased from China, and 324,000 doses of AstraZenica vaccine, provided through the Covax initiative. Cambodia started vaccinating people on February 10, and so far, more than 1.8 million people have been vaccinated. Prime Minister Hun Sen has stated that he will seek more than 20 million doses of vaccines for more than 10 million people to build immunity. Another 500,000 doses of Sinovac vaccine is scheduled to arrive on May 15. Cambodia is ranked behind Singapore for its success in vaccination efforts to build immunity against Covid-19.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50854850/another-500000-doses-of-sinovac-vaccine-has-landed-in-cambodia/>

Japan enhances strategic partnership with Laos



Laos News | 12 May, 2021

The Embassy of Japan has detailed the new action plan for future cooperation between Laos and Japan. The Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Japan, Mr Keiichi Iwamoto recently posted a message in this regard on the Embassy of Japan's Facebook page. He said as mentioned many times in this column, last year marked the 5th anniversary of their strategic partnership. A short while ago, Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga made a telephone call to Prime Minister Mr Phankham Viphavanh and congratulated him on the new leadership. This was the first ever phone call exchanged between the top leaders of the two countries. On this commemorative occasion, the 'Action Plan' for the advancement of strategic partnership between Japan and Laos was publicly announced. He wrote that this document navigates the future collaboration in a wide range of areas based upon many successful outcomes in the past five years. The action plan consists of five main topics that Laos and Japan will focus on – political and security areas, economic cooperation, sustainable development of the Lao PDR's economy, human resource development, trade and investment, economic partnership agreement, socio-cultural and people-to-people exchanges, and cooperation on regional and international issues. Both sides affirmed to strengthen cooperation on preventing and responding to natural disasters as well as public health emergencies including COVID-19 and other pandemic diseases that have an effect on socio-economic development. The socio-cultural

and people-to-people exchange will include youth exchanges on both sides and visits by young leaders to Japan and vice versa. Both sides shared the view to continue to promote people-to-people exchanges through programmes such as Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS Programme) and the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP). Art and cultural exchanges between both sides will further promote the Japan festival in the Lao PDR and the Lao Festival in Japan. Both sides have appreciated the proactive efforts of the Japan Foundation Asia Center since 2014 to promote culture, sports, and people-to-people exchanges, particularly among youth and intellectuals. In this regard, they shared the view to promote arts and cultural exchanges between the two countries in order to foster a sense of solidarity, mutual respect, and understanding of traditions and values of both countries.

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Japan_90.php

Lychee for sale in markets in Katha, Sagaing region



Myanmar News | 12 May, 2021

Since May, lychee fruits grown from the farms in Katha Township, Sagaing Region, have been on sale in the township markets. At the beginning of the lychee season, a set of 30 fruits costs K500 in the markets and K400 if directly bought from the farm. Some people sell the lychees from their farms, and

there are also brokers. The lychees are also sold to Mandalay and Htigyaing. “Lychee from Katha are sent to Mandalay and Htigyaing. One basket of fruit costs K45,000 for a large package and K35,000 for a small one. This year, the prices are good as it is the beginning of the harvest, later when the fruit is abundant, we have to sell it for up to K200 per pack,” said Ma Naing, a lychee fruit seller. Lychee grown in Katha Township did not fetch reasonable prices last year, but sales were strong. This year, the fruits are selling well, but sales are not good due to the small number of buyers, and fruits are not as productive as last year. – District IPRD/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/lychee-for-sale-in-markets-in-katha-sagaing-region/>

Vietnam predicted to retain its position as world's second largest rice export



Vietnam News | 11 May, 2021

VOV.VN - The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has anticipated that Vietnam would maintain its position as the world's second biggest rice exporter this year. According to the department, Vietnam will export 6.4 million tonnes of rice in 2011, representing a rise of 233,000 tonnes in comparison with the previous year. India is likely to remain the largest rice exporter in the world, with 15.5 million tonnes rice set to be shipped abroad this year, while Thailand will come third with an estimated export volume of 6.1 million tonnes. Last year, Vietnam exported 6.15 million tonnes of rice valued at US\$ 3.07 billion, down 3.5% in volume but up 9.3% in value year-on-

year. Statistics indicate that over the past four months of this year, the nation shipped 1.89 million tonnes of rice, down 10.8% in volume but up 1.2% in value over the corresponding period last year. According to the Vietnam Food Association, Vietnam's rice export structure has shifted towards quality types with higher prices and added values. In addition, rice farmers and traders are paying greater attention to improving quality, and traceability towards meeting the strict standards of demanding markets such as the EU, the Republic of Korea and the US.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/vietnam-predicted-to-retain-its-position-as-worlds-second-largest-rice-export-856736.vov>

Demand for commercial space increases in Q1



Vietnam News | 11 May, 2021

Hanoi (VNA) – The need for commercial space in Quarter 1 slightly increased as compared to the previous quarter as exchanges of goods rose during the traditional Lunar New Year (Tet) holiday and international brands continued to expand their networks in Vietnam, according to the Ministry of Construction. Occupancy rate at supermarkets and shopping malls was stable at around 90 percent during January- March. In the central business districts (CBDs), the average rental prices topped 108.1 USD per square metre per month, up 0.4 percent from the previous quarter and 10.2 percent year-on-year. Meanwhile, the rental costs in

shopping centres in the non-CBDs fell 1.8 percent yearly, and 0.4 percent quarterly to 24.4 USD per square metre per month. Several projects with high vacancy rate offered rent reduction to attract tenants./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/demand-for-commercial-space-increases-in-q1/201308.vnp>
