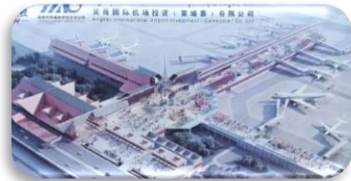


Highlight News / May 14/2021



- Cash assistance programme for marginalised and adversely affected groups by COVID-19 in lockdown areas to begin next week
- Siem Reap's new airport rapidly taking shape, 40% completed
- Australian government provides grant to cover 1 million vaccine doses in Laos
- Summer green gram growing using underground water gets good price
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## Cash assistance programme for marginalised and adversely affected groups by COVID-19 in lockdown areas to begin next week



*Cambodia News | 13 May, 2021*

The social cash assistance for the marginalised and adversely affected groups by COVID-19 pandemic in locked-down areas would begin next week after the training of relevant staff. The information was shared by Theng Pagnathun, Director General of Planning, Ministry of Planning in a special forum broadcast live by TVK yesterday. For his part, Samheng Boros, Secretary of State and Spokesperson of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation underlined that the process is expected to conclude before the end of June. Yesterday, the Royal Government of Cambodia launched social cash assistance as one-off post-lockdown support to marginalised households in the restricted areas and those have-nots with family members deceased to and infected by COVID-19. According to the government's press release, the focus is on the deprived households affected by the Feb. 20 local infection in broad locked-down locations in Phnom Penh, Takhmao town of Kandal province and Preah Sihanouk province. Households eligible for the assistance are those headed by drivers, construction workers, street vendors, waste collectors and the like, and they are entitled to between 156,000 Riel (about \$39) and 311,000 Riel (nearly \$78)– depending on the

size of their family. Lockdown affected factory workers will receive an amount of 160,000 Riel (\$40) each as a one-off subsidy through an existing mechanism supervised by the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, added the announcement. Families with members deceased to COVID-19 will receive 300,000 Riel (\$75) in addition to the five-month cash support to settle utility fees. Those with infected family members in both within and outside of the broad locked-down areas will receive similar amounts entitled by the marginalised household mentioned above. The assistance programme, underlined the announcement, aims to support the marginalised and adversely affected household to cope with their basic survival such as food and utilities. The Royal Government so far have been paying special attention to the population in the locked-down areas, particularly the vulnerable population, and basic food items have been dispatched to them. The newly launched social cash assistance is expected to further assist them to better get back to speed to support their families by themselves after the lockdown and containment measures. C. Nika – AKP

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50855861/cash-assistance-programme-formarginalised-and-adversely-affected-groups-by-covid-19-in-lockdown-areas-to-begin-next-week/>

## Siem Reap's new airport rapidly taking shape, 40% completed



*Cambodia News | 13 May, 2021*

The construction of the new Siem Reap Angkor International Airport was 42 percent completed, despite some interruption caused by COVID-19. Spokesman and Secretary of State of the Secretariat of Civil Aviation of Cambodia, Sin Chansereyvutha shared the update with the National Radio of Cambodia (RNK), stressing that the progress is well on schedule regardless of the pandemic threat. The project, run by the Chinese developer (AIAI) Angkor International Airport Investment (Cambodia) Co., Ltd. has completed the construction of the airport buildings, the aircraft landing, and key operation facilities. It is expected that once in place the airport will contribute to attracting more tourists to Siem Reap, boosting the national economic growth, and increasing employment and income especially of the locals. The Siem Reap Angkor International Airport started its construction on Mar. 15, 2020 on an area of about 700 hectares and is scheduled to be completed in 2023. Somany Pheng – AKP

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50855895/siem-reaps-new-airport-rapid-taking-shape-40-completed/>

## Australian government provides grant to cover 1 million vaccine doses in Laos



*Laos News | 13 May, 2021*

To help the mass rollout of Covid-19 vaccines in Laos, the Australian government is providing a 15.2 million AUD grant to cover around 1 million vaccine doses in the Southeast Asian country. The grant also covers training for healthcare workers on how to safely administer the vaccines. Laos reported a spike in cases over the past month, after a year of containing the spread of the virus with active cases remaining under 20. Yesterday, Laos reported 1,088 active cases, a sharp increase after months of just a few active Covid-19 cases at a time. Australian Ambassador to Laos, Paul Kelly, says the Australian government is “pleased to be able to support the people of Laos in a time of need.” “Ensuring Laos has access to safe and effective vaccines is a major and immediate priority for the Australian government... We recognise that no one is safe until everyone is safe. Our support will vaccinate hundreds of thousands of Lao people as well as support long term health security. Australia has been a long-standing and trusted partner for Laos over the past 69 years.” Laos Vice President Pany Yathotou says the grant from Australia is a significant contribution to ensures the efficient rollout of Covid-19 vaccines in Laos. Most of the funds will be used to purchase the doses and to help Laos distribute and administer vaccines. It will also support a public

information campaign, spreading facts about vaccines and also translating the information to ethnic languages. The Australian Embassy says the country also contributed to the multilateral COVAX facility which covers free vaccinations for more than 20% of the Laos population.

Source : <https://thethaiger.com/coronavirus/australian-government-provides-grant-to-cover-1-million-vaccine-doses-in-laos>

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## Summer green gram growing using underground water gets good price



*Myanmar News | 13 May, 2021*

The growers from NyaungU township, Mandalay region, are growing the summer green gram using underground water. According to the local growers, the summer green gram is being harvested and fetch K 39,000 per basket. “The growers from village-tracts in Nyaung -U township started sowing the summer green gram in March using underground water. After sowing for one and a half months, the green gram started to sprout and blossom. After two months, it started to yield to be sold. During the harvest season, each acre of green gram needs around 20 labourers, and each labour is required to pay K3,000 per day. Each harvested green gram is dried for a day and sold back at the Pakokku brokerage,” said U Zaw Win, a green gram grower from Ywarthitgone village. Each basket of summer green gram contains 19 visses, and it

fetches K39,000. The summer green grams are sold for the same prices this year as last year. According to the local growers, the growers are happy with getting handsome price over the summer green gram. — Ko Htein (KPD)/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/summer-green-gram-growing-using-underground-water-gets-good-price/#article-title>

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## German businesses expect Vietnam economic recovery by 2022: DIHK



*Vietnam News | 13 May, 2021*

German business leaders in Vietnam maintain positive view with the economic expectation while looking forward to a recovered year of 2021 and 2022. German businesses show optimism about Vietnam’s economy in the medium term and look forward to its recovery by 2022. The Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHK) revealed sentiment of German businesses in its world business outlook survey with Vietnam in focus, released on May 12. According to the survey, while 46% had a positive view of the local economic development in 2020, 66% expects a significant improvement in 2021. One-third of survey participants think that the economy of Vietnam will recover in the first half of this year, and 30% says that the recovery will happen next year, in 2022. “Vietnam will become a strategic investment destination in the process of restructuring the global and regional supply chain, a potential domestic market to attract international corporations,” stated the DIHK. In this

regard, “FDI enterprises, especially German businesses also show optimism about Vietnam's economy in the medium and long term. German business leaders maintain positive view with the economic expectation while looking forward to a recovered year of 2021 and 2022,” it noted. For the upcoming 12 months, 55% rate their current business situation in Vietnam as good and 11% as poor. This poses a stark contrast with last year, as only 33% had a positive view of their situation in Vietnam. Another positive note is that 47% of German companies in Vietnam intend to expand their activities in Vietnam and 50% assume an increase in employment in 2021/2022. However, DIHK also revealed that “lack of qualified workers and low demand [both at 42%] are the greatest business challenges for German investors in Vietnam,” followed by economic policy, financing, legal certainty and infrastructure. To ensure sustainable supply chain, 67% of German participants would diversify their supply chain by finding additional suppliers, changing in delivery routes or increasing their inventory. Despite Covid-19 pandemic, the Deutsche Bank forecast Vietnam to achieve a growth rate of 7.5% this year, which came on the back of a positive growth of 2.9% last year

amid severe Covid-19 impacts. Meanwhile, a World Bank study suggested the simultaneous implementation of the EVFTA and CPTPP would help Vietnam's GDP increase by up to 3.2% in the decade 2021-2030.

Source : <http://hanoitimes.vn/german-businesses-expect-vietnam-economic-recovery-by-2022-dihk-317333.html>

## Vietnam mobile e-commerce to value \$10.2 billion by 2023



*Vietnam News | 13 May, 2021*

E-wallets in Vietnam have strongly benefited from the change in payment habits during the Covid-19 pandemic. Vietnam's mobile commerce is rapidly growing with an estimated value of US\$10.2 billion by 2023, according to 2021 Vietnam Mobile Application Report, conducted by the market research company Appota. The report revealed that mobile commerce is showing dramatic growth as it accounts for nearly half of all business-to-consumer e-commerce revenue in Vietnam. In terms of transaction rates, the mobile platform also manifested a strong superiority over the desktop, accounting for 62% of all transactions. Meanwhile, the number via the desktop accounted for only 38%. Last year, the country had 49 million online shoppers aged 15 and above, the 3rd highest in Southeast Asia, behind Indonesia (137 million) and the Philippines (57 million). However, this figure only accounted for 65% of the total number, a modest

rate compared to Malaysia (83%), Singapore (79%) and the Philippines (74%).“This shows the opportunities of the payment and e-commerce markets both in terms of number of users and purchase value in Vietnam is potential in the coming time,” the report noted.According to a We Are Social’s survey, the age group from 25 to 54 years old is those who shopped the most, accounting for about 82-85% of the surveyed respondents. Generation Z, accounting for 70.6%, is the pioneer and easily updates online shopping trends. However, the middle-aged customer group is familiar with this model and thus, continues promoting online shopping.Sharp growth in digital payment As financial and economic losses affect the purchasing power of consumers, transaction value in 2020 didn’t witness a sharp growth compared to 2019. Total digital transactions in Vietnam in 2020 reached US\$11.6 billion. In 2020, total spending through online channels in the country averaged US\$280.3 per person, of which transactions via mobile POS and digital commerce accounted for 21.8% and 78.2%, respectively. When Vietnam’s economy is expected to recover after the pandemic, the digital payment value this year is forecast to reach nearly US\$15.1 billion, an increase of 30% against 2020. According to the German-based market research company Statista, spending via digital commerce is estimated at nearly US\$250 per

capita in 2021 while it will be nearly US\$74 via mobile POS payments.E-wallets are boomingIn 2020, there were 121 startups operating in the fintech sector in Vietnam, of which e-payment has the largest number of fintech startups, accounting for 31%, followed by peer-to-peer (P2P) lending with a 16% market share. From a business’ view, Natalia Kovalenko, Managing Director of Lendtop Ltd, providing MoneyCat app, believes Vietnam will see great growth in the field if the legal framework for fintech activities including P2P is completed soon.The Vietnamese government is making great efforts in building and preparing the legal basis for this field, also known as the sandbox test management mechanism, Kovalenko added. “We look forward to join in the sandbox,” she told Hanoitimes.Vietnam’s leading e-wallets have strongly benefited from the change in payment habits at home and the number of users increased sharply over the past year. Last September, Momo wallet announced 20 million individual users, becoming the most used e-wallet in Vietnam. Meanwhile, the Vietnamese payment startup VNPAY was valued at over US\$1 billion, according to Google’s Economy SEA 2020 report, and it is considered as the second unicorn startup behind VNG. Regarding the number of downloads, Momo holds the position as the most downloaded e-wallet, peaking in February and March with 992,000 and 839,000 downloads, respectively. Viettel Pay and

ZaloPay are in fierce competition when the latter's number surpassed the former's ones as of February.

Source: <http://hanoitimes.vn/vietnam-mobile-e-commerce-to-value-us102-billion-by-2023-317335.html>