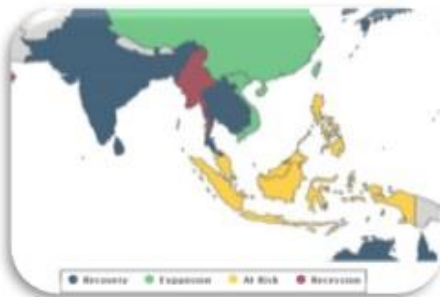


Highlight News / May 17, 2021



- Moody's: Cambodian economy in 'recovery'
- Cambodia's insurance industry on positive trend in 2020 amid COVID-19
- Huawei Technologies' (Lao) "In Laos For Laos" project facilitates digital transformation for presidents office, Laos Party Central Committee
- Low supply hikes up durian price this year
- Vietnam attracts FDI projects amid Covid-19
- Vietnam eyes US\$600 billion in export turnover in 2021



ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)

Moody's: Cambodian economy in 'recovery'



Cambodia News | 15 May, 2021

Cambodia is among six “recovering” economies in the ASEAN bloc, according to Moody’s Analytics. The others they identified are Thailand, Singapore, Laos, Brunei and Singapore. The emerging markets are lagging the global average for the first time since the EMs crisis in the 1990s which saw the gross domestic product of “The Asian Tigers” drop for four consecutive years, according to Jesse Rogers, an economist for Moody’s Analytics. Falling commodity prices, combined with the rising dollar and unhedged currencies, tested the “Asian Miracle” as the Asian Financial Crisis de-stabilised local currencies in the late 1990s. “The pandemic has rubbed some of the sheen off fast-growing Southeast Asia, with economic recoveries blunted last fall and early this year by successive outbreaks. Although most emerging economies in Southeast Asia were able to temper first waves through a combination of stringent lockdowns and contact tracing, the pandemic’s return late fall and intensification this year have thrown the region’s economies for a curve,” Rogers said. Vietnam is the lone ASEAN country experiencing “expansion”. Indonesia, Philippines and Malaysia are said to be “at risk”, with Myanmar reported as experiencing a recession.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50857127/moodys-cambodian-economy-in-recovery/>

Cambodia's insurance industry on positive trend in 2020 amid

COVID-19



Cambodia News | 15 May, 2021

The insurance market in Cambodia remains on positive trend in 2020 despite the COVID-19 crisis. Total insurance premiums in 2020 increased by 7.3 percent compared to 2019, from \$253 million to \$271.5 million, pointed out a report on the insurance market situation in Cambodia in 2020 of the Insurance Association of Cambodia issued this week. The general insurance shares 41.9 percent of the total premiums, the life insurance 56.1 percent and the micro insurance 2 percent, it underlined. The gross premium of the general insurance market in 2020 was about \$113.8 million, an increase of 10.5 percent compared to 2019. The gross premium of the life insurance market in 2020 reached \$152.3 million, up 6.6 percent. However, this rate is significantly lower than the 2019 growth rate of 42.4 percent. According to the report, the gross premium of the micro-insurance market in 2020 was \$5.4 million, down 24.6 percent from the previous year. In 2020, the total amount of compensation paid by all insurance companies to customers is \$37 million, a year-on-year growth of 5 percent. Currently, Cambodia has 16 general insurance companies, 11 life insurance companies and 5 micro-insurance companies. Chea Vannak – AKP

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50857134/cambodias-insurance-industry-on-positive-trend-in-2020-amid-covid-19/>

Huawei Technologies' (Lao) "In Laos For Laos" project facilitates digital transformation for presidents office, Laos Party Central Committee



Laos News | 17 May, 2021

Huawei Technologies (Lao) Sole Co., Ltd supports IT equipment and started the "In Laos for Laos" project to equip the Presidents Office and the Laos Party Central Committee Office. Their support IT is part of this project. The project was announced in the Presidents Office by the CEO of Huawei Laos Mr Hu Weihua, Minister of the President Office and Mrs Khemmani Phonsena acknowledged the project. Chinese Ambassador to Laos, Mr Jiang Zaidong, Deputy Minister of Technology and Communication, Mr Santisouk Simmalavong, Deputy Director of the General Office of Laos Party Central Committee Office Mr Kingphet Mongkhonvilay, Deputy Director of the General Office of President Office, Mr Phetsamone Phanthavong, and the Economic Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Laos Mr Zhao Wenyu witnessed the ceremony. The "In Laos For Laos" Project addresses the goals of socio-economic development, which contributes to telecommunications equipment, ICT skills training

and digital economic planning consultation aimed at enhancing the capabilities within the digital age beyond 4.0 by Huawei Technologies (Lao) sole co., ltd. In co-operation with the Ministry of Technology and Communications. The project will be helping to improve the remote governmental working environment as well as long term economical development. This project is able to upgrade to more modern office systems to run more efficiently. Furthermore, Huawei Lao is ready and willing to put more efforts into helping Laos achieve digital economy transformation, and he proposed to have ICT training for government officials and provide consulting services for Laos related to the digital economy development plan. In addition, there will be a contribution to the development of education, especially at an early age, through the provision of IT equipment and teaching-learning materials to primary and secondary schools. Mr Hu Weihua explained about the "In Laos for Laos" project highlighting the importance and commitment of Huawei to the development of the Lao PDR through the promotion of technological advancement and participation in the Lao digital vision. Minister of the President Office, Mrs Khemmani praised and thanked Huawei Laos for their Continuous support, both in terms of IT equipment and human resource development for the Lao PDR, under the "In Laos for Laos" project. Helping the society's fight against the

epidemic disease COVID-19 Through the introduction of modern technology favourable to work in the “new normal” lifestyle for the Lao government and society by leveraging telecommunication equipment to upgrade the office systems to be modern and efficient.

Source: https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Hyawei_93.php

Low supply hikes up durian price this year



Myanmar News | 16 May, 2021

Durian sellers in Myeik District, Taninthayi Region, earn a healthy profit due to the price gain amid the low yield this year, said a durian seller. “The production declined this year. However, we are happy with the higher price. The price of a big sized durian soared to K5,000-6,000 from K3,000. The small durian also fetched a high of K1,000-1,500. Shanchaung Road in Myeik is crowded with durian sellers and buyers this year”, said a seller U Lwin Aye. Last year, the demand sharply fell owing to the travel restrictions triggered by the COVID-19. “The local community mostly depends on horticulture and fishery businesses. Durian sees higher purchase orders from Yangon this year. Despite low yield, the sellers are satisfied with a high price and steady demand”, said a seasonal fruit seller. Additionally, Thailand is buying the durian seeds at K6,000 per viss (1.6 kg). So, nothing goes to waste. Both the flesh and seeds are marketable, she continued. The

durians from Kyunsu, Myeik and Taninthayi townships are highly competitive in the domestic market, regardless of the low yield as against that of last year. — Myint Oo (Myeik)/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnln.com.mm/low-supply-hikes-up-durian-price-this-year/#article-title>

Vietnam attracts FDI projects amid Covid-19



Vietnam News | 16 May, 2021

The data was released by the ministry on May 14. Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment Nguyen Thi Bich Ngoc said that Vietnam was still trying to fight Covid-19 while supporting the economic recovery. In 2020, Vietnam was among a few countries that had a positive GDP growth of 2.91%. The situation in 2020 and the first four months of 2021 has remained stable. GDP growth for 2021 has been set at 6.7%. As of now, 33,000 FDI projects from firms from 140 countries worth total investment of USD394bn has been recorded. Despite FDI investment across the world hasn't picked up, Vietnam has recorded over USD12bn in investment from FDI projects in the first four months of 2021, an increase of 24.7% compared to the same period last year. Ngoc went on to say that a team to promote foreign investment co-operation has been set up to support FDI firms in Vietnam. Regulations in the Investment Law, Enterprise Law and the regulations on investment under the public-private partnership model were also reviewed and revised to be simpler and more transparent. Incentives would also be

given to large-scale projects that greatly contribute to Vietnam. Vietnam also has the access to the markets in 55 countries, including 15 countries in the G20 Group, after joining various trade agreements like the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, and the European Union Vietnam Free Trade Agreement.

Source: <http://dtinews.vn/en/news/018/73882/vietnam-attracts-fdi-projects-amid-covid-19.html>

promoted online trade promotions and trade fairs as well as e-commerce, to support enterprises in maintaining trade links with partners, Hai said. The ministry will also focus on accelerating institutional and administrative reform relating to exports, and providing information to exporters to address the difficulties they face.

Source: <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/vietnam-eyes-us600-billion-in-export-turnover-in-2021-858058.vov>

Vietnam eyes US\$600 billion in export turnover in 2021



Vietnam News | 16 May, 2021

Vietnam posted solid export performance in the first quarter of 2021, and at such a growth speed, its export turnover is likely to hit US\$600 billion for the whole year, experts have said. Tran Thanh Hai, Deputy General Director of the Agency of Foreign Trade under the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT), attributed the positive results to Vietnam's success in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. It is necessary to continue paying special attention to responding to the pandemic, he stressed, noting that this will be the foundation and most important factor in sustaining export growth in the time to come. Free trade agreements (FTAs) Vietnam has signed, especially the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the EU-Vietnam FTA (EVFTA), have benefited local exporters and helped them expand to new markets. To maintain export growth, the MoIT has