

Highlight News / June 2/2021



- \$4.4 billion in Cambodia's export of garment, non-garment, and agricultural products
- Domestic tourism numbers leap to over 190,000 during month of May
- Thanaleng Dry Port, Vientiane Logistics Park bolster Laos' logistics link, land-link transformation effort
- Agro exports up 33 per cent this FY
- IIP grows 10% in May
- Nearly 60,000 firms temporarily suspend, stop operations in five months



\$4.4 billion in Cambodia's export of garment, non-garment, and agricultural products



Cambodia News | 1 June, 2021

Cambodia exported \$4,428 million worth of products in the first quarter of this year, according to a report from the General Department of Customs and Excise, stressing that agricultural and non-garment exports were on the rising trend. The figures were released in a recent meeting to review the work progress in the first quarter and set forth new objectives for the next quarter. The January-March export of garment products was valued at \$2,527 million, a 5.4 percent decrease compared to the same period last year, while the non-garment export rose by 52 percent to \$887 million. The growth in non-garment exports showed the significant demand of Cambodia-made products in the international markets like the U.S. whose economy is recovering. The export of agricultural products hit an ever high record during the period with 70 percent increase to \$1,014 million. Last year, the Kingdom shipped \$17 billion worth of goods, up 16.72 percent from 2019. The imports slipped 7 percent to \$18 billion from \$20 billion in 2019. Cambodia's trade deficit stood at US\$1.3 billion in 2020. Chea Vannak – AKP

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50858253/chinese-firms-to-increase-post-pandemic-asean-activity/>

Domestic tourism numbers leap to over 190,000 during month of May



Cambodia News | 1 June, 2021

The Minister for Tourism, Thong Khon, has announced that Cambodia registered a total of 194,025 domestic tourist visitors during the month of May. The figure showed a dramatic increase of 696.33 percent over the previous month's total. In April, all resorts in the country were ordered to close temporarily and a provincial travel ban was put into place to prevent the spread of Covid-19 over Khmer New Year and beyond. The travel ban and closures were imposed on April 6 and 17 respectively. On April 25 the government announced an end to the inter-provincial travel ban and the re-opening of most tourist attractions across the country, with some exceptions. According to the minister, the most visited tourism destinations were Kampot province, followed by Battambang, Kep, Siem Reap, Kampong Speu and Sihanoukville provinces. Chhay Sivlin, president of the Cambodian Association of Tourism Agents (CATA) told Khmer Times yesterday: "Kampot has attracted the most visitors this month due to its proximity to Phnom Penh, beautiful scenery and array of things to do." On April 11, Phnom Penh and much of the Kingdom prohibited alcohol sales as well as dining-in at cafes and restaurants. While the alcohol and dining-in bans were ended by most provinces by the end of April, the ban in Phnom Penh was extended until May 22. The ministry of tourism has since advised all provincial and municipal

tourism departments and tourism-related businesses, as well as other relevant parties to strengthen health-prevention measures and to help ensure the safety of all tourists and community members during the current pandemic.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50865863/domestic-tourism-numbers-leap-to-over-190000-during-month-of-may/>

Thanaleng Dry Port, Vientiane Logistics Park bolster Laos' logistics link, land-link transformation effort



Laos News | 2 June, 2021

Thanaleng Dry Port (TDP) and Vientiane Logistics Park (VLP) – two mega infrastructure projects - are set to significantly bolster the Lao government's efforts to transform Laos into a logistics link and land-linked country within the region and beyond. Thanaleng Dry Port is a dry port of international importance, approved by the UNESCAP through Resolution No. 69/7 on the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports adopted in Bangkok on May 1, 2013. Officials sign a project concession agreement. TDP tops the list of development priorities in the Lao National Logistics Strategy from 2016 to 2025 adopted under PM decree No. 158/GOL dated May 27, 2015, an action plan that will drastically transform Laos from being landlocked to a land-linked country. Once it is realised, the project, which is being developed in the capital Vientiane, will provide advanced and modern logistics services for various forms of transport. The

project is planned to link with sea trade routes, airport, and railways. Therefore, the project will bolster and maximise trade and investment potentials. In the near future, the project is planned to link with the Vung Ang seaport in Vietnam's central Ha Tinh province, which the Lao and Vietnamese governments have agreed to jointly develop. The governments of Laos and Vietnam have also agreed to build a railway connecting Vientiane with the seaport to facilitate transport. Feasibility studies for the TDP and VLP have been conducted in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding signed on April 5, 2019. After the feasibility studies and environmental impact assessment were completed, meetings were held to discuss the project and related issues among the sectors concerned. On February 7, 2020, the Lao government approved the feasibility studies and gave the green light for the establishment of the Vientiane Logistics Park Company Limited to execute the project. Meanwhile, the company and the government signed a 50-year project concession agreement in the form of BOT (Built Operate Transfer). On July 3, 2020, a groundbreaking ceremony was held to start construction of the TDP and VLP in Dongphosy village, Hadxaifong district, Vientiane. Taking part in the ceremony were then Minister of Public Works and Transport, Dr Bounchanh Sinthavong; Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment Mrs Khamchanh Vongsanboun; Founder and Honorary Chairman of Phongsavanh Group, Mr Od Phongsavanh; President of VLP Co.,

Ltd. Mr Chanthone Sitthixay; and relevant officials from both sides. The Thanaleng Dry Port and Vientiane Logistics Park are being built on a 382-hectare site with a total investment cost estimated at US\$727 million. Development of the project is divided into three phases as follows: Phase 1: The transition phase through the management of Container Yard from Lao Logistics State Enterprise (LLSE) to the intermodal service of Thanaleng Dry Port, at the same time there are also transitions of client database and services into Terminal Operating System (TOS) of Thanaleng Dry Port on 1st June 2021. Phase 2: Soft Opening of TDP and VLP are expected to be at the beginning of August. Phase 3: Logistics park is expected to open for service in the first quarter of 2022. Once construction is complete, the Lao PDR will have world-class modern and systematic infrastructure for transport connectivity including land, air and sea transport. This will improve logistics and transport competitiveness, thus facilitating trade and investment in the Lao PDR. Vientiane Logistics Park is the only comprehensive logistics park in Vientiane and comprises five zones in one location as follows: 1. Thanaleng Dry Port (TDP): The dry port acts as the centre of international import and export trade with all categories of customs operations. Importantly, quality equipment, vehicles and warehouse systems will be installed professionally to enable the processing of larger numbers of containers. Use of the Terminal Operation System (TOS) will guarantee the best service in terms of speed, security and reliability. 2.

Tank Farm: This facility will store liquid bulk cargoes for importing and storing fuel from Thailand and will serve as a fuel distribution centre for Laos. Diesel and petroleum products will arrive at the tank from a dedicated rail yard and pipeline in the future. 3. Logistics Park: The main service provided by the Logistics Park is a warehousing and distribution centre which offers goods storage, consolidation, distribution, inventory management, and warehouse management. 4. Free Trade Zone (FTZ): The main business activities in the zone are the HALAL Hub and Agriculture Production Park, Technology Park, Office Zone, SME Building Area, Commercial Zone and Landmark (VLP Co., Ltd. office). 5. Export Processing Zone (EPZ): The new destination as a modern and most dynamic EPZ in the region, this will offer a more competitive business environment and will gear up to become a manufacturing export hub for the Asean and global consumer market.

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Thanaleng_105.php

Agro exports up 33 per cent this FY



Myanmar News | 1 June, 2021

The agricultural exports spike 33.36 per cent to a high of US\$3.46 billion in the past seven and half months of the current financial year 2020- 2021, despite the downward trend in other export groups amid the banking restriction and the tightened coronavirus containment measures in the border. The figures reflect a significant rise of \$866.066 million this FY. According to the trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce, agro exports

topped \$2.59 billion in the corresponding period of the 2019- 2020FY. The agricultural exports unexpectedly surge regardless of the impact of the coronavirus on foreign demand for other export groups such as fishery, livestock, mineral, forest products, finished industrial goods and other goods. In the exports sector, the agriculture industry performed the best, accounting for over 22 per cent of overall exports. The top export items in the agricultural industry are rice and broken rice, pulses and beans and maize. Fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar, and other agro products are also shipped to other countries. Myanmar agro products are primarily exported to China, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. Sometimes, the export market remains uncertain due to unsteady global demand. The country requires specific export plans for each agro product. They are currently exported to external markets based on supply and demand. Contract farming systems, regional and state agriculture departments, exporters, traders, and some grower groups are required to meet production targets, said an official from the Agriculture Department. The Commerce Ministry works to help farmers deal with challenges — high input costs, procurement of pedigree seeds, high cultivation costs, and unpredictable weather conditions. — KK/GNL

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/agro-exports-up-33-per-cent-this-fy/>

IIP grows 10% in May



Vietnam News | 1 June, 2021

HA NOI — The index of industrial production index (IIP) grew by 9.9 per cent in the first five months of this year over the same period last year. By sector the processing and manufacturing industry increased by 12.6 per cent; the electricity production and distribution industry increased by 8.3 per cent; water supply, drainage and waste treatment 7.5 per cent; while the mining industry fell by 7 per cent. Among the secondary industries, a number of key industries had a high production index in the five months compared to the same period last year. Metal production grew by 38 per cent; motor vehicle production 35 per cent; production of beds, wardrobes, tables and chairs 18.3 per cent; and production of electronic products, computers and optical products 15.5 per cent. In the opposite direction, a number of industries saw a decrease. Crude oil and natural gas exploitation dropped by 11.5 per cent; print, copy records of all kinds 5.1 per cent; hard coal and lignite mining 3.8 per cent; drainage and waste treatment 1.6 per cent; production of coke and refined petroleum products 0.4 per cent. The number of employees working in industrial enterprises as of May 1 rose by 1.2 per cent compared to the same period last month and by 2.2 per cent over the same period last year. Industrial production last month was estimated to grow by 1.6 per cent over the previous month and 11.6 per cent over the same period last year despite

the complicated developments of the COVID-19 pandemic from the end of April, which directly affected a number of industrial zones in the two provinces of Bac Giang and Bac Ninh. Of which, the mining industry dropped by 6.4 per cent month-on-month and by 9.8 per cent year-on-year; processing and manufacturing rose by 2.6 per cent and 14.6 per cent respectively. Electricity production and distribution increased by 12 per cent year-on-year; and water supply, drainage and waste treatment increased by 6.8 per cent. — VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/963411/iip-grows-10-in-may.html>

Nearly 60,000 firms temporarily suspend, stop operations in five months



Vietnam News | 1 June, 2021

Hanoi (VNA) – As many as 59,800 businesses temporarily suspended or stopped their operations to await dissolution procedures and completed dissolution procedures in the first five months of 2021, up 23 percent year-on-year. The General Statistics Office (GSO) reported that nearly 12,000 businesses left the market on average each month. Meanwhile, nearly 55,800 were newly-established with a total registered capital of 778.3 trillion VND (33.8 billion USD) and a combined workforce of 412,400, up 15.4 percent in the number of firms and 39.5 percent in capital volume compared to the same period last year. Almost

22,600 enterprises resumed their operations, up 3.9 percent annually, raising the total new and back-to-work firms to 78,300 during the January-May period, or an average of 15,700 new companies each month./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/nearly-60000-firms-temporarily-suspend-stop-operations-in-five-months/202367.vnp>