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Major tourism associations thank PM for policies that help Cambodian tourism during COVID-19 crisis



Cambodia News | 13 July, 2021

Six major tourism associations and federations have jointly thanked Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Head of the Royal Government of Cambodia, for setting out policies, strategies and measures to support the tourism sector in a timely and targeted manner, in the face of the crisis of the spread of COVID-19 throughout Cambodia. The Minister of Tourism, His Excellency Thong Khon, said that the representatives of the private sector in the tourism sector, including: Association of Travel Agents of Cambodia (CATA), Tourism Federation of Cambodia (CTF), Asia Pacific Tourism Association of Cambodia (PATAACC), Association The Cambodian Hotel (CHA), the Cambodian Restaurant Association (CRA), and the Cambodian Chefs' Community Association (CCS) thanked the Prime Minister for his efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and manage the impact on key sectors of the economy and rehabilitate Cambodia's economic growth. Expressing this gratitude, the representatives of the six associations and federations also sent a letter of thanks to Samdech Techo Prime Minister for setting out policies, strategies and timely and targeted measures from February 2020 to the present. A total of nine rounds have been held to alleviate the burdens and difficulties of many tourism businesses across the country, including tourism workers

affected by the COVID-19 crisis. In a letter of thanks from a representative of the private sector in the tourism sector, it was stated that Samdech Techo Prime Minister paid close attention to building community immunity by launching a master plan for the COVID-19 vaccination campaign. Within the framework of the whole country. As of July 1, 2021, tourism workers in Phnom Penh (approximately 99.64%) have already received the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine in other provinces and vaccination is being carried out according to the Royal Government's plan.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50892721/major-tourism-associations-thank-pm-for-policies-that-help-cambodian-tourism-during-covid-19-crisis/>

79 industrial

investment projects registered



Cambodia News | 13 July, 2021

The Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation registered 79 industrial investment projects in the first semester of this year, while more than 100 factories closed. Heng Sokkong, secretary of state, and spokesman said yesterday the new industrial projects are mostly in food processing and medical wares manufacturing including face masks, anti-bacterial gel and personal protection suits. The demand for these products is rising in the context of Covid-19, attracting new investment. Some are locally produced to meet domestic demand and some are exported. Sokkong said: "Some existing factories locally have changed from producing

clothes and other products to producing medical wares.” Figures for comparison with last year nor the costs of total new investment projects were available. The report said that 135 factories have been closed mainly because of Covid-19 during the first six months of this year. The Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) approved 87 qualified investment projects with a total investment of \$3 billion, a 10 percent increase compared with that a year before. The manufacturing investment projects or other investment projects are required to register at the ministries in their respective fields, but qualified investment projects are required to register at the CDC for an exemption on profit taxes or to apply a special depreciation allowance or a raft of other benefits, depending on various factors. Sokkong said the ministry is ready to facilitate and coordinate new investments. The total number of factories in the Kingdom by the end of 2020 was 1,853. These factories employed 900,000 local workers. The export of garments is decreasing but exports of non-garment products such as bicycles, electronic components and agricultural goods are increasing.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50892663/79-industrial-investment-projects-registered/>

Nam Theun 2 shareholders, govt partner in world’s largest hybrid floating solar project



Laos News | 14 July, 2021

The government and shareholders in the Nam Theun 2 hydropower plant have agreed to develop Nam Theun 2-Solar, the largest hybrid floating solar project in the world. With an installed capacity of 240MWp, the solar project will be built on the reservoir of Nam Theun 2, one of the largest hydroelectric projects in Laos. The Lao government and Electricité De France (EDF) signed a Project Development Agreement in Vientiane on Monday to kick off development of the project in Khammuan province. The project developers, led by EDF in partnership with the Lao Holding State Enterprise (LHSE) and the Electricity Generating Public Company (EGCO) of Thailand, are targeting the start of construction in 2022 and operation to begin in 2024. The solar-powered venture would be the largest hybrid floating solar project in the world, covering an area of 3.2 square kilometres (less than 1 percent of the reservoir’s area at full supply level), according to the Nam Theun 2 Power Company. It is not yet known how much it will cost to build the Nam Theun 2-Solar project. The hybrid installation will allow the operation of the solar installation in conjunction with the hydro installation (1,080MW). The objective is to save water so that, when the sun shines, hydro generation will decrease and less water will be used, keeping it for the dry season. On average, the asset will increase by 6 percent the total generation of the Nam Theun 2 plant. “The Nam Theun-2 Solar project will provide clean, safe, reliable and competitive electricity, with no major environmental or social impact. The water

saver concept, which allows the transformation of variable solar energy into additional and stable hydroelectricity, is an innovation to generate renewable electricity in a more reliable manner. With the Nam Theun 2-Solar project, EDF is delighted to continue writing the NT2 story, with the Lao government and our partners EGCO and LHSE,” said Jean-Philippe Buisson, EDF’s Vice President for Asia. The Project Development Agreement was signed by Deputy Minister for Planning and Investment Ms Khamchan Vongsomboun and the Executive Director of EDF Group in charge of the International Division, Ms Béatrice Buffon. The signing ceremony, which took place both physically and online, was attended in Vientiane by senior government officials from relevant sectors, along with ambassadors and company representatives. Beginning commercial operations in 2010, the Nam Theun 2 (1080 MW) hydropower project operates under a public-private partnership. The Lao government holds a 25 percent share through the Lao Holding State Enterprise (LHSE), Electricité de France (EDF) holds a 40 percent share and Electricity Generating Public Company Limited (EGCO) holds a 35 percent share, under a 25-year concession agreement. The plant generates 6,000 GWh annually, providing electricity to the Lao (5 percent) and Thai (95 percent) power grids

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Namtheun2_135.php

Dragon fruit selling well in Ngaphe Township



Myanmar News | 14 July, 2021

The price of dragon fruits moved in the range of K400 and K750 per fruit. The business allows to earn a handsome profit for the growers. The dragon fruits cultivated using irrigation are highly yielded in Pin Oo village, Ngaphe Township of Minbu District. The high demand allows the growers to generate family income, said a grower U Kan Gyi Maung of Ngaphe Myoma Ward. There are over 1,000 dragon fruit plants on 3 acres of land in the north of Pin Oo village. The cultivation of a one-year-old plant started in January 2017. The plants are over five years old. The plant bears fruits after six months of cultivation. Natural fertilizer is utilized in cultivation. The spacing is three feet apart between plants and five feet apart between posts. The plants can be harvested about seven times per year. About 10,000 dragon fruits were produced last year. The fruits are delivered to Magway and Yangon cities. The price of dragon fruits moved in the range of K400 and K750 per fruit. The business allows to earn a handsome profit for the growers, said U Kan Gyi Maung. — Ma Yu (Ngaphe IPRD)/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/dragon-fruit-selling-well-in-ngaphe-township/>

VAMA members see fall in car sales in June



Vietnam News | 13 July, 2021

Members of the Vietnam Automobile Manufacturers' Association (VAMA) sold 23,587 vehicles in June, down 8% month-on-month. They included 15,802 passenger cars, down 10% from May; 7,131 commercial vehicles, down 5%; and 654 special-use vehicles, down 25%, the association said on July 12. The numbers of domestically-assembled vehicles and imported completely-built-up units sold in the month stood at 13,365 and 10,222, respectively, down 3% and 13%. Toyota topped the list of best-selling brands with 5,127 vehicles, followed by Kia (3,290), Mazda (1,862), Honda (1,550) and Ford (1,284). VAMA members' sales totalled 150,481 units in the first half of this year, up 40% year on year, with passenger cars up 37% year-on-year, commercial vehicles up 48%, and special-purpose vehicles up 68%. Apart from VAMA members, other brands were also present in Vietnam's auto market, such as Audi, Jaguar Land Rover, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Subaru, Volkswagen and Volvo, but they have not posted their business results.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/vama-members-see-fall-in-car-sales-in-june-873427.vov>

25 export commodities earning above US\$1 billion each in first half

 Vietnam News | 13 July, 2021

VOV.VN - The first half of the year saw Vietnam record 25 commodities with export turnover of over US\$1 billion each, making up 88.9% of the total, according to the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Mobile phones and spare parts topped the list with

US\$25.1 billion, an annual rise of 14.2%, followed by electronic products, computers and components with US\$23.7 billion, marking an increase of 22.1%. Machinery, equipment and spare parts, along with garment-textile groups, stood at US\$17 billion and US\$15.2 billion in export revenue, respectively. Furthermore, the export revenue of footwear hit US\$10.4 billion, up 27.8%, while wood and wooden products reached US\$8.1 billion, representing a rise of 61.1%. Elsewhere, transport vehicles and spare parts were at US\$5.4 billion in export revenue, a boost of 42.8% year on year. Data from the Ministry of Industry and Trade show Vietnam's total export value between January and June was estimated at US\$157.63 billion, an increase of 28.4% from last year's corresponding period. The United States emerged as Vietnam's biggest export market in the period with US\$45.1 billion, marking an annual climb of 43.3%. China came second with US\$24.6 billion, up 25.1%, followed by the EU with US\$19.3 billion, a rise of 17.4%. Meanwhile, ASEAN posted an export turnover of US\$13.8 billion, up 26.3%, the Republic of Korea with US\$10.5 billion, up 15.2%, and Japan with US\$9.9 billion, an increase of 6.9%.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/25-export-commodities-earning-above-us1-billion-each-in-first-half-873520.vov>