

Highlight News / July 16/2021



- CBC, Thai Subcon collaborate to promote business and investment
- Garment exports from SEZs valued at \$357 million over first semester
- Japan provides US\$3 million for human resource development
- More than 170,000 acres of 2020-2021 monsoon crops cultivated in Yinmabin
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CBC, Thai Subcon collaborate to promote business and investment



Cambodia News | 15 July, 2021

Bangkok-based Cambodian Business Council (CBC) and Thai Subcontracting Promotion Association (Thai Subcon) have agreed to work together to promote the private sector cooperation between Cambodia and Thailand. Both sides signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on July 14 in a virtual ceremony held in Bangkok, Thailand under the presidency of Ouk Sorphorn, Cambodian Ambassador to Thailand, according to press release from the embassy. Sambath Sothea, President of CBC, said at the function that the CBC mission is to develop a platform for all, aiming to establish strong relations with all business alliance and support members of Thai-Cambodian business community as well as promote their interests to the policy makers. Under the cooperation with Thai Subcon, CBC looks forward to working together for a very fruitful mission and collaboration in the field of business, trade, and investment, Sothea said. For his part, Kiattisak Jirakajornwong, President of Thai Subcon, pledged to realise and materialise this MoU for the benefit to both associations and for the goodwill of Cambodia and Thailand. According to the MoU, both parties committed to enhancing cooperation by jointly organising and developing business, investment, and trade-related activities to promote and expand members' business networks in Cambodia and Thailand. The two sides will also

exchange relevant information and support marketing channels in order to promote cultural and social connectivity. The bilateral trade between Cambodia and Thailand was valued at \$3.366 billion in the first five months of this year, inching down 5.27 percent compared to the same period last year, according to Thailand's Ministry of Commerce. Chea Vannak – AKP

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50894001/cbc-thai-subcon-collaborate-to-promote-business-and-investment/>

Garment exports from SEZs valued at \$357 million over first semester



Cambodia News | 15 July, 2021

Cambodia exported \$357.8 million worth of garments, textiles, shoes and travel goods in the first six months of 2021, inching up 1.4 percent compared with the same period last year. Figures from the Ministry of Commerce show the garment exports were produced in the special economic zones (SEZs). Cambodia has a total of 54 SEZs. The exports were made under free trade agreements, the Generalised System of Preferences and the Most-Favoured Nation (MFN) scheme. Garment exports accounted for most of the total exports at \$232 million, a 3.3 percent decrease compared with the same period last year. The export of textiles increased by 41 percent to \$70 million, while exports of shoes and travel goods were valued at \$35 million and \$19 million, respectively. The latter two exports

saw a contraction of 2.9 percent and 25.3 percent over the same period last year. The EU and Japan markets were the biggest markets for the Kingdom's garment products with a total amount of \$77 million and \$74 million, respectively. Of the total export amount of travel goods, the US was the biggest market, importing \$15.7 million of them, while another \$2.4 million went to Japan. Other markets were China, South Korea and ASEAN members. Ngoun Meng Tech, Cambodia Chamber of Commerce director-general, said the positive growth of exports reflects demand of the country's products from international markets. The growing exports are a good signal of local production chains and it is a good and positive fact that more investors are seeking to understand investment opportunities in Cambodia, Meng Tech said. Cambodia's garment sector was badly damaged by Covid. Some factories shifted from producing clothes to other products including medical materials for the health sector. The production chain of the garment sector was largely interrupted in February, during the second outbreak of Coronavirus in the Kingdom and pushed hundreds of factories in Phnom Penh and Kandal province to close down temporarily. The Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training and the Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia (GMAC) appealed for understanding from buyers and other stakeholders if deliveries of garment products were late and sought no penalties during lockdown measures. Cambodia's cabinet approved a draft new investment law last week, placing high hopes

that it will make and facilitate investment and the business environment in the country, attracting more investment projects. Cambodia's shipments in garments, textile, shoes, travel goods, bicycles and other products located in SEZs were valued at \$2.3 billion in 2020, a year-on-year increase of 28.6 percent.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50894153/garment-exports-from-sezs-valued-at-357-million-over-first-semester/>

Japan provides US\$3 million for human resource development



Laos News | 16 July, 2021

The Japanese government has agreed to provide grant aid of 313 million yen (about US\$3 million) to support human resource development in Laos. The funds will be disbursed under the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship, which offers scholarships for government officials from central and local levels to study for master's and doctorate degrees at Japanese universities. The project will enable young Lao government officials to broaden their knowledge and skills in response to Laos' development needs. A signing ceremony for the exchange of notes for the project took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Thursday. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Thongphan Savanphet represented Laos in signing and exchanging the notes with the Ambassador of Japan to Laos, Mr Takewaka Keizo. The event was attended by officials

from both sides. From 2000-2020, the Japanese government provided 464 scholarships for Lao government officials to study in Japan (454 for master's degrees and 10 for doctorate degrees), mainly in the fields of education, health, agriculture and forestry, and infrastructure. During the signing ceremony, Mr Thongphan thanked Japan for its assistance to Laos over past years. Japan is a top aid donor to Laos and plays an important part in the international aid provided to Laos. In 2017, Japan was the sixth largest foreign direct investor in Laos. As of 2020, some 165 Japanese companies had invested in various areas including agriculture, manufacturing and construction. In addition, Japan has helped Laos to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic as well as recover from economic difficulties. The relationship between Laos and Japan has developed significantly since the two countries elevated their ties to a strategic partnership in 2015. Laos regards Japan as a key partner based on the long history of friendship and strategic cooperation between the two countries. Although the pandemic has affected the rollout of some cooperation projects and action plans agreed to by the governments of Laos and Japan, Japan has continued to consider project proposals made by Laos, according to the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr Thongphan expressed heartfelt condolences to Japan over the deadly landslide triggered by heavy rains in the central city of Atami in Shizuoka on July 3. Mr Takewaka said he believed the Project for Human Resource Development

Scholarship would make a significant contribution to boosting socio-economic development in Laos and strengthening cooperative relations and friendship between Laos and Japan.

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Japan137.php

More than 170,000 acres of 2020-2021 monsoon crops cultivated in Yinmabin



Myanmar News | 16 July, 2021

A total of 170,506 acres of monsoon paddy and other monsoon crops will be planted in 2020-2021 in Yinmabin Township, Yinmabin District, Sagaing Region, according to the Township Agriculture Department. It is reported that local farmers are carrying out cultivation activities such as ploughing and sowing seeds in their farmland to grow monsoon paddy in time. The department stated that the previous year yielded 167,979 acres of monsoon crops, and a total of 100,550 acres have been cultivated this year. Of 170,506 acres of monsoon crops, 30,700 acres of monsoon paddy; 22667 acres of various peas; 59624 acres of oilseeds; 2,233 acres of cotton; 473 acres of food crops; and 87,481 acres of other sorts of crops will be cultivated this year. The Department of Agriculture in Yinmabin Township supervises agricultural techniques, pest control measures and awareness activities to improve crop yields of the monsoon crops. – Soe Moe (Yinmabin)/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/more-than-170000-acres-of-2020-2021-monsoon-crops-cultivated-in-yinmabin/#article-title>

HSBC sees challenges to Vietnam economy in H2



Vietnam News | 15 June, 2021

HSBC expects Vietnam's economy to face challenges related to foreign exchange and interest rates in the second half of this year. Ngo Dang Khoa, head of global markets at HSBC Vietnam, said recent outbreaks of Covid-19 have sparked worries about production being interrupted for a long time, which would affect the country's recovery. "With many industrial parks being closed down and social distancing prolonging, growth momentum in the third quarter in particular will surely face many challenges." Social distancing to prevent the disease from spreading has affected consumer outlook and the recovery of services and tourism, while the new coronavirus mutants and slow vaccination would delay the reopening of borders to foreign investors and tourists, he said. "It is necessary to adopt timely fiscal and monetary policies to safeguard [the economy]." It would be difficult to maintain a stable dong-U.S. dollar exchange rate in the second half unlike in the first mainly because of Vietnam's trade deficit, inflation worries and the possible rise in U.S. interest rates, he said. He predicted the exchange rate to be VND23,100 to the dollar by year-end. Asian countries including Vietnam have yet to see

inflationary pressure, but if prices continue to increase, it might have to increase interest rates, he said. Vietnam should not increase interest rates too early or too quickly since its economy has been severely affected by the pandemic, he said. HSBC recently revised upward its forecast for Vietnam's economic growth next year to 6.8 percent from the earlier 6.5 percent, but lowered it to 6.1 percent from 6.6 percent for this year.

Source : <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/business/economy/hsbc-sees-challenges-to-vietnam-economy-in-h2-4312647.html>

Agricultural exports

up 28.2 pct



Vietnam News | 15 June, 2021

Exports of farm, forestry and fisheries products in the first half of this year topped \$24 billion, a year-on-year increase of 28.2 percent, the agriculture ministry said. Farm exports were worth \$10.4 billion, up 13.3 percent, with tea, pepper, cashew, vegetables, fruits, rubber, and cassava and cassava-based products all seeing increases, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development said. Vietnamese rice prices are rising consistently, while demand for rice in many countries, including China and South Korea, is increasing. Many firms have already signed contracts to export in the second and third quarters. Fruit exports rose 17.6 percent to \$2.36 billion, Dang Phuc Nguyen, general

secretary of the Vietnam Fruit & Vegetables Association, told VnExpress. The exports went mainly to China."Large volumes of litchi were exported to many markets, including China, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Germany, France, and the Czech Republic."He added that fruit sales in the domestic market were also sharply up.Seafood exports rose 12.5 percent to \$4.05 billion.China, the U.S., Japan, and South Korea are the biggest importers of Vietnamese agricultural, forestry and fishery products.The U.S. accounted for \$6.7 billion, up 59.8 percent, and China for \$4.75 billion, up 32.1 percent.In the second half of the year, with the pandemic yet to be controlled, Vietnam will take advantage of trade deals such as the European Union-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement and Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership to penetrate new markets, the ministry said.It will also negotiate with China to boost exports of sweet potato, durian, chili, passion fruit, grapefruit, coconut and other fruits, further tap promising markets such as Russia, the Middle East, Africa, and ASEAN and strengthen exports to Japan, South Korea, India, and the EU, it added.

Source: <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/business/industries/agricultural-exports-up-28-2-pct-4309366.html>