

Highlight News / July 29/2021



- Cambodia has over 100 river and sea ports
- Gov't presses forward with new roads for Sihanoukville
- Bokeo-Xayaboury river bridge over 65 percent complete
- Border trade down over \$693 mln
- Việt Nam, Laos enjoy growth in two-way trade in H1
- FDI in Jan-Jul falls over 11%



Cambodia has over 100 river and sea ports



Cambodia News | 28 July, 2021

Cambodia has in total 105 ports, of which 78 are river ports located along the Mekong, Tonle Sap, Tonle Basac and in provinces, and 27 others are sea ports. The figures were shared by the Ministry of Public Works and Transports (MPWT), adding that the ports, run by both the government and private companies, are divided into trade, industrial, tourism and oil port and so on. Those ports have been playing a key role in promoting trade activities to develop national, regional and international economy, it added. On July 26, the MPWT has organised a meeting to discuss the draft port law to collect more inputs so that it can be comprehensive to serve national benefits. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of MPWT, who chaired the virtual meeting, said the port law will play a crucial role in the management and development of port, promotion of national and international trade, order maintenance, facilitation of port services, and environmental protection. L Vy – AKP

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50902640/cambodia-has-over-100-river-and-sea-ports/>

Gov't presses forward with new roads for Sihanoukville



Cambodia News | 28 July, 2021

The government's relentless push to improve the Kingdom's logistics infrastructure got another boost

this week with officials committing to build 11 new roads. Already, the province is set to benefit from the 190 kilometre-long, \$2 billion Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Expressway due to be completed next year. Earlier in 2021, the government completed a \$294 million rehabilitation of 34 roads in the province. "The new roads are actively under construction but I cannot [confirm] the progress of the construction because it is under the control of the [Ministry of Public Works and Transport], local media quoted provincial spokesman Kheang Phearum as saying. Preah Sihanouk province is bolstering its logistics hub to better connect the rest of the country with the Kingdom's only deep seaport. Officials are upgrading Sihanoukville Autonomous Port's cargo terminal – due to be complete by 2025 – to more than double its capacity so that it can receive 5,000 Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs). TEU is the standard measurement for shipping capacity in the industry. The port can currently accommodate 2,000 TEUs. Increasing its capacity will require deepening the port to 40.5 metres from 20.5 metres. Experts have previously expressed concern regarding the Kingdom's ability to capitalise on free trade agreements because of the country's lacklustre logistics infrastructure. Improvements to Sihanoukville and better integrating it with the country are seen as being critical. The government has also announced plans to build ASEAN's second smart logistics hub in Phnom Penh and is planning to develop it into a sub-regional transport and logistics hub in the centre of the Greater Mekong

Sub-region. The World Bank in Cambodia ranked Cambodia 98th in the world for its logistics performance based on six metrics including customs clearance, infrastructure, international shipments, logistics competence, tracking and tracing, as well as timeliness. The country earned a score of 2.8 out of 4 – below the regional average of 3.15 for the East Asia and Pacific bloc. The global body forecasts that the country's exports will reach \$23.72 billion by 2025 and imports will top \$26 billion. The country exported approximately \$15 billion in goods last year, according to official figures.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50902755/govt-presses-forward-with-new-roads-for-sihanoukville/>

Bokeo-Xayaboury river bridge over 65 percent complete



Laos News | 29 July, 2021

A 505-metre bridge spanning the Mekong River between Paktha district in Bokeo province and Khop district in Xayaboury province, which also provides an easier link with Thailand, is now over 65 percent complete but is running behind schedule. Deputy Project Manager Mr Xayphone Phommavong said construction of the bridge, known as the Kontuen-Huaykeo Bridge, has encountered challenges because of the high level of the river, while progress has also been slowed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The contractor is currently working on the

main structure of the bridge, which is made of concrete and steel and is 12.5 metres wide with a surface width of 7.4 metres. There will also be footpaths measuring 1.75 metres along each side. The construction cost of over 180 billion kip is being funded by the government. Work began in October 2017 and was scheduled to take 36 months with completion in September 2020, but various difficulties have put the project behind schedule. The bridge will provide an easier link from National Road No. 2243 in Paktha district, Bokeo province, to Khop district in Xayboury province, and on to Thailand. It will offer a shortcut for motorists travelling through the area and facilitate trade between Laos and Thailand. The bridge will be important for the economic development of the region as a whole by improving the flow of goods. When complete, it will be the longest steel bridge in Laos, followed by the Thangon Bridge across the Nam Ngum river in Vientiane and another bridge spanning the Mekong from Paklai district in Xayaboury province to Xanakham district in Vientiane province. Xayaboury is also linked to Luang Prabang province by a bridge that spans the Mekong between Thadeua village in Xayaboury province and Pakkhone village in Luang Prabang province. Another bridge crosses the Mekong at Pakbaeng, linking Xayaboury and Oudomxay provinces.

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContenten_Bokeo146.php

Border trade down over \$693 mln



Myanmar News | 28 July, 2021

THE total border trade value exceeded US\$7.65 billion, down over 693 million compared with the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce. During the period, the country's export via land borders amounted to \$4.98 billion while its import shared \$2.66 billion. This financial year's border trade decreased by over \$693 million compared to the same period of the last budget year 2020-2021, when it amounted to 8.34 billion, the ministry's figures said. The trade volume at Muse border trade on the China-Myanmar border exceeded \$2.92 billion, down over \$638 million compared with the same period last year Myanmar has opened 18 border trade camps and conducts border trade with neighbouring China through Muse, Lweje, Kampaiti, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung with Thailand via Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese checkpoints, with Bangladesh via Sittway and Maungtaw and with India through Tamu and Reed land borders, respectively Myanmar's major export items are farm, animal, marine, forest, mining, CMP and other products. Myanmar mainly imports capital goods, industrial raw materials, personal goods and CMP raw materials.— ACM/GNLM

Source : https://cdn.myanmarseo.com/file/client-cdn/2021/07/28_July_21_gnlm.pdf

Việt Nam, Laos enjoy growth in two-way trade in H1



Vietnam News | 28 July, 2021

VIENTIANE — Việt Nam and Laos continued to enjoy growth in import-export revenue in the first half of 2021 compared to the same period last year. According to the Vietnamese Trade Office in Laos, in the first half of 2021, two-way trade hit over US\$671 million, up 36.5 per cent year on year, including Việt Nam's exports of over \$329 million, and imports of more than \$341 million, respective rises of 19.1 per cent and 58.9 per cent. Compared to the first half of 2019 before the COVID-19 outbreak, two-way trade increased 16.6 per cent, with Việt Nam's import revenue rising 49 per cent and exports falling 5 per cent. In June 2021, two-way trade reached over \$100 million, up 22.1 per cent from the same period last year and 18.1 per cent from June 2019. Việt Nam's key export staples included garment and textile products, vehicles and spare parts, machinery and equipment, and petrol and gasoline. Meanwhile, Việt Nam mainly imported wood and wooden products from Laos, along with ore and minerals, and rubber. In July, two-way trade is predicted not to rise due to complicated developments of the COVID-19 pandemic. — VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/998649/vietnam-laos-enjoy-growth-in-two-way-trade-in-h1.html>

FDI in Jan-Jul falls over 11%



Vietnam News | 28 July, 2021

HCMC - Vietnam attracted US\$16.7 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) from January to July 2021, falling over 11% compared with the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Planning and Investment. This is the sharpest drop in FDI inflows since the fourth Covid-19 wave broke out in late April. Earlier, FDI fell 2.6% year-on-year in the first half of this year, after it edged up 0.8% in the first five months. Data of the Foreign Investment Agency under the Ministry of Planning and Investment showed that among the total FDI of US\$16.7 billion, US\$10.13 billion came from 1,006 newly-registered projects, increasing 7% year-on-year. Meanwhile, 561 existing projects added US\$4.54 billion, falling 3.7% compared with the same period last year. Capital contribution and share purchases by foreign investors dropped 56% to some US\$2 billion. There were 86 countries and territories investing in Vietnam in January-July. Singapore was the biggest investor with nearly US\$6 billion, followed by Japan with US\$2.54 billion and South Korea with US\$2.2 billion. Foreign investors invested in 57 cities and provinces. The Mekong Delta province of Long An was the largest recipient of FDI with US\$3.58 billion, followed by HCMC with US\$1.8 billion. Binh Duong came third with US\$1.33 billion.

Source : <https://english.thesaigontimes.vn/83410/fdi-in-jan-jul-falls-over-11.html>
