

*Highlight News / August 17/2021*



- Tourism chief holds talks with Japan on boost to agri-tourism
- More than 90 percent of the targeted 10 million population in Cambodia to be vaccinated by today against COVID-19
- Laos-Vietnam trade value increases by 36.5 percent
- Chinese nationals allowed to return to Burma after being locked down by COVID-19 epidemic yellow in China
- Vietnam aims to connect 5 million farming households to e-commerce platforms
- Businesses show resilience amid economic fallout



ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (Aiti)



## Tourism chief holds talks with Japan on boost to agri-tourism



*Cambodia News | 16 August, 2021*

Cambodia and Japan have been meeting to discuss ways of promoting agri-tourism projects in the Kingdom. The Tourism Ministry's director-general of Tourism Development and International Cooperation held a videoconference with Naoya Okada from the Japanese Embassy's agricultural department and Katsuhito Nabeshima, the founder of Yamato Green Co. Ltd. Yamato Green is a Japanese company based in Phnom Penh that uses technology to improve farming in Cambodia, raise food quality and safety and promote local produce overseas, starting with Japan. The three discussed a new project, which aims to help restore Cambodia's tourism sector during and after the Coronavirus crisis by boosting agri-tourism products and green belt development. The tourism ministry and Yamato Green agreed to expand Cambodia's green belt by focusing on the development of assorted tourism segments including agri-tourism, natural tourism, community tourism and eco-tourism. The ministry is preparing a pilot project on agri-tourism, a green house in the Baray district of Kampong Thom province and a safe crop plantation project. Yamato Green's work in Cambodia focusses on technology for greenhouses and harvesting. The company says it uses the Internet of Things (IOT) to add to the food value chain. This can include using sensors and other technology embedded in equipment to allow farmers

to check soil acidity, nutrition and water content and to turn on sprinklers and fertilisation devices. Cambodia already has a number of agro-tourism initiatives, including one in the Banteay Srei district of Siem Reap. It aims to encourage visitors to buy produce directly from farms. Agriculture is key to the Kingdom's economic growth, contributing nearly 23 percent to the nation's gross domestic product last year. The government says the sector will add an extra 1.6 percent to the economy in 2021. It currently accounts for three million jobs, or one third of the country's workforce.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50916487/tourism-chief-holds-talks-with-japan-on-boost-to-agri-tourism/>

## More than 90 percent of the targeted 10 million population in Cambodia to be vaccinated by today against COVID-19



*Cambodia News | 16 August, 2021*

Cambodia has managed to vaccinate close to 90 percent of the initially targeted 10 million people against COVID-19. To date, from February 10, 2021 to August 15, 2021, it has successfully vaccinated 9,020,990 against the virus. Of this, 4,538,826 are females, representing approximately 50 percent of the total vaccinations administered. This constituted 83.97 percent of the targeted 10 million people while the percentage of vaccination for the entire population of more than 16 million stands at 55.93 percent. In addition, booster 3rd dose of the vaccine,

comprising AstraZeneca has reached 240,902 since the campaign started in the seven provinces which border Thailand and which have also reported high number of infections with the re-opening of the border. All returning migrant worker above 18 years of age are also to be vaccinated. A total of 602,500 people have also been vaccinated with the one shot deal Jansen vaccines by Johnson & Johnson which is now confined to people living in remote and far lying areas. In all, more than 7.5 million people are entitled to get their third booster dose of the AstraZeneca vaccines. This number constitutes those who have received either the Sinopharm or Sinovac vaccines supplied by China.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50916552/more-than-90-percent-of-the-targeted-10-million-population-in-cambodia-to-be-vaccinated-by-today-against-covid-19/>

## China Remains

### the Largest Foreign Investor in Laos



*Laos News | 17 August, 2021*

China remains the largest foreign investor in Laos, undertaking a total of 813 projects worth USD 16 billion. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and Investment, Mr. Sonexay Siphandone, said during the fifth Workshop between Lao and Chinese Entrepreneurs on Friday that China remains the largest foreign investor in Laos, according to Lao Youth Radio. Of the 53 countries that have invested in Laos, China has the largest number of investments, says Minister Sonexay. "China also

plays a significant role in special economic zone investments, with the Lao government having authorized 89 projects worth over USD 215 million," Mr. Sonexay Siphandone added. Special economic zones, the Vientiane-Vang Vieng Expressway, industrial parks, and large-scale infrastructure projects make up the largest areas of Chinese investment in Laos. The Lao-China Railway, Laos' flagship infrastructure project, is now over 90 percent complete and expected to open in December this year. China was also the largest foreign investor in Laos last year, undertaking a total of 785 projects worth USD 12 billion.

Source : <https://laotiantimes.com/2021/08/17/china-remains-the-largest-foreign-investor-in-laos-2/>

## Chinese nationals allowed to return to Burma after being locked down by COVID-19 epidemic yellow in China



*Myanmar News | 16 August, 2021*

Burmese nationals who were trapped during the COVID-19 yellow epidemic in Shweli Kyaigon, China, were allowed to leave the country from July 26 to August 10 at the entry-exit checkpoint in Muse, northern Shan State on the Burma-China border. The Burmese have been forced to return to their home country of Yunnan province since April 2021 due to a recurrence of the COVID-19 virus in Yunnan province, China. These Burmese nationals came from all over Burma to work in the Chinese city of Shweli on the Sino-Burmese border, boosting China's productivity and transferring their salaries

back to their families. There are seven border checkpoints in the border area of Muse District, Myanmar, and Yunnan Province, China. With the recurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic on both sides of the Burma-China border, migrant workers in Shweli, China, are facing a variety of hardships, and Chinese officials in Burma released illegal immigrants to Burma during the COVID-19 lockdown on the evening of June 15. Tens of thousands of Burmese nationals have been forced to leave the country on July 26 at 9:00 am. A total of 4,654 people have returned to their homeland. China has banned the return of Burmese nationals since August 11 and allowed them to leave on August 16. A total of 220 women were allowed to leave, and all of them were systematically accepted by the Burmese returnees and arranged for them to return to their homes.

Source : <https://news-eleven.com/article/213811>

## Vietnam aims to connect 5 million farming households to e-commerce platforms



*Vietnam News | 16 August, 2021*

Hanoi (VNS/VNA) - Vietnam looks to connect 5 million farming households to e-commerce platforms this year, which would create breakthroughs in the development of the digital economy in the agriculture sector, Deputy Minister of Information and Communications Pham Anh Tuan said. This was the highlight of the ministry's plan approved in late July to provide support to farmers to take their products online and promote the development of the digital economy in the agriculture and rural sector. At

an online conference last week to implement the plan, Tuan said that the plan aimed to connect farming households with e-commerce platforms to promote their products, expand markets and encourage consumption of farm produce. Tuan asked local departments of agriculture and rural development, and industry and trade to cooperate with two selected post companies Vietnam Post and Viettel Post to develop detailed plans for connecting local farmers with e-commerce platforms this month. Tuan said that 5 million farming households would be connected to e-commerce platforms by the end of this year, which would create the first breakthrough in developing the digital economy for the agriculture sector, adding that support would continue to be provided in following years. Nguyen Trong Duong, Deputy Director of the ministry's Department of Enterprise Management, said that it was important to make farmers see the benefits of bringing their products online. For a bigger goal, the ministry aimed to connect a total of 13 million farming and individual business households to e-commerce platforms, Duong said. Statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's Agricultural Products Processing and Development Department showed that to date, only around 8,000 farming households with more than 14,500 agricultural products were connected to e-commerce platforms. E-commerce platforms provided a good channel for distributing agricultural products, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. A clear example could be seen from the

consumption of lychee of COVID- hit Bac Giang province in May. More than 8,000 tonnes of lychee was sold in 63 provinces and cities nationwide via two platforms Postmart and Voso. According to Tuan, the volume of agricultural products sold via e-commerce platforms remained modest. However, e-commerce platforms would not only play a role in selling the products but also in promoting the products and expanding markets, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-aims-to-connect-5-million-farming-households-to-ecommerce-platforms/206400.vnp>

## Businesses show resilience amid economic fallout



*Vietnam News | 16 August, 2021*

VOV.VN - Despite the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, many Vietnamese firms have demonstrated their great resilience amid economic fallout, maintaining production and import-export activities during the past seven months of the year. According to the Ministry of Planning and Investment, although the national economy has faced numerous difficulties due to the resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic throughout localities, especially Ho Chi Minh City, total seven-month import and export turnover of commodities remained high, reaching US\$373.36 billion, or a rise 30.2% year on year. Of the total value, exports raked in over US\$185 billion, an increase of 25.5%, while imports

hit more than US\$188 billion, up 35.3%. Most notably, there has not been any shortages of goods or price hikes during the social distancing period. Vietnam has so far received approximately 18 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines in order to inoculate the population free of charge. At present, 12.1 million employees and roughly 376,000 employers have received over VND5.7 trillion as part of a bailout package, while residents and local firms have also received a reduction of over VND10 trillion in their price of electricity, water, and telecommunications services. In fact, many businesses have stood firm and maintained production by adopting an appropriate business strategy and ramping up anti-pandemic measures. However, different COVID-19 measures adopted by localities have caused difficulties for businesses, from production to circulation of goods. Experts say Vietnamese businesses are set to face numerous hurdles ahead in the remaining months of the year, largely due to the complicated nature of the pandemic. These challenges look set to lead to the suspension of production activities, the shortage of food and consumer goods, along with price hikes of input materials for production. Due to an increasing demand for food and production, companies are poised to enjoy a wealth of opportunities in order to fully tap into foreign markets, especially demanding markets such as the EU, the United States, Japan,

and the Republic of Korea. Moreover, the Government's strong determination to contain the spread of the pandemic across the country in a swift manner will thereby contribute to accelerating economic development ahead in the remaining months of the year. Developed countries have considered the option of co-living with the pandemic, because it is impossible for an economy to slip into recession for a long time and, the stamina of the national finance is limited. Vietnam is no exception, and it will gradually have to adapt to the new context to develop its economy and ensure social security.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/businesses-show-resilience-amid-economic-fallout-883020.vov>

---