

Highlight News / August 23, 2021



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ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)

Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville expressway construction 65 percent completed



Cambodia News | 22 August, 2021

The Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville expressway construction project has been now 65 percent complete. The update was shared by Senior Minister, Minister of Public Work and Transport. Sun Chanthol in a meeting of Infrastructure and Regional Integration Technical Working Group (IRITWG) held in hybrid format. The construction process of the expressway continues as planned despite the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. The ministry has been also conducting study on the construction of Phnom Penh-Bavet expressway under BOT form, Chanthol added. The Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville expressway project was launched on March 22, 2019 under the presidency of Prime Minister Hun Sen. The construction would take about 48 months. The \$1.9-billion worth expressway stretches over 190 kilometres connecting the capital of Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville's deep-sea port, by crossing the provinces of Kandal, Kampong Speu, and Koh Kong. The construction project is invested by the China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) through Cambodian PPSHV Expressway Co., Ltd. The total road width is up to 24.5 metres, while traffic lanes, divided into 4, are 15 metre wide in total, allowing all types of vehicles to drive up to 100 kilometres per hour and some places, the speed peak is 120 kilometres per hour. C. Nika – AKP

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50920581/phnom-penh-sihanoukville-expressway-construction-65-percent-completed/>

Ministry of Agriculture calls for investments in Longan processing



Cambodia News | 22 August, 2021

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries has called on private sector to invest in processing facilities for longan, while is also in talks to export the fruit to more international markets. In a statement issued on August 20, the ministry encouraged interested companies to contact it directly for any necessary investment facilitation. The move aims at broadening markets for Cambodian longan farmers who are facing challenges in selling their harvests especially to Thailand due to sanitary and phytosanitary barrier. The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Veng Sakhon said longan is one of the fruits that need to have sanitary and phytosanitary certificates for overseas export. The ministry along with the Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Ministry has been so far discussing with importing countries such as China and Thailand on the export requirement for the fruit. Nationwide, there are 8,816 hectares dedicated to the fruit, with Battambang and Pailin provinces accounting for nearly 80 percent of the growing. Chea Vannak – AKP

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50920608/ministry-of-agriculture-calls-for-investments-in-longan-processing/>

Govt, Star Telecom partner in digital development



Laos News | 22 August, 2021

The E-Government Centre, Ministry of Technology and Communications, and Star Telecom (UNITEL) have entered into an agreement to expedite the government's use of digital technology and improve the Lao language font. It is envisaged that the partnership will drive development in this field and enable the modernisation of services through improved e-government. The agreement was signed by Director General of the ministry's E-Government Centre, Dr Thavisak Manotham, and Deputy General Director of Star Telecom, Mr Bounmy Malavong. The signing was witnessed by Minister of Technology and Communications Prof. Dr Boviengkham Vongdara and the Director General of Star Telecom, Mr Luu Manh Ha. Under the agreement, the partners will carry out research and development in software programmes for application to services used by the government, businesses, and the general public. They will also work on the development of a digital payment and commerce platform to integrate with the government's digital system and electronic signature system (e-signature platform). In addition, the Lao language font will be refined to enable it to be used in all operating systems, including computer and mobile phone use. The two parties will also develop a Government Cloud Platform alongside

digital payment and commerce platforms. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mr Bounmy said the two sides would work together to modernise public administration and services and improve the knowledge of civil servants concerning digital technology. This would facilitate the development of Laos' digitalisation in line with the government's digital development plan. The Deputy General Director of Star Telecom said that in the age of the Industrial Revolution 4.0, improved management and services including government and social services would play an important role in responding to the need for digital transformation. This will further the process of digital transformation and the development of a modern state administration on a par with others in the region.

Source: https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Govtstar_163.php

Livestock products prices likely to go up as feed prices incessantly increase



Myanmar News | 22 August, 2021

The prices of livestock-based products are likely to go up as the feed prices are increasing incessantly, according to Mawlamyine commodity depot. Most of the livestock businesses in Mon State have suffered losses due to decrease of consumption since the first wave of COVID-19, and rising feed prices since February. With rising prices of feedstuff from

K24,000 to K32,500 per bag, the production cost have risen, likewise the product prices have also mounted. Besides, the livestock- based products have climbed slightly since the second week of July due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and the need for medical nutrition. On 30 July, the price of chicken egg rose to K130 per one while the duck egg jumped to K150 per one. Besides, the price of chicken has risen to K50,00 per viss (1.6 kilogrammes or 3.6 pounds). The price of house chicken eggs has also significantly increased K600-K800 per one. The price of livestock- based products has mounted. This is not because of the wholesaler, but because of rising prices in local retail market. The National Enlightenment Institute (NEI) finds out that the chicken egg in the retail market is ranging K180-K200 per one. The price of livestock-based products is likely to rise if the feed price continuously mounted. Consequently, the livestock entrepreneurs may be difficult to stand for any further in their livestock industry.—NN/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/livestock-products-prices-likely-to-go-up-as-feed-prices-incessantly-increase/>

HCM City firms forced to close down due to lack of workers



Vietnam News | 21 August, 2021

HCM CITY — Many firms in HCM City – the country's largest economic hub – have been forced to shutter operations due to a lack of workers, local media have reported. According to the Vietnam Textile and

Apparel Association (VITAS), the country's textile manufacturing supply chain was only working at 10-15 per cent capacity. "Thousands of workers have fled the city because of the virus outbreak. Firms will have an enormous problem finding workers to resume their operations once the virus is under control. We anticipate at least 40 per cent of our members will experience a shortage of workers in the near future," said **Vũ Đức** Giang, chairman of VITAS. The situation is particularly dire in labour-intensive sectors, including footwear and wood processing. "Even before the pandemic, our members were already having difficulty finding workers. The virus has made it even worse," said **Nguyễn Chánh Phương**, general secretary of the Handicraft and Wood Industry Association of **Hồ Chí Minh** City. Wood processing firms have reported a record-breaking number of contracts signed as demand for Vietnamese wood products has soared. Some firms said they would need to operate at full capacity until the end of the first quarter next year to meet demand. The association said many among some 600 of its members, mostly located in **Bình Dương**, **Đồng Nai** and **Tây Ninh**, were badly affected by the virus outbreak in HCM City. Many said they had lost up to 40 per cent of their workers since the virus outbreak. To make matters worse, many among them were producing essential goods for people in parts of the city that had been put under strict social distancing. "We simply do not have the manpower required to meet rising demand," said

Nguyễn Thị Xuân Mai, director of Wepar Environmental Technology - a supplier of potable water and water filter solutions located in Tân Phú District. "Many of our workers have been stuck in quarantined areas. Many have quit out of fear of being infected at work," she said. Firms have taken measures to hold on to their workers. Mai said her firm still kept workers who were furloughed on payroll, even if it could only manage to pay a part of their wage. Female workers with newborns and babies were given small grants. In addition, all workers were made to put on PPE suits at work and had been registered in the local government vaccine priority list. Á Châu - ABC Bakery Co., has moved workers to neighbourhoods near their factories. The condiment maker has also set up living quarters and hired cooks to take care of their meals. "We must do what we can so workers want to stay with us. Of course, such services cost us extra but it's important to make sure our labour force remains intact for future plans," said Kao Siêu Lực, the firm's director-general. Some firms even agreed to pay their workers' wages in advance to keep them in the city. "It's tough for us now but we still can manage. Holding on to our skilled workers is most important to us. Once the virus is under control we can resume production right away. From our perspective, it's way cheaper to spend to support our workers now than to hire and train new workers later," said Ngô Minh Hồng, owner of a food processing business in Nhà Bè District. "From now until the end of the year, firms

in the city will need to fill 150,000 jobs. Sectors whose demand have not yet been severely reduced during the pandemic, including commerce, IT, medicine, textile and footwear, will likely experience a strong bounce back and therefore must recruit additional workers," said a report by the HCM City's Center of Forecasting Manpower Needs and Labour. — VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1016894/hcm-city-firms-forced-to-close-down-due-to-lack-of-workers.html>

Vietnam's electronics industry appeals to foreign investors: [entrepreneur.com](https://www.entrepreneur.com)



Vietnam News | 21 August, 2021

Vietnam's electronics industry is still growing despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, said an article published on newswire entrepreneur.com. The article noted in recent years, the country has implemented some trade agreements with other countries and flexible policies to attract foreign investors and this would open opportunities for entrepreneurs as the industry plays an important role in Vietnam's economy. It was estimated Vietnam is one of the key electronics exporters ranking 12th place in the world, the author wrote, adding that there has been a steady increase in the nation's exports with an average of US\$12 billion per year. The import of electronic products has nearly doubled between 2015 and 2019. Vietnam's electronics industry is diverse. The article also mentioned

advantages the market offers investors. It said the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership will help lower tariffs on trade. In addition, Vietnam has signed a free trade agreement with the EU, which will gradually reduce most tariffs, regulatory barriers, and red tape which should create opportunities for both sides to do business. The Vietnamese government will provide incentive scheme implementing a 30% corporate income tax (CIT) cut for certain business and companies working in the high-tech sector as well as in high-tech and specific industrial zones, and underdeveloped socio-economic regions. According to the article, a new wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in Vietnam has resulted in lockdowns, restrictions and disruption to supply chains, and businesses shutdown. Despite such negative impact, plenty of foreign investors have chosen Vietnam as a top destination to set up their electronics production bases.

Source: <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/vietnams-electronics-industry-appeals-to-foreign-investors-entrepreneurcom-884404.vov>
