

*Highlight News / August 27/2021*



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## New export markets will be needed to absorb the looming longan surplus from new yield forecast



*Cambodia News | 26 August, 2021*

Cambodian farmers are expected to harvest 111,000 tonnes of Ta-ngen (Pailin longan) this year. The Kingdom has more than 13,600 hectares of plantations and Agriculture Minister Veng Sakhon said half are ready for harvesting. In spite of the name, Pailin longan is grown in 14 provinces, with the biggest farms in Pailin, Battambang, Ratanakiri and Banteay Meanchey. Sakhon said one hectare of a longan plantation can yield about 16 tonnes of fruit. One tonne of longan sells for around \$450. Longan, which means dragon's eye in Chinese, is a white-fleshed fruit similar to the lychee. It is sold fresh, dried or canned in syrup. The agriculture ministry is trying to increase sales by opening up more export markets. Historically, Cambodian longan has exported by Thailand to China together with Thai longan. China banned imports of Thai longan for an indefinite period from Aug 13 over concerns they contain mealybugs, which feed on sap and can spread diseases. Cambodian farmers have called on the government to persuade China to accept direct imports of their longan. The Pailin longan is scheduled to be the third Cambodian fruit to be exported to China after bananas and mangoes but nothing has been finalised. The agriculture ministry says it has asked the Chinese and Thai governments to speed up talks on the sanitary and phytosanitary

methods required in order to permit direct imports. In April China agreed to start importing Cambodian mangoes from five processing facilities and 37 plantations, which met its phytosanitary requirements. Cambodia's National Trade Repository defines a phytosanitary certificate as one that "certifies that the plants or plant products covered by the certificate have been inspected according to appropriate procedures and are considered to be free from quarantine pests and practically free from other injurious pests. The presentation of a Phytosanitary Certificate is a mandatory requirement for import of certain plant products and therefore must be obtained prior to export as to allow import at the country of destination." Cambodian Farmers Community Coalition Association president Theng Savoeun told Khmer Times this month that Thailand and Vietnam are very important markets but farmers want to expand exports to China, Australia, the US and the EU.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50923413/new-export-markets-will-be-needed-to-absorb-the-looming-longan-surplus-from-new-yield-forecast/>

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## CDC approves \$63.5 million in new projects



*Cambodia News | 26 August, 2021*

China's The Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) has approved seven new projects representing a total investment of \$63.5 million.

Ethan Metal Manufacture Co Ltd will be opening a processing plant for aluminium, iron and copper to be located in Kandal province. Soma Energy Co Ltd will open a five megaWatt (mW) solar power station in the Stoung district of Kampong Thom province. Schneitec Alternative Co Ltd will open a 23 mW heavy fuel oil power plant in Preah Sihanouk province. Xin Chenhui (Cambodia) Chemical Industry Co Ltd is opening a biochemical factory in Oral district, Kampong Speu province. Soma Farm (Cambodia) Co Ltd will open a livestock farm in Bati district, Takeo province. Cambodian Xing Can Shi Pin Co Ltd will open a fruit processing factory in Oral, Kampong Speu province and Cambodian A1 Steel Industry Co Ltd will open a metal processing factory in Oudong district, Kampong Speu. The approved projects are anticipated to create a total of 870 local jobs. The CDC has approved projects expected to generate more than 15,000 jobs over the last two months. In 2020, a total of 101 factories shut down permanently according to the Ministry of Industry. Another 27 more closed by the middle of May this year and 75 have filed for bankruptcy. The continued strength in sustained project investment during the pandemic is seen by both industry insiders and government officials as a sign of continued investor confidence in Cambodia's macroeconomic, political and social stability. Earlier this week South Korea announced the provision of concessional financing for the construction and improvement of National Road No. 48. The road will have a total length of 148 kilometres from Sre Ambel district to Khemarak

Phoumin city, Koh Kong province. It will be part of a highway linkage between Cambodia and Myanmar crossing Thailand.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50923414/cdc-approves-63-5-million-in-new-projects/>

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## Feasibility study scheduled for new Triangle Special Economic Zone



*Laos News | 27 August, 2021*

Phongsaly provincial authorities have given the green light to a Chinese business group to carry out survey and a feasibility study on the development of a new Triangle Special Economic Zone (SEZ), local media reported. If approved, the zone would be located in the province's Nhot-ou district at the shared border between Laos, China and Vietnam. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on August 24 between a representative of the business group and provincial authorities, permitting the investors to carry out the survey and feasibility study in relation to the project. Witnessing the signing at the provincial Administration Office were provincial Governor Mr Khamphoy Vannasarn, the group's executives, and officials from both sides, the Lao Economic Daily reported. Under the MOU, the investor is required to begin the survey and feasibility study within 30 days of signing the agreement, which is valid for 18 months. The Chinese group will survey an area of about 250 square kilometres for the project, Deputy Director General of the provincial Planning and Investment

Department, Mrs Khammala Souvong, told those attending the signing ceremony. The site would include 100 square kilometres for services and tourism, while the remaining 150 square kilometres would be used for agriculture and industry development. The precise areas allocated for development will be more clearly defined after the survey is complete. A report in this regard will be submitted to provincial authorities and the government for consideration. The investors will also survey and design a road linking Yai-ouneua village to the planned development site. A social and environmental impact assessment will also be carried out. The feasibility study and survey will be used as a reference to draw up a master plan for the development of the Triangle SEZ.

Source : [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten\\_Feasibility167.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_Feasibility167.php)

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## Pigeon pea price remains on upward trend



*Myanmar News | 26 August, 2021*

The pigeon pea (red gram) price continues rising from early April 2021 and it surged to above over K1,320,000 per metric ton in the last week of August. The pigeon pea price was on the rise in March-end 2021 amid the low yield and the Kyat weakening in the local forex market. The pigeon pea market is bullish along with the Kyat depreciation, according to the domestic market. The gram fetched up only K837,500 per tonne in early February. The price in

April-end showed a remarkable increase of K 1,000,000 per tonne as against February's rate. On 26 August, it touched a high of K1,322,500 per tonne. The majority of the traders accept only immediate cash payment, a trader from Mandalay market stated. Myanmar's pigeon pea is primarily shipped to India and also exported to Singapore, the US, Canada, Pakistan, the UK, and Malaysia. But, the export volume to other countries rather than to India is extremely small. More than 1.8 million tonnes of various pulses and beans were exported to foreign markets between 1 October and 13 August of the current financial year 2020-2021, with an estimated value of US\$1.4 billion. Of them, the pigeon pea export accounted for 183,507 tonnes, generating an income of \$122.38 million, the Commerce Ministry's data indicated. The domestic bean market is positively related to the law of supply and demand, said an official of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. India set an import quota on beans, including black gram and pigeon pea, starting from 2017. Myanmar earlier had to export black bean and pigeon pea under the quota system and limit period. On 15 May 2021, India's Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare approved not only black gram but also other pulses being imported from Myanmar that have the bill of lading up to October-end 2021, with relaxations of conditions regarding clearance consignment up to 30 November 2021. According to this statement, the previous notifications dated 19 March 2021 and 26 March 2021 were cancelled.

Additionally, Myanmar can export 250,000 tonnes of black gram (urad) and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon pea under the G-to-G (government to government) pact during the April-March period between the 2021-2022 financial year and the 2025-2026FY, as per the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Commerce and India's counterpart signed on 18 June. Myanmar yearly produces about 400,000 tonnes of black gram and 50,000 tonnes of pigeon pea. Myanmar shipped over 1.6 million tonnes of different varieties of pulses, especially black gram, with an estimated worth of US\$1 billion, to other counties in the FY2018-2019. During the last FY2019-2020 ended September 30, the country delivered 1.6 million tonnes to the external market, generating an export value of \$1.195 billion. — MM/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnln.com.mm/pigeon-pea-price-remains-on-upward-trend/>

## Vietnam, US eye sustainably equal trade ties



*Vietnam News | 26 August, 2021*

Hanoi (VNA) - Since the normalisation of bilateral relations in 1995, economic and trade ties between Vietnam and the US have seen great progress, with two-way trade hitting an all-time high of 90.8 billion USD in 2020, up 19.8 percent year-on-year, despite serious impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. US Vice President Kamala Harris's ongoing visit to Vietnam is expected to open up new business and investment

opportunities for the two countries' enterprises. According to the Vietnamese Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT), since the Vietnam - US Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) took effect in December 2001, two-way trade has continuously increased. Bilateral trade was maintained in the first seven months of 2021 as the US continued to be Vietnam's largest importer with a turnover of 53.7 billion USD, up 37.7 percent year-on-year. Vietnam mainly shipped machinery, equipment, tools and spare parts to the US. Therefore, despite being affected by the pandemic, the country's revenue from exporting these items to the US still reached 12.2 billion USD last year, up 141.5 percent compared to 2019. In the 2016-2020 period, exports of these products to this market enjoyed an annual average growth rate of 54.8 percent. According to insiders, this confirms that Vietnam has become an important link in the supply chains of many products to many markets, including the US. Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Do Thang Hai said that the Vietnamese and US economies are complementary. In the coming time, Vietnam will continue speeding up its economic reform and international integration, and strengthen mutually-beneficial economic, trade and investment cooperation with the US. According to the Deputy Minister, the value of imports from the US in the coming time will increase through the improvement of Vietnam's business environment, thereby attracting more enterprises to Vietnam. The US's becoming Vietnam's largest export market is considered a positive signal. However, the Vietnam



Trade Office in the US recommended Vietnam to be careful about anti-fraud and trade protection issues. Phan Mai Quynh from the MoIT's Vietnam Trade Remedies Authority said that in order to avoid risks, businesses should actively answer questions from the investigation agency, and fully prepare documents as required, and build an advanced governance system. To support businesses in boosting exports to this market, Vietnam will continue cooperating with US partners to comprehensively address the US's concerns. The MoIT is working on big projects to enhance the competitiveness of export products, Hai said, adding that businesses must actively develop their markets to improve their domestic production capacity and integrate deeper into the global supply chains./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-us-eye-sustainably-equal-trade-ties/206982.vnp>

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## Vietnam – an important link of US supply chain



*Vietnam News | 26 August, 2021*

Hanoi (VNA) - Vietnam is currently the 10th largest trading partner of the United States and an important link in this country's supply chain. Recently, 90 CEOs of leading US companies have urged President Joe Biden to accelerate the donation of vaccines to Vietnam as it battles its most serious COVID-19 outbreak, Dau tu (Investment) online newspaper reported. In a letter sent to the US President, the

CEOs of companies like Adidas, Coach, Gap, Hanesbrands, Nike, VF and Under Amour have emphasized that Vietnam is an important economic and supply chain partner of the US. Vietnam “is now the second largest supplier of apparel, footwear, and travel goods to the US market. Further, Vietnam has become a major supplier of crucial inputs for America’s small but important footwear manufacturing industry,” the letter said, adding about 3 million US workers are connected - through the value chains - to many millions more in Vietnam. “The health of our industry is directly dependent on the health of Vietnam’s industry,” the CEOs wrote. The CEOs have asked President Biden to accelerate the donation of vaccines and other materials to help keep Vietnam on a strong footing so it can quickly recover, noting that the crisis of their employees in Vietnam is also their crisis. Twenty-six years after the normalisation of bilateral relations, economic and trade ties between Vietnam and the US have seen great progress, with two-way trade hitting an all-time high of 90.8 billion USD in 2020, up 19.8 percent year-on-year, despite serious impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the Vietnam - US Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) took effect in December 2001, two-way trade has continuously increased. Bilateral trade was maintained in the first seven months of 2021 as the US continued to be

Vietnam's largest importer with a turnover of 53.7 billion USD, up 37.7 percent year-on-year./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-an-important-link-of-us-supply-chain/206996.vnp>