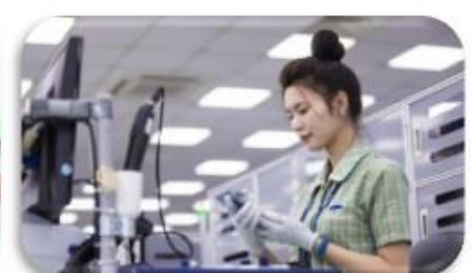


Highlight News / September 13, 2021



- Despite pandemic, FDI continue to flow into Cambodia with \$5 million garment factory in Kien Svay
- Vietnam becomes leading market of Cambodia's cashew nuts
- Fifth Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge over 14 percent complete
- Hteekhee, Mawtaung border crossings return to normal
- Rising input costs drop half chilli cultivation acres
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Despite pandemic, FDI continue to flow into Cambodia with \$5 million garment factory in Kien Svay



Cambodia News | 10 September, 2021

The Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) on September 9 said that according to the investment proposal for the garment factory project of Flourish Garment (Cambodia) Co. Ltd. the Investment Committee of Cambodia of the CDC has issued a final registration certificate to a company located in Sdao Kanleng village, Dei Edth commune, Kien Svay district, Kandal province with an investment capital of approximately \$5 million and which can create 1,414 jobs. It should be noted that despite the situation of Covid-19, Cambodia continues to receive new investment projects from a large number of national and international investors. According to a report published on the CDC's official Facebook page, it has approved more than 90 investment projects with a total investment of more than \$2.5 billion in the first eight months of 2021. These projects have created jobs for more than 60,000 people.

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50932715/despite-pandemic-fdi-continue-to-flow-into-cambodia-with-5-million-garment-factory-in-kien-svay/>

Vietnam becomes leading market of Cambodia's cashew nuts



Cambodia News | 12 September, 2021

Vietnam was the largest market of Cambodia's cashew nuts in the first eight months of 2021. Cambodia exported about 876,531 tonnes of cashew nuts in the January-August period, up 350 percent compared to the same period last year, data from Cambodia's Agriculture Ministry revealed. Agriculture Minister Veng Sakhon said 99 percent of the total cashew exports, or nearly 870,000 tonnes, were exported to Vietnam. The rise in export was attributed to an increase in the area under cultivation and the stockpile from last year. Currently, Cambodia has more than 500,000 hectares of cashew trees in 10 provinces. Kampong Thom province has the most land growing cashew trees with 90,959 ha, followed by Kratie with 47,858 ha and Ratanakiri with 30,459 ha, according to the Cashew Association of Cambodia. VNA

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50933602/vietnam-becomes-leading-market-of-cambodias-cashew-nuts/>

Fifth Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge over 14 percent complete



Laos News | 10 September, 2021

Construction of the fifth Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge linking Borikhamxay province to Bueng Kan province in Thailand across the Mekong River is 14.42 percent complete. It is envisaged that the bridge will become

another regional trade hub and transit route for Laos and neighbouring countries when finished. Work on the project began at the beginning of January this year and the 14.42 percent completion figure exceeds the target set for August by 5.67 percent. Project Director Mr Laythong Phommavong said work on the bridge is underway in Kuay Oudom village in Pakxan district, Borikhamxay province, about 10 km north of the main town in Pakxan district and 2,860 metres from Road No. 13 South. The project was agreed to in August 2019 with Thailand's Neighbouring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency (NEDA) loaning the Lao government 1.38 billion baht, with the cost to be borne by Laos and Thailand. Two agreements on the project were signed: the first concerns the construction of a bridge across the Mekong River and the second relates to the construction of an access road to the bridge and the building of immigration facilities. The average progress of work under the two contracts as well as the overall progress of the project at the end of August was targeted at 8.75 percent, but the actual performance was 14.42 percent, exceeding the target by 5.67 percent. When the bridge is complete in 2023, it will enable Borikhamxay to become another vital trade hub and transit route for Laos, Thailand and Vietnam over a distance of 150km. It will be the shortest connecting route between the three countries.

Construction of the 1.35km prestressed concrete bridge is estimated to take three years. It includes a 15km-long two-lane road, mostly in Thailand, with border control facilities on both sides. Borikhamxay serves as a transit province, not only between the north and south of Laos, but also between Vientiane and the northeastern provinces of Xieng Khuang and Huaphan. Most people pass through Borikhamxay when travelling to Xieng Khuang province. When the bridge is complete, people in Xieng Khuang and Huaphan can also trade with neighbouring countries. The government attaches great importance to the construction of roads and bridges that connect to neighbouring countries so that Laos is no longer considered as landlocked but becomes a land bridge. The government also views the under-construction railway and expressway as crucial to boosting trade, investment and tourism because they will reduce the cost of transport and spur economic activity in Laos.

Source:https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContenten_Road177.php

Hteekhee, Mawtaung border crossings return to normal



Myanmar News | 12 September, 2021

Hteekhee and Mawtaung checkpoints, along the Myanmar-Thailand border, have been allowed to reopen and the trades are resuming as usual. "So far, the trading is running as usual. The businessmen

are facing a hard time because the border crossings are closed. Now, the checkpoints are reopened and the trade will be operated as usual, said a local trader from the Mawtaung border crossing. The trading between Myanmar and Thailand were temporarily closed for about one month until the end of August to control the spread of coronavirus between the two countries. These border checkpoints are located in the Taninthayi region. Myanmar exported aquatic products mainly to Thailand through Hteekhee and Mawtaung crossings. "We have been faced many difficulties when the crossings were closed for one month. We are very glad to hear that and have been waiting to hear such good news like this. Now, we can start our business operation," he added. Currently, the drivers are only allowed to drive the truck after detecting the COVID-19 test. The cold storage containers are also conducted in line with the guidelines of the Ministry of Health. Thailand is the primary buyer of Myanmar aquatic products. Last FY, Myanmar shipped US\$318 million worth of fishery products to Thailand, while the total fishery exports stood at \$850 million.

— ACM/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnln.com.mm/hteekhee-mawtaung-border-crossings-return-to-normal/#article-title>

Rising input costs drop half chilli cultivation acres



Myanmar News | 12 September, 2021

The acre of chilli plantation has dropped by half this year because of rising input costs, said Daw Ohnma Kyaw, chair of Myanmar Chilli Market and Technical Development Association. Besides, the COVID-19 pandemic has put pressure on chilli demand due to uncertainty about foreign markets and restrictions on cash withdrawals from the banks, she added. "50 per cent acreage of Chili was reduced due to the rising of fertilizers price and input costs. The restrictions of the banks are also one of the reasons. Consequently, chilli cultivation has dropped by 50 per cent compared to last year. The farmers can no longer afford to buy the fertilizers because the price is hiking these days. The input costs and chilli seeds are also expensive. Rapidly rising production costs related to farm input price inflation is a concern for agricultural producers," said Daw Ohnmar Kyaw. The chilli from Kyaukse township could not be exported as the border checkpoint in Muse, one of the main border trading checkpoints for Myanmar-China border trade, were halted starting from 8 July. For that reason, Myanmar exported fresh chilli to Thailand via the Myawady border trade. Further, the price of fresh chilli exported to Thailand is lower than the price registered last year. This year, the fresh chilli fetched only K1,300 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg). Last year, the price hit a record high of K5,000-6,000 per viss, the association stated. Myanmar's

fresh chilli pepper is shipped to Viet Nam via the sea route and primarily sent to China and Thailand via land borders. Myanmar chillies are grown mostly in the Ayeyawady region and Kyaukse township of the Mandalay region. The export varieties of fresh chilli pepper are 692, 777, 999, Kartar, Demon, Sunshine and Lucky One. — NN/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/rising-input-costs-drop-half-chilli-cultivation-acres/#article-title>

Vietnam prepares to welcome vaccinated foreign tourists to Phu Quoc



Vietnam News | 11 September, 2021

Vietnam's Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism has proposed that Phu Quoc Island, off the southern coast, welcome international visitors with 'vaccine passports' in October. The plan will be piloted for a six-month period and subject to adjustments depending on the coronavirus pandemic situation, Nguyen Trung Khanh, chairman of the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism (VNAT), said at a meeting on Thursday. International visitors who want to visit Phu Quoc Island City off Kien Giang Province must have received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine recognized by Vietnamese authorities. The second dose must be injected at least 14 days and not more than 12 months prior to the entry date. Foreigners with a certificate showing their COVID-19 recovery for not more than 12 months are also allowed to visit Phu Quoc. Before entering

Vietnam, travelers must test negative for the coronavirus using the RT-PCR method. Visitors must travel to Phu Quoc by air only and will be taken to designated accommodations and entertainment sites. Relevant ministries and agencies have thrown support behind the plan. The VNAT has urged Kien Giang authorities to prepare plans to secure COVID-19 prevention and handle possible risks. The only concern, Kien Giang deputy chairman Nguyen Luu Trung said, is that Phu Quoc has currently vaccinated just 35 percent of its adults and needs an additional 250,000 to 300,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to reach a safe vaccination coverage. Trung thus proposed the tourism ministry seek more vaccine allocation from the government to the island city. Recently, the city's functional forces conducted random COVID-19 tests on ten percent of its population, whose results were all negative. The island has recorded just five local infections since the pandemic emerged in Vietnam early last year. Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism Nguyen Van Hung said he would set up a working group, led by Deputy Minister Doan Van Viet, to consult and supervise the reopening of the tourism market. Phu Quoc, Vietnam's largest island, became a top tourist destination after the government rolled out a 30-day visa-free policy for foreigners in 2014. In 2019, before the onset of the pandemic, it received over five million visitors, including 541,600 foreigners, according to the VNAT. Vietnam closed its borders and canceled all international flights in March last year. Only Vietnamese repatriates, foreign experts,

diplomats, investors, highly-skilled workers, and students are allowed to enter the Southeast Asian country, with stringent quarantine requirements in place.

Source: <https://tuoitrenews.vn/news/business/20210911/vietnam-prepares-to-welcome-vaccinated-foreign-tourists-to-phu-quoc/63038.html>

Vietnam continues to be attractive investment destination: HSBC



Vietnam News | 11 September, 2021

VOV.VN - The Vietnamese market will remain an attractive investment destination for foreign investors moving forward, the Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Vietnam said in its monthly macroeconomic update for September 2021. In its report, HSBC says the COVID-19 pandemic has seriously impacted the Vietnamese economy, especially the leather and footwear industry. The bank cites statistics from the Vietnam Leather, Footwear and Handbag Association (LEFASO), noting more than 30% of garment makers have suspended production, prompting garment exports to drop by 4.5% in August compared to the previous month. Notably, Vietnam's leather and footwear industry currently makes up 15% of the world's market share, a two-fold increase during the past 10 years. Vietnam is also one of the world's largest textile and garment makers, just behind China and Bangladesh. However, Vietnamese exports of mobile devices and components recorded a sharp increase in August, achieving an annual growth rate of 11%.

Meanwhile, exports of computers and electronic products also decreased by 12% compared to the same period last year. This increase can largely be attributed to the production capacity of two Samsung's factories in the northern provinces of Thai Nguyen and Bac Ninh which have so far brought the fresh COVID-19 outbreak under control. Remarkably, Thai Nguyen is also among 10 cities and provinces which have recorded no COVID-19 cases over a period of 14 days. The fresh coronavirus outbreak that started in late April has raised concerns about the viability of the Vietnamese supply chain, especially from digital tech giants like Apple and Google that have delayed moving their production lines to Vietnam. Despite potential challenges, HSBC says Vietnam remains an attractive destination for foreign investors in the coming time thanks to its strong economic fundamental set to help financiers continue to invest into the market. According to HSBC, Samsung is poised to expand its mobile device assembly and production line ahead in the second half of this year to increase production of foldable phones by 47% to 25 million units. Moreover, LG Display has also recently approved an additional investment of US\$1.4 billion for a factory in Hai Phong City to increase OLED screen output. Foreign investment inflows to Vietnam totaled US\$19.12 billion in the first eight months of the year, a drop of 2.1% compared to the same period last year, according to statistics released by the Ministry of Planning and Investment. Despite the complicated nature of the

COVID-19 pandemic in localities nationwide, the disbursement of FDI projects during the initial eight months of the year saw an annual rise of 2% to US\$11.58 billion.

Source: <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/vietnam-continues-to-be-attractive-investment-destination-hsbc-889966.vov>
