

Highlight News / September 28, 2021



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## Cambodia-South Korea trade reaches \$635 million



*Cambodia News | 27 September, 2021*

The bilateral trade between Cambodia and South Korea surged 11.33 percent to \$635.5 million during the first eight months of this year, as the two countries set to sign their free trade pact next month. Figures from the Korea International Trade Association stated the January-August export of Cambodia to South Korea was valued at \$226.2 million, a year-on-year increase of 3.5 percent. Cambodia's total imports from South Korea rose by 16.2 percent to \$409.3 million. Cambodia mainly exported footwear and other apparel, travel products, beverages, electrical and electronic components, rubber, pharmaceuticals and agricultural products to South Korea. The Kingdom imported vehicles, electronics, kitchen appliances, beverages, pharmaceuticals and finished plastics and products. The two countries wrapped up negotiation on establishment of the bilateral free trade agreement in February. If the Covid-19 situation is better, Cambodian Minister of Commerce Pan Sorasak will lead a delegation to South Korea to sign the pact in October, said Pen Sovichea, the ministry's spokesman. "The bilateral trade with South Korea will open up markets for Cambodian products," Sovichea said. The Kingdom made the first bilateral FTA with China. It plans the FTA talks with main trade countries such as Japan and India. Lim Heng, vice-president of Cambodia Chamber of

Commerce, said the FTA will not only open up more market to Cambodian products, but also attract investment for producing and exporting.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50942123/cambodia-south-korea-trade-reaches-635-million/>

## New Indonesia Chamber of Commerce promises boost in trade: Ambassador



*Cambodia News | 27 September, 2021*

Indonesia's ambassador to Cambodia says a new chamber of commerce will help his country find more business opportunities in the Kingdom and boost bilateral trade. The Indonesia Chamber of Commerce Cambodia (IndoCham) was formed this month. IndoCham is working closely with the Indonesian embassy to promote the Trade Expo Indonesia-Digital Edition, being held online from Oct 21 to Nov 4. Indonesian Ambassador Sudirman Haseng said IndoCham will play an important role in making the online event a success. Speaking at an event last week, attended by Commerce Ministry officials, he said the chamber will help Indonesia achieve one of its main trade mandates: "To improve relations and cooperation between Indonesian and foreign businesspeople in line with the needs and interests of development in the economic sector". The ambassador recently visited Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Koh Kong and Sihanoukville and said the SEZs present opportunities for his country. "These two Special Economic Zones, in my view and assessment, can be one of Indonesia's outward

investment goals, for infrastructure, manufacturing, transportation, and agriculture,” he said. IndoCham’s new President Dalton Wong said the chamber aims to build business, socio-cultural and community inclusiveness. “Indocham shall build a strong community network for Indonesian businesses, professionals and employees to interact with each other, exchange views, ideas and best practices and share or collaborate on business and investment opportunities for mutual benefit,” Wong said in a speech earlier this month. “At the same time, we will also create a gateway, or platform, so that Cambodian and foreign businesses, entrepreneurs and investors in Cambodia, or that are interested in establishing a presence here, will be able to network with each other and with IndoCham members,” Wong said. He added IndoCham planned to work very closely with business development and advisory companies such as Aquarii BD Cambodia. Cambodia’s exports to Indonesia have risen by more than 18 percent in the five years through to the end of 2020, to more than \$47 million, according to Indonesia’s Trade Ministry. Bilateral trade from 2016 to 2020 rose 7.5 percent by volume, with the value rising as high as \$661 million in 2019. Cambodia exports mainly garments, textiles, footwear and accessories. It imports machinery, vehicles and parts, paper products, coal, instant noodles and medicines from Indonesia.

Source:

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50942124/new->

indonesia-chamber-of-commerce-promises-boost-  
in-trade-ambassador/

## Vientiane-Hanoi expressway under study



*Laos News | 28 September, 2021*

The Lao and Vietnamese governments are considering the feasibility of building an expressway linking Vientiane to Hanoi, with assistance from the government of Japan. According to the Department of Roads under Laos’ Ministry of Public Works and Transport, the ministry has been working on the Vientiane-Hanoi Expressway project in collaboration with Vietnam’s Ministry of Communications and Transport, with two routes currently being considered. The first route would run through Vientiane-Pakxan-Viengthong-Thanh Thuy-Hanoi over a distance of 725 kilometres, of which 355km would be in Laos. The estimated cost would be US\$5.23 billion. The second route would follow a path through Vientiane-Naphaeng-Xaysomboun-Xieng Khuang-Tha Lao (Huaphan province)-Hanoi, over a distance of 730 kilometres, of which 485km would be in Laos. The estimated cost of this route would be about US\$9.27 billion. The Lao and Vietnamese governments believe the first option is the better route and approved the technical guidelines and survey costs for a Pre-Feasibility Study report of the project under Decision No. 20921 dated October 2, 2017. They also requested the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs to seek assistance from the government of Japan to conduct a preliminary feasibility study of the project. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) conducted a survey, which gave the following recommendations: In addition to the Vientiane-Pakxan-Viengthong-Thanh Thuy route studied by Vietnam, there is also a possible new route parallel to Road 13 South from Vientiane to Viengkham village (at the junction of this road at km 20), from which it would be possible to turn left parallel to National Road No. 8 and on to the Laos-Vietnam border. JICA suggested this would be a better route and Laos' Ministry of Transport and Public Works and Vietnam's Ministry of Communications and Transport are continuing with their assessment to coordinate with the Japanese and request assistance in construction studies. When the expressway is built, it will be another step in transforming Laos from being landlocked to a land link within the region. In the south, construction of the Vientiane-Pakxe Expressway will go ahead after the government gives the green light to the proposed route and after feasibility studies on all sections have taken place. This road will consist of five sections and will run parallel to Road No. 13 South. The first section will run for 126km from Nongpaen (450 Road) in Vientiane to Pakxan district in Borikhamxay province. The expressway will link up with the

planned Vientiane-Hanoi expressway, to create a direct connection between the Lao and Vietnamese capitals. The government has also approved the construction of an expressway between Bokeo province and Boten, which would link China and Thailand through Laos. A survey of the route through Bokeo is now taking place and the possible impacts of the project are being assessed. The Bokeo-Boten Expressway has been approved by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport. It will run from Boten at the Laos-China border in Luang Namtha province to the Lao-Thai border in Huayxai district, Bokeo province. Construction of the 176.3km expressway is expected to cost US\$3.8 billion.

Source:[https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent\\_Vientiane\\_Hanoi\\_189.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Vientiane_Hanoi_189.php)

## Thailand to reopen temporary border checkpoint on October 1 on the Thai-Burmese border



*Myanmar News | 27 September, 2021*

Traders say the Thai-Burmese special temporary border checkpoint at Prachuap Khiri Khan will reopen on October 1. Myeik District, Tanintharyi Region The Thai side is planning to reopen the Sin Khun border gate in Prachuap Khiri Khan province, which trades with Mawtaung border in Tanintharyi Township, after the end of this month. Sources in Thailand say the trade-restricted gateway will be reopened due to the COVID-19 epidemic. "Currently,

seafood can only be shipped after being frozen," he said. Wet goods We can not export frozen seafood.

Politics; The economy is in a slump due to the epidemic. The Thai side is monitoring the situation in Burma and is reportedly planning to reopen the border gate as the rate of infection is declining," said a Mawtaung-Sinkhun border trader. Border crossings at the Mawtaung-Sinkhun checkpoint have been frequently closed due to illnesses on the Thai side. "The Thongkha-Mawtaung section of the road has been upgraded to boost border trade through the Mawtaung-Singun gate. However, border trade has not been as strong as expected, and car traffic has been low. Mawtaung Road will be important if trade recovers. It is only a few hours drive from Bangkok, Thailand, so the Mawtaung-Sinkhun border gate is very important for trade," said an official from the Myeik District Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Thailand will allow only those who have been vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine to enter and leave the border gates, and plans are afoot to open them gradually. From January 1, 2022, tourists will be allowed to enter from 13 border districts of Thailand, and plans are afoot to visit 43 districts, according to Thai media reports.

Source: <https://news-eleven.com/article/216659>

## Vietnam's exports to Cambodia up 16.7 percent in eight months



*Vietnam News | 27 September, 2021*

Hanoi (VNA) – Vietnam earned 3.15 billion USD from exporting goods to Cambodia in the first eight

months of 2021, up 16.7 percent year-on-year. However, Vietnam reported a trade deficit of 354.4 million USD with Cambodia in the reviewed period. One of the reasons behind the trade deficit was increases in import turnover of six main products from Cambodia compared to the same period last year, with the imports of cashew nut and rubber witnessing the highest rises. Vietnam spent almost 1.83 billion USD on importing cashew nuts from Cambodia in the first eight months, a 7.1-fold hike year-on-year. Meanwhile, Vietnam's rubber imports from the neighbouring country were 5.3 times higher than the figure of the same period last year, reaching 821.8 million USD. Vietnam's registered investment in Cambodia hit over 2.85 billion USD, mainly in agriculture, including cashew and rubber planting. Vietnamese businesses have invested in Cambodia to take advantage of cheap labour costs and favourable conditions in terms of land, climate and incentives, and then exported their products back to Vietnam. To balance the trade value with Cambodia, Vietnam needs to promote processing to improve the added value of export goods, increase yields and quality of cashew and rubber, and seek to expand export markets for cashew nuts and rubber products. Attention should also be paid to strictly controlling the import of these goods to ensure origin rules, and enhancing inspection of commodities exported to Vietnam through Cambodia./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnams-exports-to-cambodia-up-167-percent-in-eight-months/208682.vnp>

## Foreign investors keep trust in Vietnam's recovery



*Vietnam News | 27 September, 2021*

Hanoi (VNA) – Recent announcements made by foreign investors on additional investment to expand production in Vietnam reflect their trust in Vietnam's prospects for economic recovery, reported the *Dau Tu* (Investment Review) newspaper. The Swiss company Nestle said it is pouring an additional over 130 million USD, raising its total investment in Vietnam to 730 million USD to carry out a number of its projects in the next two years. Urs Kloeti, Factory Manager of Nestle Bong Sen, was quoted by the newspaper as saying that his company believes in Vietnam's role as an international and regional manufacturing hub in the future. Alongside Nestle, other foreign firms have committed to maintaining operations in Vietnam despite the fourth wave of COVID-19 outbreaks that have forced various localities to apply stringent preventive measures. Tetra Pak of Sweden has confirmed that it will pump 5 million EUR (5.86 million USD) to expand its existing 120-million-EUR plant in Binh Duong southern province. The investment demonstrates the company's trust in Vietnam's strong economic recovery after the pandemic, according to Managing Director and President at Tetra Pak Vietnam Eliseo Barcas. In particular, the LG Display project in Hai

Phong northern port city has received additional investment twice this year, with 750 million USD in February and 1.4 billion USD in August. Earlier this month, authorities in the northern province of Quang Ninh presented an investment registration certificate to a 365.6 million USD project of Jinko Solar Vietnam Co. Ltd., an affiliate of the Jinko Solar Holding Co. Ltd. The firm channeled nearly 500 million USD into a project in the province in March. Despite current challenges triggered by the pandemic, Japanese firms in Vietnam are working to adapt and improve their production system in the new situation, said Chief Representative of the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) in Hanoi Nakajima Takeo. For his part, Alain Cany, Chairman of the European Chamber of Commerce (EuroCham) in Vietnam, said the European business community is determined to stand side by side with the Vietnamese Government in this tough time and believes that the Government will successfully bring COVID-19 under control like it did before. As they have showed their determination to maintain operations in Vietnam, most foreign investors hope that the Government will promptly devise a clear plan for reopening and economic recovery, or else current investment plans will be delayed and newcomers cannot enter the country to study investment possibilities. Despite COVID-19 impacts, foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into Vietnam during the first nine months of this year rose 4.4 percent year on year to 22.15 billion USD, reported the Foreign Investment Agency under the Ministry of Planning and Investment. The total



imports-exports value of the FDI sector in the first eight months of the year also surged 31.2 percent to 297.43 billion USD, with exports accounting for 156.64 billion USD./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/foreign-investors-keep-trust-in-vietnams-recovery/208690.vnp>

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