

*Highlight News / November 16, 2021*



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ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)



## PPSP reports YTD operating loss on revenue but 3-month revenue more than doubles



*Cambodia News | 15 November, 2021*

Phnom Penh Special Economic Zone saw operating profit slide 12 percent in the third quarter. It earned \$526,666 in the three months ending September 30, compared with 598,666 in the same period a year earlier. The drop in profits comes in spite of a 136 percent rise in revenue to \$5,888,293, according to unaudited figures released after the stock market closed on Thursday. PPSP operates a 357 hectare SEZ in the capital with more than 80 international companies from 15 countries. On a nine-month basis revenue slid 24 percent to \$9,418,774 and it recorded an operating loss of \$397,489. The company is listed on the Cambodia Securities Exchange under the ticker PPSP. It has not paid a dividend since the end of the previous financial year. Its shares ended Thursday unchanged at 2,000 riels a share. The results were announced after the market closed. Sihanoukville Autonomous Port saw a 1 percent drop in 3-month operating profit to the dollar equivalent of \$5,119, calculated at Friday's exchange rates. Revenue rose 9 percent to \$21,510. PAS operates Cambodia's main deep sea port, covering 125 hectares. In the first nine months of 2021 operating profit was up 22 percent to \$14,514. Revenue rose 12 percent to \$62,589. It left its total dividend unchanged at \$2,992. PAS rose 0.59

percent on Thursday to 13,580 riels per share. The results were announced after the market closed.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50970858/ppsp-reports-ytd-operating-loss-on-revenue-but-3-month-revenue-more-than-doubles/>

## Japanese investment projects valued at \$2.8 billion, registered at CDC



*Cambodia News | 15 November, 2021*

The Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) approved 146 Japanese qualified investment projects (QIP) as of October with a total investment capital of \$2,853 billion. The figures were shared in a workshop on dissemination of the newly-endorsed investment law organised recently by the CDC. Chaired by Sok Chenda Sophea, CDC Secretary General, the workshop was aimed to attract more investment and businesses from Japan. Of the approved investment projects, 66 with a cumulative investment of \$340 million are located inside special economic zones. In the first semester this year, CDC approved new 87 QIP projects worth \$3 billion, a 10 percent increase compared to the same period last year. According to the Law on Investment of the Kingdom of Cambodia, only QIPs are entitled to the benefits under the scope of this law. Qualified Investment Project is the project which receives a Final Registration Certificate. In addition, the CDC also announced over the weekend, approvals for the establishment of two Automobile Assembly Plant Projects in Pursat and Koh Kong provinces. The Council for the Development of Cambodia issued on

Friday Qualified Investment Project (QIP) certificates to two companies for their automobile assembly plant projects. The two companies are R M A Automotive (Cambodia) Co., Ltd., investing \$21 million on a vehicle assembly factory in Krokor district, Pursat province; and EM Automobile Co., Ltd., injecting \$16.3 million on heavy truck assembly factory in Sre Ambel district, Koh Kong province. The two projects would generate nearly 1,000 jobs for the locals. At the same time, the CDC granted QIP certificates to two energy companies – Schneitec Western Co., Ltd. with an investment capital of \$111 million and Schneitec Northern Co., Ltd. with \$330 million investment capital – creating about 250 job opportunities. Ten other projects, mainly garment and food processing factories, were also given the green light from the CDC. With a total investment capital of \$66.5 million, the projects generates more than 10,000 jobs. The automobile industry deserves special mention as these two and earlier investments mark Cambodia's entry into the heavy industry sector which needs skilled labour. The industry is a capital and knowledge-intensive industry which plays an important role in the country's socio-economic development, according to MedCrave. Currently, the industry is booming, involving an increasing number of countries in the production of cars, while the alignment of forces in the automotive market is constantly changing. The role of the automobile industry in the development of the modern economy and the prospects for its development is determined by the place of motor

transport in the infrastructure of the national economy. In the modern age-the development of the economy of any country cannot be imagined without the development of the automobile industry. AKP/Khmer Times

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50970860/146-japanese-investment-projects-valued-at-2-8-billion-registered-at-cdc/>

## The Lao PDR's duty-free access to the EU market



*Laos News | 16 November, 2021*

The Lao PDR, as a Least Developed Country (LDC), currently benefits from duty-free, quota-free (DFQF) access to the EU market for all goods, except for ammunition and arms. This preferential access is provided under the EU's Everything But Arms (EBA) scheme, which is one of the three categories of schemes provided by the EU under its 'Generalised Scheme of Preferences' (GSP scheme). The other two categories are the Standard GSP and the GSP+ scheme, which apply to developing countries and cover 66 percent of tariff lines. The EBA scheme, only available for LDCs, is the most generous of the three categories under the EU GSP scheme. The Lao PDR's current exports to the EU and potential to expand. The Lao PDR has increasingly been making use of its EBA preferences over the past decade, with EBA exports from the Lao PDR increasing as evidenced in Figure 1 below. However, this growth appears to be moderate in comparison to its

neighbours also benefitting from EBA access, namely Cambodia and Myanmar, as demonstrated in Figure 2 below. Despite the scope of market access as an EBA beneficiary, the Lao PDR's exports to the EU currently account for only 5 percent of its total world exports. In comparison, all its neighbours have been able to make better use of the opportunities available in the EU market. From the Lao traders already exporting to the EU, it is evident that good use is being made of the duty-free access through the EBA, with the the Lao PDR demonstrating a high EBA preference utilisation rate of over 95 percent over the past nine years. However, there is significant potential for the Lao PDR to further grow its exports to the EU and increase its export share to the EU market.

Source: [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent\\_The\\_lao\\_pdr\\_224.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_The_lao_pdr_224.php)

## Laos, Asian ministers approve plan for education development



*Laos News | 16 November, 2021*

Members of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) have approved the strategy plan for 2021-2025, to address regional cooperation in education development. Representatives from Laos and SEAMEO member countries recently discussed and approved the strategy plan at the 4th Governing Board Meeting of the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Community

Education Development (SEAMEO CED) via an online meeting. The goal of the strategy plan for 2021-2025 is to achieve universal early childhood care and education, with a particular focus on addressing barriers to inclusion. The plan will promote resilience in the face of emergencies along with technical and vocational education and training, and improvements to teacher education. SEAMEO members will harmonise higher education and research, and adopt new curriculums in the region. The meeting also approved the implementation of various education projects in Laos. These are the Border Schools Project, Digital Kids ASIA-Pacific in Laos, Effectiveness Assessment Survey of Mine Risk Education, Strengthening Schools and Community Partnership in Asia, Project on Nutrition for Special Needs Education Students, and the publication of an article titled "Covid-19 in Laos: Impacts and Responses of Lao Education Sector". During the meeting, on behalf of Lao representatives, Director of SEAMEO CED Associate Prof. Dr Niane Sivongxay reviewed achievements and challenges. "This is the fourth anniversary of the establishment of the SEAMEO CED. So far we have seen a number of significant developments in the work of our centre, including the development of core research projects and consultancy services, with support from the Ministry of Education and Sports." "The Lao government has created opportunities for all Lao

citizens to have equitable access to quality education. Our centre plays a significant role in addressing barriers to inclusion and encouraging local communities to engage with schools,” he said. “In parallel with support from the ministry along with research connections with the National University of Laos, Non-Governmental Organisations and other partners, our organisation has built a strong foundation and has been able to strengthen research work and create concrete linkages between policy and research in order to deliver on a number of key projects. These include the SEAMEO flagship Border Schools Project; collaboration with the United Nations on an effectiveness assessment survey of mine risk education; cooperation with UNESCO Bangkok in the translation of green academies for UNESCO publication; and partnering with the SEAMEO Secretariat, UNESCO Bangkok and Global Partnership for Education in the translation of online training courses for special needs education.

Source: [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent\\_Laos\\_Asian\\_224.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Laos_Asian_224.php)

## Agricultural export tops \$315 mln as of 5 November



Myanmar News | 15 November, 2021

The value of agricultural exports was registered at US\$315.04 million as of 5 November in the current mini-budget period (Oct 2021-March 2022), as per

the statistic of the Ministry of Commerce. The figures reflect a decrease of \$28.49 million. The agro exports stood at \$343.53 million in the corresponding period of the 2020-2021 FY as the main trade partner China shut down all the borders in wake of COVID-19 negative consequences, according to the trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce. Last month, the coronavirus pandemic impacted the foreign demand for agricultural products, livestock, mineral and finished industrial goods. In contrary, the exports of fishery, forest products and other goods rose slightly. In the exports sector, the agriculture industry performed the best, accounting for 37 per cent of overall exports. The chief items of export in the agricultural sector are rice and broken rice, pulses and beans and maize. Fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar, and other agro products are also shipped to other countries. Myanmar’s agro products are primarily exported to China, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. Sometimes, the export market remains uncertain due to unsteady global demand. The country requires specific export plans for each agro product, as they are currently exported to external markets based upon supply and demand. The G to G pact also ensures the strong market for the farmers. Contract farming systems, involvement of regional and state agriculture departments, exporters, traders, and some grower groups, are required in order to meet production targets, the Agriculture Department stated. The Commerce

Ministry is endeavouring to help farmers deal with challenges such as high input costs, procurement of quality seeds, high cultivation costs, and erratic weather conditions. The agricultural exports jumped to US\$4.6 billion last financial year 2020-2021, despite the downward trend in other export groups.—KK/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnln.com.mm/agricultural-export-tops-315-mln-as-of-5-november/#article-title>

## Railway goods transport between Vietnam, China surges



*Vietnam News | 15 November, 2021*

Hanoi (VNA) – The total volume of goods traded between Vietnam and China going through the two border-gate railway stations of Lao Cai and Dong Dang reached more than 838,000 tonnes in the first nine months of 2021, up 43 percent year-on-year, according to statistics of the Vietnam Railways Corporation (VNR). In the third quarter, although the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in many provinces and cities, affecting the volume of domestic freight transported on the North - South railway route, the volume of goods transported by rail between Vietnam and China reached more than 258,000 tonnes, a rise of more than 57 percent against that of the same period in 2020. Pham Duc Khai, head of Dong Dang Railway Station in the northern border province of Lang Son, said that despite the complicated situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, freight trains run normally between Vietnam and China, so the volume of international freight imported

and exported through Dong Dang station reached more than 400,000 tonnes in the first ten months of 2021. Dieu Khac Minh, an official at Lao Cai station in the northern border province of Lao Cai, stated that the average volume of goods transported by railway between Vietnam and China is about 650,000 to 700,000 tonnes each year. During January-October this year, the station's freight volume rose by 17 percent year-on-year. The growth was attributed to close coordination between Vietnamese and Chinese railways, Minh stressed. Vietnam Railways is working with Kunming Railways of China in order to increase the railway market share, and handle about 1 million tonnes of import and export goods a year between the two sides through Lao Cai station. Nguyen Hoang Thanh, Deputy General Director of Railway Transport and Trading Joint Stock Company (Ratrac), stressed the need to invest in infrastructure in order to achieve good growth in international railway goods transport./

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/railway-goods-transport-between-vietnam-china-surges/215495.vnp>

## Vietnam's growth and recovery require strong public investment: economists



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Source: <https://en.nhandan.vn/business/economy/item/10770502-vietnam-s-growth-and-recovery-require-strong-public-investment-economists.html>

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