

*Highlight News / November 11/2021*



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## Cambodia-Japan trade reaches \$1.7 billion in Jan-Sept



*Cambodia News | 10 November, 2021*

Bilateral trade between Cambodia and Japan reached \$1.754 billion in the first three quarters, a 4.4 percent increase compared to the same period last year. From January to September, Cambodia exported \$1.316 billion worth of products to the East Asia Nation, a year-on-year increase of 8.7 percent, according to data from the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO). Cambodia spent \$438 million importing products from Japan during the same period, a 29.1 percent increase compared to 2020. This results in Cambodia's trade surplus with Japan reaching \$878 million. The main exports to Japan are garments, bags, footwear, furniture, cosmetics, paper and office supplies and leather goods. Cambodia imported machinery, automobiles, electronics, furniture, fabrics and plastics from Japan. Cambodia looks upon Japan as a prioritized trade partner for talks on a bilateral free trade agreement to be established, according to the Ministry of Commerce. The talks are set to be conducted soon as the Kingdom has already inked two bilateral FTA with China and South Korea. Lim Heng, vice president of Cambodia Chamber of Commerce, told Khmer Times that exports to foreign countries –including Japan, showed the country's economic activities remains robust. "It is a good sign of having trade increase," he said. "With new trade pacts, more investments can be expected." CCC is

also planning to set up foreign liaisons abroad to promote foreign investment, Heng said, citing that Japan is among the countries that CCC is planning to establish an office. In 2020, two-way trade between the two countries was valued at \$2.099 billion, an 8 percent drop compared to 2019. Japan is one of Cambodia's biggest markets after the US and EU. The Kingdom's export to the US was valued at \$6.175 billion in value in the three quarters, an increase of 28.26 percent, according to the US Census Bureau. Imports from the US increased by 30.70 percent to \$303.5 million during the same period.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50967728/cambodia-japan-trade-reaches-1-7-billion-in-jan-sept/>

## Cambodia, Slovenia to boost cooperation in economy, trade, tourism



*Cambodia News | 10 November, 2021*

The Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Slovenia have agreed to further foster their cooperation in potential areas, including economy, trade, tourism, health and other sectors. The agreement was made by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, rotating Chair of ASEAN for 2022, and Janez Jansa, Prime Minister of Slovenia, rotating President of European Union and ASEM-ASEAN Coordinator, via videoconference from his residence in Takhmao town, Kandal province this evening. Both leaders also agreed on visit exchange and to commission the two countries' foreign ministries to

work together for the exemption of visa for holders of diplomatic and official passports. As the rotating Chair of ASEAN and President of the European Union, Mr Hun Sen and Janez Jansa agreed to strengthen cooperation in combating COVID-19 and boost trade negotiations between ASEAN and Europe, as well as for the success of the forthcoming ASEM Summit hosted by Cambodia. Hun Sen accepted the invitation from his Slovenian counterpart to pay a visit to Slovenia early next year.

C. Nika – AKP

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50967956/cambodia-slovenia-to-boost-cooperation-in-economy-trade-tourism/>

## Greengoods Company backs modern agricultural practices in Laos



*Laos News | 11 November, 2021*

Students in the Faculty of Agriculture, under the National University of Laos (NUOL), and farmers will be able to get lessons and practice in modern agriculture in order to boost the efficiency of agriculture, thanks to the support of an agricultural solutions company from South Korea, the Greengoods Company Limited. The company has provided equipment to enable practical education for students and farmers in the Faculty of Agriculture community, as well as boost efficiency in agricultural production, and most importantly to turn traditional agricultural production into a modern agricultural practice. A ceremony to hand over equipment for

use in the project took place on Wednesday at the Faculty of Agriculture, Nabong Campus. The event was organised by the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) Vientiane, Commercial Section of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea. Present on the occasion were Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Mr Thongoum Inthaphone; the CEO of Greengoods, Mr Jaewon Lee; officials involved and representatives from KOTRA Vientiane. The items provided included two tractors, five two-wheel tractors, and two rice transplanters, worth US\$33,615 in total. Meanwhile, the Milk for Lao organisation, under Greengoods, will arrange an online seminar to share experiences on how to effectively use the equipment in actual agricultural work. Greengoods has successfully led the poultry business by introducing the Korean farming cooperative system in Laos. In particular, in cooperation with the NUOL, the company has built a model to enable continuous income generation for farmers in Vientiane. The Korean farming cooperative system implemented by Greengoods has provided total solutions for chick supply-purchase-slaughter-distribution and marketing so that Lao farms can generate a profit. It also provides opportunities to increase agricultural productivity and efficiency through the donation of agricultural machinery and educational programmes. Speaking at the event, Mr Thongoum Inthaphone expressed

his gratitude to Greengoods for their long-time support to society, especially in educating and sharing knowledge in terms of modern and effective agricultural productivity. “The equipment for practical education is limited in the faculty, but now we have such modern equipment to facilitate both agricultural work and education, so we are very grateful and honoured that such a ceremony has taken place,” he said. Mr Jaewon Lee said he was thankful for all the contributions and cooperation from the university, especially the Faculty of Agriculture, which is acting as a coordinator to support the Milk for Lao organisation, as well as the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. He hoped that Greengoods will grow in terms of business, along with the development of the community Greengoods engages with. “Lastly, special thanks to KOTRA Vientiane for sponsoring this CSR Program throughout the process,” he said. He also mentioned that the short-term goal is for Lao farms to stably develop a sustainable income model, but in the long-term he plans to transform into a data company capable of value creation based on smart farm solutions. “The plan is to implement a step-by-step approach such as dairy farming and feed processing as well as a poultry business by introducing an eco-system that considers the farming environment of Laos and prepares

standards for Lao farming businesses,” he added. He also spoke of his ambition to develop into a company that collects data in the long term, provides planned production solutions suitable for farm families, establishes standards for Lao farming businesses, and provides consulting for them. The Director of KOTRA Vientiane, Mr Pilseong Kim, said the handover ceremony marked an important collaboration in agriculture between Greengoods and the University of Laos, and between the Republic of Korea and Laos as a whole. KOTRA Vientiane is committed to supporting Korean companies that wish to contribute to society through the so-called Global Corporate Social Responsibility Program (Global CSR Program). In 2021, CSR programmes such as Greengoods: Laos Livestock Solution, Used Agricultural Machinery Equipment Relocation Business, The Bless Moon: Educating students how to make-up were promoted. Additionally, KOTRA Vientiane provided Covid-19 protection equipment including 400 boxes of face masks, 100 bottles of hand spray sanitiser, 50 bottles of hand gel sanitiser and 6 infrared thermometers to the Faculty of Agriculture in response to infections that occurred in the faculty.

Source : [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten\\_Greengoods221.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_Greengoods221.php)

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## Imports down by \$120 mln last month, reports MoC



*Myanmar News | 10 November, 2021*

THE value of Myanmar's imports between 1 and 29 October of the current mini-budget period 2021-2022 (October-March) sank to \$1 billion, which reflects a drop of \$121.98 million compared to the year-ago period, the Ministry of Commerce's data indicated. The import value stood at US\$1.12 billion the last FY2020-2021. The imports of capital goods declined last month, while the other import groups (consumer, intermediate goods, and CMP businesses) witnessed a slight increase. Last month, capital goods, such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel, and aeroplane parts were brought into the country. Their import value was estimated at \$170.18 million. The figure was over \$229.5 million lower than those values registered in the same period of the previous FY. Meanwhile, Myanmar imported consumer products worth \$262.38 million, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and palm oil. The imports of consumer products showed a slight decrease of \$3 million compared with the same period in the previous FY. Intermediate goods make up the largest share of Myanmar's imports, with petroleum products and plastic raw materials being the main import items. This year, imports of raw materials climbed up to \$413 million from \$326.4 million registered during the year-ago period. During

the same period, raw materials worth over \$153 million were also imported for the Cut-Make-Pack (CMP) garment sector, showing an increase of \$26.48 million compared with last FY. The top 10 import countries to Myanmar are China, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Viet Nam, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the US, as per data of the Ministry of Commerce. — KK/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnln.com.mm/imports-down-by-120-mln-last-month-reports-moc/>

## Nikkei: Vietnam leads recovery in Southeast Asia supply chains



*Vietnam News | 10 November, 2021*

NDO/VNA - Supply chains in Southeast Asia are racing to recover to full strength after months of factory stoppages and production cuts, including Vietnam which is seeing a rapid return to normality, according to an article published on Japan's Nikkei newspaper. The article reported that about 200 factories in the country contracted to make sportswear for Nike have resumed operations. An executive of an industrial park in Ho Chi Minh City was quoted as saying that plants operated by Samsung Electronics and Intel will "provide assistance so that both companies' facilities will return to full production this month" Companies that produce electrical and electronic components essential for the auto industry are also returning to full strength, much to the relief of manufacturers

around the globe. Japan's Furukawa Electric expects to return to full capacity at its Vietnamese plants. Its three factories there make wire harnesses for automobiles, with the Ho Chi Minh City site alone staffed with about 8,000 workers. The impact from the COVID restrictions has been particularly damaging to Southeast Asia's automotive industry. Vietnam has a high concentration of wire harness factories, while Malaysia is a production hub for automotive semiconductors. Vietnam was the source of about 40% of Japan's wire harness imports in 2019. Suppliers Yazaki and Sumitomo Electric Industries are restoring production at their Vietnamese plants as well. This trend is expected to support a production comeback in Japan's auto sector, said the article.

Source : <https://en.nhandan.vn/business/item/10745002-nikkei-vietnam-leads-recovery-in-southeast-asia-supply-chains.html>

## European businesses optimistic about Vietnam's business environment



*Vietnam News | 10 November, 2021*

HCMC – European businesses have become more optimistic about Vietnam's business environment following the end of lockdowns and the new normal of post-pandemic trade and investment, according to the Quarter 3 Business Climate Index (BCI), a regular barometer of the perceptions of business

leaders from the European Chamber of Commerce (EuroCham). The latest BCI saw a small but encouraging uptick to reach 18.3 points, representing a three-point rise from its historic low of 15 points during the depths of the fourth Covid-19 wave in September. Although the index remains low, the BCI uncovered improving perceptions about Vietnam's economic outlook. Just under half of business leaders and investors (49%) now predict a stabilizing and improving economic outlook next quarter, compared to less than a fifth (19%) in Quarter 2. However, business leaders remain cautious over their recruitment, investment, and profit projections. Companies are taking a wait-and-see approach to staffing, with around one-fifth planning to hire more workers in the next three months, a figure consistent with the last quarter. Likewise, the proportion of business leaders planning to maintain or increase their investment in Quarter 4 (69%) is just two points higher than in Quarter 3, with revenue projections seeing a similar increase. Meanwhile, around half of companies are still operating at reduced levels compared to before the pandemic, while prolonged travel restrictions and staff shortages continue to affect two-thirds of companies. This indicates that there are still issues to be addressed if Vietnam is to reach its full potential in post-pandemic trade and investment. Commenting on the latest BCI, Alain Cany, chairman of EuroCham, said, "Though the BCI remains low in historical terms, the most important thing is that the index is now moving in the right direction. With the

pandemic now back under control in Vietnam, the confidence and optimism of European business leaders should continue to climb as companies get back to normal and consumer confidence rises.” However, despite the positive progress, business leaders are still encountering challenges in their commercial operations. With two-thirds of companies suffering the impacts of travel restrictions and staff shortages, this highlights the urgent need to speed up the entry of vaccinated experts and accelerate the vaccination of domestic workers. CEO of YouGov Vietnam Thue Quist Thomasen said, “Beneath the headline BCI figure, some interesting trends are emerging. While confidence in the prospects for the business environment of Vietnam has seen a small but encouraging rise, companies are a little more hesitant when it comes to their own operations. “This suggests that business leaders are waiting to see how conditions and regulations in the new normal unfold before making significant commitments in terms of investment projects or recruitment plans. Nevertheless, the latest data should give us grounds for cautious optimism in the months ahead,” Thomasen said.

Source : <https://english.thesaigontimes.vn/european-businesses-optimistic-about-vietnam-business-environment/>

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