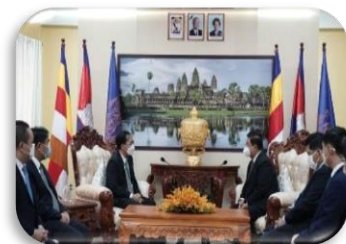


Highlight News / December 02/2021



- China has provided over \$4 billion in grants and \$27 billion in investment from 1992 to 2020
- Cambodia urges Indonesia to resume direct flights
- Cambodia, Laos pledge to boost energy sector
- Chinese drivers to bring back Myanmar watermelon on unloading goods
- Việt Nam's foreign trade up 22.3 per cent in 11 months
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China has provided over \$4 billion in grants and \$27 billion in investment from 1992 to 2020



Cambodia News | 01 December, 2021

From 1992 to 2020, China has provided more than \$4 billion in grants to Cambodia and Chinese investments have reached an estimated \$27 billion up to October this year. This was disclosed at workshop organised by the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) on Monday to disseminate information on the Cambodian law on investment. CDC Secretary-General Sok Chenda Sophea and Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Wang Wentian were present at the workshop attended by about 300 Chinese business people. In his speech, Chenda Sophea outlined that up until 2020, China has provided grants totaling \$4,655 million. And the amount of Chinese investment in the country has reached around \$27 billion as of October. “Strong diplomatic and economic relations has seen China becoming the biggest partner in terms of trade, investment and funding for Cambodia,” said Chenda Sophea. He also thanked China for providing Covid-19 vaccines that have resulted in Cambodia having one of the highest rates of vaccination leading to the reopening of the country to the world. On the law on investment, Chenda Sophea said it was a by-product of the Cambodia Industrial Development Policy (2015–2025) in the context of the Industrial Revolution 4.0, the Digital Revolution, and was drafted when the

value chain was disrupted due to the Covid-19 pandemic. “This law was also created to take advantage of different free trade agreements such as the free trade agreement between Cambodia and China that will enter into force on January 1st 2022, and other bilateral free trade agreements with various countries around the world,” he added. Chenda Sophea noted that diplomatic relations between Cambodia and China have existed since a long time ago and were nurtured by the late King Father Norodom Sihanouk and his contemporary China’s leaders up until Prime Minister Hun Sen and Chinese leaders today. “This has led to a ‘comprehensive strategic partnership’ with China in 2010,” he added. Ambassador Wang said that Covid-19 pandemic has cemented diplomatic ties and brought both countries closer and friendlier than before. “Under the wise leadership of the leaders of our two countries, and the efforts made by the peoples of our two countries, our bilateral ties have reached the highest level of our good historical relations, and Cambodia has become the important destination for China’s investment,” said Ambassador Wang. The Ambassador also hopes that besides the implementation of the Cambodian investment law, both countries will continue to implement the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a part of the free trade agreement, leading to satisfactory results.

Source : [https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50980054/china-has-provided-over-4-billion-in-grants-and-27-billion-in-investment-from-](https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50980054/china-has-provided-over-4-billion-in-grants-and-27-billion-in-investment-from-1992-to-2020/)

[1992-to-2020/](https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50980054/china-has-provided-over-4-billion-in-grants-and-27-billion-in-investment-from-1992-to-2020/)

Cambodia urges Indonesia to resume direct flights



Cambodia News | 01 December, 2021

Cambodia has urged Indonesia to resume direct flight connection with Cambodia to facilitate mutual vaccination tourism movement in the near future. Sok Sangvar, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Tourism who represented Tourism Minister at a Famtrip themed “Exploring the Land of Sunda” at the Embassy of Indonesia to Phnom Penh last weekend, expressed this to Indonesian Ambassador Sudirman Haseng. In June 2019, Citilink, a subsidiary mounted three times a week flights between Jakarta and Phnom Penh but the flights were halted in April 2020 due to COVID-19 and poor load factors. Speaking on the opening ceremony of Famtrip, Ambassador Sudirman spoke highly of Cambodia’s effort in fighting against COVID-19, especially in building the community immunity. He also thanked the Government of Cambodia for vaccinating against COVID-19 to Indonesian people in Cambodia. The Famtrip was organised to promote the good collaboration between the two nations in diplomacy, trade, tourism and beyond. Lim Nary – AKP

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50980346/cambodia-urges-indonesia-to-resume-direct-flights/>

Cambodia, Laos pledge to boost energy sector



Laos News | 01 December, 2021

Cambodia and Laos have agreed to strengthen cooperation in the energy sector as Cambodia currently imports renewable energy from Laos. The agreement was made in a meeting between Mines Minister Suy Sem and his Lao counterpart Daovong Phonekeo in Phnom Penh yesterday. A ministry statement said that in the meeting, the two sides discussed strengthening and expanding cooperation in the energy sector, both technical and commercial frameworks. Sem briefed his guest about the energy development in Cambodia, citing that presently, Cambodia has power capacity of nearly 4,000 mW from local sources and imports. “For Cambodia’s stand in the energy sector related to global climate issues, Cambodia has increased the use of renewable energy and other energy sources that are not harmful to the environment. Cambodia does not allow the development harmful projects, including coal-fired power plants, anymore,” he said. In addition to the projects approved by the government since 2019, Cambodia has switched to using low-carbon energy sources such as imported natural gas, LNG or hydrogen instead, in which the ministry continues to encourage

investment in clean energy and response to climate change. Daovong lauded Cambodia's energy development and asked Cambodia to share its experience on management and development in the energy sector, the ministry's statement said. "The two sides agreed to further strengthen and expand cooperation in the energy sector, both technical and commercial frameworks, and exchange study visits for the two countries' hydropower projects, Don Sahong and Lower Sesan 2 hydropower in the future," it read. According to Keo Ratanak, director general of Electricity of Cambodia (EDC), power imported from Laos' hydropower dams contributes to the increase of renewable energy in Cambodia. Under the agreement signed in 2019, Cambodia buys 2,400 mW of power from Laos, with the first phase starting in 2024, followed by the second phase, third phase, and fourth phase in 2025, 2026, and 2027, respectively. In a separate meeting yesterday, Sem also held a talk with Alissar Chaker, country director of the UNDP, who pledged to seek assistance projects and mobilise financial assistance from other development partners for the development of Cambodia's energy sector, especially focusing on energy efficiency projects and combating climate change.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50980061/cambodia-laos-pledge-to-boost-energy-sector/>

Chinese drivers to bring back Myanmar watermelon on unloading goods



Myanmar News | 01 December, 2021

Myanmar watermelon will be transported to China through the trucks of Chinese drivers when they unload their goods in Myanmar, said Sai Khin Maung from the Khwanyo Fruit Warehouse. There are about 70 trucks that arrive in the Muse 105 mile. About 20 to 30 trucks load of watermelon will be brought to China via Chinese trucks after they unload their goods in Myanmar. "About 70 trucks of watermelon are stuck in Muse. Those watermelons will be delivered to China. On a trial run of the border post, one container carrying watermelons has been sent to China. The remaining is to be gradually shipped. After three or four days later, all of them will be placed in China's market. Chinese truck drivers will carry the watermelon on board when they get back," Sai Khin Maung stated. Starting from 26 September, the Kyinsankyawt border post between Myanmar and China has reopened on a trial run. Myanmar's goods weighing five containers can be delivered to China then. On 27 November, two truckloads of watermelon were put into a container and sent to China. "The freight charges will become higher. It is likely to face delay. If watermelons are stockpiled in the border, it will cause negative consequences," Sai

Khin Maung continued. The transport charges are two times higher than the previous rate, he added. Transport charges were around K800,000 to one million, whereas it costs approximately K2 million for now. Traders cannot expect trade facilitation according to the changes in China's policy during the COVID-19 pandemic. If the restrictions are eased and negotiation goes smooth, the trade will go back to normality. The land borders next to the Muse checkpoint are Nantaw, Sinphyu, Mang Wein, Kyinsankyawt-Wamding and Panseng-Wamding. China has closed down the remaining border posts (Kyinsankyawt, Wamding) from 8 July 2021 following COVID-19 cases in Myanmar. On 30 March, Mang Wein, which is a major border crossing between Muse and Kyalgaung areas, was suspended owing to the COVID-19 cases. On 1 April, Nantaw and Sinphyu land borders were suspended operations. As a result of this, the border trade between Myanmar and China was completely halted. Among the Sino-Myanmar land borders, Kyinsankyawt crossing resumed operations on 26 November. — NN/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnlim.com.mm/more-than-4900-tonnes-of-tea-leaves-exported-within-one-year/>

Việt Nam's foreign trade up 22.3 per cent in 11 months



Vietnam News | 01 December, 2021

HÀ NỘI — Việt Nam's foreign trade surged 22.3 per cent year-on-year in the first 11 months of this year to exceed US\$599.1 billion, according to the General Statistics Office (GSO). The figure reached \$59.7 billion in November, up 8.5 per cent month-on-month and 19.7 per cent year-on-year, the GSO announced on November 29. The country exported \$29.9 billion worth of commodities in November, up 3.6 per cent month-on-month and 18.5 per cent year-on-year. It raised the 11-month export turnover to close to \$299.7 billion, up 17.5 per cent from a year earlier, with the foreign-invested sector (including crude oil) contributing 73.6 per cent of the total, or \$220.68 billion, up 20 per cent year-on-year. Thirty-four commodity items earned export revenue of \$1 billion and up during the period, which together made up 93.5 per cent of the total. Industrial and processing products were the biggest earners, with revenue accounting for 89 per cent of the total exports, or \$266.75 billion, up 18 per cent. The US remained the biggest buyer of Vietnamese products, importing \$84.8 billion worth of goods from the Southeast Asian country in the period, a year-on-year increase of 22.2 per cent. It was followed by China (\$50.5 billion),

the EU (\$35.7 billion), ASEAN (\$25.9 billion), the Republic of Korea (\$20 billion), and Japan (\$18 billion). In November, Việt Nam spent \$29.8 billion on imports, up 14 per cent month-on-month and 20.8 per cent year-on-year. The 11-month import revenue rose by 27.5 per cent year-on-year to \$299.45 billion, 93.6 per cent of which was spent on purchasing inputs for production. China was the largest supplier of products for Việt Nam, exporting to the Southeast Asian country \$98.5 billion worth of goods, up 32 per cent from the same period last year. It was followed by the Republic of Korea (\$50.3 billion), ASEAN (\$37 billion), Japan (\$20.3 billion), the EU (\$15.5 billion), and the US (\$14.2 billion). The country posted a trade surplus of \$225 million from January to November, compared to \$20.19 billion in the same period last year. — VNS

Source : <https://english.thesaigontimes.vn/vietnam-sees-40-rise-in-intl-tourist-arrivals-in-nov/>

Rising Covid case numbers threaten manufacturing recovery



Vietnam News | 01 December, 2021

HCMC – The overall business conditions in the Vietnamese manufacturing sector improved for the second straight month in November, but were accompanied by worries over the recent spike in new Covid-19 cases, associated labor shortages and limited growth momentum, according to the latest report of IHS Markit. “While the Vietnamese

manufacturing sector remained in growth territory in November, a renewed wave of the Covid pandemic clouded the near-term outlook for firms,” Andrew Harker, Economics Director at IHS Markit, said. “The length and severity of the current wave of infections will therefore go a long way to determining how the sector performs at the end of 2021 and start of 2022.” The Vietnam Manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Index ticked up to 52.2 in November from 52.1 in October, signaling a second successive modest improvement in business conditions following a period of decline caused by the fourth wave of Covid infections, which began in late April. New orders increased for the second straight month as the easing of pandemic restrictions in recent months improved demand in the sector. Moreover, the rate of expansion was solid and the sharpest since April. New export orders also increased, but only modestly as Covid continued to hit international trade. Higher new orders and less restrictions than seen earlier in the year meant manufacturers were able to expand their production volumes again in November. While new order growth accelerated, this was not the case for output which increased at a broadly similar pace to that seen in October. A number of firms indicated that labor shortages had restricted production. A number of respondents indicated that workers were concerned about the pandemic and therefore reluctant to return to work, making it difficult for manufacturers to expand staffing levels in line with greater workloads. Employment continued to fall markedly, extending the current sequence of

reduction to six months. As a result, backlogs of work increased for the third straight month. Worries about the pandemic also impacted confidence among manufacturers, with the sentiment dropping from October. However, firms remained optimistic that output would increase over the coming year amid hopes that the health situation will improve. “Business confidence slipped from the previous month, while worries about the health situation continued to deter workers from returning to factories, thereby limiting the extent to which firms were able to raise output,” said Andrew Harker, Economics Director at IHS Markit. Inflationary pressures continued to strengthen, with both input costs and output prices increasing to the greatest extent since April 2011. Higher oil and transportation costs, as well as raw material shortages, contributed to a further increase in input prices in November. Moreover, the rate of inflation accelerated for the third month running and was the steepest since April 2011. The same was also true for output charges, which rose at a much faster pace than in October as firms passed on higher costs to their customers. Manufacturers expanded their purchasing activity for the second successive month in November, but at a reduced pace. Despite the increase in input buying, stocks of purchases declined for the first time in four months. Respondents indicated that the use of inputs to support production and issues securing materials were behind the drop. The challenges in securing inputs were highlighted by data signaling a further marked lengthening of

suppliers’ delivery times. Raw material shortages, a lack of shipping capacity and issues with transportation due to the pandemic all contributed to delivery delays. However, the latest deterioration was the least marked in six months.

Source : <https://english.thesaigontimes.vn/rising-covid-case-numbers-threaten-manufacturing-recovery/>
