

Highlight News / December 14, 2021



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ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)

Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville expressway 70 percent completed



Cambodia News | 13 December, 2021

The construction of the Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville expressway is 70.93 percent completed as of November this year, according to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, citing that the completion of the project is set for mid-2023. The update was made after a site inspection to some sections of construction sites located in Kampong Speu province, the ministry said on Sunday. The delegation was led by Yit Bonna, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, aiming to inspect the progress on the construction. The visit was also joined by the contracted firm. “The purpose of the inspection visit was to monitor and evaluate the implementation of construction work to ensure compliance with technical standards, especially to inspect the location of traffic diversion points and construction sites along the hills that may be subject to landslides, causing potential danger,” he said. The ministry recommended some points for the company to thoroughly check the location of each diversion intersection, especially in areas where there are no traffic barriers, to find an effective solution and ensure the safety of motorists who will use the expressway and suggested examining the technical rules to protect the road from landslides by building infrastructure to protect some areas next to the hills. The road project broke ground in July 2019, stretches between Samraong Krom commune, Por

Senchey district, Phnom Penh and Bei commune, Preah Sihanouk. Being built at a cost of \$2.019 billion, the road will take 48 months to complete. The road is constructed by PPSHV Expressway Co Ltd, a subsidiary of China Road and Bridge Corporate and technical assessment is by Malaysia-based Minconsult SDN. BHD. Running 190 km, the road has four lanes with a width of 24.5m. It has three stop stations, a parking area and four operation and maintenance centers. The expressway crosses through Kampong Speu province for 80.8 km, Koh Kong province at 1.92 km and Preah Sihanouk province at 89.89 km. The Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Expressway Project is the Kingdom’s first expressway project and the most important strategic corridor project in Cambodia. It will reduce the travel time between Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville seaport by two hours from five hours on the existing national road number 4 and it will help reduce transport costs. The expressway is will help promote transport, contributing to completeness of logistics in the region. The expressway construction is made amid the government’s plans to expand the capacity of its only deep seaport –Preah Sihanouk Autonomous Port. According to the ministry, the port will construct a new \$200-million-worth terminal with 350m in length and 14.5m depth in 2022 and scheduled to be completed in 2025 while the second and third projects are scheduled to be completed in 2028 and 2030 respectively.

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50987282/phnom-penh-sihanoukville-expressway-70-percent-completed/>

Singapore Airlines and Lanmei Airlines scheduled to reopen flights to Siem Reap from December 17



Cambodia News | 13 December, 2021

Two airline companies, Singapore Airlines and Lanmei Airlines, are scheduled to reopen their flights to Siem Reap province from Dec. 17 onward. This was revealed by Ngov Sengkak, Director of Siem Reap Provincial Tourism Department, adding that the flight reopening followed the Royal Government of Cambodia's welcome to fully COVID-19 vaccinated tourists to the Kingdom. This is a good news for tour operators in Siem Reap who may consider starting to resume their business activities after being affected by COVID-19 in past two years, continued the director. According to Sengkak, Singapore Airlines will operate daily flights from Siem Reap to Singapore and vice versa. Lanmei Airlines, he added, will operate its flight from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap, Siem Reap to Bangkok and Bangkok to Siem Reap twice a week. Cambodia Airports said it expects a gradual, steady recovery in passenger demand and the number of flights even after the government scrapped quarantine for fully-vaccinated passengers. Cambodia's tourism industry is anticipating the return of travellers by the end of this year with a focus on traditional regional markets, particularly those from China, South Korea,

Japan, Thailand and Singapore, according to Alain Brun, the chief executive officer of Cambodia Airports. China too has committed to facilitate resumption of flights and easing of travel restrictions in place in its "Zero Covid" policy. Many hoteliers and travel agents are eagerly awaiting the return of China flights to kick start the economy, along with those from South Korea and other Asean countries as flights slowly resume.

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50987314/singapore-airlines-and-lanmei-airlines-scheduled-to-reopen-flights-to-siem-reap-from-december-17-2/>

District Development Fund disburses US\$8.5 million



Laos News | 14 December, 2021

From 2005 to 2021, the District Development Fund has disbursed US\$8.5 million to carry out 1,049 projects serving rural communities. A report on the achievements of the Fund was delivered on Friday at a workshop chaired by Deputy Minister of Home Affairs Mr Nisith Keopanya. The projects comprised 550 social projects, with 256 being related to education and 294 to public works.

The 499 economic projects comprised 248 investments in public works, 231 in agriculture, 17 in trade, and three in environmental protection. Saravan province received financing for 93 projects from 2005-2011, while support for Better Service Delivery was provided to 27 districts in four provinces through 259 local investment projects

from 2008 to 2012. Funds were also dispersed for the Strengthening Capacity and Service Delivery of Local Administrations Programme in 53 districts of seven provinces for 662 local projects during the period 2012 to 2016. The Fund also supported the Governance for Inclusive Development Programme 2017-2021 in 33 districts of 14 provinces through 35 local projects. Mr Nisith said the District Development Fund was part of the Party's and government's policy to strengthen capacity and increase the responsibilities and ownership of local authorities in the development and implementation of their development priorities. This includes project management, which is an integral part of the government's devolution policy, such as the Sam Sang directive. The UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) has been a long-term partner and key participant in the government's National Governance and Public Administration Reform programme. By strengthening how finance works at local levels, UNCDF contributes to Sustainable Development Goal No. 1 on eradicating poverty with a focus on reaching the last mile and addressing exclusion and inequalities of access, and to Sustainable Development Goal No. 16 by strengthening government institutions. The District Development Fund 2005-2021, with support from UNCDF and the collaboration of other development partners, has played a central role in the national devolution policy

and its ongoing implementation. The Fund has proven to be an invaluable tool for testing and demonstrating new and improved modalities of public financing, local budget management and capacity development for local government. The District Development Fund and its projects have reached many Lao citizens and communities, extending public services in health and education, and improving livelihoods through investments in agriculture and small-scale infrastructure such as roads and bridges. District Development Fund grant finance that has been provided by Laos' development partners and been used directly by governments and citizens for economic and social capital investments, as a dual approach to poverty reduction. Districts have used this funding system to directly invest US\$8 million and provide over 1,000 local economic and social investments, and services, benefiting some 17 million people in rural Laos. This funding support has increased the ability of the local governments to engage with citizens to lead, decide and manage local services delivery, a fundamental for true sustainability. This growing local sustainability is evident by the fact that districts have progressively increased their own co-financing with District Development Funds from negligible in the early years to an impressive 26 percent in the current programme.

Source: https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_District_244.php

Solar power mini-grid project launched in Myanaung Tsp



Myanmar News | 13 December, 2021

A team led by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win, accompanied by Colonel Kyaw Swa Hlaing, Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs, Police Col Tin Zaw Tun, Region Minister for Transport and other officials concerned joined the ceremony of launching the solar power mini-grid project in Bantbwagon of Myanaung Township and formally cut the ribbon at the event on yesterday afternoon. The Chief Minister and party visited the solar power mini-grid project, implemented by Mega Global Green Automation Company, where U Nay Htet Shein, head of region Rural Development Department and officials and those of the company conducted the Chief Minister and party around the project site. The project electrifies 294 households, two monasteries, two schools and one clinic in Bantbwagon and Yayta villages in Myanaung Township as from 12 August 2021. Moreover, another solar power mini-grid project by Smart Measurement and Control Co., Ltd has also been providing electric supply to 134 households, one monastery and one basic education school in Tatgon, Ywathit and Jeiktaw villages in Bantbwagon village-tract starting from 7 March 2021, Myanaung Township Rural Development Department stated.—
Win Bo (Myanaung-IPRD)/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/solar-power-mini-grid-project-launched-in-myanaung-tsp/#article-title>

RoK firms desire to invest in Vietnam in long run



Vietnam News | 13 December, 2021

VOV.VN - Business leaders of major leading groups in the Republic of Korea expressed their desires to expand investment in Vietnam during their separate meetings with Vietnamese National Assembly Chairman Vuong Dinh Hue in Seoul on December 13. Leaders of Samsung Electronics, SK, and Lotte Shopping & Lotte Mart said they wish to cooperate closely with Vietnam in the fields of renewable energy development, electronics manufacturing, high-tech industries, as well as supporting Vietnamese enterprises in engaging in the global supply chain. They said given its COVID-19 control and economic recovery efforts Vietnam will continue to be an attractive investment destination for foreign investors, including those from the Republic of Korea. For his part, NA Chairman Vuong Dinh Hue highly appreciated RoK business executives' commitments and said Vietnam has planned to resume international commercial flights as of January 1, 2022 that will help facilitate business and investment activities between the two countries. He welcomed Samsung's Innovation Research Center project in Vietnam, and hoped that the electronics group would research and manufacture semiconductors to complete its high-tech chain in

line with its three pronged production strategy in Vietnam. Vietnam supports Samsung's business expansion plan in the near future, and hopes the RoK group assist Vietnamese companies to improve their production capacity and competitiveness to engage in the group's global supply chain, said Hue. Samsung Electronics specialises in manufacturing household electronic products, mobile phones, semiconductors, and other telecommunications equipment. It is currently one of the largest FDI companies in Vietnam with a total investment of more than US\$17.7 billion with large factories located in Bac Ninh and Thai Nguyen provinces. Receiving SK Group's executives, NA Chairman Vuong Dinh Hue thanked SK for supporting US\$30 million for the Vietnam National Innovation Center. He voiced his support for the group's proposal to develop clean energy sources and manufacture semiconductors and other telecommunication devices which he said are calling for foreign investment. The Vietnamese NA leader also suggested that SK research and support Vietnam in energy transition and implementation of a roadmap to reduce carbon emissions in the near future, as well as in transferring technology to produce vaccines and drugs to treat COVID-19 patients. SK is a multi-sectoral economic group with a market capitalization of nearly US\$200 billion. It ranks second in the Republic of Korea and among the top 100 largest firms globally. Currently, SK has invested US\$2 billion in Vietnam's Vingroup, Masan, and Imexpharm pharmaceutical company. It is

expanding investment in areas of its strength such as energy, especially clean energy, pharmaceutical & healthcare, logistics, and information technology. At another meeting with Lotte Group executives, NA Chairwoman Vuong Dinh Hue welcomed the group's efforts to develop its operations over the past time, especially its Lotte Malls in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. He suggested that the group develop a landmark project to celebrate 30 years of the Vietnam – RoK diplomacy next year. Lotte is the fifth largest multinational corporation in the RoK, operating in the fields of retail, food production, processing & manufacturing, and research & development. In Vietnam, Lotte has been investing in business since 1996. NA Chairman Vuong Dinh Hue is in Seoul for an official visit to the Republic of Korea at the invitation of Speaker of the Korean NA Park Byeong-seug.

Source: <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/rok-firms-desire-to-invest-in-vietnam-in-long-run-911294.vov>

VASEP claims imported seafood regulations inadequate



Vietnam News | 13 December, 2021

HÀ NỘI — The Việt Nam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP) has sent a petition to the Prime Minister proposing the amendment of regulations on quarantine for aquatic products used for food. In the petition, VASEP said that the seafood business community had been facing big problems regarding quarantine regulations. VASEP said that

the State inspection of imported aquatic products carried out in accordance with the provisions of circulars on quarantine of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, were not the correct nature of an inspection activity as per processed seafood products used as food. VASEP said that in accordance with the circulars, products processed from animals, animal products or products containing aquatic animals, either frozen, dried, cooked or instant use continues to be on a list subject to quarantine. This made the scale and number of shipments subject to quarantine very large as almost 100 per cent of containers had to be checked before customs clearance, VASEP said. The maintenance and expansion of the list of "processed goods" that are subject to quarantine as prescribed in the circulars was an excessive and unnecessary measure, noted the association. It is not in line with the policy of reducing the list of goods subject to specialised inspection by the Government, or current legal regulations, or international practices, VASEP proposed in the document. The association also said that the regulations had "expanded" the concept of "animal products" compared to the Law on Veterinary Medicine and the Law on Food Safety, causing many processed seafood products to be subject to inspection, contradicting the specialised inspection principles for import and export goods as prescribed by the Government. VASEP said that while the Government was speeding up administrative reform and cutting down on specialised inspection

procedures, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development went against the Government's Resolutions 19 and 02. **Trương Đình Hòa**, VASEP secretary general, said that it was necessary to consider and remove the quarantine regulation for frozen processed seafood products imported for export production, processing for export and not for domestic consumption. VASEP also proposed removing the quarantine regulations for imported processed seafood products for domestic consumption that are assessed as having no risk of spreading aquatic diseases into Việt Nam. At the same time, he said it was necessary to amend the circulars used by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in the first quarter next year to clearly define import inspection activities in accordance with different product lists. — VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1106015/vasep-claims-imported-seafood-regulations-inadequate.html>
