

Highlight News / February 28, 2022



- Cambodia-China trade volume reaches \$11.2 billion in 2021
- Cambodia ranks 3rd in real income gains, export growth under RCEP trade pact: World Bank
- Australia pledges to support human resource development in Laos
- Myanmar's wooden Myanmar's border trade reaches over \$2.67 bln as of 18 Feb
- Bago Region pulls over \$110 mln foreign investment, K8.3 bln domestic investment in one year
- Fast-growing e-commerce fuels delivery service boom in Việt Nam
- Singapore leads FDI pledges in Vietnam this year



ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)

Cambodia-China trade volume reaches \$11.2 billion in 2021



Cambodia News | 27 February, 2022

According to Cambodia's Commerce Minister Pan Sorasak, the trade volume between Cambodia and China reached nearly \$11.2 billion in 2021. This was a 38 percent increase when compared to 2020. "The ASEAN-China Free Trade Area, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, and the Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement have all paved the way for the promotion of economic and trade cooperation between Cambodia and China," he said. Minister Sorasak said this after Cambodia and South China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region signed a memorandum of understanding on trade promotion, aiming at further boosting bilateral trade volume. The deal was inked on Thursday via video link between the Commerce Ministry's general directorate of trade promotion and the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region's Department of Commerce with the presence of Cambodian Commerce Minister Pan Sorasak and Lan Tianli, chairman of the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, the statement said. At the event, Cambodian firm Hang Harvest Agriculture also signed a deal to supply 400,000 tons of tapioca chips to Guangxi Rural Investment Group Agricultural Products Business Service from March 2022 to March 2023, it added. Speaking at the ceremony, Minister Sorasak encouraged more Chinese enterprises to buy more rice, corn, mangoes, bananas and other potential

agricultural produce from Cambodia. Chairman of the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region Lan said China is ready to import more quality products from ASEAN countries, including buying up to \$150 billion worth of agricultural products from ASEAN in the next five years. He said the memorandum of understanding and the tapioca chip export contract were a pragmatic cooperation and were a testament to China's commitment to increasing trade volume with Cambodia. According to Lan, the two-way trade between the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region and Cambodia reached 1.05 billion yuan (\$166 million) last year, up 63.8 percent year-on-year. He added that currently there are 71 enterprises from the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region investing in Cambodia in the non-financial sector. China Daily

Source: [https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501032375/cambodia-china-trade-volume-reaches-11-2-billion-in-](https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501032375/cambodia-china-trade-volume-reaches-11-2-billion-in-2021/)

2021/

Cambodia ranks 3rd in real income gains, export growth under RCEP trade pact: World Bank



Cambodia News | 06 January, 2022

Cambodia ranked third in real income gains and export growth under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) free trade agreement, showed a recent research paper by the World Bank. Titled "Estimating the Economic and Distributional Impacts of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership", the report said Cambodia came in third after Vietnam and Malaysia in terms of real income

gains. “All participating countries benefit from the RCEP, although the gains are not distributed equally and depend on the trade policy changes,” the 46-page report said. “Considering the full scenario, with reductions in tariffs, non-tariff measures, and trade costs, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Malaysia benefit the most,” it added. In terms of export growth, the report said Cambodia was expected to experience an increase of 6.5 percent, with Vietnam at the highest growth of 11.4 percent and Japan at 8.9 percent. Signed on November 15, 2020 and entering into force on January 1, 2022, RCEP is a mega trade agreement among 10 ASEAN members (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) and its five free trade agreement partners China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. RCEP covers approximately 30 percent of the world’s population and accounts for about 30 percent of global gross domestic product. Cambodian Ministry of Commerce’s undersecretary of state and spokesman Penn Sovicheat said RCEP is a victory of multilateralism and free trade, and it will become the core foundation for trade and investment in the region. “This mega-free trade agreement will inject new impetus into regional and global economic growth in the post-Covid-19 pandemic era,” he told Xinhua. Sovicheat said the trade deal will provide tremendous opportunities and benefits to Cambodia in the long term and that it will facilitate trade and

diversify exports of Cambodian products, especially agricultural products, to RCEP members. Xinhua

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501032201/cambodia-ranks-3rd-in-real-income-gains-export-growth-under-rcep-trade-pact-world-bank/>

Australia pledges to support human resource development in Laos



Laos News | 28 February, 2022

Australia has announced that it will support a second phase of BEQUAL, the Basic Education programme, with an estimated budget of AU\$28 million over the next four years. The announcement was made during an official visit to Laos by Australia’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women, Ms Marise Payne on February 24-25 in response to an invitation from Lao Minister of Foreign Affairs Saleumxay Kommasith. The two-day visit took place to celebrate the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Laos and Australia. In a speech to mark 70 years of diplomatic relations with Laos, Minister Payne said BEQUAL Phase 2 will continue the significant progress made under the first phase of the scheme since 2015. “It helps the Ministry of Education and Sports to complete a national roll-out of the curriculum for the full five grades of primary education,” she said. “A stronger basic education system will contribute to a more skilled and productive workforce, which in turn will help make Laos more resistant to shocks, lift incomes and contribute to stable economic growth. That benefits

not only your country, but our entire region.” Minister Payne also announced that Australia will extend funding for the Laos-Australia Institute which has been working since 2014 to support economic and social development. The first two phases of the Institute delivered a range of Australia Awards scholarships, Laos Australia National Scholarships and training and technical assistance for a number of people in Laos. “The next phase will invest AU\$16 million through to 2025, aimed at continuing to deliver highly skilled professionals to the Lao labour market,” she said. During their talks, Ms Payne and Mr Saleumxay said they highly valued the longstanding relations and cooperation between Laos and Australia since the two countries established diplomatic ties in 1952. The two sides reviewed their past cooperation and discussed plans for the future, particularly Australia’s support for Laos’ response to the Covid pandemic, human resource development, trade, investment, infrastructure and agriculture, according to the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Australia is committed to supporting Laos’ preparations for its 2024 Asean Chair year. Australia will support 24 emerging diplomats and officials to spend four months attached to Laos’ Permanent Mission to Asean in Jakarta, providing them with invaluable experience and skills working at the regional level. “While in Jakarta, these emerging diplomats and officials will

have the opportunity to interact with counterparts from recent Asean chairs, and meet with Australian diplomats in Jakarta, including our Ambassador to Asean, Will Nankervis,” Minister Payne said. Australia has been an important development partner of Laos for many decades, since the earliest days of the Colombo Plan which saw the first students from Laos begin studies in Australian universities. The first Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge, which opened in 1994 to ease travel across the Mekong River, was funded and built by Australia.

Source:https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Australia_40.php

Myanmar’s border trade reaches over \$2.67 bln as of 18 Feb



Myanmar News | 27 February, 2022

Myanmar’s trade with foreign countries through border gates reached over US\$2.67 billion as of 18 February in mini budget year 2021-22 financial year which started in October, according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce. During the period, the country’s export via border gates earned \$1.94 billion while its import shared \$730 million. According to the ministry’s figures, this fiscal year’s border trade decreased by \$1.92 billion, compared to the same period of last fiscal year 2020-2021 when it recorded \$4.59 billion. Myawady topped the list of border checkpoints with the most trade value of \$998 million, followed by Hteekhee with \$776

million. The country conducts border trade with neighbouring China through Muse, Lwejel, Kampaiti, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung, with Thailand via Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese borders, with Bangladesh via Sittway and Maungtaw and with India through Tamu and Reed borders, respectively. Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products, animal products, marine products, minerals, forest products, manufacturing goods and others while capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods are imported to the country. —ZYA/ GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnln.com.mm/myanmars-border-trade-reaches-over-2-67-bln-as-of-18-feb/#article-title>

Bago Region pulls over \$110 mln foreign investment, K8.3 bln domestic investment in one year



Myanmar News | 27 February, 2022

Between 1 February 2021 and 1 February 2022, Bago Region attracted foreign investments of US\$110.8 million and K8.329 billion of domestic investments made by Myanmar citizens, which creates 4,953 job opportunities for residents, according to the Bago Region Investment Committee (BRIC). At the BRIC's meeting held on 25 February, Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win delivered a remark that Bago Region is mainly depending on agriculture and livestock. As the region has an abundant source of raw materials to produce natural fertilizer, the chief minister urged

BRIC to invite investment for fertilizer plants. Furthermore, the labour-intensive garment businesses on a Cutting, Making and Packing basis are also prioritized as the regions have a strong workforce. The endorsements are granted only after conducting the social and environmental impact assessments. The investors are mandatory to strictly adhere to the rules and regulations of the Industrial Zone Law. Starting from the coming monsoon season, the shade trees will be grown. The chief minister directed the officials concerned not to have illegal squatting in the zone as well. Afterwards, BRIC Director U Ko Ko Lat explained capital expansion and extension of time in construction matters. The committee members also discussed investment-related matters and Bago Region Chief Minister guided the committee to process under the existing law, rules and regulations. — Tin Soe (Bago)/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnln.com.mm/bago-region-pulls-over-110-mln-foreign-investment-k8-3-bln-domestic-investment-in-one-year/#article-title>

Fast-growing e-commerce fuels delivery service boom in Việt Nam



Vietnam News | 26 February, 2022

HCM CITY — Việt Nam's e-commerce has been growing at a robust pace in the wake of COVID-19, fuelling a boom in transport and express delivery services. It was estimated that Việt Nam's digital economy has been developing at an annual average rate of 38 per cent since 2015, higher than the

average of 33 per cent in Southeast Asia. The COVID-19 pandemic has given a remarkable push for the revolution of e-commerce in Việt Nam, with four leading online marketplaces reportedly expanding around 8 – 50 per cent last year, according to a report by the Việt Nam E-commerce Association (VECOM). There was a significant surge in the number of orders on e-commerce sites from June to September last year, when social distancing rules were strictly in place to curb the spread of COVID-19, compared to the same period of 2020. The value of each order was 8 – 10 per cent higher than the projected figure at the beginning of the year. Various express delivery and transport services providers have been founded to meet the increasing demand. As of the end of September 2021, the number of postal service providers in Việt Nam had reached 650, up 67 from the end of the previous year, data from the Department of Posts under the Ministry of Information and Communications showed. The growing competition in the industry has forced many firms to apply the latest technologies and introduce various innovative solutions to gain a bigger market share. One of the industry's biggest companies – J&T Express – has launched its international shipping services J&T International to reach more customers at home and overseas. Brand Director Phan Binh said J&T Express has expanded its international freight routes to more than 200 countries and territories. In early January, the company expanded its network to the Middle East,

starting in Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Vietnamese delivery services companies have been constantly diversifying and upgrading their services to satisfy customers' specialised needs and provide enriched experience in an effort to heighten their position in the market. Advanced technologies, including the Internet of Things (IoT), Digital Twins, and smart and automated warehouse, are lending a helping hand to allow these companies to handle a huge volume of orders with improved service quality every day. Talking to the Vietnam News Agency, Anh Đức, a resident in HCM City, said he prefers brands that own both offline and online sale channels. For him, those having linkages with reputable transport and delivery services providers are more likely to gain trust among customers and offer them a wide range of products and better experiences. — VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1158307/fast-growing-e-commerce-fuels-delivery-service-boom-in-viet-nam.html>

Singapore leads FDI pledges in Vietnam this year



Vietnam News | 26 February, 2022

Singapore topped the foreign investors' list with more than \$1.7 billion, up 59.3 percent year-on-year in the first two months of this year. It was followed by South Korea with over \$1.4 billion, down 12 percent, and China with nearly \$538 million, down 29.3 percent, according to the Foreign Investment Agency (FIA) under the Ministry of Planning and Investment. As of Feb. 20, 51 countries and territories

had pledged to invest a total amount of \$5 billion in the country; 91.5 percent of the same period last year. FDI disbursement in the first two months rose 7.2 percent against last year to \$2.7 billion, the FIA said. The investments in the first two months this year had gone into 17 industries, with the processing and manufacturing industry dominating with an intake of over \$3.13 billion, or nearly 63 percent of the total registered capital. The real estate segment ranked second with a total capital of more than \$1.5 billion, making up more than 30 percent of the total. Among large-scale FDI projects registered in the first two months are one to build urban service infrastructure for the Vietnam Singapore Industrial Park in the northern province of Bac Ninh, which attracted an additional capital of \$941 million, and the Samsung Electro-mechanics Vietnam Company project with an increased investment capital of \$920 million in the northern province of Thai Nguyen. Ho Chi Minh City continues to lead in overall FDI attraction with more than \$52.8 billion, accounting for 12.6 percent of the total, followed by its neighbor Binh Duong Province with nearly \$37.8 billion and Hanoi with nearly \$37.6 billion.

Source: <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/economy/singapore-leads-fdi-pledges-in-vietnam-this-year-4432527.html>
