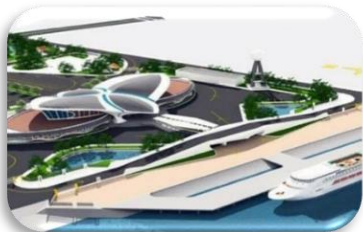


*Highlight News / March 31/2022*



- Construction of Kampot Tourism Port to complete in June
- Agricultural development policy targets modernisation
- Low minimum wage causing a worker shortage: LFTU
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President Biden welcomes VinFast's new electric vehicle and battery manufacturing facility in **North Carolina** — \$4 billion to create more than 7,000 jobs. It's the latest example of my economic strategy at work.




## Construction of Kampot Tourism Port to complete in June



*Cambodia News | 30 March, 2022*

The construction of Kampot Tourism Port in the Kampot coastal province is now at 93.41 percent and is expected to be completed by June 30, 2022. The update was shared by the Ministry of the Public Works and Transport (MPWT) following the inspection visit of Senior Minister and Minister of MPWT H.E. Sun Chanthol to the construction site yesterday. Built under the ADB financing of nearly US\$10 million, Kampot Tourism Port broke ground on Aug. 8, 2018 in Tek Chhou district, Kampot province. Once the construction is finished, Kampot Tourism Port will become an important gateway for national and international tourists, especially those from Thailand and Vietnam, and contributes to the development of the provincial tourism, creating job opportunities, increasing income and improving people's livelihoods. The port is part of a project to develop tourism infrastructure for sustainable growth in the Greater Mekong Subregion. AKP

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501049971/construction-of-kampot-tourism-port-to-complete-in-june/>

## Agricultural development policy targets modernisation



*Cambodia News | 30 March, 2022*

The inter-ministries finalised the discussion on the draft of the agricultural development policy for 2021-2030 yesterday, drawing high hopes for the policy to

promote agricultural development with a competitive, sustainable and inclusive approach. The meeting on drafting the final policy was chaired by Aun Pornmoniroth, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy and Finance, and chairman of the Policy Committee on Economy and Finance with participants from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries. The relevant ministries and stakeholders provide input to finalise the draft policy before submitting it for the approval of the Council of Ministers. Veng Sakhon, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, said that the draft policy on agricultural development is a long-term vision for modernising the agriculture sector in Cambodia. "The purpose of the policy is to promote the growth of competitive and environmentally friendly agriculture that provides high quality, safe and nutritious products with high consideration for land, agriculture, water, forest resources, fisheries and sustainable food security," Sakhon said. The modernising agriculture sector includes planting in nets, using water-saving irrigation systems, rice cultivation with minimal labour, and using agricultural drones, he said. "All of these are important foundations in promoting a competitive agricultural sector, climate change resilience and sustainability, aimed at increasing farmers' incomes, expanding prosperity and improving the well-being of the Cambodian people," he said. Hang Sokhun, President of Cambodia Agricultural Cooperative Alliance, said that the policy is a direct map of agricultural development in Cambodia and attraction

of investors to develop in agriculture, which is the basis of local economic development to increase agricultural products for export markets. “The government’s policy to support the agricultural sector is to help develop the local economy, pushing farmers in using modern technology and ensuring a market,” he said. According to the Agriculture Ministry, Cambodia exported 7.98 million tonnes of agricultural products in 2021, up 63.8 percent year on year. Shipped to 68 countries and regions, the Southeast Asian country earned gross revenue of \$4.96 billion from exports last year. Last week, Prime Minister Hun Sen said that agricultural products to China are on the growth path because the Chinese side has facilitated the import procedures from Cambodia, particularly under the Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement, which came into force earlier this year.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501049464/agricultural-development-policy-targets-modernisation/>

## Low minimum wage causing a worker shortage: LFTU



*Laos News | 31 March, 2022*

The Lao Federation of Trade Unions (LFTU) has called on businesses, including garment factories, to pay workers the increased minimum wage, which rises from 1,100,000 kip to 1,500,000 kip per month this year. The federation is concerned that Laos will face a shortage of skilled workers if companies do not pay the higher minimum wage, with many people already heading back to jobs in Thailand. Most of

them are skilled and can earn more money in Thailand, where the minimum wage is higher than in Laos. A senior Federation official, who asked not to be named, told Vientiane Times that the return of workers to Laos from Thailand when they were laid off from their jobs because of the pandemic had raised hopes that they would look for jobs in Laos. But the cost of living is higher in Laos and the minimum wage did not meet workers’ basic needs. Meanwhile, employers in Thailand have an increasing need for skilled workers and offer decent wages. Companies in Laos are suffering from a shortage of workers and there is a lack of accurate data around the situation which has given rise to issues such as informality in the recruitment process and a lack of employment protection. At the same time there is a lack of job market indicators on employment opportunities and unemployment, the official said. More than 50 percent of people who returned to Laos from Thailand went back in January and it is thought that number may now have reached 70 percent and that about 200,000 people have returned. “If we don’t do something about the wages offered in Laos, it’s likely that everyone who returned will head back to Thailand,” the official added. The Thai government has relaxed restrictions in relation to Covid-19, and undocumented migrant workers will be treated more leniently. Statistics from the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare indicate that more than 246,000 workers returned to Laos from Thailand since the start of the pandemic when large numbers of people were laid off, but that 150,000 skilled

workers returned to Thailand in January this year. A man from Savannakhet province said he had worked in a factory in Thailand for several years and earned 15,000 baht a month. This amount was enough for him to send some money to his parents and to pay his own expenses, because of the low cost of living in Thailand. He was laid off from his job when the pandemic hit and returned to Savannakhet where he found work with a company at a starting salary of 1 million kip. He worked for three months and then left because the salary was not enough for him to live on. Then he got a call from his former employer in Thailand, asking him to return. Lao nationals must get work permits and passports from labour officials before they can legally work in Thailand.

Source : [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten\\_Low63.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_Low63.php)

## Myanmar maritime trade up by \$2.27 bln as of 18 March

 *Myanmar News / 30 March, 2022*

THE value of Myanmar's maritime trade between 1 October and 18 March in the current mini-budget period of 2021-2022 soared to US\$11.59 billion, reflecting a significant increase of \$2.275 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce. Sea trade rose from \$9.3 billion during the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce. Commerce. While maritime exports were valued at \$5.17 billion, imports registered at \$6.416 billion. Both exports and imports have risen as against the year-ago period.

year-ago period. Myanmar's sea trade generated \$19.8 billion out of an overall trade value of \$29.5 billion in the previous FY2020- 2021, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated. Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials. The country currently has nine ports involved in sea trade. Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar's maritime trade and includes the Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port. — KK/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/30-march-2022/#article-title>

## New policy changes unlikely to affect corn exports

 *Myanmar News / 30 March, 2022*

THE new policy on corn export will not have a huge impact on corn exports, said U Min Khaing, chair of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association said. Those items including maize, starch, popcorn, seed, maize corn flour, cereal grains, millets, cereal groats, meal and pellets, buckwheat and canary seeds have been notified to seek export licence starting from 1 April 2022, according to a notification released by the Ministry of Commerce on 9 March 2022. "The policy changes will not adversely influence the exports.

One more procedure is added for the exporters. Earlier, the corns were exempt from the export licence. They can proceed with Form-D. It might cause some delay if some are not used to that procedure,” U Min Khaing elaborated. aborated. That action aims to ensure food security and national security and measure environmental impacts. Therefore, traders have to seek export licences whatever trade routes (maritime, border or air) they use starting from 1 April, in line with the export rules and regulations. At present, the corn FOB price stands at US\$320-340 per tonne while the corns fetch approximately K1,020-1,040 per viss depending on the corn quality in the Yangon market, according to Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Bayintnaung). Myanmar exported 2.3 million tonnes of corns to foreign trade partners in the previous 2020-2021 financial year. The majority of them were sent to Thailand and the remaining went to China, India and Viet Nam. At present, corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons — winter, summer and monsoon. The country yearly produces 2.5-3 million tonnes of corn. — NN/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnml.com.mm/30-march-2022/#article-title>

## President Biden welcomes VinFast facility project in North Carolina



*Vietnam News | 30 March, 2022*

VOV.VN - US President Joe Biden has welcomed a VinFast invested project to build its first factory in North Carolina as part of the Vietnamese firm's investment strategy to expand operations in the United States. "Today, Vinfast announced it will build an electric vehicle and battery manufacturing facility in North Carolina – US\$4 billion to create more than 7,000 jobs. It's the latest example of my economic strategy at work," President tweeted on March 29. In a statement released by the White House on the same day, Biden said since taking office, he has promoted an industrial strategy to revitalize domestic manufacturing and create jobs, strengthen American supply chains, and supercharge the industries of the future like electric vehicles (EV). "We see that strategy paying off day after day," noted Biden. "Last year, I signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to build out EV charging infrastructure and brought together the United Autoworkers and automakers at the White House to sign an executive order to get 50% electric vehicle sales share in 2030. "VinFast, the carmaker under Vietnam's largest private conglomerate VinGroup, announced its facility project in North Carolina, the first of its kind in the US. It plans to pour US\$2 billion in the first phase and will continue to pump more capital in future phases. The factory that will sit on 1,976 acres has been designed to produce 150,000

vehicles annually in the first phase. The firm plans to produce two passenger vehicles at the factory as well as electric buses, batteries for electric vehicles and ancillary industries for suppliers. At the Los Angeles Auto Show last November, VinFast introduced two electric crossovers the company said it would bring to the US market later this year. The firm also announced plans to invest more than US\$200 million to open a US headquarters based in Los Angeles, as well as more than 60 sales locations, multiple service centers and mobile service sites this year. "Having a production facility right in the market will help VinFast to proactively manage its supply chain, maintain stabilized prices and shorten product supply time, making VinFast's EVs more accessible to customers, contributing to the realization of local environmental improvement goals," Le Thi Thu Thuy, Vingroup vice chair and VinFast global CEO, said in a statement. The American electric vehicle market is becoming more competitive, home to Tesla, a host of EV startups and Detroit automakers, which have recently announced electric versions of longstanding models.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/president-biden-welcomes-vinfast-facility-project-in-north-carolina-post933876.vov>

## Seafood output hits 566,700 tonnes in three months



*Vietnam News | 30 March, 2022*

Hanoi (VNA) – Vietnam's total seafood output has reached 566,700 tonnes in the first three months of

2022, up 0.1 percent year-on-year, according to the Directorate of Fisheries under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). The directorate reported that the country now has 86 fishery unions in 16 out of 28 coastal provinces and cities, with nearly 17,700 members and over 6,200 fishing ships of 15m in length and above. Regarding preservation work, there are 354 ice production facilities, 640 cold storages with a total capacity of 78,700 tonnes, and nine establishments that can classify 240 tonnes of products per day. Localities nationwide have been urged to focus on restructuring fishing fleets and their fisheries, managing and tracing origin of products, monitoring fishing boats, and building plans on protecting and restoring aquatic resources. They have been also requested to strictly handle violations relating to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU).

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/seafood-output-hits-566700-tonnes-in-three-months/224285.vnp>