

## Highlight News / June 20, 2022



- 50% decline in Cambodia's cashew exports
- CDC approves almost \$80 million investment projects
- Migrant workers expect to send US\$4.55 million a month to Laos
- Grape cultivation thriving in Natmouk town
- Domestic shopping demand predicted to strongly rebound
- Vietnam, Malaysia partner in promoting timber trade



**Advisory Institute for Trade and Investment by TCC (AiTi)**



## 50% decline in Cambodia's cashew exports



*Cambodia News | 17 June, 2022*

Cambodia exported 394,800 tonnes of raw cashew nuts from January to May this year, a decrease of 50.70 percent compared to the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). Of this, 390,000 tonnes were exported to Vietnam, 1,300 tonnes to Thailand, 98 tonnes to India, 13 tonnes to China and 0.14 tonnes to Japan. Exports of processed cashew nuts accounted for more than 274 tonnes, down 69.52 percent, of which 136.68 tonnes were exported to China, 108 tonnes to Thailand, 20 tonnes to Japan and 9.80 tonnes to Taiwan. Giving a different estimate of the exports, the Cashew Association of Cambodia (CAC) said the country exported 574,359 tonnes of cashew nuts worth \$865 million from January to May this year, a decrease of 44 percent compared to the same period last year. Uon Silot, president of CAC told Khmer Times that cashew production continued to decline in early 2022 due to the weather conditions. "Climate change damaged the quality of the nuts. When the quality deteriorates, we will not get paid. We only got 20 to 22 percent of good nuts, so the price went down accordingly." Vietnam bought about 95 percent of cashew nuts from Cambodia, and most of the cashew nuts exported to that country were raw and dried, at a price similar to last year – 6,800 to 7,200 riels per kilogram for 30 percent dried cashew meat, Silot said.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501095726/50-decline-in-cambodias-cashew-exports/>

## CDC approves almost \$80 million investment projects



*Cambodia News | 18 June, 2022*

Six new investment projects worth in total \$79.9 million have been approved by the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC). The newly-approved projects are expected to generate nearly 2,741 jobs for the locals. Located in the provinces of Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang and Kandal, and Phnom Penh capital, the six investment projects will cover can, plastic bag, furniture and cloth making, bamboo processing, and car assembly, it added. Such investment demonstrates confidence of investors in Cambodia's macroeconomic, political and social stability as the country is recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Phal Sophanith – AKP

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501096391/cdc-approves-almost-80-million-investment-projects/>

## Migrant workers expect to send US\$4.55 million a month to Laos



*Laos News | 20 June, 2022*

Mr Phongsaisack Intharath. Many Lao workers continue to seek jobs in other countries to earn more income for their families. Lao nationals working in other countries are expected to send remittances worth about US\$4.55 million to Laos, which are an important source of foreign exchange. The overall development impact of remittances, however, has not been well established. Remittances are spent

primarily on day-to-day consumption expenditure, housing, land purchase, and debt repayment. Addressing the National Assembly last week, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Mr Phongsaisack Intharath, gave this response in reply to questions raised by Assembly members during the ongoing 3rd Ordinary Session of parliament. Although only a small proportion of remittances are directed into productive investments, this does not warrant the conclusion that the developmental value of remittances is negligible. Remittances given to workers' parents for the purchase of domestic goods and services in Laos are an important economic stimulus. The Lao Foreign Employment Agency manages and monitors at least 30 government agencies and private recruitment agencies and issues permits under the Labour Law, Mr Phongsaisack said. Remittances sent by Lao workers abroad must go through the Lao Foreign Employment Agency, which tracks and manages recruitment agencies. Before a company begins to recruit workers for jobs both within and outside of Laos, it must submit a letter from the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare to the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare in Vientiane or the relevant province to track and facilitate the recruitment of workers in each province, he added. In addition, all workers must have an employee card issued by the Department of Employment. The

Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare can take action to prevent employers from misleading workers after applying and filling out authorisation documents issued by local authorities, which are required before workers can be relocated. Training manuals are provided before sending workers to other countries. Recruitment agencies are also required to inform new recruits about the rules of employment and other regulations in their destination country, as well as travel and living conditions, and ways to contact the authorities if they encounter a problem. An online programme records data about workers sent abroad by a recruitment company and there is periodic monitoring and evaluation of the activities of each company. Employment of Lao nationals in other countries has many advantages, both for the workers themselves and for Laos, but at the same time there is a shortage of labour in some sectors of the Lao economy. If workers continue to seek jobs in other countries, the government will need to formulate policies to expand the Lao labour market abroad like any other Asean country.

Source:[https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent116\\_Migrant.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent116_Migrant.php)

## Grape cultivation thriving in

### Natmouk town



*Myanmar News / 18 June, 2022*

Grape cultivation on a commercial scale is prospering in Natmouk town, Magway Region.

Grapes are highly demanded in the domestic market. Grape cultivation can be seen in the neighbouring villages of Natmauk town. This small-scale business helps the villagers earn a living. Locals from Latkhokpin village, which is two miles away from Natmauk town, are also engaged in grape cultivation. They supply the grapes to the Natmauk town. The grapes can be harvested six months after pruning grapevines. The wholesale prices of grapes are K3,500-4,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) This year, Seintalone mango is abundantly flowing into markets. The sales of grapes are declining, for now, said U Wai Yan Soe, an owner of grape farms. There are different varieties of grapes — Italian grape, RG, Black Queen, No 3 and Chun. Black Queen and Moon Ball grapes are primarily grown. Prices vary depending on the different varieties. — KK/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnln.com.mm/grape-cultivation-thriving-in-natmauk-town/#article-title>

### Domestic shopping demand

### predicted to strongly rebound



*Vietnam News | 18 June, 2022*

Hanoi (VNA) – The domestic shopping demand is forecast to recover and gradually increase as Vietnam has recorded a relatively high vaccine coverage which helps ensure safety for consumers in shopping activities. According to the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the resumption of tourism will stimulate the demand for shopping and consumption, while the outlook for domestic

consumption will be brighter thanks to the recovery of production, the return to work of workers, and increased income. The ministry said it will continue to closely monitor the supply and demand, the prices of essential commodities to take timely regulatory measures; closely coordinate with ministries and sectors in price management to control prices and prevent hoarding, speculation and price manipulation activities. It will coordinate with the industry and trade departments of localities in the work, making reasonable recommendations and proposals to stabilise the market. The nation's total revenue from retail sales of goods and services in May reached 477.3 trillion VND (20.5 billion USD), up 4.2 percent month-on-month, and 22.6 percent higher than that of the same period last year. The figure increased 9.7 percent year-on-year to 2,257 trillion VND in the first five months of the year. Experts attributed the positive results to the abundance of goods and rising purchase power./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/domestic-shopping-demand-predicted-to-strongly-rebound/231338.vnp>

### Vietnam, Malaysia partner in

### promoting timber trade



*Vietnam News | 18 June, 2022*

Kuala Lumpur (VNA) - The timber industries of Vietnam and Malaysia have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to further develop timber trade in both countries. The signatories were the Timber Exporters' Association of Malaysia (TEAM), the

Malaysian Furniture Council (MFC), the Vietnam Timber and Forest Product Association (ViForest), the Binh Duong Furniture Association (BIFA), the Handicraft and Wood Industry Association of Dong Nai (DOWA) and the Wood Industry Association of Ho Chi Minh City (HAWA). The MoC will not only strengthen economic cooperation between the two countries but also create opportunities for Vietnamese and Malaysian manufacturers to promote their exports and imports. CEO of the Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) Muhtar Suhaili said Malaysia is committed to further developing its timber industry sustainably. Malaysia can benefit from Vietnam's higher foreign direct investment (FDI) in furniture manufacturing and access to the EU market through Vietnam's free trade agreements, he added. According to Muhtar, skilled manpower and availability of local labour will be an advantage for Vietnam, and the advantage of bordering with China will provide easier access for furniture parts and wooden panels. The MoC is in line with the ASEAN Summit agreement in 2000 where the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) was launched to narrow the development gap and enhance ASEAN's competitiveness as a region. It is also expected to protect the interests of both countries against regulations that may affect the interests of their timber industries. Malaysia's export of timber products to Vietnam in 2021 reached 38.44 million US\$ while Malaysia spent 148.25 million USD on importing wooden products from Vietnam. Addressing the event, President of TEAM

Chua Song Fong said Vietnam's timber industry has been growing strongly over the past decade and TEAM would like to capitalise on this and explore business opportunities in the country. Meanwhile, President of MFC Khoo Yeow Chong said Malaysia wants to increase its market share in Vietnam and the MoC can deepen investment flows for Malaysia, citing supplying furniture parts to Vietnam as a good possibility./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-malaysia-partner-in-promoting-timber-trade/231349.vnp>

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