Search With Keyword:['Vietnam', 'Bank', 'HCM', 'COVID']

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/society/1175579/8813-new-covid-19-cases-recorded-on-sunday.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/society/1175579/8813-new-covid-19-cases-recorded-on-sunday.html)

8,813 new COVID-19 cases recorded on Sunday

Students under 12 years old wait to be vaccinated against COVID-19 at Lê Hồng Phong Secondary School in the Mekong Delta province of Sóc Trăng on Saturday. — VNA/VNS Photo Trung Hiếu  
  
  
  
 HÀ NỘI — Việt Nam’s health ministry reported 8,813 new COVID-19 infections on Sunday, including one imported case, and nine deaths.  
  
  
 A total of 6,245 transmissions were detected in the community.  
  
  
 The capital Hà Nội still topped the list with 970 new cases, followed by Bắc Giang with 540 and Phú Thọ Province with 511.  
  
  
 The other new transmissions were found in Quảng Ninh (495), Nghệ An (442), Yên Bái (424), Lào Cai (325), Tuyên Quang (311), Vĩnh Phúc (302), Thái Nguyên (297), Bắc Kạn (278), Thái Bình (249), Quảng Bình (236), Nam Định (216), Hải Dương (207), Đắk Lắk (189), Hưng Yên (177), Gia Lai (165), Cao Bằng (163), Lạng Sơn (162), Lâm Đồng (162), Hà Tĩnh (137), Bắc Ninh (126), Ninh Bình (126), Lai Châu (120), Đà Nẵng (116), Bến Tre (107), Hòa Bình (94), Hà Nam (87), Hà Giang (87), Vĩnh Long (87), Quảng Trị (72), Thanh Hóa (71), Sơn La (71), Điện Biên (70), Bình Định (67), Quảng Nam (56), Bình Phước (56), Bà Rịa - Vũng Tàu (54), Hải Phòng (49), HCM City (48), Tây Ninh (41), Phú Yên (40), Quảng Ngãi (31), Đắk Nông (29), Bình Dương (28), Cà Mau (27), Bình Thuận (25), Thừa Thiên Huế (13), Đồng Tháp (10), Khánh Hòa (9), Cần Thơ (6), Bạc Liêu (6), Kiên Giang (5), Đồng Nai (4), Long An (4), Trà Vinh (4), An Giang (4), Kon Tum (2) and Hậu Giang (2).  
  
  
 The national caseload since the start of the pandemic now stands at 10,563,502. In the past week, the average number of daily new cases across the country has been 11,593.  
  
  
 The nine fatalities were in Cần Thơ (2), Đắk Lắk (2), Quảng Ninh (2), Bạc Liêu (1), Đồng Tháp (1) and Kiên Giang (1).  
  
  
 The total number of COVID-related fatalities in Việt Nam is now 43,013, or 0.4 per cent of total infections.  
  
  
 There are 612 COVID patients nationwide receiving oxygen support, including 54 needing invasive ventilation; one is on life support.  
  
  
 A further 4,581 patients were given the all-clear, taking the total number of recoveries to 9,086,075.  
  
  
 Across Việt Nam, 212,390,774 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered to date, of which 575,771 have been given to children aged 5 to 11. — VNS  
  
  
  
  
  

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/society/1175578/8813-new-covid-cases-announced-on-april-24.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/society/1175578/8813-new-covid-cases-announced-on-april-24.html)

8,813 new COVID cases announced on April 24

   
  
Cases were recorded in Hà Nội (970), Bắc Giang (540), Phú Thọ (511), Quảng Ninh (495), Nghệ An (442), Yên Bái (424), Lào Cai (325), Tuyên Quang (311), Vĩnh Phúc (302), Thái Nguyên (297), Bắc Kạn (278), Thái Bình (249), Quảng Bình (236), Nam Định (216), Hải Dương (207), Đắk Lắk (189), Hưng Yên (177), Gia Lai (165), Cao Bằng (163), Lạng Sơn (162), Lâm Đồng (162), Hà Tĩnh (137), Bắc Ninh (126), Ninh Bình (126), Lai Châu (120), Đà Nẵng (116), Bến Tre (107), Hòa Bình (94), Hà Nam (87), Hà Giang (87), Vĩnh Long (87), Quảng Trị (72), Thanh Hóa (71), Sơn La (71), Điện Biên (70), Bình Định (67), Quảng Nam (56), Bình Phước (56), Bà Rịa - Vũng Tàu (54), Hải Phòng (49), HCM City (48), Tây Ninh (41), Phú Yên (40), Quảng Ngãi (31), Đắk Nông (29), Bình Dương (28), Cà Mau (27), Bình Thuận (25), Thừa Thiên Huế (13), Đồng Tháp (10), Khánh Hòa (9), Cần Thơ (6), Bạc Liêu (6), Kiên Giang (5), Đồng Nai (4), Long An (4), Trà Vinh (4), An Giang (4), Kon Tum (2), Hậu Giang (2).  
  
 

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/life-style/1175251/hcm-city-hosts-abstract-art-exhibition.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/life-style/1175251/hcm-city-hosts-abstract-art-exhibition.html)

HCM City hosts abstract art exhibition

   
  
  
  
  
 Trần Nhật Thăng, 50, is known as a renowned abstract painter in Việt Nam. — Photo courtesy of the artist   
  
  
HCM CITY — The 13th solo exhibition of artist Trần Nhật Thăng has opened in HCM City with the title Miền không (Emptiness).  
  
He is displaying more than 30 large paintings, and the biggest is Miền xanh số 5 (Green Land No 5), 130cm by 480cm, a combination of six panels.  
  
Thăng, 50, has been known as an abstract painter since studying at the Việt Nam Fine Arts University. He fell in love with abstract art when he was a fourth-year student in 1994.  
  
From 1994 to 1998, he started researching materials such as dó (Poonah) paper on canvas, sawdust, sand, rope, spray paint, gasoline on oil paint, and many techniques for creating different effects.  
  
He returned to two minimalist colours: red and black, three years later. In 2008, he held a solo exhibition, Portrait of Freedom, only in black and white. But from here, he took 10 years out and painted nothing. In 2018, he returned with the exhibition Miền (Land), including 40 paintings depicting many sad moods.  
  
He then paused again for four years. Now, he has mastered the principle of living his life on his own terms, and he has returned to the attitude of drawing whatever he wants.  
  
“Because he doesn't lock himself in a creative ideal, because he doesn't force himself to draw like that to be professional or talented, Thăng's painting never falls into a state of the struggle of the ups and downs or goes as low as before. Each picture he paints is a new wind, flexible and gentle,” said painter Lê Thiết Cương.  
  
Trang Hạnh, owner of HAKIO – Let’s an Art gallery where the exhibition is taking place, said: “Personally, I am fascinated by the quiet atmosphere and peaceful feeling one gets when looking at Thăng's paintings.”   
  
  
  
  
 Thăng said his abstraction is about minimalist painting — Photo courtesy of the artist.   
  
  
The works in the exhibition have the same message. Whether it is clear in the morning with early dew drops, melancholy at sunset with wild sun streaks, or passion in the afternoon with rays of sunlight sparkling like pure gold, everything is filled with a simple atmosphere of silence and peace.  
  
“It is a feeling of wandering somewhere in front of mother nature, so gentle because it is so majestic!. It's so peaceful because it's so wild," Hạnh said.  
  
For decades since stepping into a painting, he has followed only one path, faithfully following his own approach to abstract painting.  
  
For Thăng, there is no way to happiness. Happiness is the way. It's happiness to live and make art.  
  
“This time, Thăng’s exhibition is in a monochrome palette, mainly black and white with grey and ivory white variations. Occasionally they highlight a certain colour, for example, a red streak or a piece of dotted ocher. Or there are the one-tone blue-white paintings of Chu Đậu ceramics or bleu de Hue-style ceramics,” said Cương.  
  
Talking about current inspiration, Thăng said his abstraction is minimalist painting.   
  
"It is close to stillness. Abstraction is painting without form, and it does not represent. It goes through the visible to feel, and it goes through the tangible of the phenomenon of the visual to the emotion to feel," he said. “The beautiful nature inspired me to paint, and Buddhism gave me the ideology to send messages to the artwork.”   
  
  
  
  
 Although using acrylic as the primary method, the artist still enjoys mixing other materials on canvas to create a special point of view. — Photo courtesy of the artist   
  
  
Thăng now finds happiness in ordinary life and everyday things. Although using acrylic as his main method, the artist still enjoys mixing other materials on canvas to create a special point of view  
  
In some paintings, the artist scatters gold, in others, he attaches bird feathers. For him, neither art nor life is flat.  
  
"The folds, stumbling blocks, and rough lines sharpen our touch, enriching our living experience," Thăng said.  
  
In Brown Abstract, he places a worn piece of brocade cloth in the middle of the picture, surrounded by streaks of colour mixed with hilly soil.   
  
"This is my heart, a person who has left Hà Nội and is now soaked in the love of his compatriots," he said.  
  
The exhibition will run until April 30 at HAKIO – Let’s Art, at No 38, Trần Cao Vân Street, HCM City. — VNS

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/life-style/1174749/taste-of-australia-kicks-off-in-hcm-city.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/life-style/1174749/taste-of-australia-kicks-off-in-hcm-city.html)

Taste of Australia kicks off in HCM City

   
  
World renowned Australian chef Luke Nguyen prepares a special menu with premium Australian produce like rock oyster, jade tiger abalone and lobster at the launch of Taste of Australia in HCM City on April 20. VNS Photo Thu Hằng  
  
HCM CITY — Taste of Australia, the annual celebration of Australia’s food and beverages in Việt Nam, began on Wednesday (April 20) in HCM City.  
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is held for the first time in Việt Nam since 2019.  
The programme hopes to spread the word about Australian produce and products available in Việt Nam, starting with a video series on a Melbourne-based Australian-Vietnamese chef Frank Pham that will feature premium Australian produce like beef, lamb, abalone, and rock lobster.  
The programme will also present a web series to highlight Australian wine varieties and their pairing with Vietnamese foods.  
It is partnering with nearly 40 restaurants in Hà Nội and HCM City to highlight the versatility and quality of Australian produce, fresh fruits and products.  
There will be an extensive nation-wide promotional campaign to bolster the image of Australian products sold at major retail stores such as MegaMart, WinMart, BRG, Kingfood, and Annam Gourmet Market.  
Speaking at the launch on Wednesday, Australian consul-general in HCM City, Sarah Hooper, said: “This year’s Taste of Australia programme will again showcase the best of Australian food. It will build on Australia’s international reputation as a supplier of food and beverages that are high quality, safe and sustainable.”  
The event will run until May. — VNS

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/pr/brand-info/1175187/tungsten-gets-crowned-the-world-keeps-an-eye-on-the-tungsten-supply-chain-from-vietnam.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/pr/brand-info/1175187/tungsten-gets-crowned-the-world-keeps-an-eye-on-the-tungsten-supply-chain-from-vietnam.html)

Tungsten “gets crowned”, the world keeps an eye on the tungsten supply chain from Vietnam

Growing old in resort-style nursing homesDigital transformation is fuel of consumer goods industryCoteccons wins series of large projects with total value of more than 10 trillion VND in Q1Vietnamese expatriates ponder a homecomingBiggest rose festival in the northwest to take place at Sun World Fansipan Legend   
  
The shift in demands sfrom gasoline to electric vehicles and military conflict are significant drivers of the Tungsten price increase. Global industrial manufacturers are now seeking the tungsten supply chain from Vietnam, seeing that a Vietnamese company has gradually emerged as the leading integrated supplier of advanced high-tech global materials.  
  
Strained supply chain  
  
With a strict lockdown policy, a focal part of China’s “zero COVID-19” strategy, global trade witnessed a sudden and complete halt in imports and exports, disrupting the global tungsten supply chain.  
  
Supply shortage, inventory at low level led to the high European spot price of APT (chemically extracted and separated tungsten concentrate as Ammonium Paratungstate). European prices for APT with 88.5% WO3 increased by nearly 39% at the early 2021 to $320-325/mtu at the early December 2021 according to the Argus Analytics’ outlook report.  
  
There is almost no new supply in the market for years. According to World Trade Organization statistics, the U.S., Europe and Japan consume about 55% of Tungsten but only produce about 5% of the total global supply.  
  
  
  
Not until supply chain tension and tungsten price rise did U.S. traders drastically seek for ex-China supplies. The U.S. may be rich in minerals, but there are no tungsten mines at all. In 2013, EMC Metals, an American tungsten mining company, strove to open Springer mine in Nevada to ease the pressure with domestic manufacturers. However, despite efforts to seek new supplies, the U.S. administration still has to import up to 40% of tungsten from China each year.  
  
China is restricting tungsten exports to the U.S. market, a notable highlight in the United States Geological Survey’s (USGS) 2019 Mineral Commodity Summaries.  
  
The global industry and defense cannot rely on the supply of tungsten from Russia as a large supply to cater for the shortage of tungsten.  Let alone the conflict’s impact in Ukraine today, Russia has struggled to maintain its role as China’s “competitor” in tungsten export to the global market for years.  
  
A study on tungsten development strategy, published in the U.S. Journal for Resources, Conservation & Recycling, asserted that 70% China’s tungsten reserves are Scheelite, a low-grade ore, energy-intensive mining, polluted and higher operating cost. This might further undermine China’s capability to supply raw tungsten globally.  
  
  
  
The latest forecasts all mention that the supply strain would not end soon. The global tungsten manufacturers and traders are facing two options, either participating in countries with tungsten mines to develop ore grades and process high-quality products for the world market or investing into new mines in other potential countries to compensate for the lack of supply source in the long term.  
  
New supply from the world’s leading integrated supplier  
  
The tungsten market regained its momentum growth late last year, after several years of oversupply and low prices. According to Mirae Asset Securities (MASVN), the recovery of the world economy after Covid-19 and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine have pushed the Tungsten price up to $350/mtu, an 11% increase compared to the end of 2021 and 24% higher than 2021 average.  
  
The price of Tungsten will continue to increase in the coming time, MASVN said. This company believed that the demand of change in automotive technology from gasoline to electric vehicles and military conflict are significant drivers of the Tungsten price increase, which is even projected to exceed the historic peak of $450/mtu established in 2011 when the world recovered from the 2008 economic crisis.  
  
The global tungsten market size continues to grow, regardless of all the challenges. In 2020, the global tungsten market size is USD 1775 million and expected to reach USD 2361.6 million by the end of 2027, at a CAGR of 4.2% in the period of 2021-2027, according to the report released by 360 Research Reports in the January 2022, a mineral market research company based in Maharashtra, India.  
  
  
  
According to data from the United States Geological Survey (USGS), Vietnam possesses the world’s third-largest tungsten reserves with 95,000 tons, running after Russia (400,000 tons) and China (1.9 million tons). Masan High-Tech Materials’ products at Nui Phao mine have gradually gained worldwide recognition, and therefore the company is becoming a partner of choice for major business partners around the world. Nui Phao is also one of the world’s largest proven tungsten reserves (ex-China), with 52.5 million tons of WO3 ore at the average grade of 0.21%.  
  
Now that production has returned to normal, many global industrial manufacturers desire to participate in the tungsten supply chain from Vietnam when seeing that Masan High-Tech Material has emerged as the leading integrated supplier of advanced high-tech materials. Some U.S. manufacturers also believe that the supply from Masan High-Tech Materials not only enables the U.S. market to ease its dependence on Chinese tungsten, but also avoids high import tariffs of 15% imposed on products from China since 2018.  
  
Masan High-Tech Materials’ ex-China market share is growing year by year, greater than 40% recorded in 2017, making it a major supplier of key industrial minerals, including Tungsten, Fluorspar and Bismuth.  
  
Currently, Masan High-Tech Materials focus on going downstream for all 4 product lines of Tungsten, Fluorspar, Bismuth and Copper, to improve the value of minerals. In 2020, Masan High-Tech Materials completed the acquisition of H.C. Starck Tungsten Powders and established a strategic alliance with Mitsubishi Materials Corporation, a Japanese Corporation, through an investment of $90 million, equivalent to 10% of Masan High-Tech Materials’s shares.  
  
“We are researching and developing advanced mineral materials and sourcing the stable and long-term raw materials for recycling”, said Craig Bradshaw, General Director of Masan High-Tech Materials.  
  
Up to now, Masan High-Tech Materials has had a big customer portfolio in the America and European markets, such as ATI Tungsten Materials (later being acquired by Kennametal) and receive their positive feedback on the product lines. “Our market position is particularly based on a strong ability to innovate, substantial investment in technology and highly skilled experts” said Craig Bradshaw.  
  
The world needs a steady supply of advanced materials and minerals to meet major global trends in renewable energy, electric vehicles, recycling, urbanization and sustainable development. Masan High-Tech Materials is not only ready to participate but also well-placed to lead technological developments in these areas. Masan High-Tech Materials has wisely avoided “direct competition” with Chinese producers. Instead, it creates a potential market to become a sustainable manufacturer, ensuring long-term supply for its partners.  
  
  
  

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1175279/bank-deposits-surge-in-wake-of-interest-rate-hike.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1175279/bank-deposits-surge-in-wake-of-interest-rate-hike.html)

Bank deposits surge in wake of interest rate hike

   
  
A customer makes a deposit at a bank in Hà Nội. Deposits at banks increased by 1.38 per cent to nearly VNĐ11.1 quadrillion in the first two months of 2022. VNA/VNS Photo  
  
HÀ NỘI — Thanks to increases in savings interest rates, deposits at banks increased strongly in the first two months of this year after declining last year.  
According to the latest data from the State Bank of Vietnam (SBV), deposits increased by 1.38 per cent to nearly VNĐ11.1 quadrillion in the first two months of 2022.  
Among the total, deposits of individual customers reached more than VNĐ5.46 quadrillion, up more than VNĐ56 trillion against January 2022 and VNĐ159.6 trillion against December 2021.  
Deposits of corporate customers were more than VNĐ5.63 quadrillion, down VNĐ8.8 trillion against December 2021.  
Last year, deposits of individual customers at banks declined as many depositors withdrew their savings to pour into more attractive investment channels amid declining deposit interest rates.  
Experts attributed this year’s growth to banks’ application of deposit interest rate hike programmes to attract depositors. Deposit interest rates at many banks have so far increased by 0.3-0.7 per cent against late last year.  
Most recently, VPBank announced the new savings interest rate list for individual customers from April 15. Specifically, the highest savings interest rate at the bank was raised from 6.7 per cent per annum to 6.9 per cent per annum, applicable to online savings of more than VNĐ50 billion on the term of 36 months. For smaller deposits, the new interest rate level at VPBank ranges from 6.1 per cent to 6.7 per cent per annum, up 0.4-0.6 percentage points against previously.  
Similarly, the 12-month and 24-month savings rates at VPBank both rose by 0.4 0.6 percentage points after the adjustment.  
At MBBank, new savings interest rates have been applied since April with an increase of 0.2 percentage points on short terms from one to three months and the long term of 36 months. The highest rate at the bank is currently 6.6 per cent per annum, against 6.4 per cent per annum as in March.  
Many other banks have also raised the savings interest rates for individual customers such as Techcombank, NamABank, OCB, SCB, LienVietPostBank, HDBank and ACB.  
Experts said the move to increase deposit interest rates at banks during this period is understandable when credit demand is rising significantly. Credit increased by 5.04 per cent by the end of March 2022, 2.3 times higher than the same period last year. This figure reflects the rapidly increasing demand for capital to serve production and business after a long period of stagnation due to the pandemic.  
Saigon Securities Incorporation has recently raised its credit growth forecast in 2022 to 14.5-15 per cent, 0.5-1 percentage points higher than its previous forecast. This will create significant pressure on savings and lending interest rates in the near future.  
In the latest macro report, VNDirect Securities Company also said it would be difficult for savings interest rates to remain low this year due to higher capital mobilisation demand when credit accelerates. In addition, the inflation pressure and fierce competition from investment channels such as real estate and securities will cause interest rates to increase in order to attract idle cash flows.  
This year, VNDirect forecast savings interest rates to rise by 0.3-0.5 percentage points and 12-month savings interest rate to reach 5.9-6.1 per cent per annum by the end of the year, higher than the current average rate of 5.6 per cent per annum. — VNS  
   
 

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/society/1165267/viet-nam-drops-covid-19-vaccine-certificates-quarantine-requirements-for-foreign-arrivals.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/society/1165267/viet-nam-drops-covid-19-vaccine-certificates-quarantine-requirements-for-foreign-arrivals.html)

Việt Nam drops COVID-19 vaccine certificates, quarantine requirements for foreign arrivals

Việt Nam surpasses 4 million COVID casesCOVID-19 patients told to check classify home wasteViệt Nam’s daily COVID caseload hits record high for three consecutive days14,978 new cases reported on SundayTwo additional COVID-19 cases linked to Omicron cases in HCM City   
  
  
    
  
  
  
  
  
 Visitors arrive at passport control at Nội Bài International Airport, Hà Nội. — VNA/VNS Photo  
  
  
  
 HÀ NỘI — The Ministry of Health late Tuesday officially issued the long-awaited COVID-19 protocols for foreign entries into Việt Nam.  
  
  
 The regulations state that visitors with negative COVID tests can enjoy quarantine-free travel from day one.  
  
  
 Travellers entering Việt Nam via air routes will have to present proof of negative SARS-CoV-2 tests (except for children under two years old) done within 72 hours prior to departure in cases of RT-PCR/RT-LAMP or within 24 hours in cases of rapid antigen tests, and the results must be certified by the authorities of the country where the tests are conducted.  
  
  
 People entering via road, sea, and rail will be subjected to the same requirements.  
  
  
 If entrants cannot show proof of negative tests, they are required to take a test (either using RT-PCR/RT-LAMP method or rapid antigen tests) in the first 24 hours from the time of arrival.  
  
  
 If the results are negative, they may travel outside of their place of accommodation, with public health measures still in place, if the results are positive, they must notify health authorities for further instructions.  
  
  
 Children under two years old are not required to take COVID-19 tests, and they can still enter Việt Nam and take part in activities outside of the place of accommodation with their parents or relatives even if they have not been vaccinated against COVID-19 or contracted the virus before.  
  
  
 Arrivals must make medical declaration before entering and use Việt Nam’s COVID-19 mobile application (PC-COVID, available in both Vietnamese and English on both iOS and Android) during their entire stay according to regulations.  
  
  
 At the border gate, if one shows symptoms of SARS-CoV-2 infection (fever; cough; sore throat; runny nose, stuffy nose; body aches, fatigue, chills; reduced or loss of taste; reduced or loss of sense of smell; headache; diarrhoea; breathing difficulties; respiratory infection, etc.), they must immediately notify the health agency at the border gate to take medical measures as regulated.  
  
  
 No mandatory quarantine is required, but in the first 10 days after entry, people should self-monitor their health and if any symptoms develop, ask for assistance from the nearest medical facilities.  
  
  
 Visitors are asked to frequently wear masks and disinfect their hands.  
  
  
 People without negative COVID-19 results prior to entry are asked to not make rest stops and make contact with other people along the way from the border gate to their place of accommodation.  
  
  
 Some prominent omissions in the latest official set of COVID-19 rules is that there is no longer a requirement for the COVID-19 vaccination or recent recovery certificates, multiple tests required before and after entry, or the need to comply with restrictions like avoiding gathering or keeping safe distance, like in previous proposed plans from the ministry.  
  
  
 The guidelines, released after the country fully reopened international tourism activities and reinstated pre-pandemic entry and exit regulations, replace all other previous COVID-19 rules for foreign entries and the health ministry asks local authorities and State agencies to quickly direct the implementation of the COVID rules to avoid spreading the virus among the travellers and the community.  
  
  
 It is hoped the relaxed regulations will ease concerns from international tour companies who have been desperate to welcome back foreign tourists into the country after two years of severe disruptions caused by the pandemic.  
  
  
 With these new COVID-19 guidelines, international visitors entering Việt Nam will be “treated the same way” as domestic visitors, as Deputy Prime Minister Vũ Đức Đam has promised late Wednesday.  
  
  
 The health ministry also noted that the new daily COVID-19 increases in Việt Nam remains significant and Omicron variant has been circulating in the community, however, with one of the highest vaccination rates in the world, hospitalisations and deaths from the virus remain at manageable levels, and the guidelines are part of the efforts to safely adapt to, and flexibly and effectively control COVID-19. — VNS  
  
  
    
  
  
  
  
  

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/society/1161585/viet-nam-surpasses-4-million-covid-cases.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/society/1161585/viet-nam-surpasses-4-million-covid-cases.html)

Việt Nam surpasses 4 million COVID cases

Việt Nam drops COVID-19 vaccine certificates, quarantine requirements for foreign arrivalsCOVID-19 patients told to check classify home wasteViệt Nam’s daily COVID caseload hits record high for three consecutive days14,978 new cases reported on SundayTwo additional COVID-19 cases linked to Omicron cases in HCM City   
  
  
    
  
  
    
  
  
  
  
 A student in Bắc Ninh Province receives COVID-19 vaccine. VNA/VNS Photo  
  
  
  
 HÀ NỘI — Việt Nam has exceeded 4 million coronavirus cases, as the country registered a record 125,587 new daily infections on Friday, with the capital Hà Nội breaking the 20,000 mark for the first time.  
  
  
 After the country entered its fourth wave of the virus in late April 2021, it took just over six months to reach 1 million transmissions on November 11. By January 15, 2022, it had doubled.  
  
  
 By February 24, it hit 3 million, and just eight days later the country has hit 4,059,262 infections.  
  
  
 Of the new cases, 79,992 were detected in the community and 19 were imported and quarantined upon arrival.  
  
  
 Hà Nội again topped the list of localities with 21,395 transmissions.  
  
  
 The other cases were in Nghệ An (6,657), Bắc Ninh (6,011), Sơn La (4,182), Quảng Ninh (3,919), Nam Định (3,870), Hưng Yên (3,702), Lạng Sơn (3,335), Phú Thọ (3,288), Bình Dương (3,201), Hồ Chí Minh City (3,070), Vĩnh Phúc (2,814), Thái Nguyên (2,670), Bắc Giang (2,653), Lai Châu (2,637), Hòa Bình (2,593), Tuyên Quang (2,582), Đắk Lắk (2,560), Ninh Bình (2,405), Yên Bái (2,385), Hải Dương (2,317), Quảng Bình (2,305), Cao Bằng (2,159), Khánh Hòa (2,142), Thái Bình (2,138), Hà Giang (2,124), Lào Cai (1,984), Bình Phước (1,958), Hà Nam (1,896), Điện Biên (1,806), Bình Định (1,703), Đà Nẵng (1,689), Cà Mau (1,608), Gia Lai (1,276), Thanh Hóa (1,128), Quảng Trị (1,110), Lâm Đồng (1,088), Bà Rịa - Vũng Tàu (1,067), Đắk Nông (894), Hà Tĩnh (846), Bến Tre (781), Phú Yên (776), Tây Ninh (697), Bắc Kạn (509), Quảng Ngãi (431), Thừa Thiên Huế (385), Bình Thuận (384), Quảng Nam (357), Vĩnh Long (341), Trà Vinh (313), Kon Tum (255), Bạc Liêu (250), Đồng Nai (179), Long An (154), Cần Thơ (133), Kiên Giang (130), Hải Phòng (106), An Giang (49), Đồng Tháp (48), Ninh Thuận (39), Sóc Trăng (38), Tiền Giang (23) and Hậu Giang (23).  
  
  
 On Friday, 48,044 cases were also added from Bắc Ninh and Quảng Ninh provinces, which were not logged previously.  
  
  
 Health authorities announced a further 97 COVID-related deaths, raising the nation's death toll since the pandemic started to 40,644.  
  
  
 The deaths were in Hà Nội (18), Nam Định (14 in two days), Quảng Nam (9), Nghệ An (6), Thái Nguyên (6), Đà Nẵng (5), Hà Giang (3), Quảng Bình (3), Bình Phước (2), Bình Thuận (2), Đắk Lắk (2), Đồng Tháp (2), Gia Lai (2), Hòa Bình (2), Kiên Giang (2), Lào Cai (2), Phú Thọ (2), Quảng Ninh (2), Tây Ninh (2), HCM City (2), An Giang (1), Bắc Ninh (1), Bình Dương (1), Cà Mau (1), Cao Bằng (1), Đắk Nông (1), Hậu Giang (1), Ninh Bình (1) and Yên Bái (1).  
  
  
 A total of 4,246 COVID-19 patients are in serious or critical condition, including 3,418 patients requiring oxygen, 294 requiring invasive ventilation and nine on life support.  
  
  
 38,911 recoveries were registered, bringing the total given the all-clear to 2,589,436.  
  
  
 To date, more than 196.3 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered in Việt Nam, including 179.5 million doses in adults, 70.8 million first doses, 67.5 million second doses and 25.6 million booster doses.  
  
  
 A total of nearly 17 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been given to children aged 12-17, including 8.7 million first doses and 8.2 million second doses. VNS  
  
  
  
  
  

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/society/1161481/covid-19-patients-told-to-check-classify-home-waste.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/society/1161481/covid-19-patients-told-to-check-classify-home-waste.html)

COVID-19 patients told to check classify home waste

Việt Nam drops COVID-19 vaccine certificates, quarantine requirements for foreign arrivalsViệt Nam surpasses 4 million COVID casesViệt Nam’s daily COVID caseload hits record high for three consecutive days14,978 new cases reported on SundayTwo additional COVID-19 cases linked to Omicron cases in HCM City   
  
  
  
  
 A medical worker collects waste from the home of COVID-19 self monitoring patients in Cửa Đông Ward, Hoàn Kiếm District, Hà Nội.— VNA/VNS Photo Minh Quyết  
  
  
  
 HẢ NÔI - COVID patients treated at home are being urged to be careful with their waste disposal to limit the risk of spreading the virus.  
  
  
 As cases continue to rise in the capital city, adding pressure to already stretched medical facilities and health workers, people self-monitoring at home can do their bit.  
  
  
 Back in January, Hà Nội’s People’s Committee has issued instructions on classifying, collecting and transporting COVID-19 patients' waste at both medical facilities and at home.  
  
  
 But some patients say they are still in the dark about the best measures to dispose of household waste.  
  
  
 V.Q.T, a resident living in Bạch Mai Ward, Hai Bà Trưng District, said his wife and mother both tested positive for COVID-19 and were being treated at home.  
  
  
 But he said he had not received instructions on how to deal with waste and still disposed of it as he would normally do in the past.  
  
  
 N.T.T, a resident living in Nghĩa Đô Ward, Cầu Giấy District said she and her son both tested positive on Tuesday.  
  
  
 After making online health declarations with the ward’s medical station, she did not receive any instructions on how to deal with COVID-19 patients' waste.  
  
  
 Currently, she put the waste into separated nylon bags, tied tightly and then her relatives would bring the waste to the waste collection point as usual, she said.  
  
  
 Nguyễn Trọng Đông, deputy chairman of the capital’s People’s Committee said the purpose of carefully disposing of waste was to ensure that pathogens would not spread during collection, transportation and treatment.  
  
  
 It also ensured the safety of medical staff and people involved in waste management, especially when the volume of waste had been increasing due to the complex developments of the pandemic, he said.  
  
  
 The committee had told the city’s Information and Communications department to work with districts’ authority to strengthen dissemination so that local people know the process of classifying and collecting COVID-19 patients' waste to minimise the spread of the virus into the community, he added.  
  
  
 The instruction says all waste generated by COVID-19 self-monitoring patients is classified as infectious waste and will be collected into a yellow nylon bag, which is tightly tied and then be placed in the second yellow nylon bag, also tightly sealed. The yellow bags must be labelled “Waste potentially infected with SARS-CoV-2”.  
  
  
 After that, the waste will be disinfected and transported by local sanitation workers to points designated to store infectious waste at medical stations of communes, wards or towns or mobile medical stations or temporary storages assigned by local authorities.  
  
  
 The transport of the waste from the COVID-19 self-monitoring patients' house is carried out by the environmental sanitation unit in the area in collaboration with the community-based COVID-19 prevention team in the commune or ward.  
  
  
 The vehicles transporting the waste must guarantee not to drop or allow the waste to leak. It is transported to storage areas at medical stations of communes, wards or towns or mobile medical stations or temporary storages assigned by local authorities.  
  
  
 Data from the Ministry of Health shows that Hà Nội has topped its daily record for recent weeks. On Thursday, the capital again topped its daily record with 18,661 transmissions, and 20 deaths.  
  
  
 A report of the city’s Health Department said that by the end of Thursday, the number of COVID-19 patients that have been treated in the city was over 641,242, including more than 634,109 COVID-19 self-monitoring patients. — VNS

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/politics-laws/955095/voters-in-hcm-city-excited-to-cast-ballots.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/politics-laws/955095/voters-in-hcm-city-excited-to-cast-ballots.html)

Voters in HCM City excited to cast ballots

Election Council reports voter turnout of more than 95 per centPM urges people to vote as he casts his ballot in Cần ThơMany constituencies report early high turnout rates in largest-ever electionVoters nationwide cast ballots as election day startsElderly man dedicated to spreading election information   
  
  
    
  
  
  
  
 President Nguyễn Xuân Phúc and his wife on May 23 participated in the launching ceremony for casting ballots for the election of deputies to the 15th NA and People’s Councils at  voting site No. 41 in HCM City’s Củ Chi District. VNA/VNS Photo Thống Nhất  
  
  
HCM CITY— President Nguyễn Xuân Phúc and his wife today participated in the launching ceremony of the election of deputies to the 15th NA and People’s Councils at all levels for the 2021-2026 tenure at voting site No.41 under election unit No.9 in HCM City’s Củ Chi District.  
  
They also offered incense at the Martyrs Memorial Temple in the district.  
  
The President and his wife were the first to cast ballots at the voting site. HCM City Party Committee Secretary Nguyễn Văn Nên was the next to cast a ballot.  
  
At 6 am, many voters throughout the city came to voting sites to cast ballots. They filled online health declaration forms, had body temperature checked, and washed hand with sanitisers before entering the voting sites. They also wore masks and kept a safe distance as required by the Ministry of Health’s regulations in COVID-19 prevention and control.  
  
Fishermen in Cần Giờ District’s Thạnh An Commune anchored their boats near shore to go to the commune’s voting site.  
  
Chợ Rẫy Hospital in District 5 collaborated with election team No.58 in Ward 12 to bring three ballot boxes to rooms of 1,274 patients and their relatives so they could vote.     
  
  
  
  
 Chợ Rẫy Hospital in District 5 worked with election team No.58 in Ward 12 to bring three ballot boxes to the rooms of 1,274 patients and their relatives. VNA/VNS.Photo Đinh Hằng  
  
  
District election teams were also bringing ballot boxes to houses of many seniors with health problems who could not go to voting sites.  
  
According to the city Election Commission, more than 5.6 million voters in the city are expected to cast ballots. They will elect 30 of 50 candidates to become deputies to the 15th NA and 95 of 158 candidates to become deputies to the People’s Councils at all levels in the 2021-2026 term.  
  
  
    
  
  
  
  
 Voters in District 10's Ward 15 check ballot boxes before the election starts. VNS Photo Gia Lộc  
  
  
As of 11 am, more than 2.6 million voters had cast ballots in HCM City, accounting for 46.8 per cent.   
  
The city has 3,618 people staying in quarantine areas and 1,042 at home.  
  
  
    
  
  
  
  
 A voter casts a ballot at voting site No. 94 in District 10’s Ward 15. VNS Photo Gia Lộc  
  
  
After casting ballots, President Nguyễn Xuân Phúc told the media that great national unity is the large issue that has received the most attention, directed by the Party and Uncle Hồ. The spirit of great national unity can be seen amid the natural disasters and floods that the country has faced, as well as amid wars and the country’s development process.  
  
The President called on more than 69 million voters throughout the country to promote this spirit and select talented and ethical deputies.  
  
Chinese-Vietnamese voter La Tiên, 92, who was the oldest voter at the voting site No.6 in Hóc Môn District, came to the site early to take part in the election’s opening ceremony. “I read the candidates’ biographies and action programmes carefully and voted for the best deputies.”  
  
Nguyễn Quốc Hưng, 80, who came to the voting site No.94 in District 10’s Ward 15, said: “Many candidates are young and talented. They will contribute to develop the country and carry out tasks well.”  
  
Bùi Thị Liêm, 69, of Thủ Đức City, whose husband was being treated at Chợ Rẫy Hospital, said: “It is convenient that the hospital’s staff and election team brought the ballot box to us. I am happy.”  
  
Nguyễn Trương Gia Khánh, 21, of District 12, said that this was the first time he had cast a ballot. He read candidates’ biographies and action programmes many times to select the best deputies in the election. “I am very excited to cast a ballot. I hope they try their best to develop the country and pay more attention to health and education development.” VNS  
  
  
    
  
  
  
  
 Voters keep a safe distance at a voting site in Tân Bình District. VNS Photo  
  
  
  
    
  
  
    
  
  
    
  
  
    
  
  
  

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/life-style/nom-nom/955650/nom-nom-vietnam-episode-90-stir-fried-noodles.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/life-style/nom-nom/955650/nom-nom-vietnam-episode-90-stir-fried-noodles.html)

Nom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 90: Stir-fried noodles

How virtual learning prepares students for the future that does not yet existNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 89: Noodles with duckNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 88: Fried tofu sandwichNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 87: Duck fried with garlicNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 86: Sausage salad   
  
  
  
  
 Stir-fried crispy noodles is a very popular Chinese dish in HCM City. The way the rich, savoury sauce soaks into the crispy fried noodles makes the meal simply irresistible!

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/life-style/nom-nom/945668/nom-nom-vietnam-episode-89-noodles-with-duck.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/life-style/nom-nom/945668/nom-nom-vietnam-episode-89-noodles-with-duck.html)

Nom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 89: Noodles with duck

How virtual learning prepares students for the future that does not yet existNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 90: Stir-fried noodlesNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 88: Fried tofu sandwichNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 87: Duck fried with garlicNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 86: Sausage salad   
  
  
  
  
 Duck meat is popular all over the world. In Việt Nam not only you can enjoy the delicious grilled-duck dish, but also try it with noodles. The grilled-duck is tender and perfectly mixed with the tasty dipping sauce. What are you waiting for? It would be a waste if you are in Hà Nội and don’t try this dish. — VNS

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/sunday/features/1175019/vietnamese-resume-foreign-travel-with-a-vengeance.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/sunday/features/1175019/vietnamese-resume-foreign-travel-with-a-vengeance.html)

Vietnamese resume foreign travel with a vengeance

   
  
  
  
  
 A corner at Singapore where attracts many Vietnamese tourists. Many people in Việt Nam are eagerly considering trips abroad after over two years of lockdown. — Photo courtesy of Singapore Tourism Board  
  
  
  
 By Thu Ngân  
  
  
 Đỗ Minh Phương, 38, of HCM City is excited as she prepares the documents needed to apply for visas for her family to travel to France this summer.  
  
  
 The feeling is amazing after two years of having no chance to travel abroad due to COVID-19, she gushes.  
  
  
 Many of her friends and colleagues also plan to travel abroad this summer, she says, joking that “It feels like people are taking 'revenge' after two years.”  
  
  
 A month on from the reopening of the country’s borders, with airlines resuming services to foreign destinations, many people are eagerly considering trips abroad.   
  
  
 On Facebook, it has been common in recent months to see people posting images of their trips to the UK, UAE or Canada.  
  
  
 Mai Hoàng Đạt, a visa service provider and tour operator, says so many are applying for visas to the EU that his company has reached “full capacity” and he has had to stop accepting applications for May.  
  
  
 Besides the Schengen countries, Singapore is also a popular destination.  
  
  
 Thanh Tuyền of HCM City says she and her boyfriend booked tickets to Singapore immediately after the country reopened for quarantine-free travel by vaccinated people on April 1.  
  
  
 “I have to test for COVID in Việt Nam and fly to Singapore. I am so happy after two years of having no chance to travel abroad.”  
  
  
 At a recent event to launch the Singapore Reimage Reopening Campaigning to welcome Vietnamese, the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) in Việt Nam said: “Border measures and health measures are streamlined to facilitate safe and seamless travel. Under this new travel paradigm for quarantine-free travel, travellers can take any flight to Singapore and are not required to undergo testing on arrival.  
  
  
 “All fully vaccinated travellers and children aged 12 and below are able to enter Singapore with a pre-departure COVID-19 test.”  
  
  
 To meet the strong demand for business and tourist travel between both countries, airlines have fully resumed their services from Hà Nội, Đà Nẵng and HCM City to Singapore.    
  
  
 From HCM City, there are now around 50 flights a week to the island nation by at least five different airlines.  
  
  
 John Gregory Conceicao, executive director, Southeast Asia, STB, said: “We are delighted to welcome back visitors from Việt Nam. Việt Nam has always been an important visitor market for Singapore, and we are excited for them to experience our new and reimagined offerings.”  
  
  
 Klook, a leading travel and leisure e-commerce platform for experiences and services, told Việt Nam News that it is seeing growing demand in Việt Nam for outbound travel.  
  
  
 Online travel platform Agoda recently listed the top destinations people in Việt Nam searched for. Thailand led the way, with Vietnamese seemingly keen to again savour its vibrant capital, stunning beaches, shopping, delectable food, and rich culture, Agoda said.  
  
  
 Singapore and Malaysia were in second and fourth spots, while neighbouring Cambodia was at number three.  
  
  
 The Philippines also featured in the list of top 10 searched destinations.  
  
  
 With no visa restrictions, endless tourist options and rapid resumption of flight services ensuring easy access, the attraction these countries have for Vietnamese travellers is unsurprising, Agoda said.   
  
  
 France, South Korea, Japan, and the US also feature among the top destinations for Vietnamese.    
  
  
 With large expatriate Vietnamese populations in all four countries, and France and the US also being home to large numbers of Vietnamese immigrants, Việt Nam might be beginning to see a wave of family-reunion travel from these communities, Agoda said.  
  
  
 “With borders remaining tightly shut for most of the pandemic, it is encouraging to see what looks like more than green shoots for Vietnamese travellers, Lâm Vũ, the website’s country director for Việt Nam, said.  
  
  
 “With Southeast Asia as well as some farther European and US destinations featuring in the top 10 searches it is clear travel has remained on the minds of many Vietnamese travellers.  
  
  
 “We believe the coming months will see a lot more loosening of restrictions, taking travel sentiment levels beyond the pre-pandemic era.” VNS  
  
  
  

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1175564/green-economy-is-the-trend-post-covid-experts.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1175564/green-economy-is-the-trend-post-covid-experts.html)

Green economy is the trend post-COVID: experts

   
  
Delegates at a forum on ‘green growth, green economy and circular economy’ in HCM City on Saturday. Photo thanhuytphcm.vn  
  
HCM CITY — Vietnamese enterprises should focus on green growth and the green and circular economies that have become a mainstream trend globally, the Green Economy Forum heard in HCM City on Saturday.  
Nguyễn Hồng Quân, director of the Institute for Circular Economy Development at the Việt Nam National University, Hồ Chí Minh City, said green growth strategies and awareness of green and sustainable growth have improved significantly among provincial administrations, the public and businesses.  
They have gradually made changes to businesses and daily life and made practical contributions to implementing the green growth strategy, he said.  
However, the Government and international organisations point out that Việt Nam's economy has not developed sustainably, and that quality, productivity, efficiency, and competitiveness remain low, he said.  
The economy is not stable because development still relied heavily on the exploitation of natural resources, capital and labour, and inefficient use of resources and energy has increased pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, he added.  
Experts said a green economy and a switch to green growth would help businesses improve their competitiveness and catch up with global trends.  
Changes in consumer behaviour due to COVID require manufacturers and retailers to meet green standards and transparently provide information.  
The growing ‘green lifestyle’ trend has brought new requirements for Vietnamese businesses in the race to enhance their competitive capacity.  
According to the director of the Institute for Brand and Competitiveness Strategy, Võ Trí Thành, two factors spurring green growth are digital transformation and the circular economy.  
Under free trade agreements, if firms do not adopt “green” production and business, their products would not find favour with consumers, thus their competitive edge is lost, he said.   
“Green growth is prompted by market demand, not just policies or legal regulations,” he said, pointing out that green growth has helped firms and brands become more resilient in both the medium and long terms.  
The Government has approved the National Green Growth Strategy for 2021-30, which sets out an overall goal of promoting economic restructuring in association with transforming the growth model that would incorporate environmental sustainability and social equity.  
Việt Nam showed its strong commitment to green growth at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference when Prime Minister pledged it would achieve its net zero carbon emissions target by 2050.  
To achieve its sustainable development goals, the country needs to achieve strategic breakthroughs in terms of institutions, human resources and infrastructure, and focus on innovation and science and technology, experts said. — VNS  
   
 

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/society/1175446/10365-new-covid-19-cases-recorded-on-saturday.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/society/1175446/10365-new-covid-19-cases-recorded-on-saturday.html)

10,365 new COVID-19 cases recorded on Saturday

A primary school student receives a COVID-19 vaccine in southern Trà Vinh City. — VNA/VNS Photo Thanh Hòa   
  
  
  
 HÀ NỘI – Việt Nam on Saturday reported 10,365 new COVID-19 infections nationwide, along with six deaths.  
  
  
 All the new infections were domestic, and a total of 7,412 transmissions were detected in the community.  
  
  
 The capital Hà Nội topped the list with 978 new cases, followed by Phú Thọ Province with 753 and Bắc Giang with 556.  
  
  
 Other new transmissions were found in Quảng Ninh (538), Nghệ An (456), Yên Bái (440), Vĩnh Phúc (397), Tuyên Quang (338), Lào Cai (334), Gia Lai (318), Đắk Lắk (318), Thái Nguyên (314), Thái Bình (276), Quảng Bình (271), Bắc Kạn (266), Hải Dương (257), Bà Rịa - Vũng Tàu (210), Nam Định (208), Hưng Yên (199), Bắc Ninh (198), Lâm Đồng (195), Hòa Bình (183), Cao Bằng (178), Lạng Sơn (174), Hà Giang (153), Ninh Bình (144), Điện Biên (129), Hà Nam (125), Sơn La (123), Đà Nẵng (108), Vĩnh Long (97), Quảng Trị (87), Lai Châu (82), Bình Phước (80), Thanh Hóa (79), Hải Phòng (78), HCM City (76), Tây Ninh (75), Đắk Nông (74), Bình Định (71), Quảng Nam (63), Cà Mau (42), Phú Yên (42), Bến Tre (40), Quảng Ngãi (31), Bình Dương (29), Thừa Thiên Huế (27), Kiên Giang (26), Bạc Liêu (25), Khánh Hòa (20), Bình Thuận (19), An Giang (15), Long An (14), Trà Vinh (12), Đồng Nai (11), Hậu Giang (4), Kon Tum (4), Đồng Tháp (3) and Cần Thơ (2).  
  
  
 The national caseload since the start of the pandemic now stands at 10,554,689. In the past week, the country saw an average of 12,428 new infections daily.  
  
  
 The six fatalities were in Cao Bằng (1), Đồng Nai (1), Hà Tĩnh (1), Kiên Giang (1), Phú Thọ (1) and Quảng Bình (1).  
  
  
 The total number of COVID-related fatalities in Việt Nam is now 43,004, or 0.4 per cent of total infections.  
  
  
 There are 685 COVID patients nationwide who require oxygen support, including 68 requiring invasive ventilation and two on life support.  
  
  
 A further 2,229 patients were given the all-clear, taking the total number of recoveries to 9,081,494.  
  
  
 Nearly 212 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in the country to date, of which 374,255 have been given to children aged 5 to 11. — VNS  
  
  
  
  
  

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/society/1175443/10365-new-covid-cases-announced-on-april-23.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/society/1175443/10365-new-covid-cases-announced-on-april-23.html)

10,365 new COVID cases announced on April 23

   
  
Cases were recorded in Hanoi (978), Phu Tho (753), Bac Giang (556), Quang Ninh (538), Nghe An (456), Yen Bai (440), Vinh Phuc (397), Tuyen Quang (338), Lao Cai (334), Gia Lai (318), Dak Lak (318), Thai Nguyen (314), Thai Binh (276), Quang Binh (271), Bac Kan (266) ), Hai Duong (257), Ba Ria - Vung Tau (210), Nam Dinh (208), Hung Yen (199), Bac Ninh (198), Lam Dong (195), Hoa Binh (183), Cao Bang ( 178), Lang Son (174), Ha Giang (153), Ninh Binh (144), Dien Bien (129), Ha Nam (125), Son La (123), Da Nang (108), Vinh Long (97) , Quang Tri (87), Lai Chau (82), Binh Phuoc (80), Thanh Hoa (79), Hai Phong (78), City. Ho Chi Minh City (76), Tay Ninh (75), Dak Nong (74), Binh Dinh (71), Quang Nam (63), Ca Mau (42), Phu Yen (42), Ben Tre (40), Quang Ninh Ngai (31), Binh Duong (29), Thua Thien Hue (27), Kien Giang (26), Bac Lieu (25), Khanh Hoa (20), Binh Thuan (19), An Giang (15), Long An (14), Tra Vinh (12), Dong Nai (11), Hau Giang (4), Kon Tum (4), Dong Thap (3), Can Tho (2).  
  
 

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/indochinacapital/772373/surviving-the-second-wave-how-city-hotels-can-curb-the-impacts-of-covid-19.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/indochinacapital/772373/surviving-the-second-wave-how-city-hotels-can-curb-the-impacts-of-covid-19.html)

Surviving the second wave: How city hotels can curb the impacts of COVID-19

Việt Nam hospitality: affordable business hotels offer good opportunities for reboundHow can Vietnam’s real estate market brave the cold   
  
Insights from Indochina Capital consultants  
  
  
  
Just before July 27, Việt Nam’s tourism sector was on its way to an impressive recovery relative to the rest of the world; thanks to the summer holidays, top tourist hotspots were packed with local travellers looking to enjoy the sun, bolstered by promotions launched to boost domestic tourism as borders were likely to be closed for at least another quarter.  
  
Flight routes approached 80 per cent traffic capacity during Tết, the busiest time of the year. According to the Việt Nam National Association of Tourism (VNAT), in June, many provinces recorded an increase of 1.5-3 times the number of arrivals of May, whereby Sa Pa recorded an increase of 2.65 times, Quảng Ninh 3.23 times, Quy Nhơn 2.8 times and Phú Yên 1.5 times. VNAT also estimates more than 31 million domestic arrivals for the first seven months of 2020, with 8 million corresponding to July alone – more than a quarter of travel for the entire year in just one month.  
  
All of this momentum came to an abrupt halt the weekend of July 26, reverting the COVID-19 sentiment to panic and freezing Việt Nam’s economy as a whole and tourism in particular once again. Within two days, 31,000 guests from HCM City cancelled their bookings; an estimated 70-80 per cent of tour groups scheduled for the end of July and beginning of August travels from Ha Noi cancelled, and although most cancellations involved Đà Nẵng, a ripple effect was seen as tours to Phú Quốc, Đà Lạt and Nha Trang were affected as well. VNAT expressed concerns that many travel and accommodation companies would not be able to recover from the second wave of COVID-19 as losses exceeded predictions after six months.  
  
The performance of city hotels, especially in the economic centre of HCM City and the old quarter of Hà Nội, suffered the most with the absence of inbound foreign travellers. Minimising losses by cutting expenses, rotating personnel, focusing on food and beverage (F&B) services and staycation packages were a number of measures employed to help generate revenue, but have barely been enough to cover the high operational costs.  
  
Instead of focusing on costs and staff rotations, owners need to consider a structural shift. Some examples include retaining quality personnel while ensuring adaptability and flexibility, streamlining operational processes for greater efficiency, refining product offerings, filtering and localising supply chains, and providing cross-training to personnel to add new capabilities such as delivery and takeout for F&B services while maintaining new health and safety standards and protocols. Cash flow models should be updated weekly or bi-weekly with actual against budget comparisons.    
  
More importantly, the pandemic creates an environment where close collaboration and co-operation between tourism stakeholders is essential for lasting success. We now live in a world where outbreaks will become increasingly frequent and we must accept the realities of a post-COVID world. The decades-old traditional hotel model is a thing of the past and owners and operators who adapt the quickest will reap the benefits in the long-term.  
  
At a local level, hotels should work closely with F&B, travel and transport companies to overcome booking cancellations and generate more commercial opportunities behind creative solutions that go beyond a hotel’s core services. Strategic partnerships involving comprehensive packages with improved flexibility on duration of redemption and leisure activities unique to the location of each hotel can help all parties avoid cancellations and boost consumption by giving customers the sense of control and an opportunity to rediscover their home city. The collaboration can also work together to exchange market research and put together campaigns to  understand customers’ behavioural changes to grasp what consumers are looking for as the pandemic evolves.  
  
Regionally, hoteliers can rally owners, developers, consultants, government agencies and authorities to create private-public taskforces for the modernisation and strategic positioning of recovery mechanisms, working together to ensure every company is uniquely positioned to capture growth opportunities and is co-ordinating to overcome the crisis – as partners rather than competitors.  
  
Information sharing is crucial to all stakeholders, especially owners and developers, as thorough understanding of operational readiness against crises will help as parties build operational protocols for the future. Local developers should seek international consultants and hotel management experts for comprehensive and specific solutions, from eliminating risks of contamination through common water and ventilation systems, limiting the touching of shared surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, to forecasting demand and optimising opening dates at the expense of development.  
  
Hospitality stakeholders need to co-ordinate multiple taskforce management teams to facilitate quick assessment and decision-making that will ensure hotels are strategically positioned to perform during and post-pandemic. While it's understandable that most players will initially be apprehensive in sharing information and co-operating with different stakeholders (and supposed competitors), we must take the long-term view and contribute to building resilience and ensure the continuity of the hospitality business.  
  
  
  

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/indochinacapital/654120/how-can-vietnams-real-estate-market-brave-the-cold.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/indochinacapital/654120/how-can-vietnams-real-estate-market-brave-the-cold.html)

How can Vietnam’s real estate market brave the cold

Surviving the second wave: How city hotels can curb the impacts of COVID-19Việt Nam hospitality: affordable business hotels offer good opportunities for rebound   
  
Insights from Indochina Capital consultants  
  
  
    
  
  
 Categorised as a global pandemic, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is having a drastic impact on all nations across the globe. From flight cancellations, travel restrictions, conferences and business gatherings being delayed, to millions of workers encouraged to work from home or stay at home, COVID-19 is affecting global supply chains and financial markets around the world.  
  
  
 Over the last couple of weeks, the situation has become more and more distressing with the rise in confirmed cases in Vietnam. The outbreak’s effect on the local real estate market has been significant. The hardest hit sectors, where immediate impacts can be observed, are hotels, retail, entertainment venues and other tourism-related assets.  
  
  
 With the near complete shutdown of international and local travel, occupancy rates at hotels have plummeted. Hotel owners and developers have had to make the hard decision of letting staff go, or worse shutting down their properties for the foreseeable future. The highly anticipated Vietnam Grand Prix has been postponed indefinitely. Hanoi and Saigon have shut down all public entertainment places and the tourism industry has lost billions of dollars in January and February alone.  
  
  
 In retail, the rise of social distancing has been devastating for consumption. With the sight of empty malls and shopping centers, most tenants have asked for rent reductions up to 50% during the outbreak, which will in turn put pressure on owners and landlords who will have to balance the livelihood of their businesses and morale during these turbulent times. Similar to the hospitality segment, where prices are being slashed by the day, companies who develop long-term strategies to transform the sector will benefit greatly further down the line, allowing them to recover from the detrimental effects of the virus outbreak.  
  
  
 Residential real estate is seeing a short-term negative impact as travel bans are preventing buyers from visiting and closing deals, especially as China, South Korea and Japan account for a large proportion of international demand in Vietnam’s residential sector. New projects are also not being launched to avoid social gatherings and the increased risk of infection. Nonetheless, compared to competitors in the region, Vietnam still has one of the highest rental yields and lowest real estate prices. Thus, we can expect interest from foreign buyers to remain high – they are only suspending their investment plans in response to travel bans and focusing on their own well-being amid COVID-19. In the long-run, we can expect to see local and international demand return to their previous levels.  
  
  
 In the industrial segment, the outbreak is disrupting the global supply chain, hence slowing down the growth of this sector; however, it is likely that the outbreak will push international manufacturers to diversify their production and supplier bases. Once the spread of the virus slows, the logistics industry in Vietnam will continue to be highly desirable due to geopolitical factors, lower labor costs and new foreign trade agreements, which will help Vietnam attract foreign investors looking to set up plants outside of China. Samsung has already moved part of its production to Vietnam and stringent containment efforts in the country have allowed companies to keep local plants open and under operation. As a result of COVID-19, health and safety procedures at factories and workplaces will progressively become a competitive advantage as production cannot be carried out remotely.  
  
  
 Instead of the previous wait-and-see approaches or halting of activities until the end of the outbreak, real estate companies need to prepare action plans as soon as possible, including prompt measures to curb the temporary effects of COVID-19, and longer term strategies to reduce its potential prolonged negative effects on the entire market.  
  
  
 In the short-term, operators, retailers and owners should sit down to review fixed costs. Reducing service offering and shutting down parts of their facilities are ways to save energy and reduce workload on their personnel. Flexibility, including remote working and effective rotation plans for staff, could help companies maintain operational continuity while securing income to all employees. This will be key in the short term as events take unpredictable turns every day.  
  
  
 In the longer term, companies should review budgeting and financial expectations for the next 12-24 months, as well as break down their customers into segments to forecast expected decreases in demand for each segment. Shopping centers must adapt to provide multichannel options that could help boost future visits and ensure business stability if another epidemic were to trigger travel restrictions.  
  
  
 With recent developments of the COVID-19, it is safe to say that it will leave the global economy and Vietnam real estate market with significant near-term damage. Current drastic prevention and precautionary measures are unprecedented, and though we cannot fully estimate the impact of COVID-19 on the market, its initial effects on the market have been troubling. It is an imperative for companies to stay proactive and act promptly, staying flexible in the short term while coming up with strategies to transform their sector and reduce prolonged repercussions should a similar event occur again. Opportunity arises during dark times, and companies that innovate and plan accordingly are those who will come out on top when we return to normalcy.

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/life-style/1174711/vcca-to-create-food-map-for-100-vietnamese-dishes.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/life-style/1174711/vcca-to-create-food-map-for-100-vietnamese-dishes.html)

VCCA to create food map for 100 Vietnamese dishes

Vietnamese 'bánh mỳ' (bread) is a popular street food that has won the favour of many foreign visitors. — VNA/VNS Photo  
  
  
  
 HÀ NỘI — The Vietnam Culinary and Cultural Association (VCCA) is selecting about 100 Vietnamese dishes across the country to create a digital food map.  
  
  
 Vice President of the VCCA Lã Quốc Khánh said that the selection of 100 Vietnamese dishes has been the first step in a broader plan.  
  
  
 "At the end of the first phase, we will build a list of 100 dishes typical for each of the country's North, Central and South regions," Khánh told Thanh Niên (Young People) newspaper.  
  
  
 In late March, the association conducted surveys in five northern provinces and cities of Nam Định, Hà Nam, Thái Nguyên, Phú Thọ and Hà Nội, with the participation of food artisans such as Phan Gia Tôn Hiền, Hồ Đắc Thiếu Anh, Nguyễn Thị Hiền and Lê Thị Thiết.  
  
  
 The association plans to build a list comprising 1,000 dishes next year to create a mapped database of Vietnamese food.  
  
  
 “Besides collecting and discovering typical delicacies, information must be associated with that local area. The artisans will also have explanations about the history, culture, and cooking method,” Khánh said.  
  
  
 According to the official, people who enjoy it will have the opportunity to vote for the dishes that they consider typical of the region.  
  
  
 The digital food map is projected to be completed by 2024 with the building of a Vietnamese cuisine museum in Huế ancient capital city.  
  
  
 President of the Việt Nam Chef Association Nguyễn Thường Quân said that services and food safety standards were also required in the building of such a list.  
  
  
 The project aims to promote Vietnamese cuisine and attract visitors to Việt Nam, as gastronomy may serve as a core value of the country’s tourism, said Dr Nguyễn Thu Thủy from the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Viêt Nam National University.  
  
  
 “In my opinion, the cuisine is the core value to attract tourists to our country. Vietnamese cuisine is delicious, but until now, it has not yet been strongly promoted in mass media so that it can become a core value of tourism. As suggested decades ago by the father of modern marketing, Philip Kotler, we can become a 'kitchen of the world.'” — VNS 

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/environment/1173131/hcm-city-to-build-on-environmental-breakthroughs-improve-life-quality.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/environment/1173131/hcm-city-to-build-on-environmental-breakthroughs-improve-life-quality.html)

HCM City to build on environmental breakthroughs, improve life quality

   
  
  
  
  
 Volunteers clean up the Bà Lựu Canal in HCM City’s District 8. — VNS Photo Nguyễn Diệp  
  
  
  
 HCM CITY — Greater public awareness and action, especially in classifying garbage at source, is a breakthrough that HCM City will build on to environment quality in the coming decade.  
  
  
 Improving environmental quality while adapting to climate change and preventing re-pollution will be important tasks that the city will undertake as it targets its sustainable development, a senior official says.  
  
  
 It will also focus on preventing and minimising the impact of wastewater, emissions and solid waste on the environment in the industrial and service sectors, said Nguyễn Toàn Thắng, director of the city’s Department of Natural Resources and Environment.  
  
  
 The city will strengthen communication activities so that the press and other media services can play a bigger role in environmental protection and climate change response, he added.  
  
  
 It will also introduce preferential policies to attract investment in the field of environment protection, ensuring favourable and equal access for all investors.  
  
  
 Furthermore, it will improve management capacities, develop human resources, modernise facilities, and tighten inspection and control over the management and use of natural resources.  
  
  
 Thắng said that HCM City will strengthens linkages and cooperation with other provinces and cities as well as international cooperation in managing and resolving issues relating to natural resources, environment protection and climate change adaption.  
  
  
 The city will continue to promote investment in advanced technologies and encourage their use in production and business and combine waste treatment with energy generation.  
  
  
 It will invest about VNĐ41 trillion (US$1.8 billion) in modern facilities that will increase wastewater treatment rate to 58 per cent in 2025 and 88.3 per cent in 2030.  
  
  
 More rubbish bins and surveillance cameras will be installed to detect littering violations.  
  
  
 As the nation’s economic locomotive, HCM City faces many challenges, including pollution. About 1,300 factories in industrial parks and 3,000 small- and large-scale production establishments outside industrial parks operate in the city.  
  
Last five years   
  
  
 The city has been able to make headway in meeting these challenges with its pollution reduction programme for the 2016-20 period, Thắng said.  
  
  
 “The greatest success of the programme is public awareness of environmental protection has been improved and response to climate change stepped up,” he said.  
  
  
 Under the five-year programme, all industrial parks set up wastewater treatment systems and all landfills met sanitation requirements.  
  
  
 All residents gained access to clean water that meets standards set by the Ministry of Health; and more wards, communes, and towns met the "Clean, Green and Environment-friendly Locality" standard.  
  
  
 Several pollution hotspots in the city have been completely cleaned up by local authorities and residents. Many of them have been replaced by flower gardens, parks, and public spaces for community activities.  
  
  
 “Making people more aware of classifying garbage at source has been one of the most significant breakthroughs in this period,” Thắng said.  
  
  
 Local residents have reduced their use of plastic bags and changed their habits by using more environmentally friendly products.  
  
  
 Many campaigns on calling people not to throw waste into waterways and public spaces have had positive impacts in improving environmental sanitation and in reducing air, surface water, and ground water pollution.  
  
  
 The city installed an additional 34,000 rubbish bins and 28,000 surveillance cameras to detect and punish littering violations.  
  
  
 Authorities have strictly punished anyone caught dumping rubbish in unauthorised areas including sidewalks, roads or the drainage system.  
  
  
 The deployment of software to track violations of urban order has helped improve resolution of complaints.  
  
  
 More than 2,000 working models on reducing environmental pollution have been implemented in the city, Thắng asserted.  
  
  
 People of all ages, including youth union members, students, armed forces, the retired and the elderly, have participated in environmental protection activities.  
  
  
 The rate of renewable energy use increased slightly above the target set for the five-year period.  
  
  
 The city regularly dredges and collects waste, water hyacinth and cuts wild grass, improving water flow and promoting urban hygiene.  
  
  
 It has built and put into operation three new plants using advanced technologies that generate electricity from waste.  
  
  
 Solid waste collection, transportation, and treatment have been done in a timely fashion, eliminating the waste backlog problem. An average of 8,500 tonnes of waste is treated each day in the city.  
  
  
 Thắng said that in the coming years, the city will work harder on improving the quality of life by ensuring environmental sanitation, raising public awareness of environmental protection, and strengthening its climate change response. — VNS       

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/print/8813-new-covid-19-cases-recorded-on-sunday/1175579.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/print/8813-new-covid-19-cases-recorded-on-sunday/1175579.html)

8,813 new COVID-19 cases recorded on Sunday

Students under 12 years old wait to be vaccinated against COVID-19 at Lê Hồng Phong Secondary School in the Mekong Delta province of Sóc Trăng on Saturday. — VNA/VNS Photo Trung Hiếu  
  
  
  
 HÀ NỘI — Việt Nam’s health ministry reported 8,813 new COVID-19 infections on Sunday, including one imported case, and nine deaths.  
  
  
 A total of 6,245 transmissions were detected in the community.  
  
  
 The capital Hà Nội still topped the list with 970 new cases, followed by Bắc Giang with 540 and Phú Thọ Province with 511.  
  
  
 The other new transmissions were found in Quảng Ninh (495), Nghệ An (442), Yên Bái (424), Lào Cai (325), Tuyên Quang (311), Vĩnh Phúc (302), Thái Nguyên (297), Bắc Kạn (278), Thái Bình (249), Quảng Bình (236), Nam Định (216), Hải Dương (207), Đắk Lắk (189), Hưng Yên (177), Gia Lai (165), Cao Bằng (163), Lạng Sơn (162), Lâm Đồng (162), Hà Tĩnh (137), Bắc Ninh (126), Ninh Bình (126), Lai Châu (120), Đà Nẵng (116), Bến Tre (107), Hòa Bình (94), Hà Nam (87), Hà Giang (87), Vĩnh Long (87), Quảng Trị (72), Thanh Hóa (71), Sơn La (71), Điện Biên (70), Bình Định (67), Quảng Nam (56), Bình Phước (56), Bà Rịa - Vũng Tàu (54), Hải Phòng (49), HCM City (48), Tây Ninh (41), Phú Yên (40), Quảng Ngãi (31), Đắk Nông (29), Bình Dương (28), Cà Mau (27), Bình Thuận (25), Thừa Thiên Huế (13), Đồng Tháp (10), Khánh Hòa (9), Cần Thơ (6), Bạc Liêu (6), Kiên Giang (5), Đồng Nai (4), Long An (4), Trà Vinh (4), An Giang (4), Kon Tum (2) and Hậu Giang (2).  
  
  
 The national caseload since the start of the pandemic now stands at 10,563,502. In the past week, the average number of daily new cases across the country has been 11,593.  
  
  
 The nine fatalities were in Cần Thơ (2), Đắk Lắk (2), Quảng Ninh (2), Bạc Liêu (1), Đồng Tháp (1) and Kiên Giang (1).  
  
  
 The total number of COVID-related fatalities in Việt Nam is now 43,013, or 0.4 per cent of total infections.  
  
  
 There are 612 COVID patients nationwide receiving oxygen support, including 54 needing invasive ventilation; one is on life support.  
  
  
 A further 4,581 patients were given the all-clear, taking the total number of recoveries to 9,086,075.  
  
  
 Across Việt Nam, 212,390,774 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered to date, of which 575,771 have been given to children aged 5 to 11. — VNS  
  
  
  
  
  

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/print/8813-new-covid-cases-announced-on-april-24/1175578.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/print/8813-new-covid-cases-announced-on-april-24/1175578.html)

8,813 new COVID cases announced on April 24

   
  
Cases were recorded in Hà Nội (970), Bắc Giang (540), Phú Thọ (511), Quảng Ninh (495), Nghệ An (442), Yên Bái (424), Lào Cai (325), Tuyên Quang (311), Vĩnh Phúc (302), Thái Nguyên (297), Bắc Kạn (278), Thái Bình (249), Quảng Bình (236), Nam Định (216), Hải Dương (207), Đắk Lắk (189), Hưng Yên (177), Gia Lai (165), Cao Bằng (163), Lạng Sơn (162), Lâm Đồng (162), Hà Tĩnh (137), Bắc Ninh (126), Ninh Bình (126), Lai Châu (120), Đà Nẵng (116), Bến Tre (107), Hòa Bình (94), Hà Nam (87), Hà Giang (87), Vĩnh Long (87), Quảng Trị (72), Thanh Hóa (71), Sơn La (71), Điện Biên (70), Bình Định (67), Quảng Nam (56), Bình Phước (56), Bà Rịa - Vũng Tàu (54), Hải Phòng (49), HCM City (48), Tây Ninh (41), Phú Yên (40), Quảng Ngãi (31), Đắk Nông (29), Bình Dương (28), Cà Mau (27), Bình Thuận (25), Thừa Thiên Huế (13), Đồng Tháp (10), Khánh Hòa (9), Cần Thơ (6), Bạc Liêu (6), Kiên Giang (5), Đồng Nai (4), Long An (4), Trà Vinh (4), An Giang (4), Kon Tum (2), Hậu Giang (2).  
  
 

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/sunday/inner-sanctum/1173734/modernising-traditional-vietnamese-music.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/sunday/inner-sanctum/1173734/modernising-traditional-vietnamese-music.html)

Modernising traditional Vietnamese music

With a passion and devotion for Vietnamese traditional culture, singer Hà Myo (real name Nguyễn Ngọc Hà) has been honoured with the title of 'Vietnamese Promising Young Face 2021'. She talks to Ngô Minh about her motivation in music.  
  
  
  
  
 Singer Hà Myo (centre) has innovated blind buskers' music by combining folk tunes with rap and EDM. Photo courtesy of the artist  
  
  
Inner Sanctum: You have released videos combining hát xẩm (strolling blind buskers' songs) with modern EDM, rap, hip-hop and pop. Do you think being awarded the title of "Vietnamese Promising Young Face 2021" proved your musical decisions were the right ones?  
  
  
 Blind buskers' music is not known widely by audiences nowadays, because it originated many decades ago, and is not suitable for modern music trends. However, as a genre of folk music, it shows the most sincere and true things about the Vietnamese land and people in the past. It however still has a place in Vietnamese culture.  
  
  
 I fell in love with blind buskers' songs like a young girl finds the love of her life. It’s hard to explain. I love it for no reason at all. Busking of blind musicians and I just matched each other, luckily.  
  
Inner Sanctum: Does the award give you pressure or motivation, if any?  
  
  
 Both. I am so happy that my devotion has been recognised and encouraged.  
  
  
 You know, breaking the principles of traditional art always causes controversy. When I decided to renovate blind buskers' songs, it was a daring decision. Whenever I release a new piece, I feel nervous that some may like me and some may boycott me. So when I received the prize from President Nguyễn Xuân Phúc, it was great happiness.  
  
  
 Indeed, with the title "Promising Vietnamese Young Face 2021", I feel more confident to walk the way I choose, but I still have a pressure to be better, try harder, and not stop at blind buskers' music but discover my creativity in another genre.  
  
Inner Sanctum: Why did you decide to experiment with blind buskers' music? What difficulties did you face?  
  
  
 I did not listen to much. Blind buskers' songs have some basic melodies. I heard just a little bit to have an overview of each one because I was afraid of being influenced by other people’s styles.  
  
  
 I came to blind buskers' singing like a blank sheet of paper. Maybe that’s why right from the start, I could sing their songs in my own way.  
  
Inner Sanctum: You predicted your remix of blind buskers' music would face criticism. How did you prepare for this?  
  
  
 When I combined songs of strolling blind musicians with other modern types of music, I was determined but also full of worry. I worried that this unprecedented combination would distort the content, music structure, and style or that I would not be able to help the street singers' outworn music find a place on the modern stage?  
  
  
 Also, it was a turning point in my career. If the audience or entertainment industry was not satisfied, I could easily be boycotted.  
  
Inner Sanctum: How did you receive compliments and criticisms?  
  
  
 Audience comments are always multidimensional. They were praising, criticising, admiring, and reprobating.  
  
  
 Some people said that buskers' music became joyful and new thanks to me. Others say that I was destroying its feel. Many people said that thanks to me, they got to know the art of xẩm.  
  
  
 In the end, whether it’s praise or criticism, I am still proud of overcoming my own limits to do this “crazy” thing. I smile at the positive comments and think about what to do in the future to make the negative comments disappear.  
  
  
 I also realised that blind buskers' music is an art that has been associated with the Vietnamese people for generations. They have so much love and care for this music, so they give comments. I hope that I can continue to make small contributions to the cause of preserving and developing this art genre.  
  
Inner Sanctum: Recently, you released the music video Đập Nàng Khọt (Phoebe Landing on Earth), a Mường ethnic folk song combined with rap and EDM. Do you always try to expand your limits?  
  
  
 My father is a Mường ethnic. This song is one of the most familiar songs of the Mường. Since I was a student, I have performed it many times, so I chose it to produce a new song. The music video celebrated the Vietnamese Promising Young Face 2021 prize.  
  
  
 But I will not only stop at blind buskers' music and try to discover myself in other  traditional genres.  
  
  
 After the experiment on buskers' music, I cherished the idea of ​​combining folk with modern music to bring national pride to young music lovers and international friends.  
  
  
 I spent many years struggling to find my own path. Now that I see it, there is no reason not to move on. I will be a strong, modern young singer who knows how to exploit and renew traditional art. I accept the challenge and am ready to take the lead. Of course, there will be difficulties and challenges, but if I make the audience, especially the young, love the nation’s traditional art, my effort will be well worth it.  
  
  
    
  
  
  
  
 Hà Myo has been honoured with the title of Vietnamese Promising Young Face 2021. Photo courtesy of the artist  
  
  
Inner Sanctum: With rap and EDM, your music can go beyond the borders of Việt Nam. Do you intend to interact with foreign audiences more?  
  
  
 Currently, I am working at the Việt Nam Music and Dance Theatre. There are many opportunities to bring our blind buskers' music to the international stage with cultural exchange programmes.  
  
  
 However, in the future, I want to have breakthroughs in terms of communication and support from the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, and organisations to help pave the way for folk singing to be promoted abroad.  
  
  
 YouTube is also a very good channel to popularise my music. I have seen many foreign comments on this media about traditional Vietnamese music.  
  
  
 All of my music is available on the Ha Myo official YouTube channel. Hopefully, my music will also have the opportunity to reach foreign audiences through social media. The music that I am working on is close to world music, and hopefully, because of that, our folk music will easily spread to the international market.  
  
Inner Sanctum: How will you combine traditional and modern music into a ‘world music’ product?  
  
  
 In terms of blind buskers' music, I had the help of experts in this field, such as artist Văn Ty and musician Nguyễn Quang Long. My husband, EDM music producer Thế Phương, helps me transform blind buskers' songs in accordance with the beat.  
  
  
 Some sentences need to be sung softly, some need witty irony, and some need to reach high so as not to be overshadowed by the EDM.  
  
  
 With his electronic music knowledge, Phương has combined the energy of electronic music with typical blind buskers' musical instruments such as the đàn nhị (two-chord fiddle).  
  
  
 Linking together the music requires a clear understanding of the characteristics of each musical genre, then selecting the most characteristic features of each and combining them to avoid confusion or loss of each other’s characteristics.  
  
Inner Sanctum: Do you have plans for your future music?  
  
  
 I always have a lot of plans and ideas. With a desire to bring traditional music to young people, I hope to have enough health and money and support from audiences to continue my projects. VNS  
  
  
  

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/sunday/inner-sanctum/1165567/forbes-under-30-chef-puts-vietnamese-restaurant-on-world-map.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/sunday/inner-sanctum/1165567/forbes-under-30-chef-puts-vietnamese-restaurant-on-world-map.html)

'Forbes under 30' chef puts Vietnamese restaurant on world map

   
  
  
  
  
 For 30-year-old Hoàng Tùng, T.U.N.G dining being in Asia's 100 Best Restaurants 2021 list was an extraordinary moment for the young chef, proving his chosen path was the right decision. Photo courtesy of T.U.N.G Dining  
  
  
As head chef and co-founder of T.U.N.G Dining, one of two Vietnamese restaurants to be listed in Asia’s 100 Best Restaurants 2021, Hoàng Tùng is living his dream of putting Việt Nam cuisine on the world map. As the chef is named in the list of Forbes Under 30 Class 2022, Hoàng Hồ spoke with Tùng about his passion and dedication to get to the top.  
  
  
 A few years ago, a young Vietnamese university student in Finland who didn’t know how to use a kitchen knife, challenged himself in the best Michelin-starred restaurants in Scandinavia. He then returned home and opened the first Vietnamese tasting menu restaurant.  
  
Inner sanctum: What was the turning point and inspiration that led you to the culinary world?  
  
  
 For me, this profession is destiny. Before, I was an international student at the South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences. Although I had a full scholarship, I worked part-time at a restaurant.  
  
  
 Before starting, I didn't have any idea about this field as my parents prepared everything so that I could focus on studying. While working for the restaurant, my love for the kitchen was naturally nurtured. Combined with self-study and a little talent, I discovered my passion.  
  
  
 After graduating, I knocked on the doors of Michelin-starred restaurants to work for free because to become a great cook, you must be trained and moulded under excellent chefs.  
  
  
 At these restaurants, everything is carefully planned and ordered; every step has to be strictly followed. At first, when I was assigned to deal with carrots, I didn’t follow the instruction and peeled all of them. I even removed their leaves and stalks as is habit when cooking in Việt Nam. The chef had only asked me to wash the carrots without touching the peel and stalks as the purpose was for baking. I had to do everything over again. It was not only a waste of food but also a great lesson about working in high-end kitchen environments.  
  
Inner sanctum: T.U.N.G Dining is the first Vietnamese restaurant to apply and elevate the tasting menu style, can you explain this idea?  
  
  
 T.U.N.G dining has always been my dream, with a friend from college. We’ve always wanted to come back to Việt Nam and open a high-end restaurant. In 2018, Việt Nam had a lot of room for tasting menu restaurants, so I thought this was a golden opportunity to make my mark.  
  
  
 The menu is divided into three parts with 20 dishes.  
  
  
 The first part is small dishes brought together with various flavours to stimulate the taste buds. For part two, diners enjoy each dish separately with an increasing taste bud structure from vegetables to seafood and meat. The final part is a dessert with small sweet dishes to serve with coffee or tea before ending the wonderful dining experience.  
  
  
 Between each part, diners will also experience a small dish to refresh their taste before moving on to the next part.  
  
  
 It’s like a tour to Europe where you can enjoy the magnificent classical beauty in famous cities like Paris, and simple but delicate flavours from Northern Europe. However, not all experiences will be delightful as you may also encounter problems and difficulties in other cities. These incidents create a diverse and interesting trip, but it also requires courage to step outside the boundaries of each city to immerse yourself in a challenge.  
  
  
 The tasting menu is just like that, diners need to have an open mind to cuisine because it is highly personal and creative.  
  
  
    
  
  
  
  
 Scallop and apple sauce with eryngium oil is one of Tùng’s favourite dishes. A simple combination of four ingredients: scallop, green apple, eryngium and pea. Photo courtesy of T.U.N.G Dining  
  
  
Inner Sanctum: Were you worried that your idea would be unsuccessful? Are the results up to your expectations?  
  
  
 Very few people believed that I could succeed with this style in Việt Nam. They said I was too risky and needed to have backup plans for failure. Of course, worrying is necessary when we start something new, but we should turn those worries into hard work and dedication.  
  
  
 Almost every diner had to book weeks in advance in the first days. I was very surprised and delighted with those wonderful results. There had been a lot of reactions from customers: from very happy and excited to derisive, as this style was too new for them. Regardless, these are the reasons why T.U.N.G dining is here. People need time to adapt to a new eating style and a true high-class dining experience.  
  
  
    
  
  
  
  
 Elegant in design and decoration, T.U.N.G Dining attracts diners right at first sight. Photo courtesy of T.U.N.G Dining  
  
  
Inner sanctum: What is your advice to the younger generation in your profession?  
  
  
 My advice is wrapped up in only three words: patience, humility and discipline.  
  
  
 Without being humble, a cook’s career will be much more difficult. Discipline is also very important. Discipline is the power of every restaurant. I learned that whatever happens during working hours, right or wrong, regardless of whether you like the head chef’s decision, “yes, chef” should be your only reply as everything will be solved afterwards.  
  
  
 The kitchen is like an army, and military orders are to be followed. Discipline can help you be a better version of who you were yesterday despite the feeling of not being satisfied with what you have achieved.  
  
  
  
  
 For Tùng (right), recent successes are not only his achievement but recognition for the whole team's efforts. Photo courtesy of T.U.N.G Dining  
  
  
Inner Sanctum: Some might say T.U.N.G Dining is not a Vietnamese restaurant when looking at the menu, what’s your feeling about this?  
  
  
 For me, a Vietnamese restaurant is a place where food is made by Vietnamese with Vietnamese knowledge and spirit. Not all Vietnamese restaurants need to serve Vietnamese food. The younger generation needs to think outside the box to understand modern Vietnamese cuisine fully.  
  
  
 Although I’m not specialised in cooking Vietnamese food as I was trained in Europe, I've always researched Vietnamese cuisine and tried to combine Vietnamese cuisine with high-class cuisine through modern cooking techniques, bringing an international language to Vietnamese cuisine. VNS  
  
  
    
  
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Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/life-style/nom-nom/928224/nom-nom-vietnam-episode-87-duck-fried-with-garlic.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/life-style/nom-nom/928224/nom-nom-vietnam-episode-87-duck-fried-with-garlic.html)

Nom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 87: Duck fried with garlic

How virtual learning prepares students for the future that does not yet existNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 90: Stir-fried noodlesNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 89: Noodles with duckNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 88: Fried tofu sandwichNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 86: Sausage salad   
  
  
  
  
 Duck is a popular food in the world over but you’ll only find ngan cháy tỏi (duck fried with garlic) in Việt Nam. One local family started making this dish as an experiment a few years ago and now the customers just can’t get enough. — VNS

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/life-style/nom-nom/934352/nom-nom-vietnam-episode-88-fried-tofu-sandwich.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/life-style/nom-nom/934352/nom-nom-vietnam-episode-88-fried-tofu-sandwich.html)

Nom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 88: Fried tofu sandwich

How virtual learning prepares students for the future that does not yet existNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 90: Stir-fried noodlesNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 89: Noodles with duckNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 87: Duck fried with garlicNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 86: Sausage salad   
  
  
  
  
 Here’s a sandwich like no other. Instead of bread, tofu is used to create the snack. This relatively new dish is taking HCM City by storm. And with a wide choice of fillings it’s a must try for anyone looking for a tasty treat. VNS

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/life-style/nom-nom/924874/nom-nom-vietnam-episode-86-sausage-salad.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/life-style/nom-nom/924874/nom-nom-vietnam-episode-86-sausage-salad.html)

Nom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 86: Sausage salad

How virtual learning prepares students for the future that does not yet existNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 90: Stir-fried noodlesNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 89: Noodles with duckNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 88: Fried tofu sandwichNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 87: Duck fried with garlic   
  
  
  
  
 Sausage salad is a popular snack among HCM City locals, especially young people. It is made by mixing different types of sausages and vegetables together, including a Central Highland sausage called tré, which is made from pork ears.  
  
  
    
  
  
  

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/life-style/nom-nom/899422/nom-nom-vietnam-episode-80-noodles-with-chili-salt.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/life-style/nom-nom/899422/nom-nom-vietnam-episode-80-noodles-with-chili-salt.html)

Nom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 80: Noodles with chili salt

How virtual learning prepares students for the future that does not yet existNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 90: Stir-fried noodlesNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 89: Noodles with duckNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 88: Fried tofu sandwichNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 87: Duck fried with garlic   
  
  
  
  
 Noodle with chili salt is a popular street food among locals, especially young adults looking for a light and convenient snack after work. The spicy and aromatic noodles is enjoyed with a nice bowl of broth filled with meaty goodness.

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/print/hcm-city-hosts-abstract-art-exhibition/1175251.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/print/hcm-city-hosts-abstract-art-exhibition/1175251.html)

HCM City hosts abstract art exhibition

   
  
  
  
  
 Trần Nhật Thăng, 50, is known as a renowned abstract painter in Việt Nam. — Photo courtesy of the artist   
  
  
HCM CITY — The 13th solo exhibition of artist Trần Nhật Thăng has opened in HCM City with the title Miền không (Emptiness).  
  
He is displaying more than 30 large paintings, and the biggest is Miền xanh số 5 (Green Land No 5), 130cm by 480cm, a combination of six panels.  
  
Thăng, 50, has been known as an abstract painter since studying at the Việt Nam Fine Arts University. He fell in love with abstract art when he was a fourth-year student in 1994.  
  
From 1994 to 1998, he started researching materials such as dó (Poonah) paper on canvas, sawdust, sand, rope, spray paint, gasoline on oil paint, and many techniques for creating different effects.  
  
He returned to two minimalist colours: red and black, three years later. In 2008, he held a solo exhibition, Portrait of Freedom, only in black and white. But from here, he took 10 years out and painted nothing. In 2018, he returned with the exhibition Miền (Land), including 40 paintings depicting many sad moods.  
  
He then paused again for four years. Now, he has mastered the principle of living his life on his own terms, and he has returned to the attitude of drawing whatever he wants.  
  
“Because he doesn't lock himself in a creative ideal, because he doesn't force himself to draw like that to be professional or talented, Thăng's painting never falls into a state of the struggle of the ups and downs or goes as low as before. Each picture he paints is a new wind, flexible and gentle,” said painter Lê Thiết Cương.  
  
Trang Hạnh, owner of HAKIO – Let’s an Art gallery where the exhibition is taking place, said: “Personally, I am fascinated by the quiet atmosphere and peaceful feeling one gets when looking at Thăng's paintings.”   
  
  
  
  
 Thăng said his abstraction is about minimalist painting — Photo courtesy of the artist.   
  
  
The works in the exhibition have the same message. Whether it is clear in the morning with early dew drops, melancholy at sunset with wild sun streaks, or passion in the afternoon with rays of sunlight sparkling like pure gold, everything is filled with a simple atmosphere of silence and peace.  
  
“It is a feeling of wandering somewhere in front of mother nature, so gentle because it is so majestic!. It's so peaceful because it's so wild," Hạnh said.  
  
For decades since stepping into a painting, he has followed only one path, faithfully following his own approach to abstract painting.  
  
For Thăng, there is no way to happiness. Happiness is the way. It's happiness to live and make art.  
  
“This time, Thăng’s exhibition is in a monochrome palette, mainly black and white with grey and ivory white variations. Occasionally they highlight a certain colour, for example, a red streak or a piece of dotted ocher. Or there are the one-tone blue-white paintings of Chu Đậu ceramics or bleu de Hue-style ceramics,” said Cương.  
  
Talking about current inspiration, Thăng said his abstraction is minimalist painting.   
  
"It is close to stillness. Abstraction is painting without form, and it does not represent. It goes through the visible to feel, and it goes through the tangible of the phenomenon of the visual to the emotion to feel," he said. “The beautiful nature inspired me to paint, and Buddhism gave me the ideology to send messages to the artwork.”   
  
  
  
  
 Although using acrylic as the primary method, the artist still enjoys mixing other materials on canvas to create a special point of view. — Photo courtesy of the artist   
  
  
Thăng now finds happiness in ordinary life and everyday things. Although using acrylic as his main method, the artist still enjoys mixing other materials on canvas to create a special point of view  
  
In some paintings, the artist scatters gold, in others, he attaches bird feathers. For him, neither art nor life is flat.  
  
"The folds, stumbling blocks, and rough lines sharpen our touch, enriching our living experience," Thăng said.  
  
In Brown Abstract, he places a worn piece of brocade cloth in the middle of the picture, surrounded by streaks of colour mixed with hilly soil.   
  
"This is my heart, a person who has left Hà Nội and is now soaked in the love of his compatriots," he said.  
  
The exhibition will run until April 30 at HAKIO – Let’s Art, at No 38, Trần Cao Vân Street, HCM City. — VNS

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/print/taste-of-australia-kicks-off-in-hcm-city/1174749.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/print/taste-of-australia-kicks-off-in-hcm-city/1174749.html)

Taste of Australia kicks off in HCM City

   
  
World renowned Australian chef Luke Nguyen prepares a special menu with premium Australian produce like rock oyster, jade tiger abalone and lobster at the launch of Taste of Australia in HCM City on April 20. VNS Photo Thu Hằng  
  
HCM CITY — Taste of Australia, the annual celebration of Australia’s food and beverages in Việt Nam, began on Wednesday (April 20) in HCM City.  
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is held for the first time in Việt Nam since 2019.  
The programme hopes to spread the word about Australian produce and products available in Việt Nam, starting with a video series on a Melbourne-based Australian-Vietnamese chef Frank Pham that will feature premium Australian produce like beef, lamb, abalone, and rock lobster.  
The programme will also present a web series to highlight Australian wine varieties and their pairing with Vietnamese foods.  
It is partnering with nearly 40 restaurants in Hà Nội and HCM City to highlight the versatility and quality of Australian produce, fresh fruits and products.  
There will be an extensive nation-wide promotional campaign to bolster the image of Australian products sold at major retail stores such as MegaMart, WinMart, BRG, Kingfood, and Annam Gourmet Market.  
Speaking at the launch on Wednesday, Australian consul-general in HCM City, Sarah Hooper, said: “This year’s Taste of Australia programme will again showcase the best of Australian food. It will build on Australia’s international reputation as a supplier of food and beverages that are high quality, safe and sustainable.”  
The event will run until May. — VNS

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/print/tungsten-gets-crowned-the-world-keeps-an-eye-on-the-tungsten-supply-chain-from-vietnam/1175187.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/print/tungsten-gets-crowned-the-world-keeps-an-eye-on-the-tungsten-supply-chain-from-vietnam/1175187.html)

Tungsten “gets crowned”, the world keeps an eye on the tungsten supply chain from Vietnam

Tungsten “gets crowned”, the world keeps an eye on the tungsten supply chain from VietnamGrowing old in resort-style nursing homesDigital transformation is fuel of consumer goods industryCoteccons wins series of large projects with total value of more than 10 trillion VND in Q1VSIP becomes destination for multinational corporations   
  
The shift in demands sfrom gasoline to electric vehicles and military conflict are significant drivers of the Tungsten price increase. Global industrial manufacturers are now seeking the tungsten supply chain from Vietnam, seeing that a Vietnamese company has gradually emerged as the leading integrated supplier of advanced high-tech global materials.  
  
Strained supply chain  
  
With a strict lockdown policy, a focal part of China’s “zero COVID-19” strategy, global trade witnessed a sudden and complete halt in imports and exports, disrupting the global tungsten supply chain.  
  
Supply shortage, inventory at low level led to the high European spot price of APT (chemically extracted and separated tungsten concentrate as Ammonium Paratungstate). European prices for APT with 88.5% WO3 increased by nearly 39% at the early 2021 to $320-325/mtu at the early December 2021 according to the Argus Analytics’ outlook report.  
  
There is almost no new supply in the market for years. According to World Trade Organization statistics, the U.S., Europe and Japan consume about 55% of Tungsten but only produce about 5% of the total global supply.  
  
  
  
Not until supply chain tension and tungsten price rise did U.S. traders drastically seek for ex-China supplies. The U.S. may be rich in minerals, but there are no tungsten mines at all. In 2013, EMC Metals, an American tungsten mining company, strove to open Springer mine in Nevada to ease the pressure with domestic manufacturers. However, despite efforts to seek new supplies, the U.S. administration still has to import up to 40% of tungsten from China each year.  
  
China is restricting tungsten exports to the U.S. market, a notable highlight in the United States Geological Survey’s (USGS) 2019 Mineral Commodity Summaries.  
  
The global industry and defense cannot rely on the supply of tungsten from Russia as a large supply to cater for the shortage of tungsten.  Let alone the conflict’s impact in Ukraine today, Russia has struggled to maintain its role as China’s “competitor” in tungsten export to the global market for years.  
  
A study on tungsten development strategy, published in the U.S. Journal for Resources, Conservation & Recycling, asserted that 70% China’s tungsten reserves are Scheelite, a low-grade ore, energy-intensive mining, polluted and higher operating cost. This might further undermine China’s capability to supply raw tungsten globally.  
  
  
  
The latest forecasts all mention that the supply strain would not end soon. The global tungsten manufacturers and traders are facing two options, either participating in countries with tungsten mines to develop ore grades and process high-quality products for the world market or investing into new mines in other potential countries to compensate for the lack of supply source in the long term.  
  
New supply from the world’s leading integrated supplier  
  
The tungsten market regained its momentum growth late last year, after several years of oversupply and low prices. According to Mirae Asset Securities (MASVN), the recovery of the world economy after Covid-19 and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine have pushed the Tungsten price up to $350/mtu, an 11% increase compared to the end of 2021 and 24% higher than 2021 average.  
  
The price of Tungsten will continue to increase in the coming time, MASVN said. This company believed that the demand of change in automotive technology from gasoline to electric vehicles and military conflict are significant drivers of the Tungsten price increase, which is even projected to exceed the historic peak of $450/mtu established in 2011 when the world recovered from the 2008 economic crisis.  
  
The global tungsten market size continues to grow, regardless of all the challenges. In 2020, the global tungsten market size is USD 1775 million and expected to reach USD 2361.6 million by the end of 2027, at a CAGR of 4.2% in the period of 2021-2027, according to the report released by 360 Research Reports in the January 2022, a mineral market research company based in Maharashtra, India.  
  
  
  
According to data from the United States Geological Survey (USGS), Vietnam possesses the world’s third-largest tungsten reserves with 95,000 tons, running after Russia (400,000 tons) and China (1.9 million tons). Masan High-Tech Materials’ products at Nui Phao mine have gradually gained worldwide recognition, and therefore the company is becoming a partner of choice for major business partners around the world. Nui Phao is also one of the world’s largest proven tungsten reserves (ex-China), with 52.5 million tons of WO3 ore at the average grade of 0.21%.  
  
Now that production has returned to normal, many global industrial manufacturers desire to participate in the tungsten supply chain from Vietnam when seeing that Masan High-Tech Material has emerged as the leading integrated supplier of advanced high-tech materials. Some U.S. manufacturers also believe that the supply from Masan High-Tech Materials not only enables the U.S. market to ease its dependence on Chinese tungsten, but also avoids high import tariffs of 15% imposed on products from China since 2018.  
  
Masan High-Tech Materials’ ex-China market share is growing year by year, greater than 40% recorded in 2017, making it a major supplier of key industrial minerals, including Tungsten, Fluorspar and Bismuth.  
  
Currently, Masan High-Tech Materials focus on going downstream for all 4 product lines of Tungsten, Fluorspar, Bismuth and Copper, to improve the value of minerals. In 2020, Masan High-Tech Materials completed the acquisition of H.C. Starck Tungsten Powders and established a strategic alliance with Mitsubishi Materials Corporation, a Japanese Corporation, through an investment of $90 million, equivalent to 10% of Masan High-Tech Materials’s shares.  
  
“We are researching and developing advanced mineral materials and sourcing the stable and long-term raw materials for recycling”, said Craig Bradshaw, General Director of Masan High-Tech Materials.  
  
Up to now, Masan High-Tech Materials has had a big customer portfolio in the America and European markets, such as ATI Tungsten Materials (later being acquired by Kennametal) and receive their positive feedback on the product lines. “Our market position is particularly based on a strong ability to innovate, substantial investment in technology and highly skilled experts” said Craig Bradshaw.  
  
The world needs a steady supply of advanced materials and minerals to meet major global trends in renewable energy, electric vehicles, recycling, urbanization and sustainable development. Masan High-Tech Materials is not only ready to participate but also well-placed to lead technological developments in these areas. Masan High-Tech Materials has wisely avoided “direct competition” with Chinese producers. Instead, it creates a potential market to become a sustainable manufacturer, ensuring long-term supply for its partners.  
  
  
  

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/brandinfo/1174658/vietnamese-expatriates-ponder-a-homecoming.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/brandinfo/1174658/vietnamese-expatriates-ponder-a-homecoming.html)

Vietnamese expatriates ponder a homecoming

Tungsten “gets crowned”, the world keeps an eye on the tungsten supply chain from VietnamGrowing old in resort-style nursing homesDigital transformation is fuel of consumer goods industryCoteccons wins series of large projects with total value of more than 10 trillion VND in Q1Biggest rose festival in the northwest to take place at Sun World Fansipan Legend   
  
  
  
When the first cold winds of autumn spread yellow leaves everywhere, signalling an upcoming winter, it is also the time when the hearts of long-time expatriates deeply feel nostalgia for their homeland and imagine returning home.  
  
Vietnamese expatriates  
  
According to the People's Daily, in 2020, the total number of overseas Vietnamese was about 5.3 million. Vietnamese people began to migrate in the last decades of the 20th century on a large scale for many different purposes.  
  
The International Organization for Migration has released statistics from 1990 to 2015, showing that 2,558,678 Vietnamese people migrated abroad, an average of 100,000 each year.  
  
Vietnamese people, who are described as industrious, hard-working and intelligent, quickly integrate successfully into their host countries.  
  
This is also reflected in the amount of remittance sent home. According to the World Bank data, in 2000 US$1.32 billion was sent home; by 2020, the amount reached a record level of $17.2 billion (accounting for 3-8 per cent of annual GDP). In 2021, Việt Nam ranked as the world's eighth-largest remittance recipient.  
  
Nostalgia  
  
Though having worked hard and become successful, many Vietnamese who left their homeland as young people now feel their hearts weighed down with nostalgia when the autumn wind blows.  
  
In developed Western countries, elderly people often choose to go to nursing homes when they feel unwell. According to data from the World Health Organization (WHO), in 2013, an EU member state had an average of 1,325 nursing homes for every 100,000 people.  
  
However, for elderly Vietnamese, entering a nursing home in the West is a difficult choice. The first obstacle is the language - the thought of entering a nursing home without being able to communicate well makes them uneasy.  
  
The second barrier is the economic element. Genworth's survey in 2021 has shown that the average cost for a separate care room in a nursing home in the US is about VNĐ206 million per month (about VNĐ2.4 billion/year).  
  
In the UK, the figure is around £50,000 per year, and the cost of a dedicated 24-hour care nurse is around £120,000 a year. Not everyone can afford it.  
  
In addition, the nursing industry in Western countries is entering a nurses shortage that now also makes it difficult for people who want to register for the service. According to Professor David Grabowski of Harvard University, the US currently has a shortage of 238,000 nurses.  
  
A new beginning  
  
According to CNBC, every day, about 10,000 Americans turn 65 years old. By 2050 there will be 88 million elderly people in the US. The situation in developed countries in Europe is similar. In recent years, elderly people in Western countries have found solutions by looking to nursing homes in Southeast Asian countries such as Thailand.  
  
According to the Daily Mail, the cost for an elderly person at Care Resort nursing home in Chiangmai, Thailand, starts at a basic level with a private room, and a private nurse is VNĐ33 million per month (about VNĐ392 million/year)).  
  
With the luxury package costing VNĐ1.25 billion/year, Mary from Kent (UK) has a lavish apartment with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, and even her small garden, and she is also cared for around the clock by four rotating nurses. This premium care package costs much less than in the UK and the US.  
  
Data released by Statistica shows that in 2017 the total revenue of nursing services in Thailand only reached 460 million baht (US$13.7 million), in 2019, this revenue more than doubled. This revenue is expected to increase rapidly in the coming years.  
  
For elderly Vietnamese living abroad, Thailand or the Philippines is not the place they want to choose because even though the cost is cheap and the service is good, it is not their homeland; the people are not from the same country and do not speak the same language.  
  
Compared to Thailand, Việt Nam has a lot of potentials to provide elderly nursing services. Firstly, Việt Nam has a tropical climate with some of the most beautiful beaches in the world.  
  
Secondly, the country has experience in resort services among the top quality globally with attractive competitive prices. In addition, every year, Việt Nam trains and provides many nurses for developed countries such as Japan and Germany, so there is an abundant and high-quality labour source.  
  
With a good development, Việt Nam can compete with Thailand in providing the above services. When Việt Nam has a supply of nursing homes with quality services that meet world standards, customers worldwide will move to the country.  
  
Grasping the aforementioned trend, Tuan Minh Group has recently launched the first 5-star nursing home model in Việt Nam to meet the repatriation needs of Vietnamese moving back home.  
  
Tu Tam S-Merciful Nursing Home is designed as a combination of Western and Eastern health care systems,  suitable for Vietnamese needs.  
  
  
  
TuTam S-Merciful Nursing Home  
  
In addition, the mental health factor of the elderly is put on the top by the group leader. With the motto “A nursing home is a place for a new beginning, not an end,” elderly people will have the opportunity to participate in activities and experience and discover unexplored possibilities.  
  
Returning to their homeland, speaking their mother tongue, and being cared for by fellow countrymen, expatriates will not have to worry about their heavy hearts whenever the autumn wind blows.  
  
Tu Tam S-Merciful Resort and Healthcare System  
  
Head office: 241 Vu Tong Phan, Khuong Trung, Thanh Xuan, Ha Noi  
  
S-Merciful Resort - Chuong My, Dong Tru, Phu Nghia, Chuong My, Ha Noi  
  
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Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/brand-info/1171554/vpbank-announces-rebranding.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/brand-info/1171554/vpbank-announces-rebranding.html)

VPBank announces rebranding

   
  
  
  
  
 VPBank will provide customers with comprehensive financial solutions, smart financial consumption trends, and flexible and effective support packages. — Photo courtesy of VPBank  
  
  
  
 HÀ NỘI — VPBank officially announced a rebranding, aiming to become the leading private bank in Việt Nam to realise the “For a prosperous Việt Nam” mission.  
  
  
 The rebranding strategy marks a new development milestone for the bank and affirms VPBank’s commitment to serving the country.  
  
  
 In its nearly 30-year development history, this is the second time VPBank has rebranded. The first time was in 2010 with the change of name from Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Non-State Enterprises of Việt Nam to Việt Nam Prosperity Joint-Stock Commercial Bank.  
  
  
 With the new positioning, VPBank’s brand statement will be changed from “Action for dreams” to “For a prosperous Việt Nam”. That mission will be gradually realised by VPBank through many key programmes and projects focusing on four values: Financial Prosperity - Community Prosperity - Physical Prosperity, and Spiritual Prosperity.  
  
  
 Accordingly, VPBank will provide customers with comprehensive financial solutions, smart financial consumption trends, and flexible and effective support packages. Consumer finance solutions will help low-income people have conditions and motivation to improve their lives.  
  
  
 Services for middle-class customers (VPBank Prime) and priority customers (VPBank Diamond) will not only bring more versatile financial solutions but also help create a strong breakthrough for customers to conquer many important goals in life. For businesses, VPBank becomes not only a companion but also an effective “financial lever” to lift companies to more success.  
  
  
 Especially together with several banks in the system, VPBank has consistently proven its role as a lifeline in the economy, acting as a financial fulcrum for nearly 1 million businesses and millions of business households to overcome the challenges of the pandemic.  
  
  
 VPBank is also accelerating the digitisation of all operations and communication with customers to deliver outstanding service quality. It will constantly research and expand new customer segments. These are the people who will accompany VPBank to realise the mission “For a prosperous Việt Nam.”  
  
  
 The transformation of the brand statement from “Action for dreams” to “For a prosperous Việt Nam” is a historic milestone for VPBank after nearly 30 years of establishment and development.  
  
  
 From a small private bank, VPBank has grown rapidly to become the largest private bank in Việt Nam. The bank’s total assets by the end of 2021 reached VNĐ547.4 trillion. VPBank is also one of the banks with the largest equity capital in the system, with VNĐ86.7 trillion, serving nearly 20 million customers in all segments.  
  
  
 New potential and position is a solid foundation for VPBank to confidently set out a higher and more sacred mission - serving the country. VPBank will join hands to create common national prosperity by bringing prosperity to each customer.  
  
  
 Along with the new brand statement, besides the two traditional red-green colours with the signature prosperity flower, VPBank’s logo has been refined according to the golden ratio and changed to a new font with a more modern style. The harmony between rounded corners and square lines and a brighter, more vibrant blue colour symbolises the connection between people and technology.  
  
  
 “After a successful period of affirming its leading position in the banking industry, VPBank is ready to reach a bigger goal, realising the ambitions that we sent 10 years ago into the name “Việt Nam Prosperity Joint-Stock Commercial Bank,” said Nguyễn Đức Vinh, General Director of VPBank.  
  
  
 With the new rebranding, in April, VPBank will launch the campaign “Light up Việt Nam” to encourage the spirit and unwavering will of the Vietnamese people after the pandemic.  
  
  
 The campaign includes activities to light up iconic buildings across the country, give saving accounts to those orphaned by COVID-19, and provide free medical examinations and treatment for poor people in many provinces and cities.  
  
  
 In particular, the Light Up Vietnam Music Festival, a top-notch music event bringing together top V-pop stars, will be held by VPBank on April 23 in HCM City.  
  
  
 This is the city’s first large-scale entertainment event after nearly a year of isolation. It is expected to spread the meaning of the new prosperity values ​​that VPBank pioneered to the community, promoting the community’s desire to conquer new heights in every young Vietnamese.  
  
  
  

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/print/bank-deposits-surge-in-wake-of-interest-rate-hike/1175279.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/print/bank-deposits-surge-in-wake-of-interest-rate-hike/1175279.html)

Bank deposits surge in wake of interest rate hike

   
  
A customer makes a deposit at a bank in Hà Nội. Deposits at banks increased by 1.38 per cent to nearly VNĐ11.1 quadrillion in the first two months of 2022. VNA/VNS Photo  
  
HÀ NỘI — Thanks to increases in savings interest rates, deposits at banks increased strongly in the first two months of this year after declining last year.  
According to the latest data from the State Bank of Vietnam (SBV), deposits increased by 1.38 per cent to nearly VNĐ11.1 quadrillion in the first two months of 2022.  
Among the total, deposits of individual customers reached more than VNĐ5.46 quadrillion, up more than VNĐ56 trillion against January 2022 and VNĐ159.6 trillion against December 2021.  
Deposits of corporate customers were more than VNĐ5.63 quadrillion, down VNĐ8.8 trillion against December 2021.  
Last year, deposits of individual customers at banks declined as many depositors withdrew their savings to pour into more attractive investment channels amid declining deposit interest rates.  
Experts attributed this year’s growth to banks’ application of deposit interest rate hike programmes to attract depositors. Deposit interest rates at many banks have so far increased by 0.3-0.7 per cent against late last year.  
Most recently, VPBank announced the new savings interest rate list for individual customers from April 15. Specifically, the highest savings interest rate at the bank was raised from 6.7 per cent per annum to 6.9 per cent per annum, applicable to online savings of more than VNĐ50 billion on the term of 36 months. For smaller deposits, the new interest rate level at VPBank ranges from 6.1 per cent to 6.7 per cent per annum, up 0.4-0.6 percentage points against previously.  
Similarly, the 12-month and 24-month savings rates at VPBank both rose by 0.4 0.6 percentage points after the adjustment.  
At MBBank, new savings interest rates have been applied since April with an increase of 0.2 percentage points on short terms from one to three months and the long term of 36 months. The highest rate at the bank is currently 6.6 per cent per annum, against 6.4 per cent per annum as in March.  
Many other banks have also raised the savings interest rates for individual customers such as Techcombank, NamABank, OCB, SCB, LienVietPostBank, HDBank and ACB.  
Experts said the move to increase deposit interest rates at banks during this period is understandable when credit demand is rising significantly. Credit increased by 5.04 per cent by the end of March 2022, 2.3 times higher than the same period last year. This figure reflects the rapidly increasing demand for capital to serve production and business after a long period of stagnation due to the pandemic.  
Saigon Securities Incorporation has recently raised its credit growth forecast in 2022 to 14.5-15 per cent, 0.5-1 percentage points higher than its previous forecast. This will create significant pressure on savings and lending interest rates in the near future.  
In the latest macro report, VNDirect Securities Company also said it would be difficult for savings interest rates to remain low this year due to higher capital mobilisation demand when credit accelerates. In addition, the inflation pressure and fierce competition from investment channels such as real estate and securities will cause interest rates to increase in order to attract idle cash flows.  
This year, VNDirect forecast savings interest rates to rise by 0.3-0.5 percentage points and 12-month savings interest rate to reach 5.9-6.1 per cent per annum by the end of the year, higher than the current average rate of 5.6 per cent per annum. — VNS  
   
 

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/print/viet-nam-drops-covid-19-vaccine-certificates-quarantine-requirements-for-foreign-arrivals/1165267.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/print/viet-nam-drops-covid-19-vaccine-certificates-quarantine-requirements-for-foreign-arrivals/1165267.html)

Việt Nam drops COVID-19 vaccine certificates, quarantine requirements for foreign arrivals

Việt Nam drops COVID-19 vaccine certificates, quarantine requirements for foreign arrivalsViệt Nam surpasses 4 million COVID casesCOVID-19 patients told to check classify home wasteViệt Nam’s daily COVID caseload hits record high for three consecutive days14,978 new cases reported on Sunday   
  
  
    
  
  
  
  
  
 Visitors arrive at passport control at Nội Bài International Airport, Hà Nội. — VNA/VNS Photo  
  
  
  
 HÀ NỘI — The Ministry of Health late Tuesday officially issued the long-awaited COVID-19 protocols for foreign entries into Việt Nam.  
  
  
 The regulations state that visitors with negative COVID tests can enjoy quarantine-free travel from day one.  
  
  
 Travellers entering Việt Nam via air routes will have to present proof of negative SARS-CoV-2 tests (except for children under two years old) done within 72 hours prior to departure in cases of RT-PCR/RT-LAMP or within 24 hours in cases of rapid antigen tests, and the results must be certified by the authorities of the country where the tests are conducted.  
  
  
 People entering via road, sea, and rail will be subjected to the same requirements.  
  
  
 If entrants cannot show proof of negative tests, they are required to take a test (either using RT-PCR/RT-LAMP method or rapid antigen tests) in the first 24 hours from the time of arrival.  
  
  
 If the results are negative, they may travel outside of their place of accommodation, with public health measures still in place, if the results are positive, they must notify health authorities for further instructions.  
  
  
 Children under two years old are not required to take COVID-19 tests, and they can still enter Việt Nam and take part in activities outside of the place of accommodation with their parents or relatives even if they have not been vaccinated against COVID-19 or contracted the virus before.  
  
  
 Arrivals must make medical declaration before entering and use Việt Nam’s COVID-19 mobile application (PC-COVID, available in both Vietnamese and English on both iOS and Android) during their entire stay according to regulations.  
  
  
 At the border gate, if one shows symptoms of SARS-CoV-2 infection (fever; cough; sore throat; runny nose, stuffy nose; body aches, fatigue, chills; reduced or loss of taste; reduced or loss of sense of smell; headache; diarrhoea; breathing difficulties; respiratory infection, etc.), they must immediately notify the health agency at the border gate to take medical measures as regulated.  
  
  
 No mandatory quarantine is required, but in the first 10 days after entry, people should self-monitor their health and if any symptoms develop, ask for assistance from the nearest medical facilities.  
  
  
 Visitors are asked to frequently wear masks and disinfect their hands.  
  
  
 People without negative COVID-19 results prior to entry are asked to not make rest stops and make contact with other people along the way from the border gate to their place of accommodation.  
  
  
 Some prominent omissions in the latest official set of COVID-19 rules is that there is no longer a requirement for the COVID-19 vaccination or recent recovery certificates, multiple tests required before and after entry, or the need to comply with restrictions like avoiding gathering or keeping safe distance, like in previous proposed plans from the ministry.  
  
  
 The guidelines, released after the country fully reopened international tourism activities and reinstated pre-pandemic entry and exit regulations, replace all other previous COVID-19 rules for foreign entries and the health ministry asks local authorities and State agencies to quickly direct the implementation of the COVID rules to avoid spreading the virus among the travellers and the community.  
  
  
 It is hoped the relaxed regulations will ease concerns from international tour companies who have been desperate to welcome back foreign tourists into the country after two years of severe disruptions caused by the pandemic.  
  
  
 With these new COVID-19 guidelines, international visitors entering Việt Nam will be “treated the same way” as domestic visitors, as Deputy Prime Minister Vũ Đức Đam has promised late Wednesday.  
  
  
 The health ministry also noted that the new daily COVID-19 increases in Việt Nam remains significant and Omicron variant has been circulating in the community, however, with one of the highest vaccination rates in the world, hospitalisations and deaths from the virus remain at manageable levels, and the guidelines are part of the efforts to safely adapt to, and flexibly and effectively control COVID-19. — VNS  
  
  
    
  
  
  
  
  

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/society/1155409/viet-nams-daily-covid-caseload-hits-record-high-for-three-consecutive-days.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/society/1155409/viet-nams-daily-covid-caseload-hits-record-high-for-three-consecutive-days.html)

Việt Nam’s daily COVID caseload hits record high for three consecutive days

Việt Nam drops COVID-19 vaccine certificates, quarantine requirements for foreign arrivalsViệt Nam surpasses 4 million COVID casesCOVID-19 patients told to check classify home waste14,978 new cases reported on SundayTwo additional COVID-19 cases linked to Omicron cases in HCM City   
  
  
    
  
  
  
  
 A soldier is tested for COVID-19 before leaving for military service. VNA/VNS Photo   
  
  
  
 HÀ NỘI — With 34,737 new COVID-19 infections on Wednesday, Việt Nam's daily tally has now hit a record high for three consecutive days.  
  
  
 The new cases bring the tally across the country to 2,606,824 with 39,188 deaths and 2,249,155 recoveries since the start of the pandemic.  
  
  
 There are currently 2,826 severe cases, of which 18 are on life support.  
  
  
 The average number of daily COVID-19 infections over the past seven days stands at 28,869.  
  
  
 Out of the new daily transmissions, 25,026 were community cases.  
  
  
 The capital city of Hà Nội registered the highest daily number of infections with 3,888, followed by Thái Nguyên (2,497), Hải Dương (1,598) and Quảng Ninh (1,536).  
  
  
 The remaining transmissions were found in Hải Phòng (1,487), Phú Thọ (1,332), Ninh Bình (1,316), Nam Định (1,281), Vĩnh Phúc (1,274), Bắc Ninh (1,209), Nghệ An (1,188), Hòa Bình (974), Thái Bình (836), Bình Định (805), Thanh Hóa (781), Sơn La (770), Lào Cai (769), Đà Nẵng (743), Bắc Giang (711), Hưng Yên (648), Hồ Chí Minh City (620), Quảng Nam (606), Yên Bái (595), Quảng Bình (574), Lạng Sơn (552), Hà Tĩnh (417), Khánh Hòa (412), Tuyên Quang (395), Quảng Trị (391), Đắk Lắk (384), Lâm Đồng (362), Phú Yên (316), Bà Rịa - Vũng Tàu (298), Gia Lai (275), Cao Bằng (269), Bình Phước (264), Thừa Thiên Huế (258), Quảng Ngãi (245), Hà Nam (229), Đắk Nông (179), Kon Tum (171), Điện Biên (166), Cà Mau (128), Lai Châu (122), Bình Thuận (119), Hà Giang (118), Đồng Nai (87), Bạc Liêu (78), Bình Dương (76), Vĩnh Long (69), Bến Tre (65), Bắc Kạn (56), Tây Ninh (31), An Giang (27), Đồng Tháp (24), Sóc Trăng (19), Long An (18), Cần Thơ (15), Trà Vinh (13), Hậu Giang (12), Kiên Giang (11), Ninh Thuận (10) and Tiền Giang (4).  
  
  
 A total of 198 Omicron cases have been found so far, in HCM City (97), Quảng Nam (27), Quảng Ninh (20), Hà Nội (14), Khánh Hòa (11), Đà Nẵng (8 ), Hưng Yên (6), Kiên Giang (4), Thanh Hóa (2), Hải Dương (2), Hải Phòng (1), Long An (1), Bà Rịa - Vũng Tàu (1), Bình Dương (2), Lâm Đồng (1) and Ninh Bình (1).  
  
  
 Sixty-six COVID-related deaths were registered on Wednesday, taking the number of overall fatalities to 39,118, accounting for 1.5 per cent of total infections.  
  
  
 There were a further 6,882 recoveries reported, bringing the total number of people given the all-clear to 2,249,155.  
  
  
 Nearly 187 million vaccine doses have been administered in the country to date, with approximately 75 million people receiving two doses and more than 32 million having a third booster shot. — VNS  
  
  
  
  
  

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/society/1117567/two-additional-covid-19-cases-linked-to-omicron-cases-in-hcm-city.html[Link!Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/society/1117567/two-additional-covid-19-cases-linked-to-omicron-cases-in-hcm-city.html)

Two additional COVID-19 cases linked to Omicron cases in HCM City

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 Medical workers conduct COVID-19 testing for passengers arriving at HCM City’s Tân Sơn Nhất International Airport. — VNA/VNS Photo Đan Phương  
  
  
  
 HCM CITY — The HCM City health department has reported a further two potential Omicron cases related to the first community cluster that was found in HCM City.  
  
  
 They have been quarantined at the COVID-19 field hospital 12, and are awaiting results of genomic sequencing.  
  
  
 The new cases have linked to a Vietnamese woman returning from the US and her three relatives that came to the Tân Sơn Nhất International Airport to welcome her back home, who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 on January 15.  
  
  
 After genomic sequencing, the three relatives were found with the Omicron variant, while the woman’s result is still pending.  
  
  
 All six patients are in stable health condition.  
  
  
 The department has found other nine people having close contact with the Omicron cases. Their specimens have been sent for SARS-CoV-2 testing and genomic sequencing.  
  
  
 The HCM City Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (HCDC) has called for all passengers on the same flights with the patient to contact local health departments for consultation and testing.  
  
  
 She arrived at Cam Ranh International Airport in Khánh Hòa Province on flight number VN5409 from the Republic of Korea on January 7.  
  
  
 On the afternoon of January 10, she took Vietnam Airlines flight number VN1345 to HCM City. — VNS

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Việt Nam surpasses 4 million COVID cases

Việt Nam drops COVID-19 vaccine certificates, quarantine requirements for foreign arrivalsViệt Nam surpasses 4 million COVID casesCOVID-19 patients told to check classify home wasteViệt Nam’s daily COVID caseload hits record high for three consecutive days14,978 new cases reported on Sunday   
  
  
    
  
  
    
  
  
  
  
 A student in Bắc Ninh Province receives COVID-19 vaccine. VNA/VNS Photo  
  
  
  
 HÀ NỘI — Việt Nam has exceeded 4 million coronavirus cases, as the country registered a record 125,587 new daily infections on Friday, with the capital Hà Nội breaking the 20,000 mark for the first time.  
  
  
 After the country entered its fourth wave of the virus in late April 2021, it took just over six months to reach 1 million transmissions on November 11. By January 15, 2022, it had doubled.  
  
  
 By February 24, it hit 3 million, and just eight days later the country has hit 4,059,262 infections.  
  
  
 Of the new cases, 79,992 were detected in the community and 19 were imported and quarantined upon arrival.  
  
  
 Hà Nội again topped the list of localities with 21,395 transmissions.  
  
  
 The other cases were in Nghệ An (6,657), Bắc Ninh (6,011), Sơn La (4,182), Quảng Ninh (3,919), Nam Định (3,870), Hưng Yên (3,702), Lạng Sơn (3,335), Phú Thọ (3,288), Bình Dương (3,201), Hồ Chí Minh City (3,070), Vĩnh Phúc (2,814), Thái Nguyên (2,670), Bắc Giang (2,653), Lai Châu (2,637), Hòa Bình (2,593), Tuyên Quang (2,582), Đắk Lắk (2,560), Ninh Bình (2,405), Yên Bái (2,385), Hải Dương (2,317), Quảng Bình (2,305), Cao Bằng (2,159), Khánh Hòa (2,142), Thái Bình (2,138), Hà Giang (2,124), Lào Cai (1,984), Bình Phước (1,958), Hà Nam (1,896), Điện Biên (1,806), Bình Định (1,703), Đà Nẵng (1,689), Cà Mau (1,608), Gia Lai (1,276), Thanh Hóa (1,128), Quảng Trị (1,110), Lâm Đồng (1,088), Bà Rịa - Vũng Tàu (1,067), Đắk Nông (894), Hà Tĩnh (846), Bến Tre (781), Phú Yên (776), Tây Ninh (697), Bắc Kạn (509), Quảng Ngãi (431), Thừa Thiên Huế (385), Bình Thuận (384), Quảng Nam (357), Vĩnh Long (341), Trà Vinh (313), Kon Tum (255), Bạc Liêu (250), Đồng Nai (179), Long An (154), Cần Thơ (133), Kiên Giang (130), Hải Phòng (106), An Giang (49), Đồng Tháp (48), Ninh Thuận (39), Sóc Trăng (38), Tiền Giang (23) and Hậu Giang (23).  
  
  
 On Friday, 48,044 cases were also added from Bắc Ninh and Quảng Ninh provinces, which were not logged previously.  
  
  
 Health authorities announced a further 97 COVID-related deaths, raising the nation's death toll since the pandemic started to 40,644.  
  
  
 The deaths were in Hà Nội (18), Nam Định (14 in two days), Quảng Nam (9), Nghệ An (6), Thái Nguyên (6), Đà Nẵng (5), Hà Giang (3), Quảng Bình (3), Bình Phước (2), Bình Thuận (2), Đắk Lắk (2), Đồng Tháp (2), Gia Lai (2), Hòa Bình (2), Kiên Giang (2), Lào Cai (2), Phú Thọ (2), Quảng Ninh (2), Tây Ninh (2), HCM City (2), An Giang (1), Bắc Ninh (1), Bình Dương (1), Cà Mau (1), Cao Bằng (1), Đắk Nông (1), Hậu Giang (1), Ninh Bình (1) and Yên Bái (1).  
  
  
 A total of 4,246 COVID-19 patients are in serious or critical condition, including 3,418 patients requiring oxygen, 294 requiring invasive ventilation and nine on life support.  
  
  
 38,911 recoveries were registered, bringing the total given the all-clear to 2,589,436.  
  
  
 To date, more than 196.3 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered in Việt Nam, including 179.5 million doses in adults, 70.8 million first doses, 67.5 million second doses and 25.6 million booster doses.  
  
  
 A total of nearly 17 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been given to children aged 12-17, including 8.7 million first doses and 8.2 million second doses. VNS  
  
  
  
  
  

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/print/covid-19-patients-told-to-check-classify-home-waste/1161481.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/print/covid-19-patients-told-to-check-classify-home-waste/1161481.html)

COVID-19 patients told to check classify home waste

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 A medical worker collects waste from the home of COVID-19 self monitoring patients in Cửa Đông Ward, Hoàn Kiếm District, Hà Nội.— VNA/VNS Photo Minh Quyết  
  
  
  
 HẢ NÔI - COVID patients treated at home are being urged to be careful with their waste disposal to limit the risk of spreading the virus.  
  
  
 As cases continue to rise in the capital city, adding pressure to already stretched medical facilities and health workers, people self-monitoring at home can do their bit.  
  
  
 Back in January, Hà Nội’s People’s Committee has issued instructions on classifying, collecting and transporting COVID-19 patients' waste at both medical facilities and at home.  
  
  
 But some patients say they are still in the dark about the best measures to dispose of household waste.  
  
  
 V.Q.T, a resident living in Bạch Mai Ward, Hai Bà Trưng District, said his wife and mother both tested positive for COVID-19 and were being treated at home.  
  
  
 But he said he had not received instructions on how to deal with waste and still disposed of it as he would normally do in the past.  
  
  
 N.T.T, a resident living in Nghĩa Đô Ward, Cầu Giấy District said she and her son both tested positive on Tuesday.  
  
  
 After making online health declarations with the ward’s medical station, she did not receive any instructions on how to deal with COVID-19 patients' waste.  
  
  
 Currently, she put the waste into separated nylon bags, tied tightly and then her relatives would bring the waste to the waste collection point as usual, she said.  
  
  
 Nguyễn Trọng Đông, deputy chairman of the capital’s People’s Committee said the purpose of carefully disposing of waste was to ensure that pathogens would not spread during collection, transportation and treatment.  
  
  
 It also ensured the safety of medical staff and people involved in waste management, especially when the volume of waste had been increasing due to the complex developments of the pandemic, he said.  
  
  
 The committee had told the city’s Information and Communications department to work with districts’ authority to strengthen dissemination so that local people know the process of classifying and collecting COVID-19 patients' waste to minimise the spread of the virus into the community, he added.  
  
  
 The instruction says all waste generated by COVID-19 self-monitoring patients is classified as infectious waste and will be collected into a yellow nylon bag, which is tightly tied and then be placed in the second yellow nylon bag, also tightly sealed. The yellow bags must be labelled “Waste potentially infected with SARS-CoV-2”.  
  
  
 After that, the waste will be disinfected and transported by local sanitation workers to points designated to store infectious waste at medical stations of communes, wards or towns or mobile medical stations or temporary storages assigned by local authorities.  
  
  
 The transport of the waste from the COVID-19 self-monitoring patients' house is carried out by the environmental sanitation unit in the area in collaboration with the community-based COVID-19 prevention team in the commune or ward.  
  
  
 The vehicles transporting the waste must guarantee not to drop or allow the waste to leak. It is transported to storage areas at medical stations of communes, wards or towns or mobile medical stations or temporary storages assigned by local authorities.  
  
  
 Data from the Ministry of Health shows that Hà Nội has topped its daily record for recent weeks. On Thursday, the capital again topped its daily record with 18,661 transmissions, and 20 deaths.  
  
  
 A report of the city’s Health Department said that by the end of Thursday, the number of COVID-19 patients that have been treated in the city was over 641,242, including more than 634,109 COVID-19 self-monitoring patients. — VNS

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/print/voters-in-hcm-city-excited-to-cast-ballots/955095.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/print/voters-in-hcm-city-excited-to-cast-ballots/955095.html)

Voters in HCM City excited to cast ballots

Government’s task force established to help businesses, people affected by COVID-19Hà Nội extends lockdown until September 6 amid complicated COVID-19 situationPoland to offer Việt Nam more than 3.5 million doses of vaccineViệt Nam concerned about unequal COVID-19 vaccination among nationsHCM City residents forbidden to go outside between 6pm-6am   
  
  
    
  
  
  
  
 President Nguyễn Xuân Phúc and his wife on May 23 participated in the launching ceremony for casting ballots for the election of deputies to the 15th NA and People’s Councils at  voting site No. 41 in HCM City’s Củ Chi District. VNA/VNS Photo Thống Nhất  
  
  
HCM CITY— President Nguyễn Xuân Phúc and his wife today participated in the launching ceremony of the election of deputies to the 15th NA and People’s Councils at all levels for the 2021-2026 tenure at voting site No.41 under election unit No.9 in HCM City’s Củ Chi District.  
  
They also offered incense at the Martyrs Memorial Temple in the district.  
  
The President and his wife were the first to cast ballots at the voting site. HCM City Party Committee Secretary Nguyễn Văn Nên was the next to cast a ballot.  
  
At 6 am, many voters throughout the city came to voting sites to cast ballots. They filled online health declaration forms, had body temperature checked, and washed hand with sanitisers before entering the voting sites. They also wore masks and kept a safe distance as required by the Ministry of Health’s regulations in COVID-19 prevention and control.  
  
Fishermen in Cần Giờ District’s Thạnh An Commune anchored their boats near shore to go to the commune’s voting site.  
  
Chợ Rẫy Hospital in District 5 collaborated with election team No.58 in Ward 12 to bring three ballot boxes to rooms of 1,274 patients and their relatives so they could vote.     
  
  
  
  
 Chợ Rẫy Hospital in District 5 worked with election team No.58 in Ward 12 to bring three ballot boxes to the rooms of 1,274 patients and their relatives. VNA/VNS.Photo Đinh Hằng  
  
  
District election teams were also bringing ballot boxes to houses of many seniors with health problems who could not go to voting sites.  
  
According to the city Election Commission, more than 5.6 million voters in the city are expected to cast ballots. They will elect 30 of 50 candidates to become deputies to the 15th NA and 95 of 158 candidates to become deputies to the People’s Councils at all levels in the 2021-2026 term.  
  
  
    
  
  
  
  
 Voters in District 10's Ward 15 check ballot boxes before the election starts. VNS Photo Gia Lộc  
  
  
As of 11 am, more than 2.6 million voters had cast ballots in HCM City, accounting for 46.8 per cent.   
  
The city has 3,618 people staying in quarantine areas and 1,042 at home.  
  
  
    
  
  
  
  
 A voter casts a ballot at voting site No. 94 in District 10’s Ward 15. VNS Photo Gia Lộc  
  
  
After casting ballots, President Nguyễn Xuân Phúc told the media that great national unity is the large issue that has received the most attention, directed by the Party and Uncle Hồ. The spirit of great national unity can be seen amid the natural disasters and floods that the country has faced, as well as amid wars and the country’s development process.  
  
The President called on more than 69 million voters throughout the country to promote this spirit and select talented and ethical deputies.  
  
Chinese-Vietnamese voter La Tiên, 92, who was the oldest voter at the voting site No.6 in Hóc Môn District, came to the site early to take part in the election’s opening ceremony. “I read the candidates’ biographies and action programmes carefully and voted for the best deputies.”  
  
Nguyễn Quốc Hưng, 80, who came to the voting site No.94 in District 10’s Ward 15, said: “Many candidates are young and talented. They will contribute to develop the country and carry out tasks well.”  
  
Bùi Thị Liêm, 69, of Thủ Đức City, whose husband was being treated at Chợ Rẫy Hospital, said: “It is convenient that the hospital’s staff and election team brought the ballot box to us. I am happy.”  
  
Nguyễn Trương Gia Khánh, 21, of District 12, said that this was the first time he had cast a ballot. He read candidates’ biographies and action programmes many times to select the best deputies in the election. “I am very excited to cast a ballot. I hope they try their best to develop the country and pay more attention to health and education development.” VNS  
  
  
    
  
  
  
  
 Voters keep a safe distance at a voting site in Tân Bình District. VNS Photo  
  
  
  
    
  
  
    
  
  
    
  
  
    
  
  
  

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/brand-info/1175187/tungsten-gets-crowned-the-world-keeps-an-eye-on-the-tungsten-supply-chain-from-vietnam.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/brand-info/1175187/tungsten-gets-crowned-the-world-keeps-an-eye-on-the-tungsten-supply-chain-from-vietnam.html)

Tungsten “gets crowned”, the world keeps an eye on the tungsten supply chain from Vietnam

Growing old in resort-style nursing homesDigital transformation is fuel of consumer goods industryCoteccons wins series of large projects with total value of more than 10 trillion VND in Q1Vietnamese expatriates ponder a homecomingBiggest rose festival in the northwest to take place at Sun World Fansipan Legend   
  
The shift in demands sfrom gasoline to electric vehicles and military conflict are significant drivers of the Tungsten price increase. Global industrial manufacturers are now seeking the tungsten supply chain from Vietnam, seeing that a Vietnamese company has gradually emerged as the leading integrated supplier of advanced high-tech global materials.  
  
Strained supply chain  
  
With a strict lockdown policy, a focal part of China’s “zero COVID-19” strategy, global trade witnessed a sudden and complete halt in imports and exports, disrupting the global tungsten supply chain.  
  
Supply shortage, inventory at low level led to the high European spot price of APT (chemically extracted and separated tungsten concentrate as Ammonium Paratungstate). European prices for APT with 88.5% WO3 increased by nearly 39% at the early 2021 to $320-325/mtu at the early December 2021 according to the Argus Analytics’ outlook report.  
  
There is almost no new supply in the market for years. According to World Trade Organization statistics, the U.S., Europe and Japan consume about 55% of Tungsten but only produce about 5% of the total global supply.  
  
  
  
Not until supply chain tension and tungsten price rise did U.S. traders drastically seek for ex-China supplies. The U.S. may be rich in minerals, but there are no tungsten mines at all. In 2013, EMC Metals, an American tungsten mining company, strove to open Springer mine in Nevada to ease the pressure with domestic manufacturers. However, despite efforts to seek new supplies, the U.S. administration still has to import up to 40% of tungsten from China each year.  
  
China is restricting tungsten exports to the U.S. market, a notable highlight in the United States Geological Survey’s (USGS) 2019 Mineral Commodity Summaries.  
  
The global industry and defense cannot rely on the supply of tungsten from Russia as a large supply to cater for the shortage of tungsten.  Let alone the conflict’s impact in Ukraine today, Russia has struggled to maintain its role as China’s “competitor” in tungsten export to the global market for years.  
  
A study on tungsten development strategy, published in the U.S. Journal for Resources, Conservation & Recycling, asserted that 70% China’s tungsten reserves are Scheelite, a low-grade ore, energy-intensive mining, polluted and higher operating cost. This might further undermine China’s capability to supply raw tungsten globally.  
  
  
  
The latest forecasts all mention that the supply strain would not end soon. The global tungsten manufacturers and traders are facing two options, either participating in countries with tungsten mines to develop ore grades and process high-quality products for the world market or investing into new mines in other potential countries to compensate for the lack of supply source in the long term.  
  
New supply from the world’s leading integrated supplier  
  
The tungsten market regained its momentum growth late last year, after several years of oversupply and low prices. According to Mirae Asset Securities (MASVN), the recovery of the world economy after Covid-19 and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine have pushed the Tungsten price up to $350/mtu, an 11% increase compared to the end of 2021 and 24% higher than 2021 average.  
  
The price of Tungsten will continue to increase in the coming time, MASVN said. This company believed that the demand of change in automotive technology from gasoline to electric vehicles and military conflict are significant drivers of the Tungsten price increase, which is even projected to exceed the historic peak of $450/mtu established in 2011 when the world recovered from the 2008 economic crisis.  
  
The global tungsten market size continues to grow, regardless of all the challenges. In 2020, the global tungsten market size is USD 1775 million and expected to reach USD 2361.6 million by the end of 2027, at a CAGR of 4.2% in the period of 2021-2027, according to the report released by 360 Research Reports in the January 2022, a mineral market research company based in Maharashtra, India.  
  
  
  
According to data from the United States Geological Survey (USGS), Vietnam possesses the world’s third-largest tungsten reserves with 95,000 tons, running after Russia (400,000 tons) and China (1.9 million tons). Masan High-Tech Materials’ products at Nui Phao mine have gradually gained worldwide recognition, and therefore the company is becoming a partner of choice for major business partners around the world. Nui Phao is also one of the world’s largest proven tungsten reserves (ex-China), with 52.5 million tons of WO3 ore at the average grade of 0.21%.  
  
Now that production has returned to normal, many global industrial manufacturers desire to participate in the tungsten supply chain from Vietnam when seeing that Masan High-Tech Material has emerged as the leading integrated supplier of advanced high-tech materials. Some U.S. manufacturers also believe that the supply from Masan High-Tech Materials not only enables the U.S. market to ease its dependence on Chinese tungsten, but also avoids high import tariffs of 15% imposed on products from China since 2018.  
  
Masan High-Tech Materials’ ex-China market share is growing year by year, greater than 40% recorded in 2017, making it a major supplier of key industrial minerals, including Tungsten, Fluorspar and Bismuth.  
  
Currently, Masan High-Tech Materials focus on going downstream for all 4 product lines of Tungsten, Fluorspar, Bismuth and Copper, to improve the value of minerals. In 2020, Masan High-Tech Materials completed the acquisition of H.C. Starck Tungsten Powders and established a strategic alliance with Mitsubishi Materials Corporation, a Japanese Corporation, through an investment of $90 million, equivalent to 10% of Masan High-Tech Materials’s shares.  
  
“We are researching and developing advanced mineral materials and sourcing the stable and long-term raw materials for recycling”, said Craig Bradshaw, General Director of Masan High-Tech Materials.  
  
Up to now, Masan High-Tech Materials has had a big customer portfolio in the America and European markets, such as ATI Tungsten Materials (later being acquired by Kennametal) and receive their positive feedback on the product lines. “Our market position is particularly based on a strong ability to innovate, substantial investment in technology and highly skilled experts” said Craig Bradshaw.  
  
The world needs a steady supply of advanced materials and minerals to meet major global trends in renewable energy, electric vehicles, recycling, urbanization and sustainable development. Masan High-Tech Materials is not only ready to participate but also well-placed to lead technological developments in these areas. Masan High-Tech Materials has wisely avoided “direct competition” with Chinese producers. Instead, it creates a potential market to become a sustainable manufacturer, ensuring long-term supply for its partners.  
  
  
  

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/print/nom-nom-vietnam-episode-90-stir-fried-noodles/955650.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/print/nom-nom-vietnam-episode-90-stir-fried-noodles/955650.html)

Nom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 90: Stir-fried noodles

Nom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 90: Stir-fried noodlesNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 89: Noodles with duckNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 88: Fried tofu sandwichNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 87: Duck fried with garlicNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 86: Sausage salad   
  
  
  
  
 Stir-fried crispy noodles is a very popular Chinese dish in HCM City. The way the rich, savoury sauce soaks into the crispy fried noodles makes the meal simply irresistible!

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/print/nom-nom-vietnam-episode-89-noodles-with-duck/945668.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/print/nom-nom-vietnam-episode-89-noodles-with-duck/945668.html)

Nom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 89: Noodles with duck

Nom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 90: Stir-fried noodlesNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 89: Noodles with duckNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 88: Fried tofu sandwichNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 87: Duck fried with garlicNom, nom, Vietnam - Episode 86: Sausage salad   
  
  
  
  
 Duck meat is popular all over the world. In Việt Nam not only you can enjoy the delicious grilled-duck dish, but also try it with noodles. The grilled-duck is tender and perfectly mixed with the tasty dipping sauce. What are you waiting for? It would be a waste if you are in Hà Nội and don’t try this dish. — VNS

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/opinion/op-ed/772833/the-truth-about-covid-19-patient-17-in-viet-nam.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/opinion/op-ed/772833/the-truth-about-covid-19-patient-17-in-viet-nam.html)

The truth about COVID-19 Patient 17 in Việt Nam

   
  
  
  
  
 Trúc Bạch Street was quarantined shortly after the country's 17th COVID-19 patient staying on the street was confirmed. — VNA/VNS Photo Thành Đạt  
  
  
HÀ NỘI – While the international community recognises and highly values the COVID-19 prevention and control outcomes in Vietnam, as well as the Government’s efforts to minimise the pandemic’s impact on vulnerable groups, guarantee people’s right to medical treatment, and ensure no one is left behind, the story of the 17th patient infected with SARS-CoV-2 in Việt Nam published on The New Yorker on September 21 has encountered public backlash due to its lack of objectivity.  
  
In an article entitled The Public-Shaming Pandemic of The New Yorker, Patient 17 and her sister were portrayed as victims of public humiliation.  
  
The article wrote about those who accidentally spread the coronavirus and thus faced strong attacks and smearing in the internet.  
  
Commenting on this article, most of Vietnamese internet users expressed their indignation at the wrong and insufficient information about Patient 17 provided in the article.  
  
The statement that “the Vietnamese government, which regularly uses newspaper leaks to persuade or frighten its citizens…” in this article is completely wrong.  
  
On the night of March 6, when learning about the first COVID-19 case in Hà Nội, many people became anxious and frightened. At 10pm on that day, the city’s Steering Committee for COVID-19 Prevention and Control immediately convened an urgent meeting to provide information about this case.  
  
At the meeting, a 26-year-old woman living in Trúc Bạch Ward of Hà Nội’s Ba Đình District was declared the 17th patient positive for the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. The administration also announced that necessary measures had been carried out to cope with the situation and called on all people to stay calm and not panic. It also made public information about the outbreak’s developments to local residents.  
  
The New Yorker’s report that “Within an hour of articles about the meeting being published, people on the Internet had figured out who Nhung (Patient 17) was and found her social-media accounts” is also not true.  
  
Prior to the urgent meeting at 10pm of March 6, netizens had shared every personal information as well as social-media accounts of Patient 17 though such information had yet to be verified. Even many people having the same name with this woman also suffered from internet users’ criticism as they were mistaken for Patient 17.  
  
Additionally, the article of The New Yorker lacked many important details.  
  
While noting that “One user came across a photograph of a woman who looked like Nhung at the grand opening of a Uniqlo store, and reposted the image on Instagram, announcing to her followers that Nhung was partying while sick,” it did not mention that then Chairman of the Hanoi People’s Committee Nguyễn Đức Chung told the press after the urgent meeting on March 6 that Patient 17 had not attended the opening of the Uniqlo shop in Hà Nội as rumoured.  
  
In addition, Secretary of the municipal Party Committee Vương Đình Huệ also corrected fake news saying that Patient 17 had visited a bar on March 3 falling ill.  
  
Huệ also requested the police force to strictly punish those spreading fake news on the disease. “Cyber security should be controlled more closely. People should follow official information sources from the city, not fake news,” he suggested.  
  
The New Yorker’s article also contained another incorrect detail when saying that “The Vietnamese government, clearly committed to making an example of Nhung, let it be known that when she flew home from London she did not mention her visit to Italy”.  
  
According to the Nội Bài border gate police, Patient 17 had used a British passport to travel to European countries, but she used a Vietnamese passport to enter Việt Nam on March 2.  
  
The Nội Bài border gate police checked each page of her passport carefully, but did not detect any Italian entry-exit stamp. Along with making a false medical declaration, this woman was allowed to enter Việt Nam without quarantine.  
  
In addition, the article only mentioned that her aunt had been infected with the coronavirus from her, without providing additional information that her aunt may not survive if not receiving wholehearted treatment from Vietnamese doctors.  
  
Amidst the dangerous COVID-19 pandemic, Patient 17 still concealed the fact that she had travelled to disease-hit areas in Europe to avoid being quarantined. The consequence of this act is that an entire street with more than 100 residents were quarantined for 14 days and had to receive supplies from the Government, and a private hospital which she came for check-ups was forced to close its door to ensure safety.  
  
Although the right to privacy of each individual needs to be respected, it is not the reason for an individual to cause danger to the entire community. The right to privacy does not mean that social responsibility can be ignored. In addition, in this case, she also violated the law on infectious disease prevention and control.  
  
No matter what the sisters said, the fact is they had been infected with the dangerous virus. Patient 17 was treated successfully by Vietnamese doctors, and she also acknowledged this fact and her family also showed their gratitude.  
  
With an article which reported on Việt Nam’s disease control process in an unconstructive way, The New Yorker ignored a fact that Việt Nam – a middle-income country - has been fighting the disease efficiently despite a lack of resources. The newspaper also forgot differences in culture among nations. VNS

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/opinion/op-ed/772540/who-should-benefit-from-government-covid-relief-packages.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/opinion/op-ed/772540/who-should-benefit-from-government-covid-relief-packages.html)

Who should benefit from government COVID relief packages?

Việt Nam drops COVID-19 vaccine certificates, quarantine requirements for foreign arrivalsViệt Nam surpasses 4 million COVID casesCOVID-19 patients told to check classify home wasteViệt Nam’s daily COVID caseload hits record high for three consecutive days14,978 new cases reported on Sunday   
  
  
    
  
  
  
  
 Babeth Ngoc Han Lefur  
  
  
by Babeth Ngoc Han Lefur\*  
  
  
 Nearly eight months since the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, more than 950,000 people have died from the disease. An estimated 400 million people, and disproportionately women, have lost their jobs.  
  
  
 COVID-19 is one of the most severe global health crises of our time – and has brought on one of its most severe economic shocks. Millions of workers and their families around the world have lost their incomes as markets contracted, companies shut down and supplier contracts were cancelled. Up to half a billion people could be pushed into poverty before the pandemic is over. By the end of the year more people could die from hunger linked to COVID-19 than from the disease itself. The global crisis is hitting the most vulnerable the hardest – from workers in meat processing plants in the United States, Brazil and Europe, to small-scale farmers in West Africa, garment workers in South East Asia, and informal urban workers in Lagos, New Delhi and Sao Paolo. Many of the most vulnerable workers are women, racial and ethnic minorities, and migrants.  
  
  
 Oxfam proposed ‘An Economic Rescue Plan for All’ and two major learning from past crises should inform governments’ actions:  
  
  
 - The world must learn from the 2008 financial crisis, when governments bailed out banks and polluting big businesses, but ordinary people paid with a decade of self-defeating economic austerity, with cuts to public services like health and education. The stimulus packages announced in response to the pandemic must not make the same mistakes. Instead, bailout money must go into the hands of the most vulnerable people – workers and small businesses who are the least prepared to cope. It must also be recognised from the beginning that no bailout is gender-neutral, and that the way in which bailouts are organised must aim to close the gap between women and men. These bailouts represent a huge opportunity to change incentives and business models permanently to help build a more human economy.  
  
  
 - Cash grants and other forms of universal social protection can play a huge role in tackling inequality and protecting vulnerable people, and they are critical in response to this crisis. All workers suffering a loss of income must have access to some form of income replacement, be it a wage subsidy, unemployment benefit, sick pay or other benefits. Today only one in five of all unemployed workers has access to unemployment benefits. Governments need to enrol the maximum number of workers under existing schemes by relaxing eligibility criteria, making access easier for freelancers, self-employed workers, those on zero-hours contracts, the newly employed, young workers, part-timers and workers in other forms of precarious employment. Where no adequate social protection schemes exist, governments must provide income support by way of new cash transfers, seeking to include those not yet covered and expanding such schemes to all residents, including migrants and refugees.  
  
  
 Việt Nam has done remarkably well in regard to controlling the COVID-19 pandemic saving many lives; and mitigated the damage on macroeconomics level. Furthermore, the Government of Việt Nam has issued the Resolution No. 42/NQ-CP dated 09 April 2020 and Decision No. 15/2020/QD-TTg dated April 24, 2020 to implement appropriate measures to support people affected by COVID-19 pandemic – the VNĐ62 trillion bailout package  
  
  
 However, Government relief efforts for COVID-19-affected workers need to target better those most in need, with speedier and more efficient implementation.  
  
  
 By the end of July 2020, VNĐ11.9 trillion has been disbursed, equivalent to 12 per cent of the total value of the bailout package, reaching nearly 12 million people and nearly 13,000 household businesses. This disbursement rate is considered to be low and ineffective. The main reason is that most workers still have not received the money. Only 402,466 workers received the money with a total amount of VNĐ403,425 billion, accounting for about 5 per cent of the total disbursed amount. Among those, only 355,227 informal workers received the support with a total amount of VNĐ348,520 million, accounting for about 0.02 per cent of the number of informal workers nationwide.  
  
  
 In order to assist the Government in effectively implementing this policy, The Network of Action for Migrant Workers and Oxfam have been collecting feedbacks from targeted beneficiaries on the implementation of this bailout package. The key findings from beneficiaries’ feedbacks and policy analysis show that the lack of effective policy implementation is due to the following reason: the eligibility criteria to be a beneficiary of the bailout package are complicated and not feasible, posing difficulties and barriers for workers to access this fund.  
  
  
 Việt Nam Government could consider:  
  
  
 - Incorporating the total expected budget of the two support packages (62 trillion and 18 trillion) in a comprehensive and consistent policy, taking into account the lessons learnt from the implementation of the first package.  
  
  
 - Ensure that eligible beneficiaries of the first package receive timely supports. At the same time, the new package should extend its coverage to all types of employment for both formal and informal workers in rural and urban areas.  
  
  
 - The policy implementation duration needs to be longer to support those who are affected in case of new COVID outbreaks. The new duration should be expanded to cover the period from January 2020 to December 2020 and the number of months supported should be calculated on a pro-rated basis based on the actual number of months of income loss or reduction.  
  
  
 - Simplify registration procedures for eligible beneficiaries to receive support and mobilise social organisations to support people in applying for support from the bailout package. The requirement of “having permanent or temporary residence registration” for informal workers should be removed.  
  
\*Babeth Ngoc Han Lefur is the Country Director of Oxfam in Vietnam

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/life-style/expat-corner/1169873/italian-model-finds-fame-from-vietnamese-reality-show.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/life-style/expat-corner/1169873/italian-model-finds-fame-from-vietnamese-reality-show.html)

Italian model finds fame from Vietnamese reality show

Elia Marchetti during the train fashion show challenge in episode two. — Photo courtesy of Quý Ông Hoàn Mỹ show  
  
  
Bảo Ngọc  
  
  
 Italian model Elia Marchetti hit the headlines when he appeared on the popular reality show, Quý Ông Hoàn Mỹ (The Next Gentleman).  
  
  
 He was the first ever none-Vietnamese to feature in the programme, which looks for talented men and puts them through a series of challenges and tests.  
  
  
 He decided to apply to appear in the show because of his passion for fashion.  
  
  
 “I personally work as a brand ambassador, but I am also involving myself into fashion and modelling," he said.  
  
  
 "Later, I got to know about The Next Gentleman and this has been the best chance for me.”  
  
  
 The 30-year-old model said that he hoped he brought his Italian charm, positive energy and passion to the show.  
  
  
 Elia made it through the first three episodes but was eliminated in round four. However there’s a good chance he could be back on screen as one contestant can return depending on a public vote.   
  
  
 He is keeping tight-lipped about his chances of returning, but away from the catwalk, he’s loving life in Việt Nam.   
  
  
 He hails from Grosseto, a city in the central Italian region of Tuscany, and now is living in HCM City.   
  
  
 Elia revealed that his journey in Việt Nam started with an unexpected phone call.  
  
  
 “I decided to come to Việt Nam after getting a call from an F&B specialist that asked me to work at the highest sky bar in Việt Nam, which was then named SOHY,” he said.  
  
  
 He has now lived in Việt Nam for four years and and fell in love with this country after traveling to many cities and provinces.  
  
  
 “From the weather to the cosy feel of the cities that I’ve experienced since day one, I then fell in love with the people that on a daily basis I meet and got to know,” he said.  
  
  
 Elia also makes videos about life and work in Việt Nam, and receives thousands of compliments on Facebook.  
  
  
 He admitted that he is a family oriented person, and would like to fulfil his highest expectations of life and become the best he can be.  
  
  
 "I want to be happy and also make the people around me happy," he said.  
  
  
  
  
 Elia's performance in the golf challenge. — Photo courtesy of Quý Ông Hoàn Mỹ show  
  
  
  
  
  
 Elia (right), with supermodel Hà Anh and other contestants. — Photo courtesy of Quý Ông Hoàn Mỹ show  
  
  
  
 Besides modelling, Elia is also an amateur actor and a talented bartender. The 30-year-old owns countless Vietnamese and international bartending championship awards. He received many invitations to be a guest bartender and judge of bartending competitions in Việt Nam.  
  
  
 He also starred in the music video “Talk To Me” by singer Chi Pu.  
  
  
 “Chi Pu's team came to my workplace and invited me to shoot a short video clip, so I agreed," he said.  
  
  
 "To be honest, I had just arrived in Hà Nội at that time and didn't even know who Chi Pu was. I was very surprised when I realised that she is a very famous singer in Việt Nam, and up to now that MV has more than 21 million views."  
  
  
  
  
 Elia in a fashion photo taken recently. — Photo courtesy of the model  
  
  
  
 After the tough challenges of The Next Gentleman, he and the fellow contestants are good friends.  
  
  
 "I didn't have many friends in Việt Nam before, but after participating in the show, the team members are like my brothers, and I really appreciate that," he said.  
  
  
 He also shared that he has changed his style to be more diverse to be able to work in the fashion field in Việt Nam.  
  
  
 As a result, Elia received a lot of attention through a number of photo collections.  
  
  
 “Compared to the markets that I’ve known till now, the fashion industry here is continuous and only seasonal, the applications are really oriented to the locals taste and needs. That’s why here I work on many different styles and levels from fancy street wear to affordable and high fashion,” he said.    
  
  
 Talking about future plans, Elia said he don't want to jinx it so he won't give much away, but he loves movies and hopes to act more roles in the future. VNS

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/life-style/expat-corner/1155354/american-food-blogger-who-loves-vietnamese-cuisine.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/life-style/expat-corner/1155354/american-food-blogger-who-loves-vietnamese-cuisine.html)

American food blogger who loves Vietnamese cuisine

Bảo Ngọc  
  
Food blogger Corrin Carlson knows only too well that the proof of the pudding is in the eating.  
  
The American scours the streets of Hà Nội looking high and low for the tastiest treats on offer.   
  
Then it's lights, camera, action as she reviews the local delicacies, sharing her taste bud experiences via social media to the whole world.   
  
Corrin's reviews are not only popular with the expat community, but her charm and humour have struck a cord with Vietnamese followers.   
  
“I love learning about food and the place it holds in different cultures and countries around the world," she said.  
  
"When I arrived in Việt Nam, I wanted to try all of the different foods here.”  
  
  
  
  
 Corrin tries tào phớ, a sweet tofu dessert, which she describes as "the perfect dessert to escape the heat". — Photo courtesy of the blogger  
  
  
She came to Việt Nam while backpacking because she wanted to do a motorbike trip from Hà Nội to HCM City. Instead, Corrin met her partner in Hà Nội and now the capital city is her home.  
  
In 2021, her video introducing Vietnamese fried salt chicken (gà rang muối) and fried sticky rice (xôi chiên) suddenly went viral on the internet.  
  
Corrin said the dish is her go-to “guilty pleasure” order and she really loves the taste of the fried chicken coated with salt. In addition, the food blogger also enjoys fried sticky rice with savoury fillings inside and its accompanying signature dipping sauce.  
  
“Salt pepper lime and chili make the perfect dipping sauce and it all goes best with a Hà Nội beer,” she said.  
  
  
  
  
 Corrin enjoys bún ốc, a Vietnamese noodle dish with small snails, ground beef, fermented sausage and sour broth. — Photo courtesy of the blogger  
  
  
Corrin told Việt Nam News, how she noticed many talented young Vietnamese foodies sharing about great food on Instagram, but couldn't find many doing it in English.  
  
So she decided to make a blog about life and food in Việt Nam from the perspective of a foreigner.  
  
She said: “I decided to start the Instagram account called Plates of Hanoi to share with other English speakers great food so that they could know where they could find it.  
  
"I have been running the Instagram page for over two years, and then I started posting regularly on TikTok this past summer during lockdown.”  
  
  
  
  
 American blogger at BAKED by Julie, a local dessert restaurant. She said it offers "pinkest and prettiest" cakes in Hà Nội. — Photo courtesy of the blogger  
  
  
The food reviewer says she rarely has any difficulties when she is going out to eat in Việt Nam as people here are usually friendly and kind to foreigners.  
  
She hopes to learn more Vietnamese so it will be easier for her to communicate with restaurant owners and waiters.  
  
“My goal is to be a resource to other foreigners and tourists, so that they are more confident to eat the amazing foods around Hà Nội."    
  
Corrin's partner, Steph, works with her behind the scenes and helped develop Plates of Hanoi.  
  
“She has taken many photos of me for Instagram and accompanies me to try new restaurants and food”, said Corrin.  
  
Besides TikTok and Instagram accounts that are very popular with the online community, they are also building a Youtube channel of the same name.  
  
Living in Việt Nam for more than two years, Corrin has tried most of the famous dishes here such as bún chả, bún đậu mắm tôm (vermicelli with shrimp paste), and phở. However, she says her all time favourite Vietnamese dish is still bánh cuốn (Vietnamese steamed rice rolls).  
  
In one of her videos, she describes the dish: "Bánh cuốn is hands down my favourite Vietnamese dish. The artistry that goes into making these super thin rice layer pancakes is next level.”  
  
Corrin joked that she once tried to make the batter on her own at home but failed. "It was a terrible mistake”, she admitted.  
  
Việt Nam has brought this American foodie many wonderful experiences with its rich and attractive cuisine.  
  
Corrin said that the best moments are when she tries a great food or restaurant that someone has recommended to her.  
  
She met incredible people across Hà Nội who share her passion for food and love to cook. She also received a lot of love from the local community and many comments from Vietnamese people living abroad saying that her videos remind them of home.  
  
  
  
  
 Việt Nam has brought the American many new friends. — Photo courtesy of the blogger  
  
  
Talking about future plans, the young American said that she wants to continue to spread her love for food to everyone and encourage them to try more new dishes.  
  
She said: “In the next few years, I want to continue encouraging people to travel and try foods that are new to them. And to continue traveling and trying more food myself, too!” VNS

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/print/vietnamese-resume-foreign-travel-with-a-vengeance/1175019.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/print/vietnamese-resume-foreign-travel-with-a-vengeance/1175019.html)

Vietnamese resume foreign travel with a vengeance

   
  
  
  
  
 A corner at Singapore where attracts many Vietnamese tourists. Many people in Việt Nam are eagerly considering trips abroad after over two years of lockdown. — Photo courtesy of Singapore Tourism Board  
  
  
  
 By Thu Ngân  
  
  
 Đỗ Minh Phương, 38, of HCM City is excited as she prepares the documents needed to apply for visas for her family to travel to France this summer.  
  
  
 The feeling is amazing after two years of having no chance to travel abroad due to COVID-19, she gushes.  
  
  
 Many of her friends and colleagues also plan to travel abroad this summer, she says, joking that “It feels like people are taking 'revenge' after two years.”  
  
  
 A month on from the reopening of the country’s borders, with airlines resuming services to foreign destinations, many people are eagerly considering trips abroad.   
  
  
 On Facebook, it has been common in recent months to see people posting images of their trips to the UK, UAE or Canada.  
  
  
 Mai Hoàng Đạt, a visa service provider and tour operator, says so many are applying for visas to the EU that his company has reached “full capacity” and he has had to stop accepting applications for May.  
  
  
 Besides the Schengen countries, Singapore is also a popular destination.  
  
  
 Thanh Tuyền of HCM City says she and her boyfriend booked tickets to Singapore immediately after the country reopened for quarantine-free travel by vaccinated people on April 1.  
  
  
 “I have to test for COVID in Việt Nam and fly to Singapore. I am so happy after two years of having no chance to travel abroad.”  
  
  
 At a recent event to launch the Singapore Reimage Reopening Campaigning to welcome Vietnamese, the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) in Việt Nam said: “Border measures and health measures are streamlined to facilitate safe and seamless travel. Under this new travel paradigm for quarantine-free travel, travellers can take any flight to Singapore and are not required to undergo testing on arrival.  
  
  
 “All fully vaccinated travellers and children aged 12 and below are able to enter Singapore with a pre-departure COVID-19 test.”  
  
  
 To meet the strong demand for business and tourist travel between both countries, airlines have fully resumed their services from Hà Nội, Đà Nẵng and HCM City to Singapore.    
  
  
 From HCM City, there are now around 50 flights a week to the island nation by at least five different airlines.  
  
  
 John Gregory Conceicao, executive director, Southeast Asia, STB, said: “We are delighted to welcome back visitors from Việt Nam. Việt Nam has always been an important visitor market for Singapore, and we are excited for them to experience our new and reimagined offerings.”  
  
  
 Klook, a leading travel and leisure e-commerce platform for experiences and services, told Việt Nam News that it is seeing growing demand in Việt Nam for outbound travel.  
  
  
 Online travel platform Agoda recently listed the top destinations people in Việt Nam searched for. Thailand led the way, with Vietnamese seemingly keen to again savour its vibrant capital, stunning beaches, shopping, delectable food, and rich culture, Agoda said.  
  
  
 Singapore and Malaysia were in second and fourth spots, while neighbouring Cambodia was at number three.  
  
  
 The Philippines also featured in the list of top 10 searched destinations.  
  
  
 With no visa restrictions, endless tourist options and rapid resumption of flight services ensuring easy access, the attraction these countries have for Vietnamese travellers is unsurprising, Agoda said.   
  
  
 France, South Korea, Japan, and the US also feature among the top destinations for Vietnamese.    
  
  
 With large expatriate Vietnamese populations in all four countries, and France and the US also being home to large numbers of Vietnamese immigrants, Việt Nam might be beginning to see a wave of family-reunion travel from these communities, Agoda said.  
  
  
 “With borders remaining tightly shut for most of the pandemic, it is encouraging to see what looks like more than green shoots for Vietnamese travellers, Lâm Vũ, the website’s country director for Việt Nam, said.  
  
  
 “With Southeast Asia as well as some farther European and US destinations featuring in the top 10 searches it is clear travel has remained on the minds of many Vietnamese travellers.  
  
  
 “We believe the coming months will see a lot more loosening of restrictions, taking travel sentiment levels beyond the pre-pandemic era.” VNS  
  
  
  

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/a-twist-in-the-tale/1167392/vpbank-recieves-international-award-in-anti-money-laundering.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/a-twist-in-the-tale/1167392/vpbank-recieves-international-award-in-anti-money-laundering.html)

VPBank recieves international award in anti-money laundering

   
  
VPBank is the only representative of Việt Nam selected by CELENT for the "Model Risk Manager" prize. — Photo courtesy of the bank  
  
HÀ NỘI — VPBank is the only representative of Việt Nam selected by CELENT for the "Model Risk Manager" prize thanks to Oracle's advanced technology in anti-money laundering risk management.  
The award given by CELENT, a research and consulting company for the global financial services industry, aims to examine the applicability of the technology in financial risk management, operational risk management, cross-border risk and financial crime.  
The judging panel, including analysts and experts, will select winners based on three criteria: innovation, applied technology and excellence in implementation by evaluating business interests.  
VPBank has continuously expanded co-operation with a series of large domestic and international financial institutions and enterprises in recent years.  
This makes VPBank realise the need to invest heavily in advanced technology systems to address legal, compliance and financial risks and potential reputational risks that will arise in the future.  
Through a long testing, research, and refinement process, VPBank decided to choose Oracle Financial Services Analytical Applications (OFSAA).  
This is the world's leading information technology system for money-laundering prevention and combat, operated by large financial institutions belonging to the Wolfsberg association (a group of 13 major global banks operating to develop frameworks and financial crime risk management guidelines) such as Barclays, HSBC, JP Morgan Chase.  
VPBank is the first domestic bank to implement this system in Việt Nam.  
Nguyễn Thành Long, Deputy General Director cum Head of Legal and Compliance Division of VPBank, said OFSAA meets all the purposes set forth by the bank.  
The system helps perform all tasks related to anti-money laundering, anti-terrorist financing, anti-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, compliance with sanctions on one platform instead of using many distributed systems as before.  
With high-precision algorithms operating 100 per cent automatically, the OFSAA system enhances the ability to detect risks related to embargo/sanctions and shortens the processing time by 80 per cent.  
Thanks to advice from many leading experts and practical experience, VPBank has set up many scenarios on anti-money laundering to detect suspicious transactions by an automated system.  
The script system is constantly updated to ensure that suspicious transactions are not missed.  
Long added that the OFSAA had helped VPBank comply with the requirements of laws and international practices on anti-money laundering in increasing financial crimes in number and sophistication.  
VPBank overcame a difficult initial implementation phase by implementing large-scale training, applying strict sanctions and continuous improvement based on comments.  
The system is successfully operating, bringing real benefits to customers, partners and investors.  
The decision to invest heavily in advanced technology systems to control risks is a bold decision of VPBank during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has a major impact on the bank's business.  
However, realising that this is an inevitable trend of the financial industry in the future, VPBank aims to ensure the safety of customer transactions and investor cash flow first. This is an investment that is worth it and benefits all parties. — VNS

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/talk-around-town/1175011/to-check-or-not-to-check-thats-the-big-post-covid-question.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/talk-around-town/1175011/to-check-or-not-to-check-thats-the-big-post-covid-question.html)

To check or not to check? That’s the big post COVID question

   
  
  
  
  
 Illustration by Trịnh Lập  
  
  
  
  By An Phương  
  
  
 Is it essential to take an extensive post COVID-19 health check-up of just about all parameters for those who have recovered from the disease?   
  
  
 Is a lung detox necessary or advisable for such people?  
  
  
 These are questions of serious concern that are being asked by many HCM City residents recovering from the pandemic.   
  
  
 Having been infected with the coronavirus myself, I wanted to book a complete checkup package for myself, so I spoke to a few friends about it and got some interesting feedback.  
  
  
 Thanh Tâm, 29, felt relieved when doctors found no severe damage, especially in her lungs, after the checkup.  
  
  
 “I experienced multiple symptoms of COVID-19 for a week, including high fever, sore throat, body ache and others. Though I felt strong most of the time, a week of illness is cause for concern as it can develop long-term complications that affect the organs,” Tâm said.  
  
  
 “My doctor told me that the immune system of our body constantly works to protect and shield the body from a variety of infections and diseases caused by viruses and bacteria. But, even fully recovering from COVID-19 infections, some people may experience conditions such as fibrosis in the lungs, renal failure, neurological problems, diabetes, and sometimes cardiac arrest,” she said.  
  
  
 Checkups have become quite “crucial” for people wanting a heads-up about what could potentially happen to their body.   
  
  
 Tâm had her post COVID-19 checkup at an international hospital in District 7. Given a standard and an extensive option, she decided to go for the latter, which cost approximately VNĐ17 million.  
  
  
 “Numerous tests on my metabolism, lipid profile, liver function, renal function, coagulation, lungs and exercise capacity and many other things were done. The number of tests performed and the hospital’s quality service has justified the hefty price tag for me,” she said.  
  
  
 Xuân Phú, 27, another friend, said that he was experiencing sleep problems and anxiety attacks though his encounter with COVID-19 was mostly asymptomatic.  
  
  
 “Many people recommended that I go for a check-up as COVID-19 complications like mine are common. But then I had a second thought: If they were that common, shouldn’t we look at them in a lighter way?”  
  
  
 To be honest, as much as I would like to book an appointment for a post COVID-19 check-up, Phú’s point of view has made me think again. In addition to time and money, it is necessary to think about whether we really need it.  
  
  
 Now, I am thinking about exercising regularly and taking health food for at least a month before having a check-up. I would like to see how my body naturally recovers, and go from there.  
  
  
 “The basic thing for being healthy is to have a balanced diet and exercise regularly. How long the coronavirus lasts in the body varies from person to person, exposure to the virus and severity of infection,” said Ngọc Ánh, 38, yet another friend I discussed the issue with.  
  
  
 Ánh and her family of four were recently infected with the virus and she ended up being a primary caregiver for everyone.  
  
  
 “It was a stressful time for me. However, because I had prepared for this day, I focused on minimising the stubborn health impacts of COVID-19 as much as possible by cooking nutritious meals and encouraging my children and husband to stay active after the fever was gone,” Ánh said.  
  
  
 “It is more time-saving and cost-effective if we take good care of ourselves before and during COVID-19 infection. I am more worried for the elderly and people with serious underlying conditions such as diabetes, various immunodeficiency disorders, cancers or chronic diseases. They are more at risk of developing post COVID-19 complications and thus, should go for the in-depth health check-up,” she added.  
  
Natural healing  
  
  
 Multiple post COVID-19 treatments have been advertised via various social platforms and other media. A recent VnExpress article cited doctors being particularly concerned about how stem cell therapy, worth hundreds of millions of Vietnamese đồng, was being ‘hyped up’ to detox and cure post COVID-19 complications.  
  
  
 Since medical facilities which offer these kinds of therapy usually draw a dramatic picture of how viruses accumulate in the two lungs and affect neighbouring organs or how life-threatening it is when only 70 to 80 per cent of the lung capacity is working, the folk feel the urge to get an appointment and get themselves out of danger.  
  
What doctors say  
  
  
 Dr Nguyễn Huy Hoàng at the Việt Nam-Russia Tropical Centre under the Ministry of Defence said post COVID-19 complications were attracting more concern now because the pandemic had cooled down and many medical facilities could easily take advantage of people’s anxiety to advertise healthcare products and services at high prices.  
  
  
 “In fact, most of them have no proven scientific basis and can even make the disease worse,” Hoàng said, adding that so far, post-acute sequelae of COVID-19 was still a mystery with no specific treatment regimen or drug to cure.  
  
  
 “There is no such thing as lungs being poisoned after COVID-19 infection or drugs helping purify and detoxify the lungs. In fact, no official medicine is available for the post COVID-19 period,” said Dr Trương Hữu Khanh, vice chairman of the HCM City Infectious Diseases Association.  
  
  
 "Worry about post COVID-19 complications is understandable, but this should not be exaggerated. The body needs time to fully heal from any disease and COVID-19 is no exception,” said Dr Nguyễn Viết Chung of E Central Hospital.  
  
  
 So, let us remember that our body is already equipped to deal with health issues, especially in the first few months of post-COVID recovery. Whether people should go for a complete health check after being infected with the novel coronavirus is, of course, a personal decision, but most of my friends and I, who are between 25 and 40, are agreed that our focus should be on staying healthy and alert. - VNS

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/talk-around-town/1157906/how-to-stay-safe-when-covid-comes-knocking.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/talk-around-town/1157906/how-to-stay-safe-when-covid-comes-knocking.html)

How to stay safe when COVID comes knocking

   
  
Illustration by Trịnh Lập  
  
 By Nguyễn Mỹ Hà  
This week as the COVID-19 booster jab schedules have been unrolled around the country, Việt Nam has topped 3 million coronavirus patients and the number is still rising fast.  
For weeks, Hà Nội has topped the country's list with the highest recorded numbers of new patients. One week after the city's education authority ordered all school students back to school, only two days before the back-to-school date, it ordered pupils to continue studying online from home.  
In the city's high schools, the number of positive cases spread so fast that classes had to resume online. In a class of 20 at Hà Nội-Amsterdam High School for the Gifted, eight students tested positive, six others had to stay home for further surveillance, while the remaining six had to study online.   
"It looks like when kids are back at school, the contagion rate rose really fast," said a concerned parent in the school online group.  
Others expect that if the rate rises fast, we will reach herd immunity quickly and can treat COVID-19 just like it is normal flu.   
For normal flu, we have been treating it with herbal medication. Xuyên tâm liên, a popular local herbal medicine, is now produced and marketed under the name XuTaLi.  
"Have you stocked on any XuTaLi, I've got a supply source with good price?" asked my friends in a shopping group.   
I thought it wouldn't hurt if I have a few boxes at home to feel prepared. But I later found out that it is not recommended to treat COVID at all. It was just word-of-mouth rumours.  
A couple of days ago, doctors warned against Russian medication being carried into Việt Nam as hand luggage. Even when the packages have names on them, people tend to call them by the colour on the packaging, blue or red, and have no real idea what they're talking about. Such behaviour is reckless and dangerous.  
Hà Quang Tuyến, head of the Pharmaceutical Department at Hà Nội's Medical University Hospital warned, "It's alarming that now people are stocking up on medication to treat COVID-19 on their own judgement or asking Dr Google."  
Catering to people's anxiety, illegal drug traders have advertised that special medication from Russia and China can cure COVID-19 without prescription.  
"These medications get sold in Facebook and Zalo group chats, where members can buy them easily without prescription," pharmacist Tuyến warned.  
Citing the medical literature on experimental use and the efficacy of these drugs, the pharmacist warned people not to waste money on illegal and unreliable drugs.  
 "These drugs have not been authorised by Việt Nam's pharmaceutical authorities to be regulated in the country," he said.   
"If these medications can be used for COVID-19, they need to be prescribed by doctors on particular patients, and cannot be just taken recklessly at home."  
Other doctors also warned people not to get involved in bringing illegal drugs across the border.  
Dr Nguyễn Lân Hiếu, director of Hà Nội Medical University Hospital, said people needed to know that the cure rate of vaccinated patients infected with Omicron was very high, and there was no need "to stuff yourself with unnecessary medications".  
The past week was very stressful for practising doctors in Hà Nội because of the soaring number of patients.   
Helpful information to help patients treat themselves at home can be found on the mainstream media web portals of the Ministry of Health.   
Other doctors also updated their daily work treating patients for the public. If you've just recovered from getting infected with the Delta variant, chances are that you're still capable of getting infected with Omicron. So do not be neglectful and practise the health rules.  
If someone in your family gets infected, what can you do so that others do not get infected?  
Doctors advise rinsing your nasal respiratory tracts and throat three to four times a day with povidone-iodine, hoặc chlorhexidine, or sodium bicarbonate liquids available at most pharmacies. Be sure to check that they are appropriate when buying them.  
If you do test positive, don’t panic. You need to have SpO2, an oxygen meter to check the level of oxygen in your blood. If the result shows that your oxygen level goes below 95 per cent and cannot go higher, you need to go to the hospital.   
Other than this, rest well, eat well and keep yourself isolated so as not to spread the virus to other members of the family. You can take one multivitamin per day. Make sure to stay hydrated. Treat the symptoms like you would treat the normal flu.   
Check with a doctor if you need to take anti-virus medication or anti-biotics.  
Another important question is when should you take a patient to the hospital? Using your oxygen meter, when the oxygen level falls below 95 per cent and does not improve, a patient needs to be hospitalised.  
Doctors have also warned that if a patient's with a low level of oxygen when lying on his or her back gets improved when lying on his or her chest, they need immediate medical assistance in a hospital.   
Before you head to any hospital, you need to check with the health authority to find out which hospital you can take your patient to. Have the number and address for your local ward hospital and those nearby ready. You might need to try a few as they may be overcrowded and not able to take in any more patients.  
Looking at those XuTaLi boxes staring at me from the shelf, I told myself to calm down and follow some basic health rules: wear your mask, wash your hands regularly, no gathering, and no staying in a stuffy space for too long. I need to set a time to wash my hands, and rinse my nose and throat with lukewarm liquids.   
This pandemic shall subside someday. Let's hope so at least, and then we can get back to living normal lives. But for now, stay safe. VNS   
 

Link post: https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/business-beat/1113699/banks-begin-to-hike-deposit-interest-rates.html[Link!](https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/business-beat/1113699/banks-begin-to-hike-deposit-interest-rates.html)

Banks begin to hike deposit interest rates

BUSINESS BEAT  
  
  
  
  
 A customer makes transaction at Sacombank which was one of the first to hike the deposit interest rates, increasing them by 0.4 percentage points on average in early November. — Photo bnews.vn  
  
  
Compiled by Thiên Lý  
  
  
 In October, the average interest rates on bank deposits for six months and 12 months were 4.7 per cent and 5.5 per cent, down half a percentage point from a year earlier, according to Bảo Việt Securities Company.  
  
  
 But things changed in early November when the rates showed signs of rising after a very long time.  
  
  
 Deputy Governor of the State Bank of Việt Nam, Đào Minh Tú, said in 2021 the rates were at the lowest level in five years.  
  
  
 Sacombank was one of the first to hike the rates, increasing them by 0.4 percentage points on average.  
  
  
 Eximbank adjusted them upward by 0.1 percentage point for three months or less and 0.2 percentage points for six to nine months.  
  
  
 The highest rates of 7 per cent are offered by some large banks like ACB, Techcombank and MSB for high-value long-term deposits.  
  
  
 The rising trend is expected to continue.  
  
  
 Many analysts had forecast the rates would increase further at last year-end and this year.  
  
  
 So what caused this change?  
  
  
 Now many are pointing to the looming spectre of inflation, always a major factor in driving up all sorts of interest rates.  
  
  
 For more than a year, deposit rates were just 5-5.5 per cent on average, and investors were not unhappy since inflation was below 3 per cent.  
  
  
 In fact, in the first 10 months of 2021 the consumer price index only rose by 1.8 per cent year-on-year, the lowest rate since 2016.  
  
  
 According to the General Statistics Office, core inflation during the period was 0.84 per cent compared to the same period in 2020.  
  
  
 The agency said core inflation rate had been the lowest since 2011.  
  
  
 Core inflation is the indicator reflecting long-term general price changes, after excluding temporary changes of the Consumer Price Index (CPI).  
  
  
 Thus, people could still be induced to deposit their money in banks.  
  
  
 But now many economists expect inflation to rise as the prices of many commodities and goods have started to increase.  
  
  
 A GSO official said the costs of raw materials used in many industries have risen sharply, especially in October, pushing up prices, including of essential consumer goods.  
  
  
 Besides, the rise in fuel prices has an effect on the prices of all kinds of goods, he pointed out.  
  
  
 The prices of petrol and other fuels were adjusted upward 18 times last year, resulting in A95 petrol going up by VNĐ7,860 per litre and E5 petrol by VNĐ7,600 by October.  
  
  
 Gas products saw their prices hiked eight times.  
  
  
 Consequently, the prices of a number of key raw materials have surged, including plastics by12.9 per cent and textile fibres by 10.78 per cent, according to a GSO report.  
  
  
 Experts calculate that every 1 percentage point increase in raw material prices translate into a 2.06 per cent increase in product prices.   
  
  
 Inflation is expected to rise to 3.5-4 per cent in 2022.  
  
Money supply  
  
  
 Bùi Thuý Hằng, deputy director of the central bank’s monetary policy department, said as of November 25 the total outstanding loans at banks were up by 10.1 per cent.  
  
  
 With the Government injecting around VNĐ672.01 billion to help revive business activities, large sums of money have been pumped into the economy, significantly increasing money supply and thus inflationary risks.  
  
  
 Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Đỗ Thắng Hải told a government meeting in December that inflationary pressure would be high in 2022, especially with both the global and Vietnamese economies expected to experience a strong bounce back as herd immunity is achieved.  
  
  
 Faced with the likelihood of inflation, banks have to increase their deposit interest rates to ensure positive real interest rates to prevent depositors from withdrawing their money and investing it in other assets like securities and real estate.  
  
  
 Hải said by doing this lenders, specially small ones with modest liquidity, would ensure they have enough funds to continue lending.  
  
  
 Analysts also pointed to other reasons for the increase in deposit interest rates.  
  
  
 With COVID-19 vaccination covering almost the entire adult population, hope is rising that the pandemic would soon be controlled and economic activities would return to normalcy, increasing demand for credit.  
  
  
 Anticipating this, banks have started increasing their deposit interest rates to mobilise more funds to meet future market demand when the cost of money is still low and before competition drives it up.  
  
  
 But banking sector insiders expect deposit interest rates to only see slight changes.  
  
  
 Time will tell.  
  
Far-sighted seafood producers buck COVID downturn  
  
  
 Early this year, most of the forecasts for the seafood industry were optimistic since the COVID pandemic was well controlled in Việt Nam, enabling the country to grab global market shares from other seafood exporting countries, many of which were badly affected by the outbreak.  
  
  
 But things changed since the fourth wave of the pandemic hit the country: most sectors were hit badly and seafood was no exception.  
  
  
 In the third quarter of 2021, tra fish (catfish) exports dried up as COVID raged in several provinces in the south, the key seafood exporting region.  
  
  
 Many companies had to halt production while a few operated at just 30-50 per cent of their capacity.  
  
  
 Consequently, exports of the catfish, one of the country’s biggest earners, declined by 25 per cent year-on-year.  
  
  
 Things were not worse only because some businesses managed to do well thanks to stocking up on raw materials before the outbreak began.  
  
  
 Though Việt Nam is a power house of agriculture, especially fisheries, only those companies that prepared well by ensuring adequate availability of raw materials and markets have been able to beat the pandemic’s effects.  
  
  
 Vĩnh Hoàn Corporation was one of them. It saw turnover and profit increase by 25 per cent and 33 per cent year-on-year in the first nine months of 2021 to VNĐ 2.3 trillion and VNĐ233 billion, respectively.  
  
  
 A spokesperson said exports were not affected much since the company had stockpiled a huge volume of raw materials like catfish fillet while supply sources both at home and abroad were broken amid the pandemic.  
  
  
 Besides, its main export markets are the US and China, whose demand for seafood products remained steady despite the outbreak, he added. — VNS

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US anti-dumping decision poses threat to Vietnamese raw honey businesses

Nguyễn Phương Thảo  
  
  
 Since the US Department of Commerce decided to apply the highest ever tariff rate (over 412 per cent) for raw honey imported from Việt Nam, which exports more than 90 per cent of its honey to the US, small honey companies have been like a beehive under attack.  
  
  
 Nomad beekeepers around the country are trying to work as the new season is coming. Việt Nam News speaks to Nguyễn Phương Thảo, International Trade Attorney and Partner at IDVN Lawyers, a boutique law firm specialising in international trade and customs, about the issue.  
  
Have you been following the anti-dumping preliminary decision of the US Department of Commerce on the raw honey they import from Việt Nam?   
  
Yes, we are aware of the preliminary determination of the US Department of Commerce (DO)  dated November 17. This is an extremely adverse decision against raw honey producers from Việt Nam.  
  
How does the US perception of Việt Nam not having a full market economy affect the export?  
  
  
 As you know, the anti-dumping duty is based on the dumping margin that the US DOC calculated for Vietnamese honey producers and exporters. Such a calculation is based on the comparison between the export price to the US and the normal value.  
  
  
 In general, normal value is determined by either the sale price in the exporting market or constructed from the manufacturing cost, selling, general and administrative expenses (SG&A), and profit. When the US DOC conducts an anti-dumping investigation against Việt Nam imports, it has always considered Việt Nam a non-market economy where the cost and price do not reflect market conditions.  
  
  
 Thus, the DOC constructs the normal value by surrogate value methodology, which means that it uses data on price and cost from another country that the US considers market economy (e.g. India) to calculate the manufacturing cost, SG&A and profit for Vietnamese producers and exporters.  
  
  
 This methodology often inflates the dumping margin and thus, results in higher anti-dumping duties imposed on Vietnamese imports.  
  
Could you explain to those not familiar, the filing process for anti-dumping? Why would a proposal from the US Honey Producers Association of over 200 per cent lead to a preliminary decision by the DOC at over 400 per cent?   
  
  
 In its petition, the US Honey Producers Association alleged a dumping margin of around 200 per cent. This alleged duty is normally applied by the US DOC when there is no cooperation from foreign respondents.  
  
  
 However, the DOC is not bound by this alleged duty. As the investigation authority of dumping, the DOC issues various questionnaires to foreign producers and exporters and issues findings based on its examination of the responses submitted by those respondents.  
  
  
 Thus, the DOC may impose the anti-dumping duty at a level greater than alleged by the petitioner as the result of its examination of data and information submitted by the foreign producers and surrogate value methodology.    
  
  
 In this honey investigation, as you know the duty of 412.49 per cent for almost all Vietnamese raw honey exporters resulted from the duties of two mandatory respondents: Buôn Mê Thuột Honey JSC (413.99 per cent) and Đắk Lắk Honey JSC (410.93 per cent).  
  
  
 There is no finding on non-cooperation in the preliminary decision in this case, as the DOC calculated the preliminary duties on the basis of its assessment of responses submitted by two respondents and surrogate values selected by the DOC itself.  
  
What are the challenges for Vietnamese raw honey exporters if this preliminary determination becomes final? What can they do to convince the DOC to decide otherwise?   
  
  
 If the preliminary duties become final, it will be extremely difficult for the Vietnamese raw honey exporters to maintain their access to the US market.  
  
  
 Although the investigation is still ongoing, it is now at the final stage and the exporters, particularly the two mandatory respondents, should focus on the remaining steps of the final stage including verification by the US DOC and the US DOC hearing.  
  
  
 The two mandatory respondents should review the DOC margin calculation and surrogate values selection, to prepare counter argumentation briefs to the DOC.   
  
  
 When the preliminary duties of Đắk Lắk and Buôn Mê Thuột are reduced, the duty rate of 412.4 per cent will be reduced accordingly.  
  
  
 It is important to note that the US DOC has adopted surrogate value methodology since its very first investigation against catfish in Việt Nam in 2002, and it is a fact that Vietnamese exporters in several sectors such as seafood, steel and vehicles tires managed to obtain low or even zero per cent duty regardless of the surrogate value method.  
  
If it's likely that DOC won't change its decision, then what's next?   
  
  
 If the adverse duties are not changed in the final decision, the US market may likely be shut down to the raw honey exporters of Việt Nam.   
  
  
 Vietnamese raw honey exporters have the right to sue the US DOC at the US Court of International Trade if they find that the final decision of the DOC is contrary to what the DOC can do under US law.  
  
  
 In this regard, again they should be assisted with legal advice from US-experienced lawyers because what appears to be unreasonable or unfair in a common sense does not necessarily mean that it is banned by US law.  
  
  
 The raw honey exporters also have the option to get these adverse duties changed in the administrative review after the anniversary of the final duty order. This is the usual path that exporters of other sectors, such as Việt Nam seafood have followed in dealing with the US DOC.  
  
  
 However, this path requires a significant investment by each exporter in re-arranging and enhancing data systems in order to satisfy the US DOC's requirement as well as finding favourable surrogate values.  
  
  
 Good preparation results in minimising mistakes and reduced duties in the review. In addition, those who succeed in defending the review get benefits from better company management and expanding their market share in the US market as we have seen in the seafood sector. — VNS