



DVET

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Vietnam Delivers COVID-19 Relief Package of VND61.58T to Laborers

Vietnam is implementing a relief package worth VND61.58 trillion (\$2.64 billion) to 4.2 million laborers under COVID-19 impacts. The relief included VND35.88 trillion of cash, VND16.2 trillion via the Vietnam Bank of Social Policies (VBSP), and cancellation of collection for retirement and death pension fund worth VND6.5 trillion. The National Assembly Standing Committee did not approve the package of VND3 trillion for enhancing working skills of laborers. So far, the cash delivery reached VND13.1 trillion for 4.2 million laborers, including 56,026 people with breaks without payments; 173,473 people with terminated labor contracts; 1.07 million people without labor contracts losing their jobs; and 2.9 million people under social welfare support. The package via the VBSP reached VND41.8 billion for 245 employers with 11,276 employees, or only 0.26% of the package. (VTV, tuoitre.vn, kenh14.vn Jul 26)

Vietnam Unemployment Reaches 2.52%: Labor Minister

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, Vietnam's unemployment rate reached 2.52%, said Minister of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs Dao Ngoc Dung, at the session on July 25 of the 15th National Assembly's ongoing first meeting, giving examples of heavy impacts for tourism and transport sectors and about 70,000 withdrawing from the market. He stressed impacts for industrial parks. For examples, Bac Giang province had to temporarily stop four industrial parks with 322 firms and 150,000 workers, Bac Ninh had to stop 42,000 laborers. So far, Vietnam has delivered COVID-19 relief package of VND168.8 trillion (\$7.24 billion) to different people, including the package of VND62 trillion. However, the package was not fully delivered and only VND39 trillion, including VND13 trillion of cash, was delivered to 14.4 million people. Nevertheless, some packages were completed. For examples, VND4.3 trillion from occupational accident and disease fund was delivered to 375,000 employers with 11 million beneficiaries. Besides, 52,000 workers and 5,500 firms received the support. Ho Chi Minh City has delivered VND426 billion to 248,000 freelance laborers. (Nong Nghiep Vietnam, molisa, doanhnghiepvn Jul 25)

Vietnam Clarifies 4 Cases of Wage Payment for Work Halt Due to COVID-19

Laborers, who have to take break due to COVID-19 pandemic, are subject to wage payment in four cases, Vietnam's Ministry of Labor, War Invalids, and Social Affairs (MoLISA) clarified Article 99 of the Labor Code. The four cases are (i) laborers have to conduct quarantine per the authorities' order, (ii) workplaces or laborer's residential areas are under lockdown, (iii) firms or parts of firms have to stop operation per the authorities' order, and (iv) laborers have to take break because other relevant parts of the firms have to conduct quarantine. Accordingly, such payments for a break of 14 days of fewer will not be lower than the minimum wage. For a break







of more than 14 days, the payments are per negotiations between employers and employees and the wage for the first 14 days must not be lower than the minimum wage. (NLD Jul 26)

Vietnam's COVID-19 Relief Packages Include Vocational Training

Vietnam's two COVID-19 relief packages of helping employers and employees, include VND4.5 trillion (\$193.1 million) for TVET. Deputy Minister of Labor, War Invalids, and Social Affairs Le Tan Dung, at a conference of reviewing TVET in the first half (H1) of 2021, asked the TVET system to cooperate with businesses to implement the package. In H1/2021, the TVET system recruited 645,000 learners, or 27.2% of the plan, down 17% y/y. The recruitment included 45,000 for college and intermediate courses. The number of recruited rural laborers was 350,000. (Dan Tri, vietnamnet.vn, gdnn.gov.vn Jul 21)

Vietnam to Push Law Education in Vocational Training

Deputy Prime Minister Vu Duc Dam has signed Decision 1260/QD-TTg on boosting law education and dissemination in vocational training units, including colleges, intermediate schools, centers, and businesses with vocational training activities in 2022-2027. The decision listed methods of updating subjects, hosting contests, merging law contents to cultural and sports activities, boosting cooperation between vocational training schools and legal agencies, and others. The target is to have 90%-100% of vocational training unit disseminating law education, 100% of learners and teachers accessing law education, and others. Another target is to train 2,000 teachers of law education for vocational training units. (Bao Chinh Phu, gdnn.gov.vn Jul 20)

Vietnam Urges Localities to Helps Virus-hit Laborers

The MoLISA has issued Dispatch 05/CD-LDTBXH to order municipal and provincial People's Committees to help laborers hit by COVID-19. The MoLISA asked localities to focus on implementing the Government's Resolution 68/NQ-CP, or the COVID-19 relief package of VND26 trillion (\$1.12 billion), and the Prime Minister's Decision 23/2021/QD-TTg. The MoLISA asked relevant sides to immediately count the beneficiaries and deliver the package, especially the package in cash. The MoLISA asked DoLISAs to improve anti-COVID-19 methods in drug rehabilitation centers, caregiving centers for the elders, and others. The MoLISA demanded that such centers must not receive newcomers or newcomers must follow quarantine. (VOV, www.molisa.gov.vn, baodansinh.vn Jul 21)

Vietnam's Dual Goals during Pandemic Now Become Impossible: Minister

The dual goals of economic development and COVID-19 pandemic control is now impossible, said Minister of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs Dao Ngoc Dung, at the session on July 22 of the 15th National Assembly's first meeting. The session focused on economic development plan in the second half (H2) of 2021 and in 2021-2025. Mr. Dung said that it is necessary to accept a slow economic growth to focus more on COVID-19 fight, in order to ensure the health of





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laborers. He added that vaccination towards herd immunity is the only method, however, it is impossible (for Vietnam) now to reach that herd immunity status in 2021. Minister Dung reminded that COVID-19 has hurt industrial parks and export processing zones in Ho Chi Minh City and provinces of Bac Giang, Bac Ninh, Binh Duong, and Dong Nai. (Dan Tri Jul 22)

Vietnamese NA Deputy Suggests Higher Tuition Fees

Professor-Doctor Le Quan, director of the Vietnam National University (VNU) and also a National Assembly's deputy, has suggested raising higher education's tuition fees. At a NA meeting late last week, Mr. Quan claimed that the current tuition fee rates from the guaranteed budget and universities are lower than expectation. He said that the government needs to consider establishing tuition fees as a technical barrier to prevent students from entering university without any long-term targets. He also proposed the government create more favorable policies to support poor students and increase the fund to develop higher education and vocational training. The deputy also claimed the lack of legal framework in autonomy, stressing the need of the autonomy in higher education's facilities in managing the output quality and having a set of indicators to assess the effectiveness and quality of training institutions, employment issue, and job quality. (VTC Jul 25)

PM Issues Strategy of Youth Development in 2021-2030

The Prime Minister has issued Decision 1331/QD-TTg on the strategy of youth developments in 2021-2030. The strategy features six goals, namely (i) legal and judicial education and assistance for youths, (ii) education and fair education access to youths, (iii) vocational training and employments for youths, (iv) healthcare and physical enhancements for youths, (v) better cultural and mental lives for youths, and (vi) further roles of youths in socioeconomic development and national defense. Until 2030, the target is to provide career path consultation and employment to 80% of youths, give vocational training and at-the-spot employments for 60% of youths, and create employments for 700,000 youths at least. Besides, the rate of unemployment among youths is targeted at below 7% in urban areas and 6% in rural areas. Some methods are to boost law and policy dissemination for youths; provide youths with services to scientific research, foreign language training, and others; enhance the cooperation between higher education and vocational training and information about the labor market; and others. (Bao Chinh Phu Jul 26)

Vietnam Links Poverty Reduction to TVET

TVET made big contributions to Vietnam's achievements in poverty reduction, National Assembly deputies said. Mr. Ta Van Ha said that Vietnam should focus more on establishing the environment for TVET learners to apply their learnings. Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Dung said that short-term courses now do not fit changes in the world, such as climate change, pandemic, technology in production. She added that the government should focus more on attracting investments in TVET and economic models. Mr. Dinh Ngoc Quy said that the authorities should







focus on giving more autonomy to localities in poverty reduction and linking TVET and employment. (GDNN Jul 26)

Business Sector and Labour Market

Foreign Cooperation

Germany Pledges EUR113.5M in ODA for Vietnam This Year

Germany has pledged to provide EUR50 million (\$58.8 million) in official development assistance (ODA) loans and another EUR 63.559 million EUR in grants for 14 technical assistance and investment projects in Vietnam this year, local media reported. The German side made the commitment during a recent virtual governmental-level meeting on the Vietnam - Germany development cooperation in 2021 on July 23. The two sides agreed to prioritize ODA projects in the three sectors, namely (i) energy, (ii) vocational training, and (iii) environment. The German side also consented to increase health cooperation with Vietnam to cope with the pandemic. (VietnamPlus VN, Bao Tin Tuc Jul 25)

PMs of Vietnam, South Korea Hold Phone Talk to Seek Ways to Boost Ties

On July 22, Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and his South Korean counterpart Kim Boo Kyum held a phone talk to discuss measures to deepen the strategic partnership between the two countries. They also consented to increase cooperation in investment, official development assistance (ODA), labor, livelihood of citizens residing in the other, and defense-security. (Bao Tin Tuc, Bao Chinh Phu Jul 22)

WB to Help 600 Vietnamese SMEs Access Digital Transformation

The World Bank (WB) will support 600 Vietnamese small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in applying technology solutions to improve labor productivity and competitiveness as part of a project launched on July 22. The project was co-launched by the WB and Real-Time Analytics (RTA), a Vietnam-based research consulting and technology development firm, to assist Vietnamese SMEs in the digital transformation process. (VietnamPlus Jul 22)

Domestic News

Apple Recruiting Employees for 24 Job Positions in Vietnam

Apple has been employing personnel to fill in 24 job positions in Vietnam's two major cities of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Job positions are involved in four main fields, namely hardware, operations and supply chain, corporate functions, and sales and business development. The applicants should have over five years of hands-on experience in certain fields, acquire English competency, and stay willing to work at Apple's plants overseas. (CafeF, Kinh Te Do Thi, VTV Jul 26)







Hanoi Imposes 15-day Strictest Directive 16 to Fight COVID from Jul 24

Hanoi has imposed a 15-day social distancing order in line with the Prime Minister's strictest Directive 16 since 6 a.m. on July 24, in a bid to curb the spread of COVID-19. Under the latest order, residents must stay at home and only go out for basic necessities, such as buying food or medicines or to work at factories or businesses that are allowed to open. Notably, factories within industrial parks must now operate per models of "working, resting, eating inside factory" or "one fixed route connecting factory and laborers' accommodation." (Zing News, VnExpress, VnExpress, BBC, nCoV, Tuoi Tre, Bao Tin Tuc, Hanoi Moi, CAND, Lao Dong, VietnamNet, VTV, Bao Tin Tuc Jul 24)

Firms in Southern Vietnam Rush to Arrange Factory Sleepovers over COVID-19

Hundreds of enterprises in Vietnam's southern localities, which are imposing COVID-19 social distancing measures, have been rushing to arrange on-premise sleeping accommodations for workers. As of July 21 morning, nearly 160 businesses at industrial parks (IPs) in Ba Ria-Vung Tau province registered to set up on-site sleeping arrangements for nearly 20,000 workers, and the figure is expected to rise in the next few days. The province currently has 370 firms in IPs with 66,000 laborers. In Long An province, 860 companies requested to continue operations with 118,101 workers with factory sleepovers as of July 20. Of these, 373 have been approved to maintain productions with 24,012 laborers. As of July 20, Binh Phuoc province gave the all-clear to 153 enterprises to make room for 20,602 workers to sleep on site. Tay Ninh province had 137 establishments registering to offer 52,405 workers on-premise sleeping accommodations as of July 19. (Bao Tin Tuc, Tin Tuc, Bao Long An, Tuoi Tre Jul 20)

Vietnam Social Security Deploys VND4.3T of COVID-19 Relief Package

The Vietnam Social Security has completed the reduction of payments to the occupational accident and disease fund, worth VND4.3 trillion, as part of relief package worth VND26 trillion (\$1.12 billion) The payment became 0%, from the current rate of 0.3% or 0.5%, for 375,000 firms with 11.2 million laborers. The figures are 101,356 firms with 2.3 million laborers in Ho Chi Minh City, 87,000 firms with 1.4 million laborers in Hanoi, and others. The money, which is originally allocated for this payment, must now be spent on helping laborers. (VnExpress, vtv.vn Jul 20)

Vietnam Bank for Social Policies Deploys Loans of COVID-19 Relief Package

The Vietnam Bank for Social Policies (VBSP) has deployed interest-free loans of VND7.5 trillion for firms to pay wages to laborers, as part of relief package worth VND26 trillion (\$1.12 billion), VBSP deputy director Bui Van Son has said. Businesses can obtain a loan to pay workers who have contracts with compulsory social security but are furloughed for 15 consecutive days between May 1, 2021 and March 31 next year. (VOV, en.vietnamplus.vn, bnews.vn, www.vietnamplus.vn Jul)







Quang Ninh Vaccinates Over 70% of Workers at Industrial Parks

As of July 18, over 21,700 in 30,500 laborers at industrial parks (IPs) in Quang Ninh province had got the first shot of COVID-19 vaccines, according to the provincial Economic Zones Authority (QEZA). The province prioritized vaccination of workers in four out of five IPs, namely Hai Ha port, Hai Yen, Dong Mai, and Viet Hung. During the one-week vaccination, Sinopharm vaccine was also administered to vaccinate workers in Hai Ha port and Hai Yen Ips, at the request of Chinese government and guidelines of the Health Ministry. (Bao Tin Tuc, VietnamPlus Jul 19)

Vietnam Proposes Offering Funds for Agro-Fisheries Investment Projects

Vietnam's Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) has proposed offering funds for enterprises with agro-fisheries projects, per a draft decree to promote the investment in agriculture and rural areas sector. Besides, the MPI proposed the government spend a maximum of VND1.5 billion for each project to develop human resources and market. Of which, the enterprise directly providing or hiring TVET will be supported with up to VND6 million/employee and 40% of the total costs at most. (Bao Chinh Phu, Thanh Nien, Cong Luan Jul 20)

253 Firms with 27.9K Laborers in HCMC under Lockdown

As many as 253 enterprises with nearly 27,900 workers in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) have been under lockdown since July 16, according to the municipal Labor Federation. The city has had 901 companies implementing factory sleepovers with 10,142 laborers staying at their workplaces. According to trade unions' reports, on July 16-22, HCMC reported 1,548 laborers infected with coronavirus and 1,528 F1 cases as workers. Since the fourth outbreak, the city has recorded 4,534 laborers as COVID-19 infections and 13,803 F1, including 230 recoveries. Regarding vaccination, there have been 387,582 laborers of 2,534 businesses and units citywide inoculated against COVID-19 by far. (NLD Jul 23)

Vietnam Airlines Lays off 30% of its Workforce due to COVID-19: Exec.

National flag carrier Vietnam Airlines JSC (HOSE: HVN) has had 30% of its total staff on furlough in between six and 12 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, said Mr. Dang Ngoc Hoa, chairman of HVN Board of Directors. Furloughed employees have received VND1.8 million (\$77)/month each and still secure social welfares offered by HVN while waiting for work return, the executive added. (VietnamBiz Jul 23)

Vietnam Aims to Have 134K Agro Cooperative Groups by 2025

Vietnam has set a goal to have 134,000 agricultural cooperative groups with 1.8 million members, 35,000 cooperatives with 7.1 million members, and 210 cooperative unions with 1,100







sub-members by 2025, according to Decision 1318/QD-TTg on Development Plan of Collective and Cooperative Economic in 2021-2025 adopted on July 22. (baochinhphu Jul 22)

Woman indicted for appropriating money from 140 Vietnamese in labor export scam

Police in Hanoi said on Tuesday that they had started legal proceedings against a 29-year-old woman from Bac Giang Province for deceiving and appropriating more than VND6.2 billion from 140 Vietnamese people who wanted to get a job in South Korea. Accordingly, Than Thi Ly, 29, from Bac Giang's Luc Ngan District, has faced the indictment for property fraud. (<u>Tuoi</u> Tre, Tuoi Tre Jul 20)

DVET Launches Competition of Designing Online TVET in 2021

The DVET and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) have launched a compeition of designing online learning in TVET in 2021. The competition aims to update learning methods, push digitalization, facilitate IT research and application in TVET, and enhance capabilities of TVET teachers. At the launching ceremony, officials announced the website of the competition at http://nhagiao.gdnn.gov.vn. The event has three rounds of DoLISA's rounds, national qualification, and national final. The event features one first prize, two second prizes, and four third prizes. (Dan Sinh Jul 23)

Thanh Hoa Creates Employments for 27,500 People

Thanh Hoa province created new employments for 27,500 people in the first half of 2021, up 62.5% y/y and reaching 46.6% of the plan for 2021. The figure included 3,300 people working abroad. Besides, Thanh Hoa job centers provided information to 56,300 people, up 26.5%, and surveyed 950 firms. (Dan Tri Jul 25)

Lao Cai Spends VND120B on Training High-Quality Laborers

Lao Cai province spent VND117 billion on training and attracting high-quality laborers in 2016-2020, including civil servants, doctors, and others. (<u>Dan Tri</u> Jul 24)

Training School in Hanoi Applies Learning, Living, Eating at Schools

Hanoi College of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering has applied the model of "learning, living, and eating at schools," similar to the model of "working, living, and eating at factories" of firms in COVID-19 hotspots. Mr. Dong Van Ngoc, dean of the college, made the statement at a conference of reviewing the performance in the first half of 2021 of the DVET. Mr. Ngoc added that the college has applied that model for 400 learners. Besides, officials from other colleges and the labor sector suggested methods of reducing some learning contents, adapting online learning contents, reducing tuition fees, and others. (Thanh Nien Jul 20)







Khanh Hoa Aims for \$8.62B in Tourism Revenue by 2025

Khanh Hoa province sets a goal of earning VND200 trillion (\$8.62 billion) in tourism revenue by 2025 and generating jobs for over 160,000 laborers. It aims to attract 11 million stay-over tourists with the annual growth rate of 22% on average in 2021-2025, including five million international visitors with the growth rate of 23%-25% per year. (VietnamBiz Jul 27)

46% of Polled Firms in HCMC May Lay off Employees in H2: FALMI

Over 46% of 35,485 surveyed enterprises in HCMC could furlough laborers in the second half (H2) of this year as a serious impact of the fourth coronavirus flare-up, according to the city's Human Resources Forecast and Labor Market Information (FALMI) Center. FALMI forecast that the layoffs would mostly happen in the third quarter (Q3), and the labor market might be vibrant again in Q4, when the resurgence could be possibly controlled. The FALMI listed two scenarios. Should the plague continue to ravage, the city might have around 127,000 job vacancies. Meanwhile, if the city does well to weather the health crisis, the labor market may have 147,000 new job positions. (Nha Dau Tu Jul 27, VnEconomy, Doanh Nhan Sai Gon Jul 24, VnExpress Jul 25)