

increased demand for public infrastructure works such as the Trung Luong – My Thuan Expressway and My Thuan Bridge 2.

Nguyen Thanh Hai, CEO of a construction firm in the southern province of Tien Giang where many sand mines are located, said output is dwindling in mines in the Mekong Delta, and contractors are struggling to source sand.

For now contractors and their customers have little option but to pay higher prices.

Nguyen Tai Anh, deputy director in charge of investment at Vietnam Electricity, said his company is having trouble awarding contracts for its projects since raw material prices have risen by 30-40 percent.

Anh hopes prices to start falling as late as next year otherwise many projects won't meet their deadlines.

(Source: VNexpress)

FOREIGN INVESTORS MAINTAIN

INTEREST IN VIETNAM

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Vietnam are confident about recovery in the country, with its Business Climate Index (BCI) hitting 73.9 points.

When asked about the prospects of Vietnam's business environment in the next quarter, 67 percent predicted either "excellent" or "good" - a 12 percent increase compared to the previous quarter.

Meanwhile, business leaders are also more optimistic about their own companies. More than two-thirds (68 percent) predict that or-

ders and revenue will remain steady or increase over the next three months, which is a 25 percent increase compared to the fourth quarter of 2020.

EuroCham President Alain Cany attributed the results to European firms' confidence in the Vietnamese market, where business has not been greatly interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, amid fierce competition from other countries in FDI attraction, experts said that Vietnam should work harder to win favour.

Amcham Vice Chairman John Rockhold said that the country should consider non-carbon facilitation, while Nguyen Hai Minh, Vice President of EuroCham, held that it needs more high-tech human resources to meet investor needs./.

(Source: VNA)

VIETNAM EXTENDS MANDATORY QUARANTINE PERIOD BY ONE WEEK

The mandatory quarantine period will be increased by one week to 21 days from the current 14 days, said Minister of Health Nguyen Thanh Long. The renewed regulation is applicable to those who come in close contact with COVID-19 patients and those who enter Viet Nam, Long added.

The extension is part of the country's effort to prevent spread of COVID-19 as authorities have detected tens of local infections linked to both Vietnamese and foreigners who tested positive for COVID-19 after completing 14-day mandatory quarantine.

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