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ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)



Study: Cambodia is one of safest countries in SEA



Cambodia News | 29 November, 2021

Foreign investors have little to fear if they want to do business in the Kingdom. A study conducted by Gallup, one of the leading analytics company in the world, found that Cambodia is one of the safest countries in Southeast Asia. The 2021 Global and Order Report ranked the Kingdom as the third safest country in the region, after Indonesia (1st) and the Philippines (2nd). Vietnam obtained the same score (83) as Cambodia. The report was released last week. Cambodia's position has improved significantly in the last two years. Cambodia was ranked seventh out of nine Asean countries in the 2019 edition of the report. Malaysia was ranked fourth, followed by Myanmar and Laos. Thailand was ranked as the 'most dangerous' country in Southeast Asia. Singapore and Brunei were not included in the report. Countries in Europe dominated the top ten spots. Norway was ranked as the most peaceful and safest country in the world, followed by United Arab Emirates, China, Switzerland, Finland, Iceland, Tajikistan, Taiwan, Slovenia and Austria. Tajikistan's inclusion in the top ten is surprising, considering that it shares a common border with Afghanistan, considered to be one of the most dangerous and least stable countries in the world. Unsurprisingly, many strife-torn countries in Africa, South America and Asia were viewed as the most dangerous nations in the world. Venezuela, which descended

into chaos after the socialist revolution advanced by the late President Hugo Chavez and current leader Nicolas Maduro, topped the 'Rouges Gallery', followed by Gabon, Guinea, Uganda, Cameroon, Peru, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia and the Republic of the Congo. Expats, especially foreign businessmen, generally agree that Cambodia is a safe place for them. "I have been living in Cambodia for more than five years. And I feel safe enough. This is my experience. I've never had any problems with police or local authorities. And yes, my phone was stolen twice. Nothing else," Russian businessman Sergey Sidenko said. I can't compare the situation here with other countries in Southeast Asia, because I have never lived there. And I know nothing about the methodology of the report either. I know that people complain sometimes. And of course nothing is perfect, and I just got lucky because I haven't met anything really bad. But if the report is correct, then people know how to live with it," he added. A local businessman, Mai Channeang, agreed with Sidenko's observations. "I agree with the Gallup Report 90 percent. Very few major crimes happen in Cambodia," he stressed. The number of drug trafficking, murder and kidnapping cases in the Kingdom are much lower compared to that of its neighbours, according to the Cambodian Police. The study was based on interviews with more than 120,000 adults in 115 countries and territories. The respondents were asked several questions, including whether they felt safe walking at night. The respondents were also asked whether they have

confidence in the local police. The study basically relied on the perception of the respondents.

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50978852/study-cambodia-is-one-of-safest-countries-in-sea/>

Chilli value chain being boosted to tap new global markets



Cambodia News | 29 November, 2021

German development agency GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) is working with local chilli processors to help them tap new global markets. It held a workshop with representatives of government ministries, private sector associations, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and development agencies to get their input on a draft report on the seed-to-export value chain for chilli. GIZ said the report will help chilli processors, mainly SMEs, develop their products and access more regional markets. Chilli is grown across the Kingdom with Thailand and the UAE the main export destinations. “Khmer Chilli is one of the high potential commodities for both local consumption and export and we see a big opportunity and demand for exports,” said Frank Jattke, Team Leader, GIZ ASEAN AgriTrade in Cambodia. “We will work together with our government partner-GDA to screen and select key private sector companies who are, based on initial assessment, more likely export-ready in terms of producing and processing chili for export to international markets, particularly ASEAN markets.” He said GIZ and Cambodia’s General Directorate of

Agriculture would advise producers about the best techniques and give them market knowledge to make them more competitive. “Facilitating business matchmaking between the local chili producers and processors to some selected ASEAN Member States such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand will also be under our objectives so that we can see a view to developing suitable business relationships resulting in marketing partnerships and joint ventures,” Jattke said. The focus on Cambodian chilli follows a study last year into the export potential of chilli, mangos and cashew nuts. Following the report GIZ and the GDA decided to continue work on supporting the value chain for chilli. GIZ then carried out its study on the chilli value chain from January to April this year. The Agrinnovation Fund in ASEAN, which was set up by ASEAN AgriTrade, has provided nearly \$22,500 in funding to private companies in Cambodia to help them develop value chains for spices and herbs. Mexico was the world’s biggest exporter of dried whole chilli pepper last year with 23.5 percent of the market. The US was the top importer in 2020, according to commodities data tracker Tridge. India and China are the world’s largest chilli producers.

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50978806/chilli-value-chain-being-boosted-to-tap-new-global-markets/>

MRC Council approves plans for sustainable development



Laos News | 30 November, 2021

The Mekong River Commission's MRC Council has approved important documents including rules of procedure for the MRC Council and the joint committee, and a sustainable hydropower development strategy for the lower Mekong Basin. More than 140 representatives from the MRC member countries (Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam), members of the MRC Council and development partners discussed and approved the documents at the 28th MRC Council Meeting and Joint Meeting of the 26th Development Partners Consultative Group, which took place in Bangkok last week. The meeting also reviewed the implementation of work under MRC cooperation, gave directions for the MRC's future work plans, and discussed with MRC development partners future cooperation plans and other work related to the sustainable development of the Mekong Basin. The meeting took place through a video link and was attended by Laos' Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Mrs Bounkham Vorachit and her delegation. The meeting also endorsed Dr Anoulak Kittikhoun from Laos as the 3rd Riparian Chief Executive Officer of the MRC Secretariat. Dr Anoulak was selected as the MRC CEO following open recruitment and will hold the position from January

2022 to 2024. In addition, the meeting took note of reports on progress made to date and a review of past implementation, and discussed the direction of the future work plans put forward by the MRC Secretariat. Meeting participants also asked development partners to consider continuing providing additional information to the MRC Secretariat. The meeting asked the MRC Secretariat to foster the implementation of the activities approved in the MRC Multi-Year Work Plan for 2021-2022, to ensure it is successful and highly effective. Mrs Bounkham said the Lao government prioritises sustainable development in the Mekong River Basin and aims to tackle climate change by integrating the work of the MRC into the 9th five-year National Socio-Economic Development Plan for 2021-2025 and the five-year plan of the natural resources and environment sector for sustainable water resources management. She affirmed cooperation with MRC member countries, development partners, dialogue partners and other international organisations to implement the 1995 Mekong Agreement. In particular, this will involve cooperation in the fields of water management and water-related resources, to enhance sustainable development in the Mekong River Basin.

Source: https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_MRC_234.php

In order to cooperate with the private sector in accordance with market demand, 28 breeding zones have been established in each region and state



Myanmar News | 29 November, 2021

To develop the livestock sector, 28 livestock zones have been set up in each region and state to cooperate with the private sector in line with market demand. Union Minister for Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo said. For domestic consumption, healthy meat, fish, Eggs Dairy and dairy products; fresh and sufficient consumption of livestock products; Export promotion; Raising people's incomes and raising living standards; Region The Department of Livestock Research will be expanded to accommodate the changing times in the development of the livestock sector, which plays an important role in reducing the gap between rich and poor in the states. If domestic livestock production can be improved, fishery exports will soon reach \$ 1 billion. In the 2018-2019 financial year, 1121.35 tons from livestock; 339.36 tons from Inn business; The general fishery produces 1,260.69 tonnes and the saltwater fishery produces 3,249.70 tonnes. In the six months from April to September 2018, 495.49 tons from livestock; 122.74 tons from Inn business; 513.42 tonnes from the common fishery and 1,449.80 tonnes from the saltwater fishery. In the 2017-2018 financial year, 1,130.35 tons from

livestock; 341.02 tonnes from Inn, 1253.795 tonnes from common fishery and 3152.14 tonnes from saltwater fishery. "According to our department's statistics, foreign investment inflows into the agricultural and fisheries sectors, which are investing in Myanmar, account for less than 2% of total annual investment. Therefore, it will be better for the agricultural sector, which is an important part of the country, to find ways to achieve sustainable development," said Thant Sin Lwin, director general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. According to the annual inflow of investment in Myanmar's agricultural sector, the foreign investment in the six months from April to September 2018 was only \$ 10.650 million. In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, \$ 134.485 million was invested in the agricultural sector, but no investment was made in the agricultural sector in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Over \$ 7.1 million in the 2015-16 fiscal year; over \$ 39.66 million in the 2014-15 fiscal year; In the 2013-2014 financial year, more than \$ 20.2 million; More than \$ 9.6 million came in in the 2012-13 fiscal year, but no investment in the 2011-12 fiscal year. From the fiscal year 1988-1989 to the end of September 2018, a total of over \$ 77.7 billion in foreign investment came to Myanmar, with over \$ 395 million in the agricultural sector, accounting for only 0.51% of the total foreign investment

Source: <https://news-eleven.com/article/220848>

New graduates want monthly salary of \$435-650



Vietnam News | 29 November, 2021

Almost half of fresh university graduates expect a monthly salary of VND10-15 million (\$435-650), but most employers are only willing to pay VND6-10 million, a survey has found. The survey by headhunting agency Adecco Vietnam said over 43 percent want a salary of more than VND10 million, and 31 percent want VND6-10 million, but only 27.5 percent of employers are willing to pay above VND10 million. More than 51 percent want to pay less than VND10 million. Up to 88.5 percent of new employees regard salary and remuneration as the top priority closely followed by training and development opportunities (87.7 percent) and then by promotion prospects (73.8 percent). Work-life balance and cultural fit are also highly valued (67.2 percent and 55.7 percent). Many employers said their main concerns when recruiting new graduates are lack of soft skills, unrealistic expectations and instability. Y Pham, chief growth officer at flexible pay startup Nano Technologies, said she has met many new graduates who start their first full-time job with too high expectations due to the lack of clarity about their career path. More than 56 percent of employers appreciate the new vision and initiative of fresh graduates, 54 percent appreciate their enthusiasm and 40 percent say new graduates help build a diverse workplace. Due to Covid-19, nearly 39 percent of enterprises have reduced recruitment

demand, with nearly 19 percent cutting it by more than 50 percent. Over 59 percent of new graduates believe there are fewer job opportunities and 37 percent are worried about labor market instability. Adecco predicted that 62 percent of fresh graduates would seek new jobs in the next six months, when recruitment demand would rise considerably.

Source: <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/business/data-speaks/new-graduates-want-monthly-salary-of-435-650-4395281.html>

Vietnam urged to improve policies for effective implementation of EVFTA



Vietnam News | 29 November, 2021

Hanoi (VNA) - Improving the policy system and legal framework based on international trade practice is one of the important factors for Vietnam to integrate more deeply into the global value chains and attract investment capital from Europe as well as create a level playing field for domestic and foreign enterprises, Ambassador Giorgio Aliberti, Head of the European Union Delegation to Vietnam, has said. Up to 35 percent of European business leaders see administrative procedures as a barrier in the implementation of the European Union - Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA), according to the 2021 White Book released recently by the European Chamber of Commerce (EuroCham) in Vietnam. Aliberti said that there is great investment potential from the European Union, especially in high-value sectors. EuroCham is committed to

supporting the Vietnamese Government in setting up a sustainable development roadmap to bring better investment opportunities in the future for the business communities of the two sides, he added. In early 2021, European business leaders made a positive and optimistic assessment about Vietnam's trade and investment environment. The Business Climate Index (BCI) of Vietnam reached 73.9 points in the first quarter of this year, the highest score recorded since the third quarter of 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic hit global trade and investment. However, the fourth wave of COVID-19 infections in many provinces and cities across the country caused the BCI to drop by nearly 30 points in the second quarter of this year to only 45.8 points. According to Aliberti, the outbreak of the pandemic led to certain disruptions during the social distancing period in Vietnam and other countries in the region. However, Vietnam has made remarkable reforms to implement the EVFTA such as its efforts related to certification of origin and geographical indications with very specific improvements, he said, adding that this is a very important starting point. The official said the EU and Vietnam will witness the opening of their markets along with tariff reductions, opening a new wave of trade for the business communities of the two sides in the future. If the two sides cooperate to solve difficulties, the post-pandemic recovery will quickly achieve desirable results, towards a brighter and more prosperous future in the relationship between Vietnam and the EU, he said./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-urged-to-improve-policies-for-effective-implementation-of-evfta/216259.vnp>
