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JETRO



CCC, JETRO to take business cooperation to the next level



Cambodia News | 20 January, 2022

Trade between Cambodia and Japan reached \$2,148 million in January-November last year. The Cambodia Chamber of Commerce (CCC) and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) in Cambodia have pledged to strengthen cooperation on the sector of business between Cambodia and Japan. The remarks were made during the course of meeting between Kith Meng, president of the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce and Marisa Haruta, Chief Representative of Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) in Cambodia on Tuesday. In the meeting, Meng applauded close cooperation between CCC and JETRO in Cambodia and vowed to continue strengthening relations. Meng briefed a series of business and investment events the CCC to host this year, calling for support from the JETRO. During 2022, CCC will be the organiser of major Business and Investment events, including the Asean Business leaders, Asean's partner leaders, international organisations and major companies throughout the world, Meng said. Meng asked JETRO to cooperate and support the programs organised by CCC as well as Asean Business Advisory Council and East Asia Business Council for the interest of the whole private sector and regional economic recovery. "In this context, both institutions can cooperate at bilateral level as well as regional level through the ASEAN Business

Advisory Council and East Asia Business Council," Meng said. Marisa Haruta sincerely appreciated the enhanced cooperation with CCC to promote and attract Japanese investors to Cambodia. For the CCC's suggestions, JETRO will support CCC on organising the regional cooperation through the ASEAN Business Advisory Council and East Asia Business Council chaired by Kith Meng. The two sides signed two memorandum of understanding on strengthening and deepening cooperation between CCC and JETRO Cambodia, and between ASEAN Business Advisory Council and JETRO. CCC has planned to open its first overseas liaison in Japan. The launching ceremony of the CCC liaison in Japan was set earlier this year. Trade between Cambodia and Japan reached \$2,148 million in January-November last year, 11 percent increase compared to the same period last year. Of which, Cambodia exported \$1,623 worth of goods to the East Asia nation, more than 9 percent increase year-on-year.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501010092/ccc-jetro-to-take-business-cooperation-to-the-next-level/>

Milled rice export to EU expected to increase



Cambodia News | 20 January, 2022

Cambodia is in high hope of seeing the amount of milled rice export to the European Union increase after the import tariff on the country's rice was revoked. The EU market accounted for more than 50 percent of Cambodia's total milled rice export in

2016 and this amount dropped sharply to around 20 percent last year, mainly due to the import tariff on Cambodia's long-grain white rice. High hopes to grain shares of rice export in the EU come as the bloc's three-year temporary measure – import tariff came to an end on January 19. Rice export to the EU will gradually increase from this year, said Song Saran, president of the Cambodia Rice Federation, a clan of rice millers and exporting companies, said yesterday. The rice body encourages its members and farmers to produce fragrant rice and high-quality rice as import tariffs were removed in the EU, Saran said. "We expect the milled rice export to the EU to increase, but it is not in a high pact of growth because we focus on export of fragrant rice and premium high-quality rice," Saran said. Cambodia would spend several years pushing the amount of milled rice to reach the amount of 300,000 tons registered in 2019, he said. The EU imposed import tariffs under the safeguard scheme as a temporary measure to help protect farmers from competitively priced long-grain rice, with exporters in Cambodia and Myanmar having benefited from tariff-free status under the EU's Everything But Arms (EBA) scheme. Under the tariff, exporters are subject to pay \$198 per metric tonne in the first year, \$170 and \$142 per metric tonne in the second and third year, respectively. Figures from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries showed that Cambodia exports only some over 140,000 tonne to the EU while more than 300,000 tonne to China, the biggest market of Cambodia's milled rice. "We expect to see

an increase by 10 percent and constantly in the same beat until the amount of rice export reaches about 25 to 300,000 tonne as before, and what we want is 300,000 tons per year export to the EU," he said. CRF plans to promote and guide farmers to produce fragrant rice and premium quality rice for export, rather than a lower price rice grain, Saran said, promoting in markets abroad is another task the CRF would take to promote the country's rice name in international markets.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501009997/milled-rice-export-to-eu-expected-to-increase/>

MRC, GIZ ink agreement to boost transboundary water cooperation



Laos News | 21 January, 2022

The Mekong River Commission (MRC) and the German development agency GIZ have signed an agreement to implement the second phase of the Transboundary Water Cooperation Programme in the Lower Mekong Basin. The new agreement, signed on January 17, follows funding commitments made in November by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, which granted the Mekong River Commission an additional 4.45 million euros over the next three years. The programme will enhance the Commission's ability to monitor and address challenges in the Lower Mekong Basin, including threats posed by climate change, especially flooding and drought. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Chief Executive Officer of

the MRC Secretariat, Dr Anoulak Kittikhoun, said the agreement would put into effect activities that would boost the capacity of the Mekong River Commission and the national Mekong committees. “Germany’s support will pave the way for us to further advance our ability to monitor the state of the Mekong River, effectively collect data and conduct analysis for better informed decisions, and proactively protect the future of the many lives that depend on the Basin,” he said. According to a recent MRC report, the Lower Mekong Basin has witnessed record low flows for the third consecutive year, with river levels dropping to their lowest points in more than 60 years, due to highly reduced rainfall and worsening climate conditions. The report also noted that while reverse flows into the Tonle Sap in 2019 were close to average, those in 2020 and 2021 were the lowest on record. Head of Development Cooperation at the German Embassy to Laos, Dr Christina Seeberg-Elverfeldt, said the second phase would strengthen joint planning and Basin management with a view to boosting climate resilience in the shared sub-basin between Cambodia and Thailand and other countries. “The project aims to further build the capacity of MRC staff and relevant regional line agencies working on the MRC Core River Monitoring Network for informed decisions over the development and management of water resources, enabling the MRC to manage flood and drought risks

in the Lower Mekong Basin more effectively,” she said. The first phase of the Transboundary Water Cooperation agreement was instrumental in deepening cooperation between and among the MRC member countries of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. In addition to the joint monitoring of mainstream dams at the regional level, the project supported bilateral cooperation, while the Regional Steering Committees of Cambodia and Thailand approved a five-year Master Plan on Transboundary Flood and Drought Management in the Tonle Sap sub-basin and a respective Basin Atlas. Germany is a long-standing contributor to the Mekong River Commission dating back to the establishment of the Commission in 1995 and has provided more than 67 million euros in technical and financial support.

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_MRC14.php

Palm oil being sold via mobile market truck in Yangon region



Myanmar News | 20 January, 2022

The price of palm oil currently hit around K4,800 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in the Yangon market. The association imported the palm oil at the CBM reference rate and sold it at the fair price of K4,400 per viss with the mobile oil tankers in the Yangon region. Photo: MEODA Page The palm oil

is being sold via mobile market truck in the Yangon region, according to Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association. The association has already distributed the edible oil to the consumers at a cheaper rate through wholesalers, retailers and mobile market trucks as of the last week of November last year. But the mobile market trucks were suspended for a while and have been resumed on 14 January 2022. The price of palm oil currently hit around K4,800 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) in the Yangon market. The association imported the palm oil at the CBM reference rate and sold it at the fair price of K4,400 per viss with the mobile oil tankers in the Yangon region. At present, the prices of palm oil somewhat rose, following Kyat depreciation against the US dollar in the local foreign exchange market. Currently, the local currency is approximately K2,000 per dollar. Thus, the association has distributed the edible oil to the consumers at a cheaper rate through the relevant companies. Last year, more than 30,000 tonnes of palm oil, with an estimated value of US\$41 million that the CBM directly sold to the oil sectors during Kyat weakening in the forex market, have been sold at an affordable price. The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local cooking oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. To meet the self-sufficiency in the domestic market, about 700,000

tonnes of cooking oil are yearly imported from Malaysia and Indonesia. — NN/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/palm-oil-being-sold-via-mobile-market-truck-in-yangon-region/>

Coca-Cola invests 136-million-USD factory in Long An



Vietnam News | 20 January, 2022

Hanoi (VNA) – The Long An Economic Zone management board has granted an investment licence to Coca-Cola Beverages Vietnam Co., Ltd to implement a soft drink plant project in in the southern province of Long An. The project has total investment capital of more than 3.1 trillion VND (over 136 million USD). It will be located in the Phu An Thanh industrial park in Ben Luc district. This is one of the big investment projects that the provincial authorities has licensed in early 2022. Last year, Long An ranked second nationwide in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) with more than 3.84 billion USD./.

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1114426/standard-chartered-forecasts-viet-nam-2022-gdp-growth-at-67-per-cent.html>

Over half of Japanese firms want to expand operations in Vietnam: JETRO



Vietnam News | 20 January, 2022

More than 55% of Japanese enterprises in Vietnam are seeking to expand their operations in the country in the next one or two years, according to a survey conducted by the Japan External Trade

Organization (JETRO). JETRO has revealed the results of its survey conducted on 4,600 Japanese enterprises operating in 20 foreign markets, including 700 firms in Vietnam, from August 25 to September 24 last year, when Vietnam applied strict mobility restrictions, news site VnExpress reported. According to the survey, 42.5% of Japanese enterprises in Vietnam wanted to maintain their current scale. Despite the long social distancing period, only 2% of Japanese firms in Vietnam sought to reduce their business scale and less than 0.5% of respondents planned to move to other countries. At a press briefing on January 19, Takeo Nakajima, chief representative of JETRO Hanoi, said the proportion of Japanese enterprises wanting to expand their operations in Vietnam had fallen compared to the pre-pandemic period. However, this is also an issue of concern in many other markets. Vietnam has advantages in its market scale, potential and laborer quality, according to the survey. The poor laborer quality is a problem facing many Japanese enterprises in other markets, but it is not the case in Vietnam, Nakajima added. Over the past few years, Japanese companies have spoken highly about the transparent law system and administrative procedures of Vietnam, but seemed to have had second thoughts over the past two years, probably due to Vietnam's anti-pandemic policies. Nakajima said Japanese enterprises expected an improvement in policies in the long term.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/over-half-of-japanese-firms-want-to-expand-operations-in-vietnam-jetro-post919470.vov>