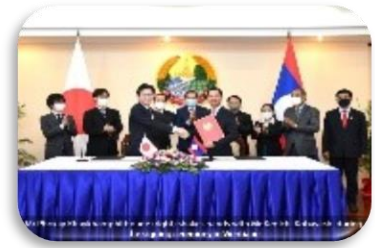




- Cambodia's tourism to recover after 2 years of slump
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## Cambodia's tourism to recover after 2 years of slump



*Cambodia News | 02 February, 2022*

Cambodia's tourism industry is projected to rebound in 2022 after a two-year significant fall due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a tourism official said on Tuesday. The kingdom received 1.3 million international tourists in 2020, down 80 percent from 2019, and the number had further declined by another 85 percent to 196,495 in 2021, a Ministry of Tourism report showed. "We expect that the number of foreign tourists to Cambodia will begin to recover from this year thanks to our country's re-opening to fully-vaccinated travelers," Kong Sopheareak, director of statistics and planning department of the Ministry of Tourism, told Xinhua. "With our quarantine-free policy, we're confident that tourists will consider Cambodia as a key destination for their vacations, and we hope to attract half a million international visitors this year," he said. Tourism is one of the four pillars supporting the kingdom's economy. The country attracted up to 6.61 million international tourists in 2019, generating gross revenue of 4.92 billion U.S. dollars, according to the Ministry of Tourism. The country is famous for its three world heritage sites, namely the Angkor Archaeological Park, the Preah Vihear Temple and the Sambor Prei Kuk Archaeological Site. Besides, it has a 450-km pristine coastline stretching across four southwestern provinces. Cambodia has opened

its door to fully vaccinated travelers since November last year after most of its population had been vaccinated against COVID-19. Xinhua

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501017486/cambodias-tourism-to-recover-after-2-years-of-slump/>

## Domestic airlines resume flights as flights to Cambodia increase



*Cambodia News | 02 February, 2022*

Cambodia Airports has announced the resumption of domestic flights of some airlines as the number of flights to Cambodia continues to increase. On February 1, Cambodia Angkor Air resumed domestic flights, according to the airline. The airline will start flights between Phnom Penh-Siem Reap and Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville from February 4, 2022 as scheduled every Friday and Sunday. On January 26, AirAsia resumed flights between Phnom Penh and Kuala Lumpur. Meanwhile, in early January 2022, Vietnam Airlines also added flights between Phnom Penh (PNH) and Ho Chi Minh City (HCM). According to Cambodia Airports: "Vietnam Airlines has resumed their flights to Phnom Penh on January 1, 2022 and has set flights four days a week. "Now the airline has added six more flights, a total of 10 flights a week." Sin Chansery Vutha, spokesman for the Secretariat of State for Civil Aviation, told local media that flight schedules at Cambodia's three international airports showed that by the end of January, 2022, there will be about 10 domestic and international airlines operating in Cambodia, with

some airlines flying between 3-4 times in 1 week. He added that the resumption of flights is a good sign for the Cambodian aviation sector, which will gradually increase the number of flights and may lead to normalcy in the near future.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501017539/domestic-airlines-resume-flights-as-flights-to-cambodia-increase/>

## Japan pledges US\$8.78 million for early warning systems



*Laos News | 03 February, 2022*

The government of Japan has agreed to provide 1 billion yen (US\$8.78 million) to install weather-related early warning systems in six provinces of Laos. An agreement on the grant aid for the scheme was signed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Vientiane on Wednesday. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Phoxay Khaykhamphithoune represented the Lao government in signing the agreement with the Japanese Ambassador to Laos, Mr Kenichi Kobayashi. Early warning systems will be set up in Champassak, Saravan, Savannakhet, Xekong, Attapeu and Khammuan provinces. The systems are designed to provide weather forecast data and help local communities prepare for hazardous weather-related events. Use of the systems should help to minimise the impacts and damage that could result from possible extreme weather. The agreement follows the devastation experienced in southern

Laos that was triggered by tropical storms in August and September 2019. The storms caused widespread flooding, in which 19 people died and some 760 houses were destroyed or damaged. About 765,000 people in total were affected by the severe conditions. Flooding and storms that year also impacted on socio-economic development in Laos, with the total value of damage caused by weather-related events amounting to US\$164 million. Storms and flooding destroyed or damaged 97 bridges, 747 schools, 43 hospitals and health centres, and 462 roads. In addition, more than 275,000 animals were affected. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mr Phoxay thanked the government and people of Japan for assisting Laos, particularly with efforts to respond to natural disasters. Japan's assistance reflects the commitment made by the Japanese government to support Laos' socio-economic development plan for 2021-2025 and help the country better deal with weather events and climate change. The relationship between Laos and Japan has strengthened significantly since the two countries elevated their ties to a strategic partnership in 2015. Laos regards Japan as a key partner based on the long history of friendship and strategic cooperation between the two countries.

Source : [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten\\_Japan23.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_Japan23.php)

## Import price elevates palm oil price to over K5,000 per viss



*Myanmar News | 02 February, 2022*

The price of palm oil edged up to K5,000 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) at present, following the increase in imported oil price, according to Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association. The prevailing price of imported palm oil stands at US\$1,450 per tonne, whereas it fetched only \$1,360 per tonne in early January, indicating an increase of \$90 per tonne within a month. Tracking the price hike of imported oil, the price of palm oil rises tremendously to K5,150 per viss. The Central Bank of Myanmar sold US\$77 million to the edible oil sector to distribute the oil at subsidized prices. Between 15 September 2021 and 13 January 2022, the Central Bank of Myanmar sold \$77 million multiple times to the oil importers at the reference rates of K1,753-1,820. Of them, \$74 million worth of over 57,000 tonnes of palm oil has been imported so far. More than 53,000 tonnes of palm oil have been distributed. Over 3,900 tonnes are left for sales, said an official of the Consumer Affairs Department. The retail price of oil is K4,500 per viss at present. The edible oil is distributed with the mobile market trucks in coordination with the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association. The domestic consumption of edible oil is estimated at 1 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. — NN/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/import-price-elevates-palm-oil-price-to-over-k5000-per-viss/#article-title>

## VNR should seek ways to promote logistics services



*Vietnam News | 02 February, 2022*

HÀ NỘI — Amid the pandemic and difficulties in logistic transport, the railway industry must work out solutions to accelerate logistics services to reduce challenges for businesses, according to industry insiders. In July last year, the Vietnam Railways (VNR) added a new rail freight link from Việt Nam to Belgium with the first train departing from Yên Viên station in Hà Nội to arrive at Liege City in Belgium. Currently, VNR is providing freight train services between Việt Nam and China and transiting to Russia, Europe, ASEAN and Central Asian countries. The firm provides full logistics services to clients. VNR Chairman Vũ Anh Minh said that with advanced container transport, the travel time by train was between 18-20 days, while sea transport took about 40-45 days. Minh noted that this was a great competitive advantage of railway transport, especially for products that need good storage conditions and fast delivery. Minh said many businesses now planned to shift their containers

from sea to rail freight. A representative of the Import-Export Department (Ministry of Industry and Trade), said the increase in Ocean freight rates and shortage of empty containers had made rail freight more competitive. Therefore, the demand for the Asia-Europe railway would not stop at 15 trips per week as it was now. Nguyễn Hữu Đức, a railway expert, said that amid the global outbreak of COVID-19, international sea freight was facing its most difficult time, and rail freight had become a reliable means of transport transporting goods from Việt Nam to Europe. The railway has a great advantage due to its rail links with the international rail networks, reasonable freight costs, and low impact on the environment. Trần Thế Hùng, General Director of Rail Transport and Trade JSC (Ratrac), a member of VNR, said that his company had run three trips per week to Europe. This year, the company was expected to increase the frequency to 4-5 trips per week. It also set a target of running one trip per day to many different destinations in Europe and vice versa. For this route, all 23 original coaches from Việt Nam would be pulled by China's Asia-Europe train and later travel through Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, Poland, Germany and Belgium as the final destination. Mai Lê Lợi, general director of VIMC Logistics, said his company was willing to work with Vietnam Railways to conduct new transport routes and offer importers and exporters new transport

solutions. Lợi said the Asia-Europe railway had great potential due to trade turnover between Việt Nam and the Free Trade Agreement between Việt Nam and Eurasian Economic Union but it so far remained modest. Economists attributed the current problem of railways to the inadequate and small-scale warehouse system that failed to meet the needs of clients. Hoàng Gia Khánh, VNR deputy general director, said the Vietnamese railway infrastructure system was now seriously degraded with a low capacity of transport. He attributed these issues to the limitations on railway stations, freight yards, and loads on bridges that are unable to connect with other kinds of transport such as sea freight. Therefore, it was a need to outline investment policies and promote connection with the international railway network. Vietnamese railways now connect with Chinese railways to transport goods to other countries. Under the development plan for railway network for 2021-2023 approved by the Government, Vietnamese railways are connected with Chinese railways via two lines starting from Việt Nam's Đồng Đăng to China's Ping Xiang, and Việt Nam's Lào Cai station and China's North Hekou station. Experts said upgrading railway infrastructure was a decisive factor, especially the Asia-Europe railway network that helped boost the capacity of rail freight. Currently, Việt Nam has a narrow track gauge railway while

China has switched to a broad gauge one with only short sections in some border provinces still using narrow-gauge tracks. This means Vietnamese trains from Lào Cai Station can only reach North Hekou Station at the farthest in China. As a result, goods will have to be unloaded from Vietnamese trains to be reloaded onto another train to be transported on China's railway system. Conversely, Chinese trains can not run to Việt Nam for goods loading. — VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1141763/vnr-should-look-for-ways-to-promote-logistics-services.html>

## Khanh Hoa welcomes first tourists on first day of Lunar New Year



*Vietnam News | 02 February, 2022*

HCMC – Khanh Hoa Province and Vietnam Airlines welcomed the first visitors from Hanoi City on February 1, or the first day of the Lunar New Year. After Flight VN1551 transporting these tourists landed at the Cam Ranh International Airport in the province, passengers and flight crew were welcomed with lion dance performance, flowers and gifts, creating a happy atmosphere on the first day of the new year, according to the air carrier. The carrier is operating domestic routes connecting Khanh Hoa Province with Hanoi, HCMC, Danang and Vinh, Vietnam Airlines said, adding that the airline will restart flights between the province and Haiphong and Phu Quoc. The airline will launch a total of over 64 weekly flights to/from Khanh Hoa as it signed a cooperation agreement with the provincial

government to bring tourists to the province in the 2021-2025 period. Khanh Hoa Province is one of the seven cities and provinces permitted to implement a program to pilot welcoming back international tourists after the Covid pandemic is brought under control. Statistics from the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism indicated that as of January 23, or after two months of the pilot program, the province had welcomed 7,000 travelers. The pandemic has taken a heavy toll on the province's tourism industry. Last year, the total number of visitors in Khanh Hoa Province was nearly 643,000, dipping by 49% year-on-year, according to the provincial Department of Tourism. Some 23,000 international tourists traveled to the province in 2021, plunging by 95% year-on-year, while the province welcomed 620,000 domestic travelers, down 24%. As such, the industry's revenue last year amounted to a mere VND2.43 trillion, down over 52% year-on-year. The province has set a target of welcoming over 1.2 million tourists in 2022, including 1.16 million domestic visitors and 40,000 foreigners. The province also targeted revenue at VND4 trillion from the tourism industry.

Source : <https://english.thesaigontimes.vn/khanh-hoa-welcomes-first-tourists-on-first-day-of-lunar-new-year/>