



- GDT gears up to block unregistered companies' electronic transactions
- 'Dollar is lovable, but use more Riel when it comes to local products'
- Rail operator asks for government's help to resolve problems
- Approximately 100 watermelon truckloads daily delivered to China
- Myanmar earns \$390.895 mln from over 486,413-mln-tonne pulses export in nearly 4 months of mini-budget year
- Vietnamese rice well-received in Europe
- Vietnam's manufacturing industry continues improving in January



GDT gears up to block unregistered companies' electronic transactions



Cambodia News | 09 February, 2022

The General Department of Taxation of the Ministry of Economy and Finance has sought cooperation from 49 Internet companies in Cambodia to block electronic transactions should those enterprises are not registered. The announcement was made during a meeting with 49 internet service providers in Cambodia on the implementation of VAT on e-commerce transactions yesterday chaired by its GDT director-general Kong Vibol. The online businesses in Cambodia are booming and a large number of online-based businesses are not registered and are fully tax obligated, Vibol said. "Recently, online businesses and internet sectors have been booming and growing gradually, as some enterprises have registered their taxes and fulfilled their tax obligations. However, there is still a large number of enterprises that are not yet registered and aware of the tax obligations. So, strengthening the management of e-commerce activities is strengthening the level playing field and fiscal compliance for the sector," he said. The government has issued Sub-Decree No. 65 on the implementation of value-added tax on e-commerce, which applies to the supply of digital goods or digital services or any e-commerce activities carried out by non-resident suppliers coming to Cambodia, especially for e-commerce activities in the Kingdom,

are subject to comply with the VAT provisions. The General Department of Taxation intends to promote and strengthen the cooperation of enterprises as Internet Service Providers in the Kingdom to join the government in case the enterprises are not registered and fulfill their obligations. "The General Department of Taxation welcomes all inputs and technical cooperation to improve the implementation of VAT on e-commerce transactions to ensure increased tax revenue collection is sustainable," he said. Vibol appreciated and hoped that the management and representatives of companies doing business as internet service providers in Cambodia will actively cooperate with the General Department of Taxation in the implementation. The GDT has postponed the implementation of VAT collection for electronic transactions until March 31, 2022 to give taxpayers more time to find out more and be ready when implementation starts from April 1, 2022 onwards.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501021382/gdt-gears-up-to-block-unregistered-companies-electronic-transactions/>

'Dollar is lovable, but use more Riel when it comes to local products'



Cambodia News | 09 February, 2022

Even as traders and business outlets accept both riel and the dollar in their day-to-day transactions, they must be encouraged to quote prices in Riel for local products, suggests Saravanan Ragupathy, Core Banking Specialist of Chip Mong Bank. Ragupathy

told Khmer Times that Cambodia is a country that has a dual-currency system, USD is commonly used as a normal exchange and as current convertibility as well. “This makes the dollar a popular choice as it is great in fashion but in reality using the dollar puts the economy with a burden of higher inflation.” “Nobody buys for hundreds of riels or thousands of riels,” he says, adding, “Everybody buys for half a dollar or one dollar. Dollar is lovable, fashionable and the fact is one dollar is 4100 riels and riel is always inflating while the dollar is so stable.” Talking defensively Ragupathy opined that either way, it is neither right nor wrong as it is very much a government policy. Substantiating this, a business owner who runs Bliss Cafe in Tuol Kork, Kang Wai said, he too prefers accepting the dollar, with the reason being the values of products and services is easier reflected due to it being an internationally recognised currency compared to the riel which has a bigger face value. “Hence the reason of the preference is very obvious as a single product or service may cost a big amount of conversion as calculation needs to be done to get the real value especially for a foreign business person like myself,” he said when contacted. Kang runs a store that sells mostly products from Malaysia besides running a small cafe in the same premises that also sells popular Malaysian dishes such as nasi lemak.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501021539/dollar-is-lovable-but-use-more-riel-when-it-comes-to-local-products/>

Rail operator asks for government's help to resolve problems



Laos News | 03 February, 2022

The Laos-China Railway Co., Ltd. (LCRC) has outlined various problems that the government needs to address in relation to railway operations, with the issues being raised during a visit by Deputy Prime Minister Dr Sonexay Siphandone. One of these is the need to expedite the authorisation of duty-free imports needed by the LCRC. The company also asked that the Bank of the Lao PDR arrange for the sale of train tickets, and transport payments and other fees paid in foreign currency, to be based on the market exchange rate. LCRC also asked the government to counter negative publicity concerning the railway as well as for assistance with other issues, according to the Vientiane Mai newspaper. Since the railway opened for service at the beginning of December, more than 113,800 people have taken train trips. Each day at least 1,700 people make trips, while on some days the number has exceeded 2,800. To date, passengers have generated more than 12 million yuan in revenue, equal to 21 billion kip. People have flocked to the railway because travel is convenient and fast, while tickets are not expensive. The lowest ticket price is 40,000 kip and the highest is 529,000 kip, depending on the distance travelled and the class of seat. In addition, the railway has carried more than

139,000 tonnes of freight, generating revenue of more than 48 million yuan (86 billion kip). The railway has carried a huge amount of freight from China as companies in the country sought to take advantage of the speedy new transport link. Seven of the railway's planned 10 passenger stations are operating in Vientiane, Phonhong, Vangvieng, Luang Prabang, Xay, Natuey and Boten. Of the seven planned freight stations, three are currently operational in Vientiane, Vangvieng and Natuey. Construction of the US\$5.986 billion (37.4 billion yuan) railway began in 2016. The rail link is a strategic part of China's Belt and Road Initiative and Laos' plans to transform the country from being landlocked to a land link within the region. Use of the railway cuts the cost of transport through Laos by 30-40 percent compared to travel by road. The four provinces through which the railway passes are anticipating an influx of visitors given the improved access and are preparing for a surge in numbers by improving tourist attractions and associated facilities.

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_Rail28.php

Approximately 100 watermelon truckloads daily delivered to China



Myanmar News / 10 February, 2022

Myanmar conveys about 100 truckloads of watermelon to China every day, said U Min Thein,

vice-chairman of the Muse Rice Commodity Depot. At present, Myanmar daily sends 140 truckloads of goods to China through the Kyinsankyawt checkpoint, including 100 trucks carrying the watermelon and 40 trucks loaded rice, broken rice, pulses, rubber, dried plum and other food commodities. The watermelon traders daily send them as they can afford to pay about 30,000 Yuan for freight transport, U Min Thein explained. They can spend the high transport cost as watermelon is perishable, he was quoted as saying. Nonetheless, other traders cannot bear the high transport cost anyhow. Consequently, the number of truckers dropped. In a bid to contain the spread of coronavirus on the border, China banned border crossing. Only Myanmar goods can be exported to China through the Kyinsankyawt border using a Chinese short-haul trucking service. The pricing of short-haul trucking service has exorbitantly soared owing to the shortage of Chinese truckers, U Min Thein pointed out. The cost of Chinese short-haul trucking tremendously rose to K10 million per truck, whereas the trucking was earlier worth only K700,000-K800,000 when Myanmar truckers were allowed to enter China, he elaborated. Therefore, the volume of rice and broken rice export plunges from 60,000 bags to 10,000 per day. China shut down all checkpoints linking to the Muse border amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Of all checkpoints,

Kyinsankyawt has resumed trading activity from 26 November on a trial run. Myanmar daily delivers rubber, various beans and pulses, dried plum, watermelon, muskmelon and other food commodities to China through Kyinsankyawt. — NN/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnln.com.mm/approximately-100-watermelon-truckloads-daily-delivered-to-china/>

Myanmar earns \$390.895 mln from over 486,413-mln-tonne pulses export in nearly 4 months of mini-budget year

 Myanmar News | 10 February, 2022

Myanmar had earned US\$ 390.895 million from the export of over 486,413 million tonnes of various beans and pulses through maritime and border routes from 1 October to 28 January during the mini-budget year of 2021-22 FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce. Nearly four months of this mini-budget period, 453,684.109 tonnes of various beans and pulses worth \$361.919 million were exported through a maritime trade route and 32,729.362 tonnes worth \$28.976 million through a border trade route. In the 2019-2020 financial year, Myanmar earned over \$1.57 million from the export which exceeded more than \$374 million worth of beans and pulses through both maritime and border routes, the ministry's data

showed. During the 2019-2020FY, the country earned \$966.407 million through maritime route and \$604.300 million through border trade route from pulses export. A memorandum of understanding was signed on 18 June to export a total of 350,000 tonnes of Myanmar pulses, including 250,000 tonnes of black bean and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon pea to India in five consecutive years (from the 2021-22FY to the 2025-26FY). Of various kinds of beans and pulses domestically grown, Myanmar mainly exports mung bean, pigeon pea and green gram. Mung bean and pigeon pea mainly go to India and green gram to China and some European Union countries. Myanmar has more than 11 million acres of plantations of 18 kinds of beans and pulses. The black bean plantations are yielding around 400,000 tonnes annually in Myanmar. Besides, Myanmar has also produced about 50,000 tonnes of pigeon pea yearly. — Aye Maung/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnln.com.mm/myanmar-earns-390-895-mln-from-over-486413-mln-tonne-pulses-export-in-nearly-4-months-of-mini-budget-year/>

Vietnamese rice well-received in Europe

 Vietnam News | 09 February, 2022

HÀ NỘI — The EU-Viêt Nam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) has opened up unprecedented opportunities for Vietnamese rice. Thanks to the

preferential tariffs, the export of jasmine rice and high-quality rice to the EU has never been so good. Việt Nam Customs reported that the country's rice exports to the EU market have not yet recorded a sharp increase in volume, but the export price and value had increased significantly. Rice exports to the market reached 53,910 tonnes in the first 11 months of last year, worth US\$38.07 million, up only 0.8 per cent year-on-year in volume but the value grew by 21.6 per cent. The Import-Export Department said this result showed that businesses had effectively taken advantage of the EVFTA to increase the value of rice exports to the EU, especially amid the pandemic, increasing sea freight rates and declining rice imports in the past year. Statistics from Eurostat showed that the EU rice imports fell by 10.9 per cent in volume in the first nine months of last year and 9.3 per cent in value. However, among the 10 major foreign rice suppliers to the EU in the nine months, the Vietnamese rice export price to the EU achieved the strongest growth, up 20.3 per cent, reaching an average of \$781 per tonne. Therefore, although the country's rice exports to the EU dropped, the export turnover still rose by 13.2 per cent. With 27 member countries, a population of about 516 million people, and a GDP per capita of more than \$35,000 per year, the EU market needs to import a large number of goods, especially agricultural produce. For Việt Nam, this is the third-largest export market of

agricultural products, with a turnover of about \$5.5 billion per year. But Vietnamese agricultural produce only accounts for 4 per cent of the EU's import market share, and rice accounts for just over 1 per cent of the market share. The Việt Nam Food Association (VFA) forecast the country's rice exports to the EU to increase significantly this year. In particular, the quality of Vietnamese rice has improved, mainly jasmine rice varieties, hitting the tastes of European consumers, said VFA. Taking advantage of the EVFTA to export jasmine rice with 0 per cent tax was in the hands of enterprises with large raw material areas and cultivated in high standards such as Lộc Trời, Tân Long and Trung An. In the last days of last year, amid the chaos and difficulties caused by the pandemic, Lộc Trời Group (LTG) completed its export of one final batch of rice to Europe, including 4,170 tonnes of jasmine and white rice. It was also the first batch shipped in the form of the bulk carrier to save transport costs amid the pandemic. For the whole year, LTG has exported more than 80,000 tonnes of rice to the EU, the UK, Africa, Australia, the Middle East and neighbouring countries in Asia, earning over VNĐ1 trillion (\$43.47 million), or nearly 24 per cent of the group's total revenue. Nguyễn Duy Thuận, general director of the group, said that with an order of more than 4,000 tonnes just exported to the EU, the group believed that there would be more rice and

agricultural produce produced in a greener and more sustainable direction to meet the strict requirements of the import market. Lộc Trời was also the first enterprise to export an order of 126 tonnes of jasmine rice to the EU under the EVFTA, right after the agreement took effect. The group's rice exports accounted for nearly 70 per cent of Việt Nam's total rice exports to the EU last year. Meanwhile, Trung An High-Tech Agriculture Joint Stock Company has also taken advantage of the EVFTA to export thousands of tonnes of rice to Switzerland, France and Germany. Phạm Thái Bình, general director of the company, said that the EVFTA continued to bring greater opportunities for Vietnamese agricultural products, including rice. — VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1143078/vietnamese-rice-well-received-in-europe.html>

Vietnam's manufacturing industry continues improving in January



Vietnam News | 09 February, 2022

Vietnam's manufacturing industry recorded a steady increase in output and orders in January while the number of jobs also rose for the second consecutive month, according to a newly released report of London-based information provider IHS Markit. The Vietnam Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose to 53.7 in January 2022 from 52.5 in December 2021. It signals a solid improvement in

business conditions that was the most marked since April last year. Both output and new orders increased at a high rate in the opening month of the year as customer demand continued to enhance. Experts attributed the improvement in total new orders to foreign enterprises' activities, with the fastest growth rate since November 2018. Companies are also confident in the production outlook for 2022. About 60% of respondents expected an increase in output, reflecting the highest level of optimism in the past three years. A rise in employment was recorded in January, as companies continued to rebuild their workforce following the Delta wave of the pandemic in 2021. According to IHS Markit, the increase in employment enabled manufacturers to keep on top of workload despite a sharper growth of new orders.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/vietnam-manufacturing-industry-continues-improving-in-january-post923057.vov>