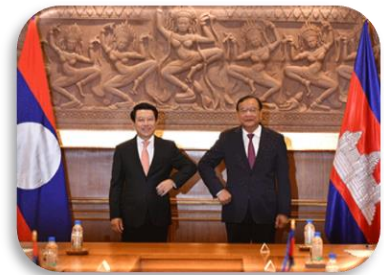


Highlight News / February 17/2022



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New Cambodia-Thai border set to boost mutual trade and tourism, say experts



Cambodia News | 15 February, 2022

The opening of a new international border between Cambodia and Thailand is expected to further enhance trade and tourism cooperation between the two countries. Experts believe that the opening of Thmar Da International Border will open up a special economic zone through domestic and international travels besides enabling trading between the two countries. Thmar Da International Border is located in Thmar Da Commune, Veal Veng District, Pursat Province, bordering Trat Province, Thailand. Already Thmar Da has invested in housing development, hotels, markets, casinos and resorts that leverage on its 1,500 scenic waterfalls and mountains. The Trat province in Thailand is also known to be a seaside tourist attraction. Plans are in the pipeline for various infrastructures to be constructed including the immigration, customs and excise buildings housing both the administrative and dormitory facilities, as well as parking lots, warehouses and container fields. In a recent Technical Working Group meeting of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Sun Chanthol, the Minister of Public Works and Transport who reviewed the construction said the project would provide opportunities for expanded international cooperation, investment, cross-border trade, creating jobs and attracting tourists aim to

boost the economy, families and societies of both countries. The Public Works and Transport Ministry spokesman Heang Sothearyuth told Khmer Times that the ministry is prepared to outline detailed procedures in opening up international borders with the Thai government. “This border gate will be a playing vital role in the exchange of goods between both countries. It is geographically favourable for transportation between districts and provinces such as Somlot, Battambang Koh Kong and Sihanoukville. “The construction of National Road 55 has already been completed but National Road 10 is still under construction. Both national roads are undertaken by a Chinese company,” he said, adding that the addition of an international border will help expedite the transportation of agricultural produce and goods besides boosting tourism there. The bilateral trade between Cambodia and Thailand was valued at \$7.97 billion last year, a 10.26 percent increase compared to the previous year. The Kingdom imported over \$7 billion worth of goods from its neighbouring country, which saw a yearly average increase of 16.37 percent. Cambodia’s main exports to Thailand include textiles, agricultural products, gems, raw materials and semi-finished products. Imports from Thailand agricultural produce, automobiles, organic fertilisers, foodstuff and construction materials. Heang said that the barriers faced in the export of agricultural products to Thailand have always been sanitary and

phytosanitary requirements. The two countries, he said, harbour high hopes to continue pushing for increased bilateral trades up to \$15 billion by 2023.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501025053/new-cambodia-thai-border-set-to-boost-mutual-trade-and-tourism-say-experts/>

Cambodia's garment export nets

\$11.3 billion in 2021



Cambodia News | 15 February, 2022

Despite facing challenges over raw material supplies, strict crossing border measures imposed by the deadly Covid-19, Cambodia's garment sector saw the robust growth of export last year. Figures from the General Department of Customs and Excise, released last week showed that the export amount of the garment, footwear and travel goods increased by 15.2 percent to \$11.38 billion last year. Ly Khun Thai, Honorary President of the Cambodian Footwear Association, said that the increase of garment export was due to the increase in orders, some buyers have diverted orders from neighbouring Cambodia. "Buyers have changed orders from other countries due to unrest in politics and Covid-19 to Cambodia and due to vaccinations in many countries and the reopening of travel, many buyers have placed orders for these products from Cambodia," Khun Thai said. Lim Heng, vice president of Cambodia, shared the same sentiment. "In garment-producing countries like Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Vietnam have faced the outbreak of Covid-19 and there has been a shortage of raw material supplies due to Covid-19. But Cambodia,

China has supplied raw materials sufficiency, so there have been more orders to Cambodia increasing," he said. Trade preference schemes – EBA, GSP are the factors boosting the Kingdom's garment export increase, he said. Minister of Economy and Finance Aun Pornmoniroth said earlier this week that the success of the national vaccination campaign in controlling the spread of COVID-19 has allowed the country to fully resume its socio-economic activities in all areas. "With the success, Cambodia's economy is projected to grow at a better-than-expected rate of 3 percent in 2021 from a 3.1 percent contraction in 2020, propelled by a swift rebound in the garment sector and non-garment sector as well as agriculture," he said. "For 2022, the economy is predicted to grow at a higher rate of around 5.6 percent, buoyed by the expected rise of global demand and foreign investors' confidence," he added. The markets that order the garments from Cambodia include the European, UK, US, Japan, and Canada.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501025229/cambodias-garment-export-nets-11-3-billion-in-2021/>

Laos, Cambodia see leapfrog growth in trade, investment



Laos News | 17 February, 2022

The value of bilateral trade between Laos and Cambodia jumped from US\$10-20 million previously to more than US\$100 million in 2020. The surge in trade growth was revealed when Lao Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Saleumxay Kommasith paid an

official visit to Cambodia and attend the Asean Foreign Ministers' Retreat in Phnom Penh from February 15-17, in response to an invitation from his Cambodian counterpart, Prak Sokhonn. Bilateral economic and trade cooperation has grown largely as a result of Laos selling electricity to Cambodia in recent years, according to the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Meanwhile, investment cooperation between the two countries has grown considerably, with some 30 Cambodian companies currently investing in Laos with registered investment capital of US\$107 million. In addition, leading Lao businesses have invested in Cambodia, which should further strengthen economic cooperation between the two countries. Both countries' foreign affairs ministries have agreed to push the sectors concerned to follow up on a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Laos-Cambodia Joint Commission in 2019. Cambodia will host the next Joint Commission meeting. The two ministries also pledged to push the sectors responsible to discuss and complete demarcation of the two countries' shared border and agreed to maintain security and order along the border. Laos and Cambodia plan to draw up a border treaty on the agreed 465 kilometres of their shared border, equivalent to 86 percent of the total border length of 535 kilometres. Only 14 percent remains to be demarcated. The two sides also agreed to broaden collaboration in trade,

investment, tourism and energy, with Laos planning to boost the sale of electricity generated by dams and coal-fired power plants to Cambodia. In addition, the two ministries agreed to support one another in the regional and international arenas, notably within frameworks relating to the United Nations, Asean, and the Mekong sub-region. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, Laos and Cambodia have continued to consolidate cooperative relations in areas ranging from politics to economics and socio-cultural matters. The two nations continued reciprocal high-level visits as well as held telephone talks and video conferences to further discuss cooperation. The two sides are also placing an emphasis on defence and security cooperation, education, sports, and efforts to combat drug trafficking. At the local level, Vientiane and Phnom Penh have become twin cities and Champassak province has been twinned with Siem Reap province. During his visit, Mr Saleumxay congratulated Cambodia on its chairmanship of Asean in 2022, saying Laos was ready to support Cambodia to fulfil its Asean role. Mr Saleumxay also called on Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni and Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen.

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Lao_Cambodia_33.php

Exotic tomato growers in Kyunhla delight to earn good price



Myanmar News | 16 February, 2022

Taiwan tomato species growers from Magyi Inn village, Kyunhla township, Sagaing region enjoy good prices, according to the local growers. "The local villagers cultivated about 1,200 plants of Taiwan tomatoes plants starting from October. The cultivation cost of Taiwan tomato plantation is about K200,000 per acre including seeds, plough, fertilizer and fuel oil price. About 200 visses of tomato are yielded per acre recently. It is expected that over 1,000 visses of tomato can be yielded as of March. The wholesale price of tomato is sold for K1,000 per viss," said U Htay Tun, the tomato grower from Magyi Inn village. The Taiwan tomato species can be cultivated in every season. The officials from the Township Agriculture Department are providing the awareness and agricultural technology to get chemical-free crops. They also demonstrate how to use natural pesticides and insecticides. — Myo Win Nyo (Kyunhla)/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/exotic-tomato-growers-in-kyunhla-delight-to-earn-good-price/>

Vietnam receives slightly higher inflation forecast, negligible risk:

HSBC



Vietnam News | 16 February, 2022

In a recent report, HSBC adjusted its prediction for Vietnam's inflation this year from 2.7% to 3%, a slight increase but with negligible risk as the economy has shown signs of a strong rebound in the making. While the number of cases has continued to climb since before Tet (Lunar New Year), the Government has so far refused to reimpose stringent social and mobility restrictions. "Policymakers have made clear that they intend to stick with the new strategy of living together with the virus thanks to the success of the country's mass vaccination programme. This has resulted in higher confidence among consumers and more robust economical activities in the domestic market," said the report. Retail has recorded a positive 1.3% in growth year-on-year in January alone after losing nearly 4 percent in 2021. While the 1.3% figure may not appear as impressive, it should be taken into consideration that January 2021's number was especially high because 2021's Tet fell in early February, giving retail a huge demand boost during the entire month. Firms have been able to address labour shortage issues with most vacant positions filled after the holidays, setting the stage for an economic recovery. In addition, the country's manufacturing PMI last month recorded the largest

gain in the last nine months, showing a fast rebound of the industrial sector with a vast majority of indicators pointing to a strong possibility of achieving pre-pandemic industrial production levels. Despite a slight uptick in inflation, the price for foodstuffs remained stable due to weak demand, said the report. "A small increase in inflation (from 2.7% to 3%) for 2022 in our forecast indicates negligible risk for the State Bank of Vietnam as it remained significantly lower than the government's inflation target (4%)," said HSBC researchers. "This is especially true while put in comparison with inflation forecasts for ASEAN economies such as Thailand and Singapore, where higher inflation has started to raise concerns.", they said. Nguyen Ba Minh, head of the Institute of Economics - Finance under the Academy of Finance in Hanoi, said inflationary pressure is likely to stay moderate throughout 2022 as the global economy slowly recovers while dealing with a disrupted supply chain as a result of the pandemic. However, checking the spread of the virus still remains a top priority for the Government to ensure economic recovery, a stable macroeconomic environment and effective inflation control. The Government, in the meantime, must tighten control over prices of key commodities to support the business sector as a whole as well as consumers, especially petro products. A Viet Dragon Securities' report said the biggest threat is likely

inflation due to increases in the prices of imports as the economy continues to rely heavily on imports of raw materials, up to 37% of overall material cost according to the Ministry of Planning and Investment.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/vietnam-receives-slightly-higher-inflation-forecast-negligible-risk-hsbc-post924429.vov>

Singaporean bank considers Vietnam key beneficiary of RCEP



Vietnam News | 16 February, 2022

Vietnam is likely to be a key beneficiary of the Regional Economic Comprehensive Partnership (RCEP) regarding tariff reductions and foreign direct investment, Singapore's leading consumer bank DBS said in a recent report. According to the report, Vietnam's average effectively applied tariffs on intra-RCEP trade are middle of the pack at 1.2%, lower than that of the Republic of Korea, at 4.8%, or China, at 2.8%. It noted that Vietnam is among the ASEAN economies likely to benefit somewhat from tariff reduction, given its high trade openness. Meanwhile, the report pointed out that trade integration between Vietnam and the RCEP members is already high, and should grow tighter as companies tap RCEP benefits. Vietnam consistently imported a significant amount of goods from RCEP partners. The report also noted that RCEP gives Vietnam the opportunity to increase exports to its partners. In addition, the pact also brings benefits to Vietnam in increasing

foreign direct investment (FDI). It said “Even though Singapore continues to receive the lion share of FDI inflows, inflows into Vietnam have been trending higher, and have ranked among the top three recipients within ASEAN-6.” Vietnam continues to boast multiple advantages to attract foreign investors, the report affirmed. Signed in November 2020 and taking effect on January 1, 2022, RCEP brings together 10 ASEAN member states, along with China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand, covering 30% of the global gross domestic product (GDP) worth US\$26.2 trillion. It forms a market with 2.2 billion consumers, and becomes the largest free trade area in the world in terms of population. It will eliminate tariffs on as much as 92% of goods traded between its signatories eventually, expand market access for investment, harmonise rules and regulations, and strengthen the supply chains within the massive free trade zone.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/singaporean-bank-considers-vietnam-key-beneficiary-of-rcep-post924478.vov>
