

Highlight News / March 08, 2022



- Cambodia's rice exports not impacted by Russia-Ukraine crisis
- Vietjet to add more flights to Phnom Penh, Bangkok starting March 16
- Online shopping platform to boost Lao products, promote e-commerce
- TRADE between Myanmar and Bangladesh as of 25 February
- What makes foreign investors choose Vietnam instead of neighboring markets?
- Vietnam, US seek to propel trade ties forward



ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)



Cambodia's rice exports not impacted by Russia-Ukraine crisis



Cambodia News | 07 March, 2022

The Russia-Ukraine conflict will have no significant influence on Cambodia's rice exports, according to the Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF). Concerns have been raised about potential supply chain disruptions as a result of the war or sanctions levied against Moscow and Russian entities. However, CRF Secretary-General Lun Yeng said that neither the Eastern European country was a major buyer of Cambodian milled-rice, and hinted that the ongoing conflict and associated events would be highly unlikely to substantially disrupt the routes used to move the staple grain around the world. According to the CRF, Cambodia shipped just 17,512 tonnes of rice to Russia in the five years from 2017-2021, or 0.55 percent of the total 3.19 million tonnes exported globally. Last year, alone Russia bought 2,223 tonnes – worth about \$1.96 million. In January and February this year, Cambodia shipped 200 tonnes of milled rice to Russia worth \$200,640 or 0.19 percent of the global total export volume for the two months. Meanwhile, milled-rice exports to Ukraine over 2017-2021 clocked in at just 572 tonnes, CRF statistics showed. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries reported that Cambodia exported a total 103,058 tonnes of milled rice to international markets in January-February, increasing by 26,836 tonnes or 35.21 percent year-on-year, from 76,222 tonnes. China was the largest buyer of Cambodian milled

rice over the two months, accounting for 56,385 tonnes, up by 49.84 percent year-on-year, followed by 20 European countries with 26,507 tonnes, up 39.54 per cent. VNA

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501036920/cambodias-rice-exports-not-impacted-by-russia-ukraine-crisis/>

Vietjet to add more flights to Phnom Penh, Bangkok starting March 16



Cambodia News | 07 March, 2022

Joining the growing number of carriers that are opening up international flights to and from Phnom Penh, Thai Vietjet on March 4 announced they too will be adding additional flights beginning on March 16, with new flights linking Bangkok (Suvarnabhumi) and Phnom Penh, operating three flights a week between the two capitals. Morning flights will depart Monday, Wednesday and Friday to Bangkok and will bring a welcome flow of tourists and business to the two countries, both heavily reliant on tourism. On a zoom call to promote the launching of the flights Woranate Laprabang, Chief Executive Officer of Thai Vietjet spoke of what it would mean for the people of both countries who will now be able to make this trip. "We are delighted to further bridge Thailand with Cambodia, offering Thai people more choices flying to Cambodia, as well as to welcome Cambodian tourists, business people to visit and experience the beauty of Thailand, after a long hiatus of the pandemic. The new service between the two destinations will partly contribute to the recovery and

growth of travel and trade between the two countries, reconfirming our commitment for network expansion and accompany with tourism,” Laprabang said. In addition to the new international service Phnom Penh-Bangkok, together with the group network, Thai Vietjet has normalised the schedule service between Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh of up to six flights/week in total extending the possibilities for regional travels. In the days ahead, the airline expects to expand its international flight network to many more destinations in the Asia-pacific region, including Vietnam, Singapore, Taiwan, and more, as well as more options eventually for other destinations in Cambodia. Director of commercial Pinyot Pibulsonggram emphasised the role he sees Thai Vietjet playing in connecting Cambodia and Thailand. “For us it’s about stimulating the growth. We don’t want to just to come in and operate the flight, we also like to help push up the economy and strengthen the relationship between the two countries. It’s more than just getting the passenger on the plane, it’s about creating the economic and social bond between the two destinations,” said Pinyot. However, Woranate emphasised that safety remained Thai Vietjet’s number one priority and has been inspired by the Cambodian example. “I’m very impressed with how Cambodia has dealt with Covid with the lowest numbers of infections. Also, people know that Omicron is not that serious, and has a low death rate, so we will see recovery very soon and people start to travel,” Woranate said. Awarded ‘The Fastest Growing Low-cost Carrier of the 2020’ by

Global Business Outlook Magazine Thai Vietjet also prides itself as the ‘airline of hospitality’.

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501036914/vietjet-to-add-more-flights-to-phnom-penh-bangkok-starting-march-16/>

Online shopping platform to boost

Lao products, promote e-commerce



Laos News | 08 March, 2022

The TK Group will continue to develop an internationally recognised online shopping platform through the launch of the “YesPls” application in order to promote e-commerce and to enable the growth of SMEs in the era of digitalisation. The ceremony for the official launch of the YesPls application was held at Lao-ITECC in Vientiane last Friday. Officials of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI) and representatives of business partners attended the event. Speaking at the event, the CEO and Founder of TK Group, Mr Thatnakhone Thammavong, said the YesPls company was established in 2019 to mainly promote the online shopping platform and brought together a number of domestic producers of goods for a door-to-door delivery service. “The establishment of the YesPls application brings together over 500 shops with more than 2,000 products, including imported and locally made goods, and these are available for shopping,

especially made-in-Laos goods such as One District One Product (ODOP)," he said. Officials and guests point to the symbol of the new 'YesPls' application at the official launch ceremony last Friday. Mr Thatnakhone said the official launch of the application is a milestone and a step towards much easier sales and purchases with modern innovations in the era of digitalisation. "This application platform is a modern bridge between sellers and buyers so that they can meet with each other and trade a wide range of high quality products, with safer payments and a quicker delivery service nationwide," Mr Thatnakhone said. He said the application will prioritise the growth of Lao SMEs and the promotion of Lao products. In 2023, the company aims to expand its online shopping service across Laos. "In 2024-25, we hope to expand the coverage of Lao products in the Asia and the Pacific markets. Later, in 2026, Lao products should be recognised in the global market," he added. The LNCCI President, Oudet Souvannavong, said at the event that the launch of the YesPls application complied with the LNCCI's strategic plans to promote online shopping or e-commerce. "The application has attracted over 500 shops and more than 2,000 products are on sale on the platform. It is still a small figure, compared to the total number of local products, but it is the right move by the company to highlight e-commerce and will eventually attract more products for sale in the

near future," he said. YesPls is an online shopping application and is designed at the Lao modernist with the aim of helping people find various kinds of products, including 100 percent branded items (ODOP and Made in Laos) from across Laos. Products from the Lao Disabled People's Association are also available for online shopping. As part of the company's efforts, the application focuses on developing and raising the profile of Lao companies and promoting Lao products both domestically and internationally.

Source:https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Online_shopping_46.php

TRADE between Myanmar and Bangladesh as of 25 February



Myanmar News / 08 March, 2022

the same period last year, according to the monthly data issued by the Ministry of Commerce Between 1 October and 25 February of this mini-budget period, the Myanmar-Bangladesh trade through border checkpoints has touched \$18.002 million, with exports worth \$17.92 million and imports amounting to \$0.080 million. Compared with the same period last year, the value of exports between the two countries increased by \$10.965 million, while imports declined by 13.462 million. For the same period last year, the total trade between the two countries was valued at \$20.498 million, with \$6.957 million in exports in \$13.541 million in imports. Myanmar exports goods to Bangladesh through both maritime

and land routes. Bilateral border trade is mainly conducted through the Sittway and Maungtau points of entry. The products traded between the two countries include bamboo, ginger, peanut, saltwater prawns and fish, dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, blankets, candy, plum jams, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastics, wood, knitwear, and beverages. —

ZYA/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper/>

What makes foreign investors choose Vietnam instead of neighboring markets?



Vietnam News | 07 March, 2022

In 2022, Vietnam is forecast to record growth at a significantly higher rate, partly thanks to the high vaccination rate that helped the country recover most of its economic activity since late 2021. PwC recently published the report "Vietnam Outlook 2022: Economic prospects in the wake of COVID-19". The report said that, after a long time coping with the COVID-19 pandemic, Vietnam still recorded a GDP growth rate of 2.58% in 2021. This is also one of the few economies to achieve 2 consecutive years of growth since COVID-19 broke out. However, GDP growth rate does not fully represent the real impact of COVID-19 on the economy. Vietnam is going through a K-shaped recovery, with different sectors being impacted in different ways. Specifically, while tourism, hotels, and food and beverage services have been severely affected, export-based

industries have recorded remarkable resilience in the past two years. COVID-19 clarifies the fact that Vietnam is an export-based economy, less dependent on tourism or hotels. When compared with neighboring countries with a strong tourism industry such as Thailand (GDP growth -6% in 2020), the Philippines (-9.6%) or Cambodia (-3.1%), it shows that these countries have been significantly impacted. Meanwhile, Vietnam can maintain positive growth. The report emphasizes that, with the latest Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) taking effect from January 1, 2022, trade relations with global markets will continue to improve, helping Vietnam gradually become the region's fast-growing country. When compared with neighboring markets, Vietnam is still considered the destination of many supply chains and production relocation waves, due to its solid economy and favorable investment environment. As of December 20, 2021, the country recorded a total of 31.15 billion USD in new, adjusted and share purchases by foreign investors. One of the main reasons why Vietnam has become a "winner" in the battle to reposition the supply chain is its ability to build a strong manufacturing ecosystem. This includes a network of suppliers that support major domestic manufacturers, as well as the process of improving the nation's electricity, road and transport infrastructure. In the past, Vietnam was mainly known for its textile manufacturing sector. However, in recent years, Vietnam has emerged as a leading electronics manufacturing center in Southeast

Asia. Accordingly, a series of investment projects by US investors specializing in manufacturing electronic equipment and consumer electronics "landed" in Vietnam in 2019. In 2020 and 2021, Vietnam also welcomed many other FDI projects, but some of them had to be delayed due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This trend is expected to continue over the next few years, including a shift in investment away from other markets, as well as an increase in investment in the foreign manufacturing sector. In 2022, Vietnam is forecast to record growth at a significantly higher rate, partly thanks to the high vaccination rate that helped the country recover most of its economic activity since late 2021

Source: <https://vietnamnet.vn/en/business/what-makes-foreign-investors-choose-vietnam-instead-of-neighboring-markets-820867.html>

Vietnam, US seek to propel trade ties forward



Vietnam News | 07 March, 2022

VOV.VN - The Vietnam-US Business Summit 2022 on reshaping the future of the bilateral economic ties is set to open on March 8 and will discuss ways to promote bilateral trade and investment, with Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh scheduled to make an important speech at the event. The Vietnam-US Business Summit 2022 on March 8 will be co-hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce in Hanoi (AmCham Hanoi) and the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) ahead of the US-ASEAN Summit which is due to run from March 28 to

March 29 in Washington. According to AmCham Hanoi, US President Joe Biden is set to welcome PM Chinh and other ASEAN leaders to attend the US-ASEAN Summit. This will mark the first face-to-face meeting between President Biden and ASEAN leaders since he took office early last year. PM Chinh and US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo will deliver keynote speeches at this important event, with the function featuring the participation of numerous US and Vietnamese leaders from the private economic sector and those from across the region. Key issues which will be discussed during the occasion include driving future growth and innovation through the digital and creative economy, meeting energy development needs to boost future Vietnamese growth, and promoting sustainable investment and stable policies to fuel economic recovery. Bilateral trade between the nation and the US surpassed the US\$100 billion mark at the end of last year, representing a new milestone in two-way trade. According to the General Department of Customs, both side's import and export hit US\$111.56 billion, marking an increase of nearly US\$21 billion compared to 2020, thereby making the US the country's second trading partner to achieve over US\$100 billion, behind China. Last year witnessed Vietnamese exports to the US reach US\$96.29 billion, representing a year-on-year increase of 24.9%. Indeed, world's largest economy continued to be the country's largest export market, accounting for up to 28.6% of the nation's export turnover. There are 13 groups of goods exported to

the US market with a turnover of US\$1 billion or more, of which three groups recorded more than US\$10 billion. The group of export items with the largest turnover was machinery and equipment with US\$17.82 billion, followed by garments and textiles with US\$16.1 billion, and computers, electronic products and components with US\$12.76 billion. The US is also a market that imports several billions of US\$ worth of wood, agricultural, and aquatic products from the nation, of which the export of timber and wood products to this market hit US\$8.77 billion, seafood stood at more than US\$2 billion, and cashew nuts was over US\$1 billion. In the opposite direction, last year saw the country spent US\$15.27 billion importing goods from the US, an increase of 11.4% on-year, and making up 4.6% of the Southeast Asian nation's turnover.

Source: <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/vietnam-us-look-to-propel-trade-ties-forward-post928764.vov>
