

Highlight News / March 29, 2022



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ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)

Ministry urges farmers to register for China longan exports



Cambodia News | 28 March, 2022

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries has called for farmers and processing plant owners to register for quality inspection related to the exports of longan fruits to China. In a statement, the ministry said longan farm owners, Pailin Longan Association, and owners of longan fruit processing plants who wish to export to China could register at the ministry for inspection on the quality and technical requirements related to sanitary and phytosanitary standards. The ministry noted that the country's protocol on sanitary and phytosanitary on longan fruit export to China was put into force in mid-March. "Those who wish to produce, process, and package longan fruit to China can register longan farms and packaging and processing factories at the ministry for inspection for sanitary and phytosanitary standards," read the statement. Sreng Seang, president of Palin Longan Association, lauded the move and said longan farmers are strengthening quality in planting based on good agricultural practices as per the guidelines from the agriculture ministry. He said that more processing factories had been built to support the export of the fruit to China. "Farmers are strengthening the good agriculture practices to be eligible for exports to China," Seang said. The longan harvest is now well underway in Cambodia's major longan-producing region of Pailin province. Each year, a substantial quantity of

longans from Pailin is sent to neighbouring country Thailand. Once reaching Thailand, rather than being consumed within the country, many of these longans are re-exported to China. According to the agriculture ministry, Pailin longan cultivation has reached 13,608ha nationwide. One tonne sells for an average of around \$440. The protocol of sanitary and phytosanitary on longan fruits to China came after the Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement. Longan fruit is among other potential agricultural products from Cambodia to be exported to China, said Prime Minister Hun Sen. "Since earlier this year, Cambodia's export to China has increased significantly, thanks to the Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement, which came into force earlier this year," Mr Hun Sen said on Friday at the inauguration ceremony of the National Road 51, built under China's concessional loan. "Under the FTA, China has facilitated procedures on imports from Cambodia," the Premier said. "More products are expected to be exported to China such as longan and 'Pra' fish." Cambodia exports milled rice, sliced cassava, mango, and banana to China. Last year, the bilateral trade between the two nations amounted to \$11.2 billion, a year-on-year increase of 38 percent. The Prime Minister said that the Asean-China Free Trade Area, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, and the Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement had paved the way for promoting economic and trade cooperation between Cambodia and China.

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501048228/industry-urges-farmers-to-register-for-china-longan-exports/>

Battambang airport to be upgraded into 4C category



Cambodia News | 28 March, 2022

The Government has plans to develop the Veal Bek Chan Airport in Battambang city to a 4C category. Soy Sokhan, Secretary of State of the Secretariat of Civil Aviation, and Sok Lou, Battambang Provincial Governor, chaired a working group meeting on the possibility of restoration and development of Battambang Airport on Friday. Sokhan said that the airport would be upgraded from the quality of 3C to 4C, providing convenience for operating big flights to airlines. “After the study, we found some problems that need to be solved. The runway needs to be expanded and repaired because it had not been used for many years now,” he said. Lou expressed his support for the development of this airport into 4C. He said it would attract foreign and domestic tourists to Battambang. “It will also help develop Battambang in the near future,” Lou said. Battambang Airport, which was opened in 1968 on a land area of nearly 127 hectares, started with a Phnom Penh-Battambang flight. However, due to the war in the country between 1975 and 1979, the airport was completely shut down. After the fall of the Khmer Rouge regime, the airport was reopened, but the military only used it. Later, in 1991, the airport was completely closed. The government has announced an investment of \$3.5 billion to build,

expand and renovate all Cambodian airports under the aviation development programme from 2015 to 2023 as part of the Open Sky policy. It was also part of the government's vision to accelerate domestic transportation and link Cambodia to the international trade hubs. Other airports under this programme include Koh Kong, Poipet city, and the new Mondulhiri airport, which remains in the study process while social, economic, and environmental impacts are being reviewed. Meanwhile, Soeum Bunrith, Deputy Governor of Battambang province, told Khmer Times, “During the Sangkum Reastr Niyum era, the Battambang Airport was under the 3C category, which has the capacity for handling flights that carry about 70 passengers. Now, the Royal Government plans to convert the airport into the 4C category. This category is similar to the one at the Siem Reap International Airport and the flights can accommodate around 100 passengers, serving both domestic and international passengers and regions in the future. “The Battambang airport development will gather more pace when the Covid-19 situation is under control. The government can then focus more attention on various projects, including the development of the Battambang airport.”

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501048230/battambang-airport-to-be-upgraded-into-4c-category/>

Thailand sends fruit to China using Lao railway



Laos News | 29 March, 2022

The Laos-China railway has been used for the first time to carry Thai fruit to China, according to a report in Thailand's The Nation on Monday. Two containers carrying 40 tonnes of durian and one container filled with 20 tonnes of coconuts from Rayong made their way to Thanaleng Station in Laos and entered China on a train on Sunday. Somkiat Mansiripibul, the manager of Kaocharoen Train Transport which operates the Laos-China railway, was quoted in The Nation as saying that rail appears to be the fastest mode of transport, adding that it takes just four or five days for goods to be shipped from Rayong to Kunming in China. Although there are still some problems in sending Thai fruit to China because of the Covid-19 crisis, Somkiat said steps are being taken to overcome these difficulties. The agencies involved are working to mitigate these problems and speed up the transport of goods to China, he said, adding that efforts are also underway to reduce the cost of sending goods to China and make the process more efficient. In January this year, the first shipment of 1,000 tonnes of Thai rice was delivered to China via the Laos-China railway. Thailand is keen to use the railway to ship agricultural produce, especially orchids, rubber, cassava, palm oil and fishery and livestock products to China. Thai fruit

shipped by rail can reach Chongqing in just 1-2 days. Opening for service in December last year, the Laos-China Railway has opened up the possibility of extending export routes to Central Asia, the Middle East, Russia and Europe. Business operators from Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar are now using the railway to import and export goods to and from China and beyond. Laos is exporting iron ore, dried cassava and cassava powder to China via the railway and the government is also keen to ship more agricultural produce to China. As of March 3, the Laos-China railway had carried more than 1.7 million passengers, including 1.55 million on the section of railway in China, and 1.1 million tonnes of goods, according to the Lao News Agency. It is expected that the railway will cut the cost of transport through Laos by 30-40 percent compared to travel by road, thus giving a boost to trade and investment. The railway has operated 350 international train journeys carrying over 250,000 tonnes of freight since the start of 2022. Laos is recording a steady increase in passenger traffic with more than 150,000 passengers travelling on the Laos-China railway over the past three months.

Source: https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Thailand_61.php

Prices of Myanmar traditional musical instrument drums vary on specification, design



Myanmar News / 29 March, 2022

THE prices of Myanmar traditional musical instruments vary depending on the design and specification, said Ko Hein Htet, a traditional drum maker in Mandalay. “The prices of drums used in Myanmar traditional orchestra move in the range of K600,000 to K1 million depending on the specification. The drums are exported to Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and Brunei. As Myanmar musicians working abroad offer to buy them, we sent them to foreign markets. The drums used in the traditional orchestra are different from other purposes,” he elaborated. Myanmar’s traditional orchestra (Saing Waing) is composed of a circle of 21 drums. “The makers also offer personalized items. It takes about two months to purchase an order. The makers usually search gum-kino timber for raw materials. Gum-kino timber is worth K3 million to K4.5 million per tonne. As the price of raw materials is exorbitantly high, the markers hunt them in the forest instead. The drums made of gum-kino timber is of high quality rather than those made of *Albizia lebbek*,” he explained. Furthermore, the price of the leather used in drums depends on China’s market. The leather is purchased from a butchery. If Chinese traders buy the leather, the price will rise. At present, the price of leather is pretty low due to lack of Chinese demand,” he added.— Lu Lay/ GNLM

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

WB pledges to support Vietnam to become high-income economy by 2045



Vietnam News / 28 March, 2022

NDO/VNA - Vietnam’s seaports have handled an estimated 180 million tonnes of goods in the first quarter of 2022, the Vietnam Maritime Administrative (VMA) reported. Notably, the volume of container cargo through seaports is estimated at 6.2 million TEUs, up 6 percent year-on-year. In March alone, around 67.3 million tonnes of commodities went through Vietnamese seaports, a year-on-year rise of 4 percent. The volume of container cargo exceeded 2.3 million TEUs, of which 826,000 TEUs are imported goods, and 757,000 TEUs are exported ones, up 12 percent and 7 percent against the same month last year, respectively. Some localities reported increases in the volume of goods handled via their ports, including Quang Ninh (48 percent), Quang Tri (38 percent) and Nghe An (14 percent). Meanwhile, those of Binh Thuan, Can Tho, Dong Thap, Ho Chi Minh City and Vung Tau saw decreases.

Source: <https://en.nhandan.vn/business/item/113332-02-vietnamese-seaports-handle-180-million-tonnes-of-goods-in-q1.html>

Vietnam FDI Q1 inflows up 7.8per cent y/y at \$4.42 billion - investment ministry



Vietnam News | 28 March, 2022

HANOI : Vietnam received \$4.42 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) in the first quarter, up 7.8per cent from a year earlier, the Ministry of Planning and Investment said on Monday.FDI has been a key driver of Vietnam's economic growth. Companies with FDI account for around 70per cent of the Southeast Asian country's exports.FDI pledges - which indicate the size of future FDI disbursements - fell 12per cent in the January-March period from a year earlier to \$8.9 billion, the ministry said in a statement.Of the pledges, 59.5per cent are to be invested in manufacturing and processing, while 30.3per cent would go to real estate, it said.(Reporting by Phuong Nguyen)

Source:<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/business/vietnam-fdi-q1-inflows-78per-cent-yy-442-billion-investment-ministry-2590316>
