

Highlight News / March 30/2022



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- Government of Laos Opens Bidding for Electric Vehicle Purchase
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\$3.2 billion worth Malaysia investment projects registered in Cambodia



Cambodia News / 29 March, 2022

The Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) registered a total of 162 Malaysian investment projects worth \$3.2 billion as of February 2022, as more Malaysian investors have sought an understanding of the investment opportunities in the Kingdom. The figures of the Malaysian investment in Cambodia were shared in a meeting last week between Nut Un Voanra, Deputy Secretary-General of the Cambodian Investment Committee of CDC; visiting governor of Malacca Tun Mohd Ali Rustam; and Ambassador of Malaysia to Cambodia Eldeen Husaini Mohd Hashim. Malaysian delegates expressed interest in investing more in education and vocational training, real estate, mining, and energy sectors in the meeting. Nut Voanra said that Cambodia is ready to cooperate with the Ambassador and officials from Malaysia to provide information on investment and facilitate the visits of other Malaysian investment delegations in the near future. Lim Heng, Vice-president of the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday that Malaysian investors had seen Cambodia as a significant investment destination as the Kingdom has signed trade agreements with China and South Korea. The Kingdom is a country that offers all kinds of favourable conditions and is open to investment to produce for export, Heng said. “Cambodia is a

country attracting foreign investors, as the Kingdom opens to investors at all levels. As a result, many companies from Malaysia have come to invest in Cambodia in almost all areas, resulting from confidence of investors in the Cambodian government. Cambodia has provided all the favours to the industrial sector, factories, enterprises for production and exports,” Heng said. Cambodia has the trade preferential pacts – FTA with China, South Korea, the RCEP, and GSPs in the UK and US, and EBA in the EU, which are the factors attracting more investors to step into the Kingdom, he said. “Malaysian companies that come to invest in Cambodia due to many free trade agreements that Cambodia has signed. I think this is a good thing for investors to come to Cambodia,” he said. Malaysia is among the main foreign investments in Cambodia in the sectors of real estate, garment factories, and processing plants. In a meeting with Kampong Speu governor in mid-March, Malaysian Ambassador to Cambodia Eldeen Husaini Mohd Hashim said that he led a group of Malaysian investors to seek to understand the potential of key sectors of real estate, tourism, trade, agriculture, industry, and solar power in Kampong Speu province. He said he would boost investors in tourism, trade, real estate, agriculture, industry, and solar power in Kampong Speu in the future. Samnang placed high hopes on the raised Malaysian investment projects. “When Malaysian investors are interested and come to invest in Kampong Speu province, then the people of Kampong Speu have more income through job

opportunities,"Samnang said. The Cambodia-Malaysia trade volume surpassed \$500 million in 2021, rising by 13.14 per cent over a year earlier, according to the Ministry of Commerce. Cambodia's exports to Malaysia exceeded \$101 million, year-on-year increasing by 2.6 percent, and imports were valued at \$399 million, a 16 percent year-on-year increase.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501048791/3-2-billion-worth-malaysia-investment-projects-registered-in-cambodia/>

Tourism sector unhampered: More than 200,000 tourists recorded



Cambodia News | 29 March, 2022

Cambodia recorded more than 200,000 tourists as Covid-19 infection numbers continue to decline and the Khmer New Year approaches. The Ministry of Tourism reported that during the last weekend of March, there were 206,121 tourists around the country. Of that number, there were 193,582 nationals and 12,539 foreigners. According to the Ministry, the main tourist destinations in the country included: Preah Sihanouk recorded 31,587 tourists, Phnom Penh recorded 28,608 tourists, Battambang recorded 23,980 tourists, Kampot recorded 22,702 tourists, Siem Reap recorded 17,530 tourists, Kep recorded 15,246 and Pursat recorded 10,652 tourists. Following Prime Minister Hun Sen's order, the capital and provincial administrations and other relevant parties launched plans to organize events and activities to for the enjoyment of people during

the upcoming Khmer New Year. The private sector also announced the launch of entertainment and other events for the Khmer New Year. Various hotels and guesthouses have also been preparing for the expected influx of tourists. Businesses have also strengthened the implementation of Covid-19 prevention measures. The Ministry of Tourism is preparing a circular to the Department of Tourism and stakeholders to manage tourist traffic, strengthen the implementation of measures to prevent the transmission of Covid-19 and improve the quality of tourism products and services. With the recently announced lightening of travel restrictions on required Covid-19 tests, the country is expecting the number of tourists to grow.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501048717/tourism-sector-unhampered-more-than-200000-tourists-recorded/>

Government of Laos Opens Bidding for Electric Vehicle Purchase



Laos News | 30 March, 2022

The government of Laos has opened a bidding process to purchase over a hundred electric vehicles for Party and government leaders. A ceremony for the opening of the bid took place in Vientiane Capital last week, KPL reports. The government hopes to purchase a fleet of 183 electric vehicles, including 23 electric vehicles with 121KW-163KW motor power, and a further 160 electric vehicles with 100KW-160KW motor power. Reports state that vehicles must be 100 percent

rechargeable electric sedans with a lithium-ion battery, full safety standards, and a manufacturer test certificate that has completed the UNCECR100F, R136 testing procedures. The vehicles must be more than 4,885 mm long and 1,840 mm wide, with GPS navigation and automatic gearbox, and must be able to be maintained with after-sales service. In addition, the successful company must supply a Type 2 DC CCS2 rapid charging station. Any company that wins the bid but fails to execute a contract on time constitutes an unconditional waiver, and the state forfeits the two percent bid envelope. The government of Laos has been discussing the purchase of electric vehicles for senior officials since October 2021, with the aim of replacing gasoline cars with electric cars following cost-cutting measures as the party seeks to implement its austerity policy.

Source : <https://laotiantimes.com/2022/03/30/government-of-laos-opens-bidding-for-electric-vehicle-purchase/>

Hundreds of thousands of kyats were lost in Burmese exports due to traffic congestion on Myawaddy Dawna Taung Kyaw Road

 Myanmar News | 29 March, 2022

Hundreds of thousands of Burmese have lost their livelihoods since the March 27 halt on the Myawaddy-Dona-Taung-Kyaw Road, an important trade route on the Burma-Thailand border, according to border traders. More than 1,000 small

and large vehicles, including passenger cars, were stopped on March 27 while transporting goods to and through Thailand through the Myawaddy border trade point, which trades most with Thailand. According to a border trader, the shootings at the border trade route cause hundreds of thousands of damage to Burmese agricultural products every day. "Burmese agricultural products from Myawaddy to Thailand, such as raw peppers, peanuts and onions, cannot be stored for long. Onions are shipped to Vietnam and Laos. Burma's maize crop is also unaffordable and the Thai market is understaffed. Imports of soft drinks and foodstuffs to the domestic market were reduced two months ago due to restrictions on imports, but imports of steel, tin, cement and other urgent necessities were reduced. Traffic on the Dona Taung Kyaw trade route, which carries about 300 trucks daily, has been suspended since March 27 and is awaiting reopening.

Source : <https://news-eleven.com/article/228319>

Vietnam GDP grows 5.03% in first three months of 2022

 Vietnam News | 29 March, 2021

HANOI -- Vietnam's economy expanded by 5.03% in real terms in the first quarter compared with the same period a year earlier, the General Statistics Office said Tuesday. Growth in the January-March period slowed from the 5.22% recorded in the preceding three months. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Vietnam's gross domestic product shrank 6.02% in the three months to September 2021, the

first time the economy had contracted since 2000, the earliest year for which a comparable figure is available. The country's economy is now on track for recovery. A key risk factor for the economy is a spike in material prices caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Vietnam's direct trade with Russia and Ukraine, representing no more than 1% and 0.1% respectively, during the war will have little impact on its overall performance. However, a recent jump in global materials prices has a significant impact on Vietnam's manufacturing industry and can become a drag on its economic growth, which relies heavily on foreign trade. Another negative factor for the Vietnamese economy is a continued rise in gasoline prices. Some gas stations in the country have run short of the fuel, which has affected the lives and businesses of locals, many of whom travel on motorbikes. Vietnam's GDP grew 7% annually before the pandemic began. This past December, the Asian Development Bank set the 2022 target for Vietnam's growth rate at 6.5%.

Source : <https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Vietnam-GDP-grows-5.03-in-first-three-months-of-2022>

CPI inches up 1.92 percent in Q1



Vietnam News | 29 March, 2022

Hanoi (VNA) - The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the first quarter of 2022 posted a year-on-year rise of 1.92 percent, the General Statistics Office (GSO) reported on March 29. The office said CPI in March increased by 0.7 percent month-on-month, the highest monthly increase since 2012. Among the 11

groups of key commodities and services, 10 experienced price hikes from the previous month. According to GSO General Director Nguyen Thi Huong, hikes of petrol and gas prices in tandem with global fuel prices, and prices of construction materials, contributed to the increase in the overall CPI in the last quarter. The price of rice in January-March increased by 1.1 percent year-on-year, contributing 0.03 percentage points to the CPI. Meanwhile, food and catering, and education services respectively posted declines of 1.2 percent and 4.24 percent against the same period last year. Notably, house rent strongly fell by 15.14 percent year-on-year due to a cut in support of the people facing difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Core inflation in the quarter was up 0.81 percent compared to a year ago, the GSO said. /.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/cpi-inches-up-192-percent-in-q1/224223.vnp>