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Opening of the Cambodian-Thai border boosts tourism



Cambodia News | 05 May, 2022

After the Thai government allowed the re-opening of the border with Cambodia from May 1, 2022, a number of associations and private companies in the tourism sector in Cambodia, Thailand, as well as Vietnam have cooperated to plan to boost the flow of tourists again. In early May, the Asia-Pacific Tourism Association (PATA) led by Thuon Sinan, President of the Association, traveled through the Cham Yeam International Border Crossing, Koh Kong Province, to Trat Province, Thailand and on to Bangkok to attend the Tourism and Trade Exchange Meeting between Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam from May 5-6, 2022, while a delegation of companies in Cambodia also traveled by air from Phnom Penh to Bangkok. The purpose of this road trip is to study and understand the journey as well as to complete the paperwork at the border checkpoints on both the Cambodian and Thai sides. Thuon Sinan told reporters on April 4 that the opening of the border between Cambodia and Thailand is very good for tourism, transport, trade, as well as other areas that are essential for the continuation of economic development between the two countries. He said that in practice, when the PATA team crossed the Cham Yeam-Khlong Yai border checkpoint on May 3 yesterday, it was seen that the Cambodian side was doing a good job of completing the paperwork according to the guidelines and policies of the Royal

Government, including immigration officials, border officials, as well as customs officials. He said the flow of tourists by land would be even greater if the Thai side relaxed some conditions or documents because when he crossed the border, the requirements from the Thai side were still unstable, such as the conditions for driving a private car into Thailand and the problems that the Thai side requested the Cambodian side to conduct a rapid test on guests and passengers. Ms. Viyada Srong, Vice President of the Trat Tourism Assembly, expressed her pleasure at the opening of the border crossing between Cambodia and Thailand. She is optimistic that tourism between Cambodia and Thailand, especially between Cambodia and Trat, will recover after the opening of the Cambodian-Thai border, while tourism in Trat is also getting ready. The deputy chairman of the Trat Provincial Tourism Council confirmed that there is still yet to see a large influx of tourists at the Cham Yeam-Khlong Yai border crossing, however, some resort bookings have already begun. Mr. Thuon Sinan, on behalf of the Cambodian side, and Ms. Viyada, on behalf of the Thai side, and Mr. Nguyen Hong Hieu, representative of the Vietnamese side, will co-chair the meeting, exchange, partnerships, companies, travel agencies and trade exchanges between Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam in Bangkok for two more days to discuss in detail the process of promoting the flow of tourists to the bilateral or tripartite in the near future. According to the Cambodian Embassy in Thailand, passengers

traveling from Cambodia to Thailand by air or land are divided into three categories and also subject to different conditions. That includes: Type 1. Vaccinated Travelers, Type 2. Unvaccinated Travelers and Type 3. Passengers who are residents of border provinces and hold a Border Pass. Thailand's provinces bordering Cambodia with international border crossings include Trat, Chanthaburi, Sa Kaeo and Surin. Fresh News

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501069719/opening-of-the-cambodian-thai-border-boosts-tourism/>

Cambodia, Korea discuss trade potential



Cambodia News | 05 May, 2022

Cambodia and the Republic of Korea have discussed trade potential between both countries, mainly the import of Cambodian mangoes. The discussion was made between Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce, Gyuhwa Jang, Vice President of Korea Importers Association (KOIMA) and Ms. Yu Lin, President of GADOSH Korea Co., Ltd., at the ministry office yesterday afternoon. Jang briefed the minister on the background of KOIMA, adding that the association consists of some 15,000 companies investing in all sectors. For her part, Ms. Lin informed Sorasak about GADOSH's intention to import at least 10,000 tonnes of mangoes from Cambodia per year. In reply, Sorasak spoke highly of the good relations between the ministry and KOIMA so far, and laid stress on the ministry's effort in improving the business environment in Cambodia. The minister

further mentioned about the ministry's readiness to support and facilitate businessmen in doing business in Cambodia, and encouraged the Korean side to study the possibility of importing other Cambodia's potential agricultural products like longan and banana in addition to mango. Sorasak also suggested the Korean investors to invest in the creation of agricultural processing factories for export to international markets. L Vy – AKP

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501069705/cambodia-korea-discuss-trade-potential/>

Spiralling inflation causing increasing hardship



Laos News | 06 May, 2022

The Asian Development Bank has predicted that the annual average rate of inflation in Laos will jump to 5.8 percent in 2022 and 5.0 percent in 2023. Inflation will be driven by higher oil prices, rising domestic demand, and the continuing depreciation of the kip, according to the ADB's Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2022. The Russia-Ukraine conflict has heightened geopolitical uncertainty and rattled commodity and financial markets amid the Covid pandemic. In addition, rising global inflation and geopolitical tensions will increase pressure on the price paid for imported goods in Laos. "The kip depreciated by an annual average of 7.6 percent against the US dollar in the official market last year and by 12.1 percent in the parallel market on international bond maturities coming due and foreign

exchange shortages,” the ADB report stated. The continuing depreciation of Lao kip caused the price of imported goods to rise, especially petroleum products and construction materials. Authorities increased oil prices about 13 times in 2021. Since the start of this year, authorities have again hiked fuel prices several times. The latest increase was announced on April 29, raising the price of premium grade petrol in Vientiane to 20,620 kip per litre, regular grade to 18,060 kip, and diesel to 18,000 kip. Rising fuel prices forced transport operators to bump up their prices when the price of fuel and gas rose by 49.7 percent year-on-year in March, according to the latest report from the Lao Statistics Bureau. In March, the year-on-year inflation rate surged 8.5 percent, even more than expected, and rose to the highest figure recorded since January 2016. Inflation will add to Laos’ debt distress, which is already at high risk, the ADB said. “Public and publicly guaranteed debt was last reported at 78.8 percent of GDP in 2021. Domestic expenditure arrears, lower economic growth, and the weakening kip in 2021 contributed to the increasing level of debt. The Lao PDR’s external public debt servicing requirements are sizeable, and are expected to average US\$1.3 billion annually over the next five years, equivalent to 7 percent of GDP,” the report stated. The government is concerned about how high prices are affecting Lao households, especially the poorest

people. At the last monthly cabinet meeting held on April 26-27, the government ordered the bodies concerned to control the price of fuel, consumer goods and currency exchange rates, to ease the burden on the general public. Chaired by Prime Minister Phankham Viphavanh, the meeting instructed government officials to further improve the investment climate and push for the full implementation of planned mega projects, as well as overhaul the management of importing businesses to ensure that sufficient foreign currency enters the banking system.

Source: https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent85_spiralling_22.php

Cambodia to host consultative meeting on ASEAN humanitarian aid to Myanmar



Myanmar News | 05 May, 2022

PHNOM PENH, May 5 (Xinhua) -- Cambodia, the chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for 2022, will host a consultative meeting on ASEAN humanitarian assistance to Myanmar on Friday in a hybrid format, according to its statement released on Thursday. Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn, who is the ASEAN chair's special envoy on Myanmar, and Lim Jock Hoi, secretary-general of ASEAN in the capacity as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance

Coordinator, will co-chair the meeting in Phnom Penh and via videoconference, the statement said. The meeting will be attended physically and virtually by the high-level representatives from all ASEAN member states, ASEAN external partners, United Nations specialized agencies, and other relevant international organizations, it added. "The consultative meeting will provide a high-level platform for ASEAN to initiate a multi-stakeholder dialogue that serves to provide guidance on how to advance ASEAN's humanitarian aid to the people of Myanmar based on humanitarian principles and without discrimination," the statement said. The meeting will also touch on addressing the operational challenges faced by the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management, it added. It will also discuss how to support the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to all communities in Myanmar, the statement said. ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Source : <https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20220505/87782e5aaf724b559804b1db90fbaf82/c.html>

Industry and Trade (MoIT) will coordinate with Viet Nam's trade offices in member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to organise consulting session on rice exports. Last year, the Philippines was Viet Nam's biggest rice buyer, importing 2.45 million tonnes worth over 1.25 billion USD, according to Vietnam news agency (VNA). In the first quarter of this year, the Philippines maintained its top position, making up 44.7 percent and 42.6 percent of Viet Nam's total rice export volume and value, respectively. Apart from the Philippines, Vietnamese rice has also been exported to other major markets in the region like Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Brunei. According to VNA, Vietnam's rice export to Malaysia in January rose 163.4 percent and 156 percent in volume and value compared with previous month, and 104 percent and 67.5 percent year-on-year, respectively

Source : <https://www.bernama.com/en/world/news.php?id=2078125>

Viet Nam aims to boost rice export to ASEAN



Vietnam News | 05 May., 2022

HANOI, May 5 (Bernama) - The Vietnam Trade Promotion Agency (Vietrade) under the Ministry of