

Highlight News / May 23, 2022



- CDC approves two investments worth over \$6 million to create 1400 jobs
- Cambodia targets one million tourists this year
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- Seasonal ice apple fetches good price in Mandalay market
- VN manages to control public debt



Advisory Institute for Trade and Investment by TCC (AiTi)

CDC approves two investments worth over \$6 million to create 1400 jobs



Cambodia News | 22 May, 2022

Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) has approved two new investment projects with a total capital of \$6.1 million in Takeo and Kampong Speu provinces. According to the council's press release, the newly approved projects belong to Sanjin (Cambodia) Knitting Technology Co., Ltd. in Prey Phdao commune, Prey Kabas district, Takeo province, and Hao Tian Make Clothes Assist Material Co., Ltd. in Roka Koh commune, Korng Pisei district, Kampong Speu province. The first company will invest \$3.8 million for the creation of a garment factory, while the second will inject \$2.3 million for a weaving factory, the CDC pointed out. The two newly approved investment projects are expected to create some 1,400 jobs for the locals, added the same source. Phal Sophanith – AKP

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501079726/cdc-approves-two-investments-worth-over-6-million-to-create-1400-jobs/>

Cambodia targets one million tourists this year



Cambodia News | 20 May, 2022

The Ministry of Tourism puts a target of at least a million foreign tourists this year, outlining the main tourism markets as Asean, South East Asia countries, US, France and UK. In a statement issued

on Wednesday, the ministry said that the Kingdom would see arrivals of foreign tourists from 0.8 to 1 million this year and domestic tourists at eight million. The projection is based on the good performance trend of tourist movement in the first four months of this year, when the Kingdom recorded 241,485 tourists and five million domestic tourists, increasing by 191 percent and 161 percent, respectively. The ministry said the high impact of tourist numbers will be from August and the main markets for Cambodia's tourism sector are Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, China, South Korea, Japan, US, France, and the UK. To ensure the recovery of Cambodia's tourism sector, the government has launched a series of policy measures. The measures aim to manage the impact of Covid-19 in critical sectors of the economy. "With peace and the great success of the Covid-19 vaccination campaign for the people, Cambodia remains a safe and green tourist destination for all tourists," the ministry said. Based on the current situation of tourism and the vision of tourism in the future, 2022 is the year of recovery of tourism in Cambodia after the Covid-19 crisis. The ministry called for stakeholders to advertise in all forms and means, both domestically and internationally, the tourism potential, continue to strengthen order and good hospitality at Cambodia's international gates and participate in promoting the internal tourism movement to revive through the organisation of tourism resorts, fitness tourism and tourism services in good quality and reasonable prices. Based on the

trend, Cambodia will see at least seven million foreign tourists and 11 million domestic tourists by 2025. The government on Tuesday released a financial intervention package of \$150 million to revive the tourism sector by financing businesses affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in the last two years, aiming at financing businesses in the sector, helping businesses resume operations and renovate and modernise services, and helping expand and diversify tourism services.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501078728/cambodia-targets-one-million-tourists-this-year/>

Public advised to avoid unnecessary travel, to save fuel for agriculture



Laos News | 23 May, 2022

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Lao Fuel and Gas Association are urging members of the public to be frugal in their use of fuel and not to travel unnecessarily, so that enough reserves of petrol are available for use for farming and other essential activities. Careful use of fuel is the only way to resolve the current shortage, they say. Some farmers have complained that they are unable to cultivate their crops because of the petrol shortage and have called on the relevant parties to take speedy action to tackle the crisis. Head of the Lao Petroleum Enterprise branch in Khammuan province, Mr Vongsone Phimmavongsa, updated reporters in the province about the local situation with regard to fuel supplies. Khammuan is one of many provinces

suffering from a lack of fuel, he said, and pumps at some petrol stations have run dry, meaning that many motorists are unable to use their vehicles. In some areas, petrol stations are open only once or twice a week and are not allowing people to take fuel away in containers. Petrol sales in the provincial capital must not exceed 400,000 kip per vehicle, while tractor owners cannot buy more than 20 litres at one time. The Ministry of Industry and Commerce is calling for the same restrictions to be imposed at branches of the Lao Petroleum Enterprise in Saravan, Xekong and Vientiane provinces, with petrol sales to be rationed to 200,000 kip per vehicle. All provinces have been suffering fuel shortages since late March, with the situation worsening in Pakxe city of Champassak province and Savannakhet province before finally hitting Vientiane. In an attempt to rectify the situation, the government is looking at ways to ease the unfavourable currency exchange rate, which is the root cause of the problem, according to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Laos is totally dependent on fuel obtained from outside sources, meaning that large amounts of foreign currency are required to purchase fuel from other countries. As a temporary measure, the government has agreed to lower the taxes and other fees paid by fuel businesses, so as to lower the retail price of fuel. The Prime Minister's Office issued a notice on May 9 ordering the sectors

concerned to implement a resolution adopted by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly. The notice stated that the excise tax charged on diesel would be lowered from the current amount of 21 percent to 11 percent, while the excise tax charged on petrol would be cut from 31 percent to 16 percent

Source: https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent96_Public_y22.php

Seasonal ice apple fetches good price in Mandalay market



Myanmar News | 21 May, 2022

The price of ice apples was K1,000 per 10 fruits last year. This year, six ice apples are worth K1,000. Ice apples from TadaU, Patheingyi, Meiktila and Myingyan areas are sent to the Mandalay market. The price of ice apple (which is also called sugar palm or toddy palm seed or Asian palmyra palm) this year is rocketing higher than the previous years amid the number of palm plants declining and high input costs. The ice apple is the seasonal fruit in Kason and Nayon (May and June period). Shante village in Meiktila Township supplies the ice apple to the Mandalay market. However, they have to bear the high transportation cost. "They come and sell the ice apple in Mandalay market every year. This year, the number of palm trees is dropping. The yield of ice apple is therefore falling. The price increased by 50 per cent this year," said Ko Min Naing, a seller from Shante village. The price of ice apples was K1,000 per 10 fruits last year. This year, six ice apples are

worth K1,000. Ice apples from TadaU, Patheingyi, Meiktila and Myingyan areas are sent to the Mandalay market. People like seasonal ice apples for their taste and it has medical benefits as well. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnln.com.mm/seasonal-ice-apple-fetches-good-price-in-mandalay-market/#article-title>

VN manages to control public debt



Vietnam News | 21 May, 2022

HÀ NỘI — Việt Nam managed to control public debt within a safe level with gradually slowing year-on-year increases. However, according to the Ministry of Finance, the economy was severely hit by the COVID-19 pandemic in the past three years. The finance ministry said that the process of raising capital from public debts for the socio-economic recovery programme needed to pay attention to efficient use of capital and safety and the sustainability of the State budget and public debt in the medium and long term. Statistics of the ministry's Department of Debt Management and External Finance showed that the public debt of Việt Nam dropped from 63.7 per cent of GDP in 2017 to 55.9 per cent in 2020. When the GDP was revised, the public debt stayed at 43.7 per cent. The department's Deputy Director Võ Hữu Hiên said that the policy of limiting the issuance of Government guarantees for new loans, improving the efficiency of official development assistance (ODA) and foreign

concessional loans helped bring the public debt on a decreasing trend. The percentage of foreign loans in the Government debt also fell from 60 per cent in 2010 to 40 per cent in 2016 and nearly 33 per cent at the end of 2021, which contributed to reducing the foreign exchange rate risk, Hiên said. Government bonds accounted for 86 per cent of the domestic debt, and issuances since 2017 were all of the five-year term or longer. According to Đinh Trọng Thịnh from the Academy of Finance, the public debt level stayed within the limit approved by the National Assembly, theoretically meaning that Việt Nam could increase borrowing to meet development demand. However, the ability to absorb capital of the economy must be considered, especially in economies like Việt Nam, which had a medium capacity for capital absorption. Japan and the US had high public debt levels, but they had huge economic potential with good capital absorption capacity and capital use efficiency. The ministry said that the lessons learned from the previous period were that increasing spending, loosening fiscal and monetary policies and expanding Government-backed loans to prevent an economic decline in 2008-11 caused the public debt level to increase rapidly, averaging 18.1 per cent per year in 2011-15, creating high pressure of debt payment in the short term. The finance ministry said that it was necessary to ensure the efficient use of capital and State budget safety and sustainability. Under the recently approved public management programme for 2022-

24, the Government planned to borrow a maximum sum of VNĐ646.8 trillion (US\$27.5 billion) to cover overspending and debt repayment. Hiên said that based on the disbursement of capital, the ministry would be flexible in using appropriate tools to raise domestic and foreign resources to meet the capital demand, including Government bond issuance, ODA and foreign concessional loans. The focus would be placed on raising capital from domestic sources first. If domestic sources were still significantly short of the demand for covering overspending for development investment and debt repayment, the Government would study the issuance of international bonds when the market conditions are favourable. — VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1193544/vn-manages-to-control-public-debt.html>