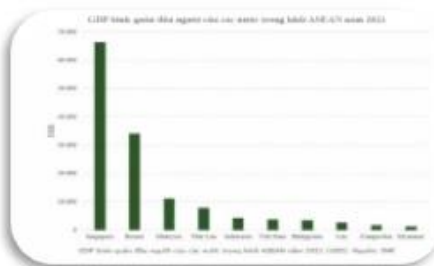


Highlight News / June 13, 2022



- Cambodia's rubber export up 3 pct in first 5 months of 2022
- Ichitan eyes expansion of fizzy drinks in Cambodia
- Australia to scale-out fish-saving technology in SE Asia
- Myanmar's average inflation rate rises to 15.05% in the second quarter of 2021-2022 fiscal year, up 3.66% from the first quarter
- Vietnam becomes fifth largest economy in Southeast Asia: IMF
- Vietnam jumped five spots to rank 54 in the top global startup ecosystems



Advisory Institute for Trade and Investment by TCC (AiTi)

Cambodia's rubber export up 3 pct in first 5 months of 2022



Cambodia News | 11 June, 2022

Cambodia exported 105,048 tons of dry rubber in the first five months of 2022, up 3 percent compared to the same period last year, said a General Directorate of Rubber report on Friday. The kingdom earned \$168 million in revenue from exports of the commodity during the January-May period this year, down 1.7 percent from \$171 million over the same period last year, the report said. "A ton of dry rubber averagely cost 1,604 U.S. dollars within the first five months of 2022, about 71 dollars lower than that of the same period last year," Him Oun, director general of the General Directorate of Rubber, said in the report. The southeast Asian nation exports the commodity mainly to Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore and China. Cambodia has so far planted rubber trees on a total area of 404,044 hectares, in which the trees on 310,193 hectares, or 77 percent, are old enough to be tapped, according to the report. Xinhua

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501092229/cambodias-rubber-export-up-3-pct-in-first-5-months-of-2022/>

Ichitan eyes expansion of fizzy drinks in Cambodia



Cambodia News | 10 June, 2022

Ichitan Group Plc, the producer and marketer of Ichitan ready-to-drink green tea, is ramping up its carbonated soft drink business to tap into strong

consumer demand in countries such as Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. According to Tan Passakornnatee, the company's chief executive, the company is ready to resume the expansion of carbonated soft drinks this month after the pandemic caused several years of delay. "We're beefing up our carbonated soft drinks because the industry witnessed a strong performance in the first quarter this year," said Tan. "Although demand for such drinks in 2021 contracted by 1.5%, the contraction rate remained much lower than functional drinks and fruit juice, which sharply declined during the quarter." Ichitan will also provide original equipment manufacturer (OEM) goods to other beverage companies, said Tan. He said the move is part of the group's "3N" strategy, which aims to boost sales of Ichitan to 10 billion baht in three years, up from an estimated 6.5 billion in 2022. 3N stands for new product, new market, and new business, which is no longer limited to beverages. The company recently collaborated with Nestlé Ice Cream to launch Nestlé Ichitan Green Tea Honey Lemon Ice Cream, targeting teenagers. Ichitan is also in the process of collaborating with other brands and will launch more products this year to expand its customer base and explore new business opportunities, he said. "Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam remain our strategic areas," he said. "We recently adjusted our product portfolio in Laos, both for tea and non-tea

drinks, by launching Bireley's beverages, while we plan to launch soon new Ichitan green tea products to tap Gen Z consumers in Cambodia." Bangkok Post

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501091538/ichitan-eyes-expansion-of-fizzy-drinks-in-cambodia/>

Australia to scale-out fish-saving technology in SE Asia



Laos News | 13 June, 2022

The Australian government is investing more in technology to protect fish and boost river health and food security to increase climate resilience across the Mekong region. Last week, the Australian Deputy Ambassador to Laos, Mr Dan Heldon, announced an expansion of Australia's partnership with the Lao government on fish passages in water management structures. These "fish ladders" are constructed around obstacles such as irrigation dams and weirs to allow fish to migrate up and down waterways unrestricted to access feed sources, breeding spots and more. The Deputy Ambassador said the investment demonstrates Australia's ongoing commitment to building strong development cooperation with countries in the region through the Mekong-Australia Partnership - Water, Energy, Climate programme. This programme supports Mekong countries, including Laos, to strengthen water security, promote clean energy, and respond to climate change. "As population and industries

grow throughout Southeast Asia, there are competing pressures on the region's rivers and wetlands," Mr Heldon said. "Striking a balance between economic development while mitigating environmental and social impacts remains a challenge. This is particularly important for Laos, as hydropower and irrigation development remain essential elements contributing to the country's economic development." "Fish production is vital for food security and many household incomes, so protecting fish species is important for people, the environment and the economy. We are proud to work with partners including the National University of Laos and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, to expand this important work," Mr Heldon added. "This is a terrific example of how Australia and Laos work together, and have been doing so for 70 years. This year, we celebrate 70 years of unbroken diplomatic relations, which is a remarkable testament of commitment and cooperation." The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) will manage the DFAT investment under an initiative called 'FishTech: Integrating technical fisheries solutions into river development programmes across Southeast Asia', led by Professor Lee Baumgartner of Australia's Charles Sturt University. The FishTech activity provides an opportunity to expand on the existing partnership between ACIAR and its research partners, including

the National University of Laos (NUOL), to enhance food security and increase climate resilience in the Mekong region. This expanded activity will support more demonstration sites and extension activities, build capacity with local researchers and extension officers, and accelerate the adoption of fish passage technologies in governance and policy frameworks. Ultimately, the FishTech investment will allow ACIAR and its partners to upscale and scale-out fish passage implementation efforts. FishTech in Laos will be led by NUOL with the guidance of its president, Dr Oudom Phonekhampheng. Dr Oudom has been involved with fish passage projects since 2005. He said today's announcement reinforced the importance of working with local partners and the community to research and build fish passages.

Source: https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent2022_Over110.php

Myanmar's average inflation rate rises to 15.05% in the second quarter of 2021-2022 fiscal year, up 3.66% from the first quarter



Myanmar News | 12 June, 2022

In the second quarter of the 2021-2022 fiscal year, Myanmar's average inflation rate rose to 15.05 percent, up from 3.66 percent in the first quarter, according to the Ministry of Planning and Finance. According to a statement from the Central Statistical Organization. The second quarter of the 2021-2022

fiscal year is from January to March 2022. During the second quarter of the 2021-2022 fiscal year, Myanmar's average annual inflation rate was 15.05 percent and its annual inflation rate was 15.06 percent. During the first quarter of the 2021-2022 fiscal year, Myanmar's average annual inflation rate was 11.39 percent, and its annual inflation rate was 11.39 percent. The average inflation rate between October 1 and September 30 of the 2020-2021 fiscal year was 1.08 percent for the first quarter from October 1 to December 31, 2020; In the second quarter from January 1 to March 31, 2021, it rose 1.63 percent, in the third quarter from April 1 to June 30, it rose 5.02 percent, and in the fourth quarter from July 1 to September 30, it rose to 6.83 percent. The average inflation rate rose for 18 consecutive months from April 2018 to September 2019. It fell slightly in October and November 2019, and rose again in December, January 2020 and January and February 2020. April May, June July August September October and November; It dropped again in December. For the country as a whole, the average inflation rate, calculated on the basis of consumer price in 2012, was 6.83% from July 1 to September 30, the fourth quarter of the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Inflation rose 1.81 percent in the fourth quarter from an average of 5.02 percent in the third quarter, according to the Central Statistics Office. The average inflation rate for the six months from October 2021 to March 2022 is expected to be 6.67 percent, according to budget figures released by the Ministry of Planning and Finance. According to the World

Bank, the average inflation rate in 2017-19 was 6.4 percent, and fell to 5.2 percent by the end of 2020 due to falling electricity and food prices.

Source: <https://news-eleven.com/article/232248>

Vietnam becomes fifth largest economy in Southeast Asia: IMF



Vietnam News | 11 June, 2022

Vietnam's gross domestic product (GDP) reached approximately USD368 billion in 2021, making it the fifth-largest economy in Southeast Asia and 41st in the world, reported the Voice of Vietnam according to statistics from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) World Economic Outlook. The United States took the lead with USD22,940 billion, followed by China with USD16,863 billion. For GDP per capita, Vietnam secured USD3,743 per person ranking sixth in ASEAN and 124th in the world. Globally, the top 10 countries with the largest GDP per capita are Luxembourg (USD131,302), Ireland (USD102,394), Switzerland (USD93,515), and Norway (USD8,244). They were followed by the US (USD69,375), Iceland (USD102,394), Denmark (USD67,920), Singapore (USD66,263), Australia (USD62,619), and Qatar (USD61,791). In Southeast Asia, Singapore ranked first with USD66,263 per person, followed by Brunei (USD33,979), Malaysia (USD11,125), Thailand (USD7,809), and Indonesia (USD4,225). This year Vietnam has set targets of recording 6 - 6.5% GDP growth and raising its GDP per capita to USD3,900. It plans to raise the GDP per capita to between

USD4,700 and USD5,000 by 2025 and USD7,500 by 2030.

Source: <https://en.dangcongsan.vn/daily-hot-news/vietnam-becomes-fifth-largest-economy-in-southeast-asia-imf-598783.html>

Vietnam jumped five spots to rank 54 in the top global startup ecosystems



Vietnam News | 12 June, 2022

Vietnam has advanced five places to 54 globally in the latest Global Startup Ecosystem Index by the global startup research company StartupBlink. Vietnam rose from sixth to fifth place in Southeast Asia, displacing the Philippines, and is well-positioned to overtake Thailand (rank 4) next year if this positive momentum continues. The gap between the two only ranked Vietnamese cities has widened this year. Ho Chi Minh City ranks first and is moving closer to the global top 100, jumping 68 spots to 111, and showing positive momentum from last year. This rapid growth signals that good things are happening in Ho Chi Minh. "On the flipside, Hanoi has decreased 31 spots to 222, falling out of the global top 200. Having Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City as innovation hubs is a massive bonus to the Vietnamese ecosystem, but hopefully, more cities will follow suit. With Vietnam's population of almost 100 Million, two ranked ecosystems are certainly not enough," says the report. The Vietnamese startup ecosystem has massive potential, mostly due to the substantial market size of the economy, making the creation of successful local startups profitable even if they do

not expand internationally. A large number of expats and digital nomads in Ho Chi Minh city further contributes to the growth of the local ecosystem. However, to become a true regional and global hub, Vietnam will have to generate innovations that have a regional or global impact. To attract foreign investors or companies to Vietnam, the government offers tax incentives. In 2016, Vietnam approved the Initiative for the startup ecosystem in Vietnam until 2025, more commonly known as National Programme 844, to further promote the thriving startup ecosystems in the country. Since the beginning of the programme, there has been strong growth both in the number of new startups and in their revenues. In 2018, the government approved the Law on Supporting Small and Medium-sized Enterprises to support startups through technology transfer, investments, training, and incentives for venture capital funds. According to StartupBlink, growing industries that attract investors to Vietnamese startups include e-commerce, fintech, foodtech, enterprise solutions, and IT services. With unicorns such as MoMo and Sky Mavis, Vietnam is revealing itself to be a startup powerhouse in Southeast Asia.

Source: <https://vietnamnet.vn/en/vietnam-jumped-five-spots-to-rank-54-in-the-top-global-startup-ecosystems-2029383.html>
