

Highlight News / July 07, 2022



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Advisory Institute for Trade and Investment by TCC (AiTi)



Thai-Cambodian MoU on suppression of cyber scams approved



Cambodia News | 06 July, 2022

The cabinet on Tuesday approved a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to be signed between the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society of Thailand and the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Cambodia on cooperation in the suppression of call centres and similar scam gangs, government deputy spokeswoman Traisulee Traisoranakul said. Under the MoU, officials of the two countries will: – Exchange knowledge, technical expertise and effective methods for the suppression of “call centre” and “hybrid scam” gangs; – Appoint coordinators to facilitate the investigation and compilation of evidence in Thailand and Cambodia so as to be able to catch the offenders. Such evidence may include data on users of voice communication services on the internet and records of telephone use of suspects in both countries; – Coordinate and provide convenience for the transfer of criminals under the extradition treaty between Thailand and Cambodia as well as other laws and regulations of the two countries; – Set up joint working committees of relevant officials from Thailand and Cambodia; and – Establish other forms of cooperation as agreed on later by the two sides. The signing of the MoU is set for July 11, when Digital Economy and Society Minister Chaiwut Thanakomansorn will visit

Cambodia. A “call centre” gang is a group of fraudsters who engage in phone scams, tricking their victims into believing they are in imminent danger and then promising them relief from the invented threat – for a price. A “hybrid scam” gang comprises fraudsters who create fake social media accounts and dating applications. The accounts and apps are used to lure unsuspecting victims to invest in the money market via an online platform and transfer money to the bogus investment.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501107583/thai-cambodian-mou-on-suppression-of-cyber-scams-approved/>

Labour unions in Cambodia want minimum wage of \$204-214 ahead of talks



Cambodia News | 06 July, 2022

Cambodian labour unions have quoted \$204-214 as the minimum wage for the textile, garment, footwear, bags and travel goods sectors in 2023—up from this year’s \$194—ahead of negotiations this month among worker associations. Bilateral and tripartite talks between government officials, factory owners and workers are scheduled to begin in August. The ministry of labour and vocational training has convened a series of internal meetings this month to discuss the minimum wage for the sectors for next year. The National Council on Minimum Wage (NCMW) will organise a meeting in September to finalise the minimum wage, which will be

implemented beginning January 1. The ministry has urged stakeholders to base their internal deliberation on data and credible academic research on criteria like inflation rate, cost of living, productivity, competitiveness, labour market situation and sectoral profitability. Workers in the country reportedly spend \$250-300 a month. According to Cambodian Labour Confederation (CLC) president Ath Thorn, 2023 being a general election year, political leaders may be compelled to succumb to demands by trade unions. Fibre2Fashion News Desk (DS)

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501107632/labour-unions-in-cambodia-want-minimum-wage-of-204-214-ahead-of-talks/>

68 projects implemented in Laos through LMC fund



Laos News | 06 July, 2022

Laos has received more than US\$18 million from the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Special Fund to carry out 68 projects, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At the 7th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC) Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Bagan, Myanmar, recently, leaders from Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam thanked China for having provided US\$300 million to the special fund since 2017. So far, over 600 projects have been carried out with support from the LMC Special Fund worth more than US\$80 million.

Initiated by the Chinese government during the first LMC Leaders' meeting in China's Hainan province in March 2016, the LMC Special Fund has made a significant contribution to the socio-economic development of the Mekong sub-region. The LMC Special Fund aims to support small and medium-sized cooperation projects put forward by the six LMC countries of Laos, Vietnam, China, Myanmar, Thailand and Cambodia. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Saleumxay Kommasith, led a Lao delegation to attend the meeting which took place under the theme "Solidarity for peace and prosperity". The 7th MLC Foreign Ministers' Meeting adopted four joint statements on strengthening agricultural cooperation, disaster prevention, customs and trade facilitation, and exchanges between MLC civilisations. Mr Saleumxay spoke highly of growing cooperation over the past six years under the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation framework. China has contributed considerably to the development of the Mekong sub-region, including Laos. As a result of the MLC's positive contributions to cooperation and development in the region, two-way trade between China and the Mekong nations in 2021 climbed to almost US\$400 billion, up 23 percent compared to 2020. Mr Saleumxay outlined the success of key infrastructure cooperation projects

between Laos and China including the Vientiane-Vangvieng expressway and the Laos-China railway, which came into service last year. The Deputy PM called for MLC member countries to broaden their cooperation in economic recovery and the use of modern technology in border trade, high-quality commercial production and the enhancement of agricultural productivity to ensure food security. During the 7th MLC Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Mr Saleumxay held bilateral talks with his counterparts from Vietnam, Cambodia, China and Thailand to discuss how to further strengthen cooperation in areas relating to trade, investment, people-to-people exchanges, and economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, all at a time when the world is facing an energy crisis and other economic woes. Mr Saleumxay and his Vietnamese counterpart Bùi Thanh Sơn discussed energy and economic cooperation as well as arrangements to mark Laos-Vietnam Year of Friendship and Solidarity 2022. The Deputy PM also met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi to discuss issues surrounding regional cooperation through the use of the Laos-China railway. They also exchanged agreements on support for the construction of a vocational training school and five secondary schools in Laos.

Source: https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent128_68project.php

Myanmar ships over 550,000 MT of rice in April-June



Myanmar News | 06 July, 2022

Myanmar delivered over 550,547 metric tons of rice and broken rice in the past three months this year (April-June), according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF). In the past three months, around 38 exporter companies delivered over 516,954 MT of rice to foreign trade partners through sea trade, whereas 33,593 MT were sent to neighbouring countries via border posts. The export volume in cross-border trade significantly plunged compared to the previous year's record owing to trade delays triggered by China's strict border rules. Myanmar shipped rice and broken rice to China, regional countries, countries in Africa and European Union member countries through maritime trade. Myanmar exported rice to around 20 foreign markets, mostly to the Philippines (65,990 MT) and China (54,635 MT). Additionally, Myanmar primarily conveyed 66,853 MT of broken rice to Belgium, over 66,846 MT to China and 27,500 MT to Spain. The prices of rice for the export market are rocketing on low supply, according to the Bayintnaung Rice Wholesale Depot. The prices of low-grade white rice varieties were approximately US\$320-360 per MT depending on the different varieties and grades. The export price of Myanmar's rice was relatively lower than the rates of Thailand and Viet Nam. Yet, the prices were higher than those of market prices of India and Pakistan, MRF's data showed. The export rice prices (low

grade) move in the range of K29,000 and K30,000 per 108-pound bag depending on different varieties in the domestic market, according to Bayintnaung Commodity Centre. Myanmar has shipped more than 1.4 million tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners between 1 October and 31 March in the past mini-budget period (2021-2022), Myanmar Rice Federation stated. Myanmar also generated an income of US\$700 million from 2 million tonnes of rice exports to foreign countries in the past 2020-2021 financial year. — KK/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnlnm.com.mm/myanmar-ships-over-550000-mt-of-rice-in-april-june/#article-title>

Vietnam boosts export of high-quality rice



Vietnam News | 06 July, 2022

Hanoi (VNA) – Vietnam is expanding the export of its high-quality rice with the aim to increase the export value and improve farmers' income. According to the Vietnam Food Association (VFA), the export price of Vietnam's 5% broken rice is higher than that of Thailand, India and Pakistan. Specifically, each tonne of this kind of rice is sold for 418 USD, 8 USD higher than that of Thailand, and 30 USD and 75 USD higher than those of Pakistan and India, respectively. Meanwhile, the export price of Vietnam's 25% broken rice is currently 403 USD per tonne, equal to that of Thailand, but 35 USD and 75 USD higher than those of Pakistan and India, respectively. In addition, the country's high-quality rice is being shipped to

Japan and Europe. Recently, Tan Long Group JSC, in collaboration with Japan's Kiraboshi Bank, held a ceremony in Tokyo to introduce ST25 rice, which was named the world's best rice in 2019, to the Japanese market. Meanwhile, Loc Troi Group JSC exported nearly 500 tonnes of high-quality rice labelled with its own brand name "Com Vietnam Rice" to the EU markets in June./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-boosts-export-of-highquality-rice/232263.vnp>

Wheat shortages bode well for Vietnamese rice



Vietnam News | 06 July, 2022

HÀ NỘI — The disruption of global wheat supply caused by the Russian military operations in Ukraine has left importers no choice but to seek substitution for the grains in rice-exporting countries, boding well for Vietnamese rice. Vietnamese rice has been increasing steadily in price in recent months, surpassing Thai rice and leaving many other countries' rice far behind. Vietnamese high-quality varieties of rice rose by US\$10-15 per tonne in June, with common white rice reaching \$430-440 per tonne, Jasmine rice \$540-550 per tonne and Number 5451 white rice \$480-490 per tonne. In the first five months, rice exports hit 2.77 million tonnes, up 6.6 per cent year-on-year, raking in \$1.35 billion. Of which, the volume of rice exported to leading trade partners rose considerably. Specifically, the figures to Africa went up by 76 per cent, to Philippines by

34.6 per cent and to Malaysia by 19 per cent. The rising demand for Vietnamese rice can be observed not only in traditional markets, but also in high-end markets, including Germany, Sweden and Poland. By early June, the Department of Crop Production has granted 149 certificates to eight rice exporters, allowing over 15,100 tonnes of rice to enter the European market. "Room for Vietnamese rice exports is still ample as global food security has been threatened by the military operations," said Nguyễn Đăng Nghĩa, an agricultural expert. However, some other experts think that it is too early to celebrate the optimistic outlook as many importers have begun to look elsewhere for cheaper rice amid the rising price of Vietnamese varieties. Numerous African firms are considering switching to Indian rice for lower prices and lower transport costs despite its inferior quality to Vietnamese rice." Indian rice has considerable advantages over Vietnamese rice in terms of price since the latter has moved from the low-end to high-end segment," said Phạm Thái Bình, general director of the Trung An High-tech Farming JSC. Bình also said that mounting fertiliser prices had been eroding rice producers' profits to the extent that many suffered losses when they exported via CIF mode of transport. That meant these producers could not keep prices low to retain foreign customers. Market switching, as a result, seems on the horizon. Given the situation, Phạm Văn Có, marketing manager at the VRICED LTD, underscored Vietnamese fragrant rice as a highly

competitive rice variety in the international market. He urged rice producers to raise the bar on fragrant rice to gain ground in high-end markets. He also recommended firms invest more in their trademarks to create room for prices to rise. A rice variety with a well-known trademark could be sold at a price 10-20 per cent higher than an identical one with an unknown trademark. Phùng Đức Tiến, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, shared this view. He said the ministry would introduce more favourable policies to help firms promote their trademarks and establish robust supply chains of Vietnamese rice. "We aim for a modern and sustainable rice industry that produces high-quality rice varieties meeting SRP, Viet GAP, Global GAP and many other quality standards," he added. — VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1266243/wheat-shortages-bode-well-for-vietnamese-rice.html>
