

Highlight News / August 17/2022



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- ARDB inks \$30M loan pact to promote agri sector
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Cashew exports to Vietnam decline 37%



Cambodia News | 16 August, 2022

In the first seven months of the year, Cambodia exported 670,000 tonnes of raw cashew nuts to Vietnam worth over \$1 million, a decrease of more than 37 percent compared to the same period last year, according to a report by the Cashew Nuts Association of Cambodia (CAC). Uon Siloth, president of CAC, told Khmer Times that due to bad weather conditions the yield had gone down and the farmers could not meet the demand from Vietnam. In the first seven months of 2021, Vietnam imported more than one million tonnes of cashew nuts from Cambodia. Vietnam is Cambodia's largest market for cashew nuts. "Due to the weather our cashew nuts were badly damaged," he pointed out, adding that the Vietnamese side also reduced purchases. The price of cashew nuts also fell, selling between 550 riels and 720 riels per kg. He said the yield will go down further as some farmers have already abandoned cashew cultivation. "According to the cashew plantation data in 2021, we had 800,000 hectares nationwide. But now this has come down to 70,000 hectares," he said. Besides Vietnam, Cambodia exports cashew nuts to China, Japan, Laos and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Ministry of Commerce and relevant institutions are now looking to speed up the preparation of the draft National Policy on Cashew Nuts for 2022-2027. Key objectives of the policy include reinforcing

Cambodia's capacity to grow, store, process, package, market, distribute and export cashew nuts and derived products and establishing the Kingdom as a major producer and supplier regionally and beyond. Ministry of Commerce has instructed the institutions, development partners and private sector actors to keep pooling resources and pick up the pace of work on the six-year policy, to address some of the troubles dogging the sector today.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501132348/cashew-exports-to-vietnam-decline-37/>

ARDB inks \$30M loan pact to promote agri sector



Cambodia News | 16 August, 2022

The Agriculture and Rural Development Bank of the Ministry of Economy and Finance has signed the \$30 million subsidiary loan agreement with three banks and micro-financial institutions to help financial access to the agricultural sector. The agreement was signed yesterday by its director-general Kao Thach, Kea Boran, CEO of AMK microfinance, Touch Chao Chek, CEO of Cambodia Post Bank Plc, and Yannick Nicolas MILEV, CEO of Chamreoun microfinance. The subsidiary loan agreement is under the Cambodia Agricultural Sector Diversification Project (CASDP) financed by the World Bank. The agreement is aimed at promoting financial inclusion and supporting production chains and agricultural sector diversification in targeted 13 capital/provinces – Phnom Penh, Battambang, Mondulkiri, Stung Treng, Ratanakiri, Preah Vihear,

Kampong Cham, Tbong Khmum, Kratie, Siem Reap, Kandal, Kampong Speu and Kampong Chhnang. Under the \$30 million subsidiary loan agreement, the signed banks and MFIs will provide loans with an annual interest rate of 5 percent for farmers, small and medium enterprises, agricultural cooperatives and producers for all agricultural products except rice. The agreement will contribute to financial service to farmers enhancing their agricultural production, Thach said. "It will contribute to the government is continuing to provide loans to farmers in need, especially farmers who face difficulties in the Covid 19 time so that they can use the financial resources to develop production," he said. "Cooperation with private sector banks now is to improve the lives of farmers," Thach added. According to the World Bank report, Cambodia's agricultural sector contributed about one-quarter of annual GDP and was the source of 3.1 million jobs in 2016. Nearly 46.3 percent or 3 million rural people still rely on agriculture for employment. The sector has experienced very little growth, raising concerns about its underlying strength, competitiveness and its ability to continue to provide sustainable livelihoods. The CASDP was established with financial backing from the World Bank to address these issues of lack the knowledge, skills, and access to modern inputs and processing techniques to successfully commercialise agricultural output. Veng Sakhon, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries in July spoke highly of the good cooperation between the ministry and CASDP team.

"The project will contribute positively to the development of agriculture in Cambodia," he said. The export of non-rice agricultural exports from January to May amounted to 3.23 million tonnes, inching up by 0.13 million tonnes from a year earlier – valued at nearly \$1.4 billion, the ministry's report showed.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501132346/ardb-inks-30m-loan-pact-to-promote-agri-sector/>

US\$69.2m Solar PV Project officially breaks ground in Laos



Laos News | 16 August, 2022

The Solar Attapeu Power Project (SAPP) is a US\$69.2 million solar PV project, including the transmission line, set to commence construction works in Attapeu province and provide a catalyst for the renewable energy sector in Laos. On Friday, the project developer, Solar Attapeu Power Sole Company, Ltd. (SAPC), held its official groundbreaking ceremony at the project site, 37km marker in Hatxan village, Xaysettha district of the Southern province. Since 2014 the SAPC development team has worked in close cooperation with the Lao government at the provincial and central levels to select this project site and to develop this first-of-its-kind utility-scale solar PV project in Laos. Speaking at the ceremony, the General Manager of SAPC Lao, Dr Sisavath Souvannavong, said the solar project is scheduled for completion in late 2023 with an installed capacity of 64MWdc / 50MWac. The plant will create energy security for the country,

employment opportunities for the Attapeu community, and generate 128GWh of annual electricity for direct sale to Electricite du Laos (EdL). The Governor of Attapeu province, Mr Leth Sayaphone, said the project would be a driving force for socio-economic development in the province and would help to improve people's standard of living.

Source : [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten157_US\\$_y22.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten157_US$_y22.php)

Consumers to complain about limited sales, suspension of fuel sales

 Myanmar News | 17 August, 2022

Energy consumers can lodge a complaint about limited sales and suspension of fuel sales at petrol stations as an adequate amount of fuel for this month has been distributed, according to a statement released by the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods. The central committee is governing the distribution sector effectively not to have a shortage of oil in the domestic market and ensure price stability for energy consumers through the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil. However, some petrol stations are allegedly suspending fuel sales and setting limited sales, sparking consumers' concerns and raising fuel prices. They are taking advantage of the consumers' concerns for their benefit, according to the Central Committee on Ensuring Smooth Flow of Trade and Goods. The committee has assured adequate fuel supply until this month. It is also working together

with the Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association to ensure a steady fuel supply for the energy consumers to mitigate concerns. Therefore, the consumers can complain about the halt in fuel sales and limited sales through the contact numbers of the respective regions and states if they find those stations that violate the rules, the committee stated. At present, fuel prices are spiking. On 16 August 2022, oil prices stood at K2,365 per litre for Octane92, K2,445 for Octane 95, K2,780 for premium diesel and K2,700 for diesel. — NN/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnln.com.mm/myanmar-ships-249-mln-worth-of-over-733000-mt-of-rice-in-past-4-months/>

Vietnamese enterprises limited in global supply chain

 Vietnam News | 16 August, 2022

HÀ NỘI — Vietnamese enterprises currently have limited participation in the global supply chain, and are not deeply involved in the value chain of multinational corporations in Việt Nam. Phạm Tuấn Anh, deputy director of the Industry Agency said that Việt Nam currently had about 5,000 processing and manufacturing enterprises engaged in providing spare parts for the automotive and mechanical industries. In which 70 per cent of enterprises supply domestic manufacturers, 8 per cent supply exporters and 17 per cent are involved in providing both. Only about 30 per cent of supporting industry enterprises have joined the global supply chain and value chain. This linkage is loose for many reasons,

the main one being the limited internal resources of the industry, said Anh. **Đỗ Thị Thúy Hương**, Vice President of the **Việt Nam Association for Supporting Industries**, said that the specificity of the industry required capital and technology, which were two weaknesses of Vietnamese enterprises. Besides, the linkage between enterprises in **Việt Nam** is still limited and can be said to be weak. They have not fully been aware of the great benefits of linking into the domestic business community or between domestic and foreign enterprises. **Phạm Tuấn Anh** also acknowledged that **Việt Nam** currently did not have a leading business in the industry. The level of enterprises and the quality of human resources were still limited. Research and development work and new product development had not been paid attention and there was a lack of investment capital, said Anh. Meanwhile, he added that the allocation of resources to implement policies to support the development of the supporting industry was still ineffective due to the overlapping conflicts of other laws. "We must strengthen linkages between domestic enterprises, the FDI sector and the global market to take advantage of opportunities from free trade agreements from the fourth industrial revolution to bring industrial enterprises in the country to participate more deeply in the global value chain," Anh told **Công Thương** (Industry and Trade) newspaper. — VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1298262>

/vietnamese-enterprises-limited-in-global-supply-chain.html

Vietnam able to become new tiger in Asia: economist



Vietnam News | 16 August, 2022

Hanoi (VNA) - Vietnam, a rising star in the global supply chain, has the potential to become a new tiger in Asia, economist Brian Lee Shun Rong at Maybank - Malaysia's largest financial services group and the leading banking group in South East Asia – has reportedly said. Speaking at Forbes Vietnam's recent Business Forum, Brian Lee affirmed that Vietnam will become a new tiger of Asia, after the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and China's Taiwan and Hong Kong. He said that the Vietnamese industry is developing strongly, driven by foreign-invested enterprises. According to data from Maybank, both FDI influx into Vietnam and its export turnover in the past 10 years are bigger than those of all other Southeast Asian countries. In particular, the electronics and phone industry has surpassed garment and textiles to become the biggest contributor to the total export value. This shows that Vietnam has enhanced its position in the global value chain, said Brian Lee, adding that the productivity of its workers also grows faster than that in other ASEAN countries. To become a tiger of Asia, Vietnam should have world-standard infrastructure and skilled workforce, support domestic enterprises in

improving their foothold in the global supply chain, and step up growth based on digital transformation, the economist noted. The Russian newspaper also quoted economic expert Nguyen Xuan Thanh, a lecturer at the Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management, as saying Vietnam is well controlling inflation and fiscal and monetary policies. According to him, even if the world oil price increases again, without exceeding the peak of 120 USD per barrel, Vietnam's economic situation in 2022 will still be positive, with inflation below 4% and GDP growth over 7%./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-able-to-become-new-tiger-in-asia-economist/235680.vnp>
