

Highlight News / August 24/2022



- Cambodia attracts over 740,000 international tourists in first 7 months
- Famed Kampot pepper yields 120 tonnes this year
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Cambodia attracts over 740,000 international tourists in first 7 months



Cambodia News | 23 August, 2022

Cambodia received over 740,000 international visitors in the first seven months of this year, a 560 percent growth compared with 2021. The country aims to attract at least 1 million international tourists in the whole year, driven by the resumption of socioeconomic activities at major tourist resorts. Cambodia has attracted more than 740,000 international visitors in the first seven months of 2022, an increase of 560 percent compared to the same period last year, the Ministry of Tourism said in a news release on Saturday. Tourism Minister Thong Khon said the re-opening of all socioeconomic activities has boosted growth at some major tourist destinations in capital city Phnom Penh, the cultural province of Siem Reap and the coastal province of Preah Sihanouk. "In the first seven months of 2022, we have received more than 740,000 international tourists, up 560 percent compared to the same period in 2021 during the COVID-19 crisis," he said. During the January-July period this year, neighboring Vietnam topped the chart of international tourist arrivals to the kingdom, followed by Thailand and China. Cambodia is hoping to attract at least 1 million international tourists in 2022, much higher than only 200,000 in 2021, Khon said, adding that the number will hit 2 million in 2023 and reach the pre-COVID-19 level in 2026 or 2027. In the pre-pandemic era, the kingdom welcomed 6.6

million international tourists in 2019, generating 4.92 billion US dollars in revenue, according to the ministry. Tourism is one of four pillars supporting the economy in the Southeast Asian nation. The kingdom is famous for its three world heritage sites, namely the Angkor Archaeological Park in Siem Reap province, the Preah Vihear Temple in Preah Vihear province, and the Sambor Prei Kuk Archaeological Site in Kampong Thom province. Besides, it has a 450-km pristine coastline stretching across four southwestern provinces.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501136637/cambodia-attracts-over-740000-international-tourists-in-first-7-months/>

Famed Kampot pepper yields 120 tonnes this year



Cambodia News | 23 August, 2022

The yield of renowned Kampot pepper, one of Cambodia's only two products to be registered as a Geographical Indication in the European Union, has been 120 tonnes in this harvest season, unchanged to last year, its association said on Monday. The harvesting season ended up recently with a total yield of 120 tonnes, said Ngoun Lay, president of the Kampot Pepper Promotion Association. So far, about 40 tonnes of dried pepper has been signed for exports with six main trading companies, Lay said on Sunday. "The pepper yield is quite the same amount as last year, due to some farmers having dropped their farming, leading to the yield not increasing," Lay said. Lay said the EU is the biggest market for

pepper, about 80 percent and the rest goes to other countries, including the United States, Canada, China, Japan, and South Korea, among others. He said Kampot pepper comes in three varieties – black, red and white – selling for \$15,000 per tonne, 25,000 and \$28,000, respectively. Located in the southwestern region, the coastal province of Kampot has some 240 hectares of pepper farms, he said, adding that a hectare yields an average of 2.5 tonnes per annum and the harvest season runs from March to June. Renowned for its delicate aroma and strong spicy taste, Kampot pepper, the country's Geographical Indication product since 2010, is currently popular on the EU market. The association is boosting exports to the China market, as a few amounts of commodities have been exported, Lay said. "We have exported hundreds of kilogram of pepper to China, but we want a larger amount, so that we can increase the export to the international market," he said. Last year, the Kingdom exported 114 tonnes of Kampot pepper last year, up 63 percent from 70 tonnes in the year before.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501136847/famed-kampot-pepper-yields-120-tonnes-this-year/>

City to spend 20 billion kip on flood prevention



Laos News | 24 August, 2022

Vientiane authorities plan to spend 20 billion kip to tackle the problem of flooding in the rainy season, which is caused by blocked drainage channels. The money will be used to resolve flooding issues in both

the immediate and long term, with various responsibilities for the work to be allocated to different government agencies. Under the plan, drainage channels will be cleared, repaired and enlarged. Plants and debris will be removed to clear blockages and prevent water levels rising during heavy rain. Director of the Vientiane Public Works and Transport Department, Mr Soulivan Phommahaxay, said the department is partnering with the Vientiane City Office for Management and Services and officials from the capital's nine districts to deal with the perennial problem of flooding. The two agencies recently met to discuss the issue, putting forward several measures aimed at resolving flooding for rollout immediately and to prevent flooding in the future. The Vientiane Public Works and Transport Department is expected to spend at least 2 billion kip on immediate flooding solutions and at least 16 billion kip on long-term solutions. In addition, the Vientiane City Office for Management and Services plans to spend 1.5 billion on flood prevention, making a total budget of almost 20 billion kip. However, this is only an initial estimate because some of the work planned may not be able to be carried out in the rainy season, Mr Soulivan said. Authorities will provide more details when work gets underway. Several areas of Vientiane were flooded recently when drainage systems failed to cope with heavy rainfall. Sikhottabong district was one of the worst hit areas. The Vientiane Public Works and Transport Department teamed up with local officials to inspect and clear waterways most

susceptible to flooding in Sikhay and Nongneiw villages, and the Lao Oxy market. Last week, cleaning crews used an earth mover to remove plants and garbage from waterways in Hongseung and Hongkaikeo villages and alongside the P3 Road in Chanthabouly district. In some areas, drainage channels become blocked when construction crews fill them with compacted soil, so water is unable to drain off as it should, Mr Sullivan said. In the future, the Vientiane Public Works and Transport Department, the Vientiane City Office for Management and Services and the city's nine districts will share the responsibility for flood prevention in the capital. The Vientiane Public Works and Transport Department will work with related departments to recheck drainage channels and be ready to respond to rises in the level of the Mekong. The Department will also reassess the causes of flooding in several locations in order to devise more effective flood prevention plans.

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent163_City.php

Traders report brisk sales of newly harvested peanuts at high price



Myanmar News | 24 August, 2022

Trading of the newly harvested peanuts is bustling and the price remains on the high side, Mandalay Commodity Wholesale Market stated. Fresh peanuts from Kyaukpadaung, Tatkon, Yamethin, Magway and Aungmye areas are entering Mandalay markets from the third week of August. The local millers are

also increasingly purchasing them, beyond the foreign demand, according to the commodity warehouses. In end-July, the peanut prices moved in the range of K5,300 and K5,700 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kilogrammes) depending on varieties, whereas the price jumped to K6,000-6,600 per viss on 23 August. The figures reflected an increase of K600-1,000 per viss over the past 20 days. Similarly, the prices of peanut oil rocketed to K14,000 per viss. Last April, the world's top palm oil exporter Indonesia, which is one of the main oil suppliers to Myanmar, declared an export ban on cooking oil export to reduce the domestic shortage. Consequently, Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce temporarily suspended exports of oil crops (peanut and sesame) from 9 May in order to have oil self-sufficiency. Exports of Myanmar's edible oil crops have resumed as the world's top palm oil exporters return to normalcy, according to a notification dated 5 July 2022 released by the Trade Department. — NN/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/traders-report-brisk-sales-of-newly-harvested-peanuts-at-high-price/#article-title>

Vietnam among destinations with fastest tourism growth in the world



Vietnam News | 23 August, 2022

According to the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism (VNAT), Vietnam continues to be among the top destinations with the fastest tourism growth in the world, with a monthly increase of 50-70% from the

beginning of 2022. Vietnam welcomed 954,000 international tourists in the first seven months of 2022, a nine-fold increase over the same period last year. According to the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism, the growth rate of foreign arrivals averaged 62% per month in the January-July period. Most of the visitors were from Asia-Pacific, including Southeast Asian countries such as Cambodia, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia. South Korea was Vietnam's largest source of tourists during this period, followed by the US. The number of European tourists is also increasing, with a relatively high growth rate, especially those from the UK, France and Germany. The Vietnam National Administration of Tourism said that the recovery prospects of tourism businesses are more positive as the number of travel firms resuming operation is increasing, providing more jobs. In the first half of the year, the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism issued new licenses to 312 international tour operators, an increase of 286 companies compared to 2021. By the end of June, Vietnam had 2,415 international tour operators and 1,060 domestic travel companies. According to the World Economic Forum's 2021 tourism development index report, Vietnam's tourism industry has jumped up by eight places. With 6 out of 17 key indicators ranked among the top in the world, Vietnam's tourism industry ranks in the top three with the fastest tourism growth. Search volume for accommodation in Vietnam last month reached 100 points, 5.9 times higher than early March (17 points). The majority of traffic comes

from the US, Australia, Singapore, India, Japan, Korea, the UK, Malaysia, Germany and Thailand. Meanwhile, the search volume of Vietnamese tourists for foreign destinations in July increased by 780% over the same period last year. The most searched destinations include six countries in Southeast Asia, namely Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. Vietnam will attend the JATA Travel Fair in Japan from September 22-25 and the World Travel Market (WTM) in the UK from November 7-9 to attract more foreign visitors. The country will also host the International Travel Expo, one of the two largest international travel exhibitions in Vietnam, in Ho Chi Minh City from September 8-10. A safe destination, cheap travel costs, friendly people, and many attractive sights are the strengths of Vietnam for international tourists, according to AsiaHighlight.

Source : <https://vietnamnet.vn/en/vietnam-among-destinations-with-fastest-tourism-growth-in-the-world-2052341.html>

Thailand's Central Group plans to expand investment in Vietnam



Vietnam News | 23 August, 2022

Thai retail conglomerate Central Group is planning to expand aggressively at home and in neighboring Vietnam, hoping to tap an expected jump in demand when the COVID-19 pandemic ends, according to Nikkei Asia. Central Retail, the group's core retail arm, has set aside 30 billion THB (848 million USD) to invest in Vietnam, where it intends to increase

sales to 100 billion THB over the next five years, up from the current 38.6 billion THB, according to its business strategy published in its annual report. The plan matches analysts' forecasts, which expect Vietnam's resilient economy to keep growing after the pandemic. These forecasts see the country's retail sector growing 9% per year to around 150 million USD. "Central Retail has a strong presence in Vietnam, a market it entered more than 20 years ago," a Kasikorn Research Center analyst said, as cited by Nikkei Asia. "This time it will shift its investment focus from brick-and-mortar stores to technology to expand its selling platform and gain a greater customer base." Central Retail has 340 malls and stores as well as 10 retail brands in Vietnam, including Go! Mall, Nguyen Kim, SuperSports and Top Market, spanning the sales of electronics, to sports wear, to groceries. The company also has BIPBIP, an e-commerce food and grocery shopping platform that stocks more than 12,000 items and has a 12 million-strong customer base. Central Retail hopes that its 30 billion THB investment will help it to become Vietnam's biggest food and property retail platform. Apart from expanding existing operations, it will also seek to buy businesses that can help to expand its reach. The company is pushing a business strategy it calls "omnichannel" that lets online consumers choose whether to pick up their orders or have them delivered. Central Retail

expects omnichannel sales to make up more than 15% of the company's total over the next few years, up from the current 8%./.

Source : <https://vietnamnet.vn/en/thailand-s-central-group-plans-to-expand-investment-in-vietnam-2052347.html>
