

## Highlight News / November 08, 2022



- National Policy Framework for Economic Productivity 2022-35 unveiled
- COFCO Group signs large purchase contracts with multiple foreign partners, including Cambodia
- Laos Inflation Rate Hits New High of 36.75 Percent in October
- Covid-19 loan repayment period extended for one more year
- M&A Vietnam Forum 2022 slated for late November



**Advisory Institute for Trade and Investment by TCC (AiTi)**

## National Policy Framework for Economic Productivity 2022-35 unveiled



*Cambodia News | 07 November, 2022*

The Royal Government of Cambodia has announced the implementation of the National Policy Framework for Cambodia's Economic Productivity 2022-35 in order to increase investment and trade attractiveness and improve Cambodia's national economic productivity, according to a senior official of the Ministry of Economy and Finance. During the official launch ceremony, Aun Pornmoniroth, Minister of Economy and Finance and Chairman of the National Committee for Economic Productivity of Cambodia said the National Policy Framework for Cambodia's Economic Productivity is a socio-economic policy framework and aims to achieve economic security and well-being of the people by increasing their income, support the needs of the nation, address the challenges and risks of disruption in the global supply chain and energy insecurity by increasing access and capacity. The nation aims to achieve a high value-added economy by improving the competitiveness of Cambodia's production, services, trade, and investment, the Minister added. He said the Cambodian National Productivity Framework has set the vision to build and enhance national economic productivity, based on a highly skilled and innovative workforce, to promote better socio-economic development, and strengthen economic security and social welfare. According to the minister, when the National Productivity Framework is fully implemented, the country will benefit greatly through improvement in the economy, better value addition of local products,

improved production and services, and better connection with regional and global economies. The National Productivity Framework will also lead to Cambodia having increased income and the ability to improve livelihoods, attract high value-added investment, reduce poverty and lower the cost of providing public services to the people. The external demand and the domestic economy's return to normalcy will give a big boost to economic expansion, according to a summary report of the Ministry of Economy and Finance. "The Cambodian economic growth in 2023 is projected to be at 6.6 percent, with the GDP set to reach \$32.29 billion, while the GDP per capita is expected to be at \$1,924, compared to \$1,785 in 2022," the report pointed out. Key economic sectors — industry, services, and agriculture — are predicted to expand as the inflation rate is expected to be at 2.5 percent. The foreign exchange reserve would increase to \$22.14 billion, the report added. Cambodia's economy is on the path to recovery following the effective handling of the Covid-19 crisis, the Ministry's permanent secretary of state Vongsey Visoth said.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501180684/national-policy-framework-for-economic-productivity-2022-35-unveiled/>

## COFCO Group signs large purchase contracts with multiple foreign partners, including Cambodia



*Cambodia News | 07 November, 2022*

COFCO Group, China's largest foodstuff producer and grain trader by sales revenue, has signed over \$10 billion worth of purchase contracts with various foreign partners during the fifth China International Import Expo

(CIIE) in Shanghai, the company said on Sunday. In addition to importing edible oil, sugar, meat, alcohol and dairy products from overseas markets, the company purchased grain and bulk commodities such as wheat, corn, sorghum and cotton to meet the demand of domestic food processing enterprises. It will introduce high-quality agricultural and grain products with different tastes from more regions around the world into the home market, the Beijing-headquartered State-owned enterprise said in a statement. These foodstuff and agricultural products will be supplied from countries including Thailand, Cambodia, the United States, Canada, Australia, France, Kazakhstan, Russia and Brazil, said Luan Richeng, COFCO's president. This is the fifth year the company has participated in the CIIE, said the statement. China Daily

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501180881/cof-co-group-signs-large-purchase-contracts-with-multiple-foreign-partners-including-cambodia/>

## Laos Inflation Rate Hits New High of 36.75 Percent in October



*Laos News | 07 November, 2022*

October set a new record marking the highest inflation rate this year, up from 34.05 percent in September, continuing an upward trend that has caused difficulties for residents amid a rising cost of living. According to the statistics bureau, food and alcoholic beverages have increased by 38.8 percent year-on-year, with the sector affected by the price of rice and other daily food items including pork, poultry, fish, seafood, eggs, vegetable oil, fruit and vegetables. Commercial transport and deliveries

shot up by 58.1 percent, driven mainly by high fuel costs in October. Clothing, footwear, household items, medical equipment, and medicines also saw increases. The retail price of construction materials in Vientiane Capital also increased, forcing some to abandon construction projects. "A tonne of cement used to cost around LAK 600,000. Some vendors are selling the same amount at over LAK 1 million," a local construction foreman told Laotian Times. Authorities in Laos are working to fight the rising cost of living, with the Party Central Committee discussing solutions at its recent Plenary Session, which ended on 20 October. During the meeting, officials agreed to look at increasing export revenues and ensuring that payments are made through the banking system, as well as calling for more action to support local production and reduce the country's reliance on imports. Party Secretary General, Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith, promised to enforce strict measures to manage the rising prices and keep currency exchange rates in check. The continued rise in the cost of living is heavily affecting the general population, with low-income earners suffering the most. Laos increased its minimum wage to LAK 1,200,000 (approximately USD 70) per month in August this year.

Source: <https://laotiantimes.com/2022/11/07/laos-inflation-rate-hits-new-high-of-36-75-percent-in-october/>

## Covid-19 loan repayment period extended for one more year



*Myanmar News | 07 November, 2022*

The working committee to address the impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on 4 November announced Notification 3/2022 on a one-year extension of the Covid loan repayment period from the second-year due date. According to the priority sector, 5,990 companies and enterprises were granted loans from K200 billion of COVID-19 funds for a total of K158.4438 billion with an interest rate of one per cent and a loan period of one year from 9 April 2020. Loans flow to businesses such as CMP, hotels and tourism, small and medium-scale enterprises, agriculture, livestock breeding and marine production, export products manufacturing industries, import-substitute products manufacturing industries, businesses that participate in the supply chain from local production to the export sector, foodstuffs manufacturing businesses, overseas employment agencies and vocational training schools. In the notice of the working committee for loans, it stated: "If it fails to repay, action will be taken under the law," and so companies/industries that took loans from the Myanmar Economic Bank fail to pay back the capital and interest, they will face legal action as per the terms and conditions of the loan contract and they must repay the outstanding loan completely within the period of extension. — TWA/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/covid-19-loan-repayment-period-extended-for-one-more-year/>

## M&A Vietnam Forum 2022 slated for late November



*Vietnam News | 07 November, 2022*

HA NOI — The annual merge and acquisition forum (M&A Vietnam Forum) in 2022 will be held in HCM City on November 23. The event, organised by Vietnam Investment Review with the sponsorship of the Ministry of Planning and Investment, will be themed "Igniting new opportunities". The M&A Vietnam Forum, expecting the participation of more than 500 delegates, will focus on M&A opportunities amid the fluctuating market, and the building of new values. On the sidelines, a number of activities will be held to provide chances for business to meet and seek partnership. In Viet Nam, in the first 10 months of this year, US\$5.7 billion was poured into M&A deals, down 35.3 per cent year on year. — VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1352255/m-a-vietnam-forum-2022-slated-for-late-november.html>