

*Highlight News / November 23/2022*



- Additional \$10 million released by Royal Government for rice procurement
- Cambodia, Vietnam firm on \$10 billion trade target
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## Additional \$10 million released by Royal Government for rice procurement



*Cambodia News | 22 November, 2022*

The Royal Government of Cambodia, through the State Bank for Rural Development and Agriculture, has announced an additional \$10 million for rice procurement in Cambodia. This is according to the press release of the Bank for Rural Development and Agriculture on providing additional funding for rice procurement in Cambodia, released on November 21. According to the press release, in order to promote rice procurement and help stabilize rice prices to farmers, the government has carefully considered and decided to provide additional funds to the initial \$83 million rice procurement funds through the Rural Development and Agriculture Bank to support rice millers and rice exporters in collecting rice from farmers. In recent days, the price of rice has fluctuated in some rice-producing provinces, especially Battambang and Banteay Meanchey, due to the large harvest season.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501189189/additional-10-million-released-by-royal-government-for-rice-procurement/>

## Cambodia, Vietnam firm on \$10 billion trade target



*Cambodia News | 22 November, 2022*

Cambodia and Vietnam continue to march towards the goal of achieving the \$10 billion-plus bilateral trade volume this year and taking the economic

partnership to a new high. The commitment reflects in the bilateral interactions too. The goal was also reiterated at Monday's meeting between Prime Minister Hun Sen and visiting Chairman of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Vuong Dinh Hue. While during January-September of 2022 the Cambodia-Vietnam trade touched \$8.45 billion, in 2021 the bilateral trade had reached \$9.54 billion, which was an increase of 79 percent over the previous year. In the earlier five-year period (2016-20) and before the Covid-19 pandemic gripped the world and ruined many economies, the Cambodia-Vietnam trade, according to the Ministry of Industry and Trade, expanded by 17 percent per annum and reached \$5.31 billion in 2020 from \$2.92 billion in 2016. At a courtesy meeting between Prime Minister Hun Sen and Chairman of the Vietnam National Assembly Vuong Dinh Hue at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh, the two leaders appreciated the ever-strengthening economic partnership and spoke about taking the bilateral trade to \$10 billion this year, according to Eang Sophalleth, Personal Assistant to the Cambodian Premier. The Prime Minister said the good economic partnership will help promote the relations between the two countries in terms of politics and other domains. The Vietnamese leader expressed happiness over the good relationship and cooperation, especially on trade between the two neighbours, and also congratulated Cambodia on its rapid development. According to available data, Vietnam has 198 investment projects in Cambodia

with registered capital of \$2.92 billion. Also, among the ASEAN member states, it is the largest trading partner (\$3.26 billion) in Cambodia. Overall, Vietnam is the third largest trading partner of Cambodia after China and the United States of America. At the Cambodia-Vietnam Investment and Trade Forum 2022 on November 8, where Vietnam Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh was present, Mr Hun Sen said Cambodia may connect with the automotive and electronics production chains through the development of a special country strategy. The Cambodia Prime Minister also spoke about increasing cooperation in developing infrastructure along the Southern Economic Corridor to boost trade and tourism. The two premiers witnessed the signing of 11 cooperation documents on land transport; agricultural cooperation; border trade; commerce; television and radio cooperation; telecom, ICT (information and communications technology), digital transformation; labour; financial innovation, and payment systems. Of Cambodia's total trade (\$8.624 billion – import \$6.798 billion and export \$1.826 billion) in the first half of 2022 with ASEAN member states, Thailand ranks second after Vietnam. Export from Cambodia amounts to \$495.78 million and imports \$1.8 billion of the \$2.29 billion trade between the two countries. Singapore ranks third with \$ 2.07 billion in trade, Indonesia fourth (\$465.21 million), Myanmar fifth (\$325.60 million), Laos sixth (\$106.91 million) the Philippines seventh (\$64.04 million), Malaysia eighth (\$13.79 million) and

Brunei comes ninth with a trade volume of \$11.32 million.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501188711/cambodia-vietnam-firm-on-10-billion-trade-target/>

## Reform essential to restore economic stability in Laos



*Laos News | 22 November, 2022*

Laos faces increased challenges from currency depreciation and high inflation despite signs of economic recovery in early 2022, according to the World Bank's latest economic update for the country. The "Lao Economic Monitor for October 2022: Tackling Macroeconomic Vulnerabilities", released on Monday, identifies ambitious reforms that can help the country restore economic stability and sustain growth. The report noted that the kip lost 68 percent of its value against the US dollar over the year to October, undermining recovery and fuelling inflation, which in turn squeezed private consumption and investment. Public and publicly guaranteed debt is projected to surpass 100 percent of GDP by the end of year. The World Bank has lowered its 2022 economic growth forecast for Laos to 2.5 percent, down from an earlier projection of 3.8 percent. "Although employment had risen by mid-2022, Lao people's earnings have not kept pace with inflation. Year-on-year consumer price inflation had risen to 37 percent by October 2022, with food price inflation at almost 39 percent. This particularly affects the urban poor, with some families forced to reduce their consumption of food and fuel," the

World Bank said. In a World Bank survey, two-thirds of households reported spending less on health and education, which can undermine long-term human development. "The World Bank and other development partners are discussing with the government a roadmap of reforms that can help stabilise the situation, protect essential spending on education, health, and welfare, and create a solid environment for long-term recovery," said the World Bank country manager for Laos, Mr Alex Kremer. According to the World Bank, five vital reforms are proposed – cutting costly tax exemptions to raise public revenue and protect social spending, improving the governance of public and public-private investment, and of state-owned enterprises, restructuring public debt through ongoing negotiations, strengthening financial sector stability through legal and regulatory tools, and lastly, improving the business environment and promoting exports through effective regulatory reform. The report gives a medium-term outlook that assumes gradual recovery, driven by tourism and exports, though this is dependent on successful debt negotiations with bilateral creditors. In addition, the economic outlook is subject to significant external risks, including tighter global macroeconomic policies and the protracted impacts of the Russian-Ukraine conflict. This economic update features a thematic section on "Exports for Jobs", which shows that the labour market remains characterised by high informality, reliance on public sector jobs, and a large number of agricultural

workers who face seasonal demand. The lack of high-quality formal jobs means that Laos's previous economic growth did not reduce poverty as much as expected, while inequality rose. The section provides recommendations on how to boost exports in manufacturing, commercial agriculture and services in order to raise revenue, increase productivity, and create jobs.

Source : [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent227\\_Reform\\_y22.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent227_Reform_y22.php)

## MoC issues export licence for rice to be shipped to Bangladesh under MoU



*Myanmar News | 22 November, 2022*

The Ministry of Commerce has granted an export licence for 191,700 tonnes of rice that will be shipped to Bangladesh according to the agreement between the two countries. As per the Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and Bangladesh on the rice trade, 48 companies, under the supervision of the Myanmar Rice Federation, are to export 200,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh with Chinese yuan payment between October 2022 and January 2023. Following the contract, white rice (ATAP) GPCT Broken STX variety will be delivered. The FOB prices were 2.78856 Yuan per kilogramme and 2788.56 Yuan per tonne. The Export/Import division of the Trade Department issued over 534 million Yuan worth 42 export licences for 41 companies to convey 191,700 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh. Myanmar and Bangladesh inked a

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on rice trade in September this year. According to this MoU, Bangladesh has agreed to buy 250,000 tonnes of white rice and 50,000 tonnes of parboiled rice from Myanmar between 2022 and 2027. Under the MoU, Bangladesh's Directorate General of Food and MRF signed a sales contract for 200,000 tonnes of Myanmar's white rice to be exported to Bangladesh. As per the sales contract, Myanmar has shipped over 20,000 tonnes of white rice to Bangladesh till 31 October 2022. The remaining will be delivered before the deadline. Since 7 September 2017, Myanmar and Bangladesh have engaged in rice trade under the government-to-government pact. That MoU stated that Bangladesh has agreed to buy Myanmar's white rice (250,000 tonnes) and parboiled rice (50,000) tonnes between 2017 and September 2022. Bangladesh's Directorate General of Food and MRF signed the sales contracts as per the MoU and Myanmar sent 100,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh each in 2017 for the first time and 2021 for the second time, as per the sales contract. Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/moc-issues-export-licence-for-rice-to-be-shipped-to-bangladesh-under-mou/>

## Vietnam, Cambodia enhance bilateral cooperation in agriculture



*Vietnam News | 22 November, 2022*

Vietnamese Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Le Minh Hoan met with Cambodian Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Dith

Tina in Phnom Penh on November 21 on the occasion of National Assembly Chairman Vuong Dinh Hue's trip to Cambodia. Hoan said that cooperation in agriculture and rural development has received attention from the two countries' Party, State and Government leaders. Vietnam and Cambodia can make the best use of their advantages to promote the development of production, processing and distribution; increase added value; and sustainably develop their agricultural sectors to serve the interests of their people and businesses. The ministers agreed to consider the two ministries' cooperation agreement, signed during Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh's Cambodia visit from November 8-9, as an important premise to boost collaboration. Given the fact that Vietnam and Cambodia have a common ecosystem in the Mekong River basin, they stressed the need to strengthen cooperation in sustainable forestry and fishery business and production management, natural resources management, biodiversity conservation, and climate change response. Dith Tina showed his special attention to collaboration in rice and aquatic products with Vietnam. For his part, Hoan affirmed that Vietnam is ready to support the transfer of freshwater fish farming technology to Cambodia, which is a premise to improve sustainable livelihoods for people in Cambodia, including some Vietnamese expatriates. On the occasion, the two ministers witnessed the signing of a cooperation agreement to implement a project to build models and transfer aquaculture techniques in

the Tonle Sap region of Cambodia with an estimated capital of about 70 billion VND (\$2.8 million) aided by the Vietnamese Government. The project will be carried out from 2021 to 2025. VNA

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501189133/vietnam-cambodia-enhance-bilateral-cooperation-in-agriculture/>

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## HCMC manufacturers face

### bankruptcy amid fall in new orders



*Vietnam News | 22 November, 2022*

HCMC – Many manufacturers in HCMC are facing bankruptcy due to a sharp plunge in revenues caused by a lack of new orders, while steeling themselves to continue paying salaries. Thu Duc City now has 97 enterprises scaling down production due to fewer orders, said Nguyen Dinh Cuong, vice chair of the Labor Union of Thu Duc. Most of these businesses are active in labor-intensive industries like footwear, textile and wood processing. Weaker growth in orders would make it difficult for those businesses to resume operations at the end of the year, including those who have steadily expanded over the years. To date, some of these businesses have only reached half of the full-year plan, which is even lower than during the social distancing period in 2021. “Meanwhile, they still had to pay salaries for their staff, as employees would leave if the companies failed to pay them,” Cuong said. Earlier, Le Van Thinh, director of the HCMC Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, said 27

companies in the city had reduced their staffing by 2,860 workers due to technology restructuring and economic problems. “The department would join hands with relevant agencies to help workers who have lost their jobs find new opportunities in industries in need of labor,” Thinh added.

Source : <https://english.thesaigontimes.vn/hcmc-manufacturers-face-bankruptcy-amid-fall-in-new-orders/>

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