

Highlight News / December 06, 2022



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Advisory Institute for Trade and Investment by TCC (AiTi)



Life returns to Cambodia's famed Angkor, recording over 225,000 international tourists in 11 months



Cambodia News | 05 December, 2022

Cambodia's famed Angkor Archaeological Park received 225,191 foreign tourists in the first 11 months of this year, earning \$9 million from ticket sales, the state-owned Angkor Enterprise said on Friday. In November alone, the park attracted 55,842 foreign visitors, making \$2.25 million in revenue from ticket sales, it said in a statement. Located in the northwestern Siem Reap province, the 401-square-km Angkor Archaeological Park, inscribed on the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1992, is the most popular tourist destination in the Southeast Asian country. Long Kosal, deputy director-general of the Apsara National Authority, said the number of tourists to the park would continue to rise thanks to the kingdom's successful control of the COVID-19 pandemic. "As our country has fully reopened its borders to all travelers, I believe that more foreign tourists will spend their holidays at the Angkor," he told Xinhua. During the pre-pandemic era, the Angkor park received up to 2.2 million international visitors in 2019, generating \$99 million in revenue from ticket sales, according to Angkor Enterprise. The entrance fee for a one-day visit to the park is \$37, a three-day visit costs \$62, and a week-long visit costs \$72. Xinhua

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501195645/life-returns-to-cambodias-famed-angkor-recording-over-225000-international-tourists-in-11-months/>

Cambodia eyes food product export to US



Cambodia News | 05 December, 2022

The United States has some strict procedures and rules for food export, and Cambodia has the potential to utilise the huge American market for its food export, said experts. The United States is the biggest market for Cambodia, accounting for 43 percent of the Kingdom's total exports during the January-July period of this year. In 2021, US imports from Cambodia reached \$8.7 billion and America is the Kingdom's largest export market. The top exports from Cambodia to the US include apparel, footwear, and travel goods. Top experts believe that Cambodia can increase its food export to the US in future to enhance its market and growth. A seminar titled 'Food Export to the United States, at the Sokha Hotel Phnom Penh on Saturday looked at the various procedures of food export to America. It was organised by the Innovative & Development Investors Association (IDI) with support from key government ministries, including the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MAFF), Ministry of Commerce (MOC), US Department of Agriculture of the US Embassy in Cambodia, American Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia (AmCham) and Khmer Enterprise. In his welcome remarks, Dr Hor Serey Vath, chairman, IDI and IDC, said: "Without a proper understanding of the basic requirements of food safety, packaging standards, logistics, warehousing, custom process and paperwork, it is difficult to export to the US." "We hope that the outcome of this seminar will help increase the export of food products to the United States. It will also aid

increase in production and raising farmer incomes,” he pointed out. Talking about the significance of increasing exports, Son Seng Huot, secretary of state, Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation, said: “Studies have shown that only 10 percent to 15 percent of the total agricultural products has been processed. The project serves a great opportunity for our farmers, entrepreneur and SMEs to learn more about food processing, manufacturing, etc.” Dr. Hean Vanhan, secretary of state, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; and Kha Leng, secretary of state, Ministry of Commerce, also attended the morning session. Kim Chha Huot, Honorary Consul General of Cambodia in Long Beach, and FDA experts talked about the basic requirements for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the US Department of Customs and Border Protection (US Customs). The forum provided insights into the procedures, standard requirements, and legal framework necessary to export food products/agriculture products from Cambodia into the US. The participants also received an opportunity to connect with potential buyers and brokers who represent big supermarkets from the US, as well as key figures from public and private entities operating in the food/agriculture sector. Some of the topics include ‘The US markets’ Demands with regard to Food Industry’ and ‘US Regulations, Customs and Licensing requirements’, ‘Logistics & Warehousing’ and ‘Getting the Products on Market’s Shelf.’ Another topic that attracted the attention of the participants was ‘What Food Products are the Buyers Looking for?’ Later there was a Question & Answer session facilitated by the American Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia (AmCham). Some of the

registered participants showcased their own products during the exhibition. Earlier, Dith Tina, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, met the US delegation and IDI and IDC leaders led by Dr Hor Serey Vath. Kim Chha Huot also attended the meeting along with export experts from the US. The minister welcomed the delegation and supported food exports to the United States. He explained the policy of government in supporting investment and export promotion, such as finding markets, partners, quality control and clear planning involving farmers. Norman Arikawa, trade development advisor, Port of Los Angeles, explained the various procedures related to trade and food export to the US. Meanwhile, Lorie Hannappel and Christina Muhn, representing FDA, gave a detailed presentation on FDA procedures. The meeting focussed on exploring the procedures and opportunities for exporting Cambodian products to the US. Members of the delegation included port business consultants, customs documentation specialists, experts in standardisation techniques, merchandising, packaging, marketing and advertising, inventory management, shipping companies and purchasing companies.

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501196186/cambodia-eyes-food-product-export-to-us/>

Laos Inflation Rate Shoots up to 38.46 Percent in November



Laos News | 05 December, 2022

November’s year-on-year inflation rate reached a new high of 38.46 percent, up from 36.75 percent in October. Most people in the country continue to be adversely affected as the cost of living rose with

soaring inflation. Commercial transport and delivery costs saw a significant increase of 55.4 percent due to the constant rise in fuel prices, which has affected the prices of other essential items as well. Food and non-alcoholic beverage prices went up by 42.3 percent, while healthcare equipment and medicines rose by 42 percent. The cost of hotel rooms and house equipment also shot up by 30.97 percent and 30.41 respectively. According to Lao Phatthana, the Lao Kip's weakness against other currencies like USD, THB, CNY, etc. continues to hike the price of imported goods, compared to the same period last year. Party Secretary General and President, Thongloun Sisoulith also held a meeting on late October and vowed to address the continuous rise in the inflation rate to keep the currency exchange under control.

Source: <https://laotiantimes.com/2022/12/05/laos-inflation-rate-shoots-up-to-38-46-percent-in-november/>

ROK's EPS legally recruits over 700

Myanmar workers in November



Myanmar News | 05 December, 2022

A total of 720 Myanmar workers were recruited in the Republic of Korea through the Employment Permit System (EPS) in November this year, according to a statement of Myanmar's Embassy in Seoul. The numbers of legal MoU workers sent to the ROK were 149 on 29 November, 110 on 24 November, 126 on 17 November, 148 on 15 November, 51 on 10

November, 27 on 3 November and 109 on 1 November respectively. Those workers are new workers and experienced ones with re-entry permits engaged in manufacturing, construction, agriculture and livestock businesses. The labour attaché of Myanmar Embassy in Seoul welcomed them at the Incheon Airport and directed them the dos and don'ts and work etiquette and provided the needs. More than 37,000 people are expected to take the EPS-TOPIK (Employment Permit System) qualification test which is held from end-September 2022 to mid-2023 in the respective batch. At present, there are over 50,000 migrant workers legally working in Korea. And more workers are to join them monthly. The first batch for the manufacturing job test will be held between 31 October and 29 December. Between 3 January and 3 April 2023, the second batch of entry exam for manufacturing jobs will be held. Those who want to join construction jobs can take the exam between 17 April and 15 May 2023. Employers in Korea recruit potential candidates among those who passed the EPS-TOPIK test, according to POEA. At present, the government of South Korea is continuously recruiting new workers and experienced workers. The minimum wage in South Korea stood at 9,000 Won per hour in 2022. As there are employment protection legislations in South Korea, local people are keen on hunting jobs in South Korea, the Ministry of Labour stated.—TWA/EMM

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/roks-eps-legally-recruits-over-700-myanmar-workers-in-november/#article-title>

Export prices of Vietnamese rice world's highest



Vietnam News | 05 December, 2022

Hanoi (VNA) – The export prices of Vietnamese rice are standing at the highest levels in the world, according to the Vietnam Food Association. Specifically, 5% broken rice currently fetches 438 USD per tonne, and 25% broken rice is sold for 418 USD per tonne. With these figures, the prices are around 20 USD per tonne higher than those of Thailand. Experts predicted that the export prices will remain at high levels in the first months of 2023. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam is likely to ship 7.2-37.3 million tonnes of rice abroad this year, pocketing 3.3-3.5 billion USD. Notably, the exports to choosy markets have recorded high growth, including the US (85%), and the European Union (82%).

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/export-prices-of-vietnamese-rice-worlds-highest/244957.vnp>

Việt Nam is well-positioned for GH2 production



Vietnam News | 28 November, 2022

HÀ NỘI — Green hydrogen (GH2) industrial development is a direction for Việt Nam in the

energy transition roadmap to achieve the goal of zero carbon emissions by 2050 but challenges remain, experts said. According to experts at the workshop on policy framework for renewable energy development and the potential for green hydrogen in Việt Nam, held by GIZ in co-operation with the Electricity and Renewable Energy Authority under the Ministry of Industry and Trade, with the support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), Việt Nam has a large and diverse renewable energy industry, proximity to major importers in the Asia-Pacific region, strong renewable energy resource potential and low political risk. The GH2 produced from the electrolysis of water using renewable energy will play an important role in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions towards the net zero carbon goal that the world and Việt Nam are pursuing in line with the commitments in COP 26. Ali Habib, an international consultant, told the workshop: "Việt Nam was well-positioned for the production, but policy and partnerships will be essential to ensure success." Võ Thanh Tùng, a project expert with GIZ Energy Support Programme, said that renewable energy technologies, such as wind and solar power, have developed strongly in recent years, which opens up new opportunities to promote the development of the green hydrogen industry. Many countries worldwide have developed strategies for the green hydrogen

industry, setting specific mid- and long-term goals and ambitions to develop the domestic consumption market. Japan, South Korea, Germany, and EU countries also plan to import hydrogen from neighbouring countries and the region. In addition, an important geopolitical factor stemming from the Ukraine - Russia conflict has also spurred the development of this industry because green hydrogen can store clean energy for a long time, helping to ensure energy security. It is also considered a very important factor today in Europe. "Việt Nam is a country with abundant potential for solar power and wind power onshore or offshore, so it is assessed to have great potential to produce green hydrogen for domestic consumption and domestic industries. It has the potential to export to the international market, contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting the development of the green hydrogen industry in the future," said Tùng. At the workshop, experts pointed out limited land availability compared to other major potential exporting countries, such as Australia, Chile, and Morocco, as well as lower resource quality than some of the other potential competitors, in particular solar, greater geographic distance to the EU (and hence, higher GH2 shipping cost) and higher cost of capital than many other potential exporting countries such as Australia or Chile were challenging Việt Nam in the production of

GH2. Under such a circumstance, Việt Nam's policies and partnerships are essential for success, said experts. They suggested Việt Nam establish clear long-term targets for the production of green hydrogen, seek out strategic partnerships with major importing countries like Japan and Germany for the production of green hydrogen, introduce favourable tax and fiscal rules for green hydrogen production, and explore the introduction of feed-in tariffs for green hydrogen production fed into the natural gas network and develop monitoring and certification protocols to ensure compliance with international standards. At the same time, they urged the country to establish an industrial cluster designated for hydrogen production and research. Việt Nam was recommended to introduce standards for the injection of green hydrogen into natural gas infrastructure, provide fiscal incentives for industries to shift their hydrogen or ammonia consumption to green hydrogen, introduce policies to encourage green hydrogen use in key sectors such as shipping as well as adopt carbon pricing: carbon pricing helps make green hydrogen more cost-competitive against grey hydrogen. Held in Hà Nội last week, the workshop discussed international trends in renewable energy development policies towards the net-zero target, international experiences in the related areas, and global trends for new technological solutions – green hydrogen. The

workshop was within the framework of BMWK's visit to Việ̣t Nam from November 28 to 30 to foster the relationship between the two countries through dialogues about policy framework development for renewable energy, the potential of green hydrogen in Việ̣t Nam, setting up an energy efficiency club, as well as meeting with German businesses in Việ̣t Nam. Since 2013, energy has become one of the priorities of Vietnamese-German cooperation, establishing the GIZ Energy Support Programme, a partnership between Việ̣t Nam's Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The programme aims to contribute to Việ̣t Nam's emissions reduction and green growth strategy by improving the existing regulatory framework for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency to foster private sector investment and by increasing key institutions and stakeholders' professional and organisational capacities. — VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1401361/viet-nam-is-well-positioned-for-gh2-production.html>
