

Highlight News / December 28, 2022



- Cambodia's economy recovers well in 2022, with better growth forecast for next year despite headwinds
- Foreign tourists gradually return to famed Angkor in Cambodia
- ADB Lowers GDP Growth for Asia in Latest Forecast
- Sino-Myanmar bilateral trade totals over US\$5 bln in seven months
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Advisory Institute for Trade and Investment by TCC (AiTi)



Cambodia's economy recovers well in 2022, with better growth forecast for next year despite headwinds



Cambodia News | 17 December, 2022

Newly-ratified free trade agreements, namely the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and the Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement (CCFTA), have helped boost Cambodia's agriculture and agro-processing industries, said World Bank senior country economist Ly Sodeth. Cambodia's economy has recovered well from the impact of COVID-19 in 2022, with better performance being expected for 2023, said a government official recently. Thanks to rising global demand, foreign investors' confidence, and a full reopening of borders, Cambodia is expected to see 5.4 percent economic growth this year and 6.6 percent next year, said Economy and Finance Minister Aun Pornmoniroth during a 2023 budget law debate in late November. The GDP per capita was expected to rise to \$1,785 in 2022 and would be further up to \$1,924 in 2023, Pornmoniroth, who is also a deputy prime minister of the country, told the parliament. The economy of the Southeast Asian country has mainly been driven by garment exports, construction and real estate, tourism and agriculture. According to Pornmoniroth, in 2023, industrial sector, mainly garment and construction, is predicted to grow by 9.2 percent, while service sector, mainly tourism, transport, telecom, trade and real estate, is expected to increase by 6.6 percent, and agriculture are projected to rise by 1.1 percent. The country's inflation is expected to go down to 2.5 percent in 2023 from 5 percent in 2022, he added. Pornmoniroth's words was echoed by World Bank senior country economist Ly

Sodeth, who said Cambodia's economy is recovering well after the COVID-19. "The surge in manufacturing exports-especially garment, footwear, travel goods, and bicycle manufacturing; the revival of the travel and tourism industries; and the return of foreign direct investment inflows have helped sustain economic recovery in 2022," Sodeth said during the launch of the World Bank's Cambodia Economic Update in Phnom Penh last week. "Over the medium term, the economy is expected to trend back to potential, growing at around 6 percent," he added. Sodeth said that newly-ratified free trade agreements, namely the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and the Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement (CCFTA), have helped boost Cambodia's agriculture and agro-processing industries. "The CCFTA is expected to also attract more foreign investors, especially Chinese ones, to the country," he said. Xinhua

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501204073/cambodias-economy-recovers-well-in-2022-with-better-growth-forecast-for-next-year-despite-headwinds/>

Foreign tourists gradually return to famed Angkor in Cambodia



Cambodia News | 18 December, 2022

Sao En, a souvenir vendor at the Angkor Archaeological Park in northwest Cambodia, is delighted to see many foreign tourists visiting the ancient site again. Selling souvenirs in the park for more than a decade, Sao En said her livelihood has started improving after being hit the worst by the pandemic for more than two years. "During the COVID-19, it was very quiet, but now, there are a lot of tourists," the 29-year-old mother of two children told Xinhua on Friday. "Sales are now better

than before. It was unlike during the COVID-19 that sales were almost zero every day.” “On Saturday and Sunday, there are a lot of visitors, and sales are also high,” she said. “I’m happy, as a souvenir vendor, to see a lot of tourists coming back to the Angkor.” Inscribed on the UNESCO’s World Heritage Sites list in 1992, the 401-square-km Angkor Archaeological Park is the most popular tourist destination in the kingdom. The site contains the magnificent remains of the different capitals of the Khmer Empire from the ninth to the 15th century, consisting of scores of key temples such as the Angkor Wat, Angkor Thom, Bayon, Chau Say Tevoda and Ta Keo, among others. Ministry of Tourism’s Secretary of State and Spokesman Top Sopheak said the number of international tourists to the Angkor has gradually recovered and in the first 11 months of 2022, the site received over 225,000 foreign tourists. “Currently, the Angkor attracts between 1,800 and 2,000 foreign visitors per day, a significant rise from only 70 a day during the pandemic in the past two years,” he told Xinhua on Saturday. However, the number was still low if compared to the pre-pandemic era, which recorded up to 9,000 international visitors to the Angkor a day, Sopheak said. “We believe that more foreign tourists will come to Cambodia, especially to the Angkor, in coming years as many airlines have resumed their flights to the kingdom,” he said. Long Kosal, deputy director-general of the APSARA National Authority, which is the government agency responsible for managing, safeguarding and preserving the Angkor, said tourism recovery had gained momentum after Cambodia successfully controlled the COVID-19 pandemic and fully reopened its borders. “The government has also put a lot of efforts into a recovery plan for the tourism

industry,” he told Xinhua. “I would like to say that Cambodia is a safe destination, a lot of tourists are now coming in.” “To this end, I would like to say that we are ready and we have been doing everything to prepare for the return of international tourists,” he added. According to Kosal, during the pre-pandemic era, the Angkor received up to 2.2 million international visitors in 2019, earning \$99 million in revenue from ticket sales. Xinhua Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501204363/foreign-tourists-gradually-return-to-famed-angkor-in-cambodia/>

ADB Lowers GDP Growth for Asia in Latest Forecast



Laos News | 16 December, 2022

In September, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said that the GDP of Asian countries would grow by 4.3 percent and in its last update for the year, this number was reduced to 4.2 percent. It also slashed down economic growth rate in 2023 from 4.9 percent to 4.6 percent due to the strict regulation of currencies globally and in the region and the repeated COVID-19 lockdowns in China. “Asia and the Pacific will continue to recover, but worsening global conditions mean that the region’s momentum is losing some steam as we head into the new year,” said ADB Chief Economist Albert Park. “Governments will need to work together more closely to overcome the lingering challenges of COVID-19, combat the effects of high food and energy prices—especially on the poor and

vulnerable—and ensure a sustainable, inclusive economic recovery,” he added. On the brighter side, the 2022 forecast for Southeast Asia has been upgraded from 5.1 to 5.5 percent due to “robust consumption and tourism recovery in Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam”. But the forecast for 2023 is lowered to 4.7 percent and the bank said, “Consumer and business confidence are likely to be affected by high inflation and rising interest rates, while government spending may be curtailed under constrained public finances.” A few months earlier, ADB had also downgraded the economic growth of Laos from 2.5 percent from the earlier 3.4 percent projection and to 3.5 percent from 3.7 percent for 2023 due to rising inflation and mounting foreign debts of the country. The report estimated that the average rate of inflation in Laos will be around 23 percent in 2022, and it would drop to 10 percent in 2023.

Source: <https://laotiantimes.com/2022/12/16/adb-lowers-gdp-growth-for-asia-in-latest-forecast/>

Sino-Myanmar bilateral trade totals over US\$5 bln in seven months



Myanmar News | 17 December, 2022

The value of trade with Myanmar’s main trade partner China through maritime and sea trade channels crossed US\$5 billion in the first seven months (April-October) of the 2022-2023 financial year, comprising exports worth \$1.995 billion and imports valued at \$3.082 billion, according to

statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce. Myanmar primarily exports agri-products to China through the five land borders (Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kampaiti and Kengtung. However, trade in agricultural products was frequently stopped on account of China clamping down on illegal trade on land borders. Furthermore, China stepped up border control measures to contain the spread of COVID-19, hindering border trade in the previous years. At present, although China eased coronavirus restrictions, only the Kyinsankyawt crossing out of the Sino-Myanmar land borders linking to the Muse post are reopened. The value of bilateral trade with China stood at \$4.3 billion in the 2021-2022 mini-budget period, \$9.82 billion in the 2020-2021FY, \$12 billion in the 2019-2020FY, \$11.36 billion in the 2018-2019FY, \$6 billion in the past mini-budget period, \$11.78 billion in the 2017-2018 financial year and \$10.8 billion in the 2016-2017FY respectively. Rice, beans and pulses, corn, fruits and vegetables, fishery products, rubber, chilli peppers and other food commodities are exported to China, whereas machinery, plastic raw materials, consumer products and electronic appliances flow into Myanmar. – KK

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/sino-myanmar-bilateral-trade-totals-over-us5-bln-in-seven-months/>

economic forum examines ways to deal with global turbulence in 2023



Vietnam News | 17 December, 2022

VOV.VN - The fifth Vietnam Economic Forum is scheduled to take place in Hanoi on December 17 to examine ways to stabilize the macro-economy, ensure major balances, and firmly overcome challenges in 2023. Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh will attend and chair the forum. Initial statistics show Vietnam has stabilized the macro-economy, and ensured the major balances of the economy this year. By the end of 2022 year, the Vietnamese economy is projected to expand by 8% - the highest growth rate since 2011 and the highest in the region. About 14 out of 15 economic targets have been met while the country's foreign trade has exceeded the US\$700 billion mark for the first time. The number of newly established businesses and those returning to operation has increased. Inflation has been kept at an average of about 3%. Many international organisations and financial institutions have highly appreciated the country's economic development gains in 2022. Vietnam has promulgated many important guidelines to set orientations and policies for economic development in the medium and long terms, creating a new driving force for economic growth in 2023 and beyond. In 2023, the world economy is predicted to fall into recession. In addition, other global complications,

including changing geopolitical landscape, strategic competition between major powers, energy crisis in Europe, the protracted Russia-Ukraine conflict are likely to exert a big impact on development policies and financial markets as well as energy and food security of countries, including Vietnam. The fifth Vietnam Economic Forum will discuss and clarify challenges faced by the national economy, and introduce solutions to stabilize the macro-economy, ensure major balances, and firmly overcome those challenges in 2023 and beyond.

Source: <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/vietnam-economic-forum-examines-ways-to-deal-with-global-turbulence-in-2023-post990997.vov>
