

Highlight News / December 20, 2022



- Tourism recovery rate at 26.3% in Cambodia
- Cambodia sees nearly \$470 million from rubber, rubber wood exports in 11 months
- Laos Commits to Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2025
- Hass avocado sales brisk in domestic market
- Hass avocado sales brisk in domestic market
- Fast growth but challenges ahead



Advisory Institute for Trade and Investment by TCC (AiTi)



Tourism recovery rate at 26.3% in Cambodia



Cambodia News | 19 December, 2022

Though tourism across Southeast Asia is in the process of regaining its pre-Covid health, with a 26.3 percent recovery rate against pre-pandemic levels Cambodia is placed third among ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) member states. According to the Tourism Advisory Board of Vietnam, while Singapore tops the table with a 30.9 percent recovery rate, Malaysia is second at a 27.5 percent rate of recovery. After Cambodia is Indonesia in fourth place with a 22.9 percent recovery rate. The Philippines is fifth with a 22.1 percent and Thailand at the sixth spot with a 22 percent recovery rate. The recovery rate as against pre-pandemic levels in Vietnam is only 18.1 percent, far behind the neighbours like Singapore, Malaysia and Cambodia says the Tourism Advisory Board. It has also suggested several measures like easing Visa norms to accelerate the tourism sector's recovery in the country. Given the rising arrival of international tourists, Cambodia hopes to welcome two million plus arrivals by this year's end and by 2026 or 2027 achieve the pre-Covid level of tourist arrivals. "In 2022, Cambodia is expected to receive about 2.2 million foreign tourists," said a senior Tourism Ministry official. Before Covid struck in 2019, Cambodia had received over 7 million global tourists. Continuing with the trend of increasing footfalls during January-October 2022, the number of international arrivals increased by 991.1 percent compared with 10 months of the previous year, according to the Tourism Statistics Report for October 2022, released on November 30 and shared with Khmer

Times by the Ministry of Tourism. "The Thai tourism market ranks first with 590,000 tourists, accounting for 37.5 percent of the foreign arrivals, followed by Vietnam, China, the United States, Laos, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, France, and the United Kingdom," said the Ministry of Tourism spokesman Top Sopheak. The Asia-Pacific region was the main source of visitors for the Kingdom, according to the Tourism Statistics Report. To attract more and more foreign tourists, particularly from beyond the ASEAN neighbourhood, the Kingdom is making attempts to have direct air links with the destinations from where a large number of tourists originate, including India which sends out a large number of tourists across the world.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501204801/tourism-recovery-rate-at-26-3-in-cambodia/>

Cambodia sees nearly \$470 million from rubber, rubber wood exports in 11 months



Cambodia News | 19 December, 2022

As the year end approaches, sale of rubber and rubber wood continued and as of November, Cambodia saw nearly \$470 million. This is according to the report of the General Department of Rubber released today. According to the report, the total revenue from the exports is at \$469,702,628, as of November. Export revenue from rubber was at \$465,838,388 and revenue from rubber wood was at \$3,864,240. As of November, Cambodia exported 322,586 tonnes of rubber, an increase of 9,139 tonnes, equivalent to 19 percent, compared to the same period last year. While the export of rubber timber reached 24,989 cubic metres. According to the report of the General Department of

Rubber, the average selling price of rubber as of November 2022 was \$1,231 per tonne, down \$31 per tonne. Total rubber production area as of November is 404,578 hectares, of which 315,332 hectares are rubber plantations.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501205164/cambodia-sees-nearly-470-million-from-rubber-rubber-wood-exports-in-11-months/>

Laos Commits to Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2025



Laos News | 19 December, 2022

Vientiane Times reports that the government confirmed that there will be funds available to support climate change programs in Laos. Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Mr. Bounkham Vorachit told policymakers that the country expects to receive USD 19 million in financial support from international financial institutions in the near future. The government anticipates receiving USD 10 million in grants from the Climate Change Fund, USD 8 million from the Global Environment Fund, and USD 1 million from the Green Climate Fund. According to Mr. Bounkham, the government has also submitted project proposals requesting an additional USD 100 million in funding under various international conventions. As COP27 recently ended in Egypt with the historic decision of providing “loss and damage” funding for small island countries and low-lying nations that were hit hard by climate disasters, the minister believed that this event

represented further potential for obtaining financial support in Laos which has also been hit by heavy floods and landslides in 2022. The Lao Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment defined its new climate change policy in February this year, with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050.

Source: <https://laotiantimes.com/2022/12/19/laos-commits-to-zero-greenhouse-gas-emissions-by-2025/>

Hass avocado sales brisk in domestic market



Myanmar News | 19 December, 2022

Hass avocado is primarily distributed in the domestic market and the sellers are doing a roaring trade, said U Myo Nyunt, vice chair of Myanmar Avocado Producers and Exporters Association. Those avocados were harvested in November and they are abundantly seen in the domestic markets. The prices of avocados range between K3,000 and K7,000 per kilo depending on grades. The commercially valued Hass avocado is highly traded in the domestic market. It is marketable in the export market as well. “At present, they are sold in the domestic market. The wholesale prices were from K3,000-K7,000 per kilo depending on sizes and grades. The harvest time is earlier than usual this year. Although the income of the people is falling, they purchase avocados. The avocado market is bustling,” he continued. They are mainly sent to Yangon and

Mandalay big cities and the remaining is delivered to Muse, Lashio and Monywa markets. The traders are aiming to expand the scope of the market depending on the market demand. They explore markets through digital platforms as well.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay sub-printing house)/EMM

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/hass-avocado-sales-brisk-in-domestic-market/#article-title>

60% of Japanese businesses keen to expand operations in Vietnam



Vietnam News | 19 December, 2022

The JETRO survey revealed that in terms of country and region, Vietnam sits just behind India and Bangladesh, although it moves ahead of the ASEAN region. JETRO said there remains plenty of bright prospects ahead for businesses to earn profits in Vietnam amid the strong economic recovery in the post-COVID period, especially the fast-moving consumer goods industry. With regard to business prospects in the country this year, 59.5% of enterprises are forecast to be profitable, with this figure being an increase of 5.2 points compared to the previous year. Elsewhere, the rate of enterprises suffering losses stands at 20.8%, a decline of 7.8 points compared to 2021. Furthermore, the rate of profitable enterprises in the manufacturing industry stands at 61.1%, an increase of 3.6 points compared to the previous year, while the rate of profitable enterprises in the non-manufacturing industry is

57.6%, an increase of 6.1 points over the previous year.

Most notably, business profits in both the manufacturing and non-manufacturing industry are forecast to improve by over 50% next year thanks to post-epidemic recovery. Meanwhile, only 1.1% of respondents said they would "narrow" or move to a third country, a decline of 1.1 points from the previous year, while 54.4% of manufacturing enterprises are keen to expand operation, an increase of 2.7 points compared to the previous year. Notably, small and medium-sized enterprises in the non-manufacturing industry have a strong desire to conduct business in the Vietnamese market. The survey was conducted from August 22 to September 21 and aims to grasp the actual situation of Japanese enterprises' operations in 20 countries throughout Asia and Oceania.

Source: <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/60-of-japanese-businesses-keen-to-expand-operations-in-vietnam-post991401.vov>

Fast growth but challenges ahead



Vietnam News | 19 December, 2022

HÀ NỘI — Việt Nam's economy is recovering strongly from the devastating COVID-19 pandemic and is expected to reach a growth rate of over 8.0 per cent for the whole of 2022, according to Trần Tuấn Anh, head of the Central Economic Commission. Anh was speaking at the Fifth Vietnam

Economic Forum chaired by the Prime Minister Phạm Minh Chính on December 17. The head said in the first 11 months of 2022 exports grew by 13.4 per cent year-on-year, leading to a trade surplus of US\$10.6 billion. Additionally, the delivery of foreign direct investment grew by 15.1 per cent, industrial production by 8.6 per cent, and total retail sales of goods and services by 17.5 per cent during the period. It is worth noting that eleventh-month fiscal revenues overshoot targets by 16.1 per cent despite tax cuts to boost firms' recovery. "These indicators suggest that domestic consumption is rebounding and firms are reacting quickly to the opportunities emerging after the pandemic," said Anh. However, the head was also concerned that dark clouds are gathering on the horizon and their impact has begun to manifest itself in some poor indicators. For example, employment indices in November dropped by 10 per cent year-by-year among mining firms and 6.2 per cent among furniture manufacturers, a downturn caused by the weakening global demand. Additionally, interest rates and exchange rates were soaring in the past few months to reflect the tight liquidity in the finance and banking market. The delivery of public investment in the first 11 months of the year fell short of the target by 41.67 per cent, leading to a situation that a huge part of governmental resources could not be tapped despite the economy being in need of capital. The

head said there would be a great deal of uncertainties about the global economy in 2023. He forecast that inflation in the world would remain high next year, leading to a trend of rising interest rates. Meanwhile, global monetary policy and fiscal policy would continue to be contractionary amid volatile fuel prices. Nguyễn Chí Dũng, Minister of Planning and Investment, underlined the private sector as a driving force behind economic growth. Unfortunately, firms had to slow down in the first half of Q4 on account of mounting costs. In the face of the challenges ahead, the minister called for the implementation of eight measures to keep the economy on track. The first measure involves keeping macroeconomic stability, curbing inflation, stimulating economic growth, and maintaining economic balance. This measure requires a flexible combination of monetary policy, fiscal policy, and other policies. The second measure centres around institutional reforms in the socialist-oriented market economy, which are believed to be a catalyst for economic progress. The third measure is based on infrastructure upgrades, especially the acceleration of key traffic projects in big cities, including the North-South Expressway and Belt Road Number 3 in HCM City. The fourth measure focus on the development of high-quality human resources, with priority being given to innovative research, technology edges, and start-ups. The fifth measure

is to embrace sustainable development and digital transformation, which are the key to a higher level of competitiveness and productivity in the economy. The sixth involves the implementation of Resolution 6 on regional development, which is aimed to improve the economic ties among regions and lay the groundwork for the emergence of economic hubs. The seventh centres around the implementation of the Socioeconomic Recovery Programme in 2023, which is expected to drive down production costs and improve cash flows among firms. The last measure is to integrate social, cultural, and economic development into national defence, political stability, and environmental protection. In addition to the eight measures, the minister also urged the country to push ahead with green growth and circular economy to transform into an economy with low carbon footprint and green production. He forecast that the global situation would be tougher in 2023 against a backdrop of higher inflation, tightened monetary policy, rising interest rates, and the weakening of currencies in many countries. —

VNS

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