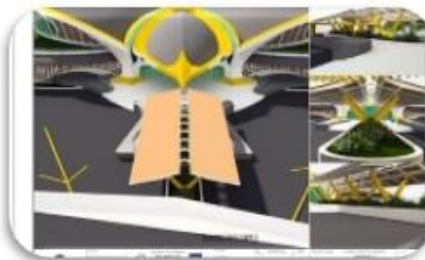


Highlight News / January 9, 2023



- FDI inflow to Cambodia increases by 7.7 percent in 2022 despite global uncertainty
- Cambodia expects to receive about seven million international tourists by 2025
- Inflation in Laos climbs to 39.3 pct in December
- Myanmar ships over 165,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh under G-to-G pact
- Standard Chartered forecasts 7.2% GDP growth for Vietnam in 2023
- Vietnam targets \$7,500 GDP per capita by 2030



Advisory Institute for Trade and Investment by TCC (AiTi)

FDI inflow to Cambodia increases by 7.7 percent in 2022 despite global uncertainty



Cambodia News | 7 January, 2023

Cambodia attracted fixed-asset investment of \$4.68 billion in 2022, up 7.5 percent from \$4.35 billion in a year earlier, a Council for the Development of Cambodia's report showed on Friday. Major foreign investors in the kingdom last year were from China, Japan, Cayman Islands, Thailand and Singapore, the report said, adding that investment projects had been focused on agriculture and agro-industry sectors, manufacturing, tourism and infrastructure, among others. Cambodian Ministry of Commerce's Undersecretary of State and Spokesman Penn Sovicheat said the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade pact, the Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement (CCFTA) and Cambodia's favorable investment law are the key factors attracting more foreign investors to Cambodia. "Both the RCEP and the CCFTA are magnets to attract foreign investors to Cambodia," he told Xinhua. "Also, Cambodia's successful control of the COVID-19 pandemic through vaccinations is another attractive factor for investors." RCEP comprises 15 Asia-Pacific countries including 10 ASEAN member states, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, and their five trading partners, namely China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. Lim Heng, vice president of the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce, said new investments would bring about new capital, technologies and job opportunities. He said the ironclad friendship and the Belt and Road Initiative are also the

key factors attracting more Chinese investors to the kingdom. "Chinese investment is crucial to help boost Cambodia's economic and trade growth," he told Xinhua.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501215425/fdi-inflow-to-cambodia-increases-by-7-7-percent-in-2022-despite-global-uncertainty/>

Cambodia expects to receive about seven million international tourists by 2025



Cambodia News | 7 January, 2023

As Cambodia readies to welcome an expected influx of Chinese tourists, the Ministry of Tourism said that it expects Cambodia to receive about seven million tourists by 2025. The ministry stated that there is good cooperation, connectivity, flight and transportation, especially strong ties as a common destiny community strategy, which clearly shows that the Chinese tourism market is the highest priority market for ASEAN, including Cambodia. Before the pandemic, 155 million Chinese tourists travelled to various locations around the world, accounting for 10 percent of global tourism and \$258 billion in the tourism industry. The ASEAN also received 32.2 million Chinese tourists. During the period of the pandemic, the state of the Chinese tourism market changed rapidly and declined sharply due to China closing its borders. According to officials, Cambodia is ready to welcome Chinese tourists, as well as other international tourists, to visit the country without any health restrictions. The Royal Government of Cambodia has been steadily implementing travel facilitation since 2022, when Cambodia announced the reopening of the country.

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501215355/cambodia-expects-to-receive-about-seven-million-international-tourists-by-2025/>

Inflation in Laos climbs to 39.3 pct in December



Laos News | 8 January, 2023

VIENTIANE, Jan. 8 (Xinhua) -- Inflation in Laos increased to 39.3 percent year-on-year in December, the highest rate of 2022, according to a report issued by the Lao Statistics Bureau on Saturday. The year-on-year inflation rate in Laos increased from 38.46 percent in November to 39.3 percent in December. The higher prices of the communications and transport, consumer goods and the continuing depreciation of the Lao currency kip are among the main factors driving the inflation. According to the report, costs in the communications and transport category rose by 50.4 percent year-on-year in December. The price of food and non-alcoholic beverages has surged by 45.9 percent. In addition, the cost of housing category surged by 32.1 percent. The cost of medical care and medicine increased by 42.1 percent. Meanwhile, the cost of the hotel and restaurant category rose by 32.2 percent. Inflation in Laos continued to surge since the beginning of 2022. It climbed from 6.25 percent in January to 7.31 percent in February, 8.54 percent in March, 9.87 percent in April, and 13.81 percent in May. The inflation rate was 23.6 percent in June,

25.55 percent in July, 30.01 percent in August, 34.05 percent in September, 36.75 percent in October, and 38.46 percent in November. Price hikes across all types of products have caused more hardship for the general public, especially those on low wages.

Source:<https://english.news.cn/20230108/c764a3747bfb472c9a7fb7321f81b690/c.html>

Myanmar ships over 165,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh under G-to-G pact



Myanmar News | 7 January, 2023

Depending on to the Government-to-Government pact between Myanmar and Bangladesh, Myanmar has conveyed over 165,000 tonnes of white rice to Bangladesh, according to the Ministry of Commerce. Myanmar and Bangladesh inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on rice trade on 8 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. Following the MoU, Bangladesh's Directorate General of Food and Myanmar Rice Federation signed a sales contract for 200,000 tonnes of Myanmar's white rice (five per cent broken) to be exported to Bangladesh. As per the sales contract, Myanmar has exported over 165,000 tonnes of white rice to Bangladesh as of 2 January 2022. The remaining will be delivered by the deadline. As per the MoU 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. By 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 42 export licences worth over 534 million Yuan for 41 companies to convey 191,700 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh. 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. — NN/EMM

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myanmar-ships-over-165000-tonnes-of-rice-to-bangladesh-under-g-to-g-pact/#article-title>

Standard Chartered forecasts 7.2%

GDP growth for Vietnam in 2023



Vietnam News | 7 January, 2023

The Vietnamese economy will continue to expand vigorously in 2023 on the back of its strong recovery in the previous year, according to Standard Chartered. In its report released recently, the bank

forecast Vietnam's GDP is likely to accelerate by 7.2% in 2023 before slowing down to 6.7% in 2024. The bank's 2023 projection is 0.7% higher than the Government target approved by the National Assembly. Economic experts agree that the 6.5% growth target is a great challenge for Vietnam when the global economy is at risk of recession. Domestically, inflationary pressure remains high, while businesses still find it difficult to maintain and expand production. But Standard Chartered still believes in Vietnam's strong growth potential in the medium term, said Tim Leelahaphan, Standard Chartered economist for Thailand and Vietnam. Although some major macro indicators began to slow down in the fourth quarter of 2022, he said they remained strong. Besides, retail sales grew well in the second half of 2022, fueling confidence in the domestic market. The trade balance is expected to be improved, with exports to face global challenges and imports likely to decline. Disbursed FDI is set to grow further, but the outlook will depend on the global economy. The bank said it sees inflation a threat to Vietnam's continued recovery in 2023. Inflation is projected to increase throughout the year, reaching around 6% in the final months of the year and averaging 5.5% in both 2023 and 2024. The figure is higher than the 4.5% target set by the government for this year. Fiscal deficit is likely to continue in 2023 that could prompt inflation to rise

during the year, according to the financial institution. Standard Chartered also expected the State Bank of Vietnam would raise interest rates by 100bps in the first quarter and keep them till the end of 2024 to maintain stability. The local currency (VND) has recovered strongly in recent weeks. However, the appreciation rate of this currency may slow down due to the impact of difficulties ahead. The State Bank of Vietnam is anticipated to replenish foreign exchange reserves this year. The improvement of the current account and the recovery of tourism is expected to support the local currency. The US\$/VND exchange rate is forecast to stand at 23,400 by the end of 2023 and 23,000 by the end of 2024.

Source: <https://vietnamnet.vn/en/standard-chartered-forecasts-7-2-gdp-growth-for-vietnam-in-2023-2098567.html>

Vietnam targets \$7,500 GDP per capita by 2030



Vietnam News | 7 January, 2023

Vietnam has set a goal to obtain a gross domestic product (GDP) of USD7,500 per capita by 2030, and the figure should be even higher by 2050. This is part of the government's national master plan for 2021–2030, with a vision towards 2050, submitted to the National Assembly on its second extraordinary session held in Hanoi on January 5. Under the plan, the country's annual GDP growth is expected to be

maintained at 7% during the 2021–2030 period and 6.5–7.5% in the 2031–2050 period. By 2030, Vietnam's average GDP per capita should reach USD7,500. The southeastern region should see the highest GDP per capita at USD14,500, and it should be followed by the Red Delta region at USD10,500. The country's average GDP per capita should climb to USD27,000–32,000 by 2050. In 2022, the country's GDP per capita was estimated at USD4,100, which is up around USD400 compared to 2021. According to the master plan, Hanoi-Haiphong and Quang Ninh will comprise the northern locomotive zone, meanwhile, Thua Thien-Hue, Danang-Quang Nam-Quang Ngai, and HCM City-Binh Duong-Dong Nai-Ba Ria-Vung Tau will comprise the central and southern locomotive zones, respectively. Vietnam will also focus on developing the Lao Cai-Hanoi-Haiphong-Quang Ninh and Moc Bai-HCM City-Vung Tau economic corridors by 2050. The country will prioritise key infrastructure projects, such as the North-South express railway, to connect large economic centres.

Source: <https://vietnamnet.vn/en/vietnam-targets-usd7-500-gdp-per-capita-by-2030-2098122.html>