

Highlight News / January 13, 2022



- Cambodia expects tourism generating \$4B in 2023
- CDC greenlights two new investment projects
- Govt modernises tax collection in bid to boost revenue
- Myanmar's exports up by 14% over past nine months
- Vietnam remains top 5 global investment sites for EU firms



Advisory Institute for Trade and Investment by TCC (AiTi)

Cambodia expects tourism generating \$4B in 2023



Cambodia News | 17 January, 2023

With the expectation of attracting around 4 million international and 15 million domestic tourists this year, Cambodia expects the tourism sector to generate about \$4 billion. The Ministry of Tourism plans to organize a campaign called 'Visit Cambodia 2023' with aims to promote tourism through national events, especially on the occasion of Cambodia hosting the 2023 SEA Games and ASEAN Para Games 2023. Nep Samuth, General Director of Tourism Industry, said that the Cambodia Tourism Year 2023 campaign aims to attract at least 19 million tourists. "In 2023, we expect the country to attract at least 4 million international and 15 million domestic tourists, with an estimated \$4 billion in economic benefits from tourism," he said in a meeting with the tourism-related private sector last week. The 'Cambodia 2023' campaign is a national movement to inspire all stakeholders, the private sector and staff in the tourism industry, to work together to restore Cambodia's tourism sector to a better future. The 'Visit Cambodia 2023' campaign is looking forward to a tourism windfall during the 32nd Southeast Asia (SEA) Games from May 5 to 17 and the 12th Asean Para Games from June 3 to 9, to be held in Phnom Penh. In 2022, Cambodia received around 2.2 million international tourists, compared to

international tourists of 200,000 in 2021. Tourism is one of the four pillars supporting the Cambodian economy. In the pre-pandemic era, the Kingdom welcomed 6.6 million international tourists in 2019, generating \$4.92 billion in revenue.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501220676/cambodia-expects-tourism-generating-4b-in-2023/>

CDC greenlights two new investment projects



Cambodia News | 17 January, 2023

The Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) recently approved two new investment projects worth \$20 million. In response to the requests of the companies, the Cambodian Special Economic Zone Board (CSEZB) of the CDC issued investment project registration certificate to the following companies: TECHNOMATE (CAMBODIA) TECHNOLOGY CO., LTD. The project will establish a factory to produce portable light bulbs, solar lights, plastic materials and repair equipment. It will be located in Svay Rieng Giga Resource SEZ. It has an investment of \$10 million and will create 750 jobs. TECHNOMATE (CAMBODIA) PRECISION METAL CO., LTD. The project will establish a factory to produce electrical equipment, which is located in Svay Rieng Giga Resource SEZ. It has an investment of \$10 million and will create 750 jobs.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501221090/cdc-greenlights-two-new-investment-projects/>

Govt modernises tax collection in bid to boost revenue



Laos News | 17 January, 2023

More than 119,000 businesses are now using the newly-introduced tax management system known as TaxRIS, accounting for 87.7 percent of the 135,789 business units in Laos, according to the Ministry of Finance. In addition, 64,560 business units, accounting for 67.9 percent of the total, are paying taxes through the TaxRIS system. The system is part of the government's policy to modernise tax collection and curb the loss of money owed to the government, through tighter regulation. Lawmakers and economists are increasingly concerned about financial leakages and the evasion of tax/tariff payments, which they say must be urgently addressed. According to the Ministry of Finance, taxes and fees charged on state assets, loyalties, overflight fees, concessions and dividends have been paid into the national budget through the TaxRIS system. The finance ministry also said that 10,500 businesses meet requirements with regard to holding value-added tax accounts and 9,496 of them are actively using value-added tax accounts, comprising 90.4 percent of those targeted. Deputy Minister of Finance Mr Bounpone Vannachit said the modernisation of the revenue collection system is

part of the national agenda to address the government's economic and financial difficulties. The government is working to maximise the potential for increasing national revenue while also taking steps to minimise the loss of money owed to government coffers through illegitimate practices. The sectors involved have been urged to facilitate the growth of business and create new sources of income to enable the nation to overcome the severe economic challenges it faces. This year, the Ministry of Finance has set a revenue collection target of 38,448 billion kip, an increase of 21.70 percent year-on-year. The target figure is equal to 16.42 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). On the other side of the balance sheet, gross expenditure is projected to be about 43,498 billion kip, equal to 18.58 percent of GDP. To achieve its goals, the government has pledged to improve the investment climate, facilitate economic activities, and provide more support to the private sector. The government also plans to introduce tighter controls, including the electronic customs declaration system, known as ASYCUDA, and the Smart Tax system to minimise financial leaks. Under the Lao National Single Window (LNSW) system, customs operations are being digitalised and trade formalities simplified by deploying the single window system at international border crossings. The Boten International Customs Checkpoint at the Laos-China border employs

modern systems such as ASYCUDA, Smart Tax, Scanner, EasyPASS, and the Lao National Single Window system.

Source: https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent11_Govt_y23.php

Myanmar's exports up by 14% over past nine months



Myanmar News | 17 January, 2023

Myanmar's exports grew by 14 per cent over the past nine months from the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce's statistics. The value of exports significantly surged to US\$12.75 billion between 1 April and 6 January in the current financial year 2022-2023 from \$11.15 billion recorded in the corresponding period of the last 2021-2022 mini-budget period. The figures reflected a sharp increase of over \$1.59 billion compared with a year-ago period, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce. The negative pandemic consequences dealt a severe blow to the agriculture, livestock and mineral sectors during the past mini-budget period. As China eases some virus rules and regulations, export sees a slight increase in the agriculture sector this FY. Some border points such as Mang Wein and Kyinsankyawt were reopened after a nearly three-year suspension. Also, the export values in forest products and livestock groups slightly climbed. At present, the CMP

garment sector raises its head again after the vaccination programme for factory workers as well. Of the seven export groups, fisheries, minerals and other exports showed a decrease compared to the year-ago period. The values of export were registered at \$2.77 million for agri-products, \$18 million for livestock, \$559.7 million for fishery products, \$228 million for minerals, \$119.9 million for forest products, over \$8.68 billion for manufactured goods, and \$364 million for other goods. Myanmar targets to achieve exports worth \$15.5 billion and imports worth \$14 billion in the 2022-2023 FY (April-March), the National Planning Law stated. Myanmar's top export countries are China, Thailand, Japan and India. The country's export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on reducing the trade deficit, export promotion, import substitution and market diversification. – KK

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myanmars-exports-up-by-14-over-past-nine-months/#article-title>

Vietnam remains top 5 global investment sites for EU firms



Vietnam News | 17 January, 2023

Hanoi (VNS/VNA) - The confidence of European enterprises in Vietnam's economy declined for a second quarter but the S-shaped country still

remains in the top five global investment destinations for their companies, the latest Business Climate Index (BCI) published by the European Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam (EuroCham) showed last week. The BCI dropped below the baseline to 48.0 in Q4 2022, a drop of 14.2 points compared to three months ago and 25 points from the first quarter of the year. Though Vietnam's economy grew over 8% for the whole of 2022, this data comes amid continued global economic volatility resulting from a storms of factors including a slowdown in global growth, interest rate hikes, sustained inflation and bruised consumer confidence. The number of companies expecting economic stabilisation or improvement in Q4 dropped to 27% from 42% in Q3, while the number of firms with growing sense of pessimism doubled from 19% in Q3 to 38% in Q4. "Things were definitely less positive in the fourth quarter of 2022 than they were earlier in the year," said EuroCham Chairman Alain Cany. However, according to him, this should not be viewed as a cause for concern. "In fact, Vietnam's economic opportunities continue to exceed those of its regional and international peers. This is evident from the fact that so many of EuroCham's members consider Việ̣t Nam central to their global investment strategies," Cany said. The report said 41% of respondents stated their company is shifting operations from China to Vietnam, up from 13% in the third quarter, while

nearly 35% of firms ranked Vietnam among the top five global investment destinations for their company, with 12% stating that Việ̣t Nam was their firm's top investment site globally. However, the report also pointed out three most significant regulatory barriers to foreign companies operating in Vietnam, including a lack of clarity regarding rules and regulations (51%), administrative issues (41%) and visa and work permit difficulties (30%). Despite that, 58% were satisfied with the attention of policymakers paid to business needs when setting relevant policies. In addition, BCI participants reported that the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) had a positive effect on the growth of their businesses, their financial health

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-remains-top-5-global-investment-sites-for-eu-firms/247155.vnp>
