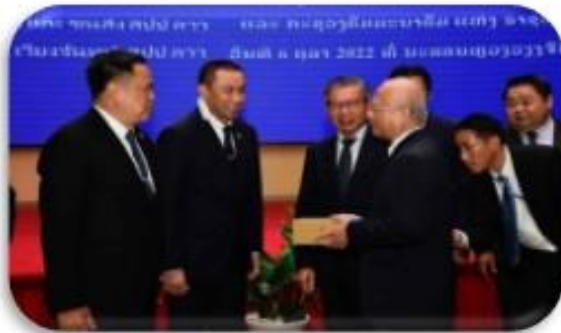


Highlight News / January 30, 2023



- Kingdom's exports to Australia surge by 85%
- Three more projects worth \$18 million approved
- China-Laos-Thailand rail link plans up for talks
- Myanmar's foreign trade up 18.47 pct in nearly 10 months
- Vietnamese nationals account largest proportion of Japan's foreign worker population



Advisory Institute for Trade and Investment by TCC (AiTi)

Kingdom's exports to Australia surge by 85%



Cambodia News | 27 January, 2023

Australia has emerged as one of the strongest trading partners of Cambodia and in 2022, exports from the Kingdom to the former surged by 84.6 percent compared to the previous year, the biggest jump in exports with a country in the General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE) list of top 20 countries by trade volume. The total trade (exports and imports) between the two countries expanded by 60.9 percent to \$523 million last year compared to \$325 million in 2021 with exports going up to \$379 million from \$205 million. The imports from Australia to Cambodia recorded a growth of 20.3 percent to \$144 million from \$120 million for the same period. The GDCE data showed that Cambodia has a \$234 million trade surplus with Australia in 2022. The sharp rise in trade last year followed the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement that came into force on January 1, 2022. Both Cambodia and Australia are members of the trade pact along with 13 other countries. Cambodia mainly exports gold, garments, footwear and travel goods to Australia and its imports include coal, machinery and cereal preparations. According to the Australian Embassy in Phnom Penh, the country is keen to expand its ties with Cambodia. "We are pleased with the growth in our trade and investment with Cambodia and we are looking for opportunities to expand this cooperation," the embassy told Khmer Times. In a communication, it said its Special Envoy for Southeast Asia, Nicholas Moore, is developing a strategy to strengthen Australia's

economic engagement in the region by bolstering two-way trade and investment. The new Special Envoy for Southeast Asia was announced by Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese while he was in Phnom Penh for the ASEAN Summits and Related Summits last year. "Our new flagship \$87 million Cambodia Australia Partnership for Resilient Economic Development (CAP RED), launched last September, is supporting the Royal Government of Cambodia to update its regulatory environment and capacity to take advantage of new free-trade agreements, including an upgraded ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA), which was also negotiated last year during ASEAN with the support of the Ministry of Commerce," the communication said. "The CAP RED program also supports Cambodia's agro-processing industry, so it can export more of its high-quality produce to markets like Australia. And we are supporting small and medium-sized businesses to link into regional supply chains and ensure more of the value-add is retained in Cambodia," it said while pointing out that improved trade and investment benefit both countries. "We look forward to working closely with the Royal Government of Cambodia to do more in this area to realise its potential," the embassy said.

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501227589/kingdoms-exports-to-australia-surge-by-85/>

Three more projects worth \$18 million approved



Cambodia News | 27 January, 2023

The Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) has approved three new investment projects with a total capital of \$18 million. The new projects belong to New

Target Footwear (Cambodia) Co., Ltd., Golden Island Garments (Cambodia) Co., Ltd., and Jin Long Quan (Cambodia) Co., Ltd., the CDC said in a press release issued yesterday. The three companies will invest in the creation of footwear and garment factories, and manufacturing of accessories for clothes, shoes, bags and hats in Takeo and Kandal provinces, it pointed out. Almost 5,000 jobs are expected to be generated for the locals by the three newly approved projects, the press release added. AKP-Phal Sophanith

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501227974/three-more-projects-worth-18-million-approved/>

China-Laos-Thailand rail link plans up for talks



Laos News | 29 January, 2023

Thailand and Laos are in talks about the potential of a China-Laos-Thailand railway link which could reduce cargo transport costs by 30%-50% in three to five years, said the Department of Rail Transport (DRT) on Saturday. Athipu Chitranukroh, deputy director-general of the DRT and Kitjaluck Srinuchart, deputy director-general of the Customs Department, visited Laos recently to discuss the matter. The high-speed network will be developed alongside current infrastructure and benefit both Thailand and neighbouring countries, observers say. The government said the export-and-import trade value at the Thai-Lao border checkpoint in Nong Khai province in 2022 was worth 99.2 billion baht. Despite the pandemic, border trade still grew in 2022 with an increase of 39.9%, or 28.2-billion-baht worth of increased revenue, compared to the year

before. Apart from the high-speed train network, staff from the two departments also visited the location of the new Khamsavath railway station in Vientiane. The station is 7.5 kilometres away from the Thanaleng railway station which connects with Thailand's Nong Khai province. The government is currently developing the Nong Khai railway station to become a cross-border goods inspection centre and a link from train to land transport. The station will also function as a customs stop as well as a distribution centre. The Thailand-Laos rail network will operate 14 trains daily and it is hoped that it will attract more investment from Laos and monetise the adjacent commercial area in Vientiane. The network will operate 14 trains daily with more investment likely to follow.

Source:<https://laotiantimes.com/2023/01/23/foodpanda-donates-lak-54-million-to-lao-friends-hospital-in-luang-prabang/>

Myanmar's foreign trade up 18.47 pct in nearly 10 months



Myanmar News | 28 January, 2023

YANGON, Jan. 28 (Xinhua) -- Myanmar's total goods imports and exports surged 18.47 percent year on year to over 27.19 billion U.S. dollars in nearly 10 months of the 2022-23 fiscal year beginning in April last year, official data showed Saturday. From April 1 last year to Jan. 20 this year, exports rose 14.25 percent to over 13.36 billion dollars from a year earlier, while imports climbed 22.85 percent to over 13.82 billion dollars, data from the country's Ministry

of Commerce showed. During the period, about 76.04 percent of the country's total trade was done via sea routes, and about 23.96 percent was conducted through land borders. The Southeast Asian country usually does most of its foreign trade through sea routes as it has a long coastline. It conducts border trade with China, Thailand, Bangladesh and India. The country exports agricultural products, animal products, fisheries, minerals and forest products, manufacturing goods and others, while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods.

Source: <https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20230128/b5400f45b45e4ec084c130f2c6fc0271/c.html>

Vietnamese nationals account largest proportion of Japan's foreign worker population



Vietnam News | 28 January, 2023

Vietnamese nationals account for 25.4% of the total 1.82 million foreign workers who were working in Japan as of the end of October last year, according to the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW). The ministry's data released on January 27 showed that a record 1,822,725 million foreign workers were working in Japan as of the end of October 2022, a rise of 5.5% from the same period of 2021. Of the total foreign worker population, there were 462,384 Vietnamese nationals, 385,848 Chinese nationals, and 206,050 Filipinos, which made them the top three biggest communities. Data also showed a new high of 298,790 workplaces

employed foreign workers, an increase of 4.8%. Businesses with fewer than 30 workers, which make up more than 90% of firms in Japan, accounted for 61.4% of the employers with foreign workers. By residency status, holders of specialist and engineer visas were up 21.7% to 479,949 people. Working holders of visas such as permanent residents and spouses of Japanese nationals were up 2.6% to 595,207 people. Meanwhile, the number of technical interns fell 2.4% to 343,254 people, marking the second consecutive year of lower numbers, partly because of border control measures that the Government of Japan applied during the COVID-19 pandemic. Geographically, Tokyo was home to the most foreign workers with 500,089 people, followed by Aichi prefecture with 188,691 individuals, and Osaka prefecture with 124,570 people. VNA

Source: <https://vietnamnet.vn/en/vietnamese-account-largest-proportion-of-japan-s-foreign-worker-population-2104439.html>