

*Highlight News / February 17/2023*



- MPWT earned \$126 million in port revenues last year
- 40% rise in rice export to Europe likely in 2023
- Laos, Cambodia Discuss Potential High-Speed Rail Link
- Myawady border trade crosses \$151.543 million in January
- Vietnam needs 600 billion USD to achieve carbon neutrality
- Foxconn expands operation in Vietnam



## MPWT earned \$126 million in port revenues last year



*Cambodia News | 16 February, 2023*

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) has earned \$126 million from two state-owned ports – the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port (PAS) and the Phnom Penh Autonomous Port (PPAP). The ministry unveiled the figures during an annual meeting convened on Wednesday to review the performance of 2022 and set objectives for 2023. Speaking at the meeting, MPWT Minister Sun Chanthol said in 2022, the PAS earned \$86 million, which was a 2.45 percent increase over last year. At the port, around 5.3 million tons of cargo was handled, an increase of 1.29 percent, he said. In 2022, the PPAP registered a 17 percent increase in port revenue at \$40 million and handled around 4.2 million tons of cargo, up 9 percent year-on-year, he said. “The port revenue increase reflects the increasing goods throughputs via both ports,” he said. He said the PAS has been developing and modernising container ports to become regional ports with the potential to support national economic growth and poverty alleviation. In addition, Chanthol said the PAS has been studying the feasibility of building container ports in the second and third phases. While in the second phase (2025-2028), it will be 400 meters long and 16 meters deep, in the third phase (2026-2030), it will be 430 meters in length and a water depth of 17.5 meters. The PPAP, he said, has completed the construction of the phase 3 container terminal and some

supporting infrastructure at the LM17 container terminal, and completed the construction of some bridges and infrastructure at the Tonle Beit Multipurpose Port. In addition, the PPAP has completed the construction of three tourist port bridges at the multi-purpose port. The MPWT has launched a Japan-financed Port Electronic Data Interchange (Port EDI) system at the PAS and the PPAP, with an aim to improve effectiveness, efficiency and transparency and reduce cost.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501239694/mpwt-earned-126-million-in-port-revenues-last-year/>

## 40% rise in rice export to Europe likely in 2023



*Cambodia News | 16 February, 2023*

European countries have emerged as the main buyers of Cambodian milled rice in January 2023, and the Kingdom is expecting an increase in shipment of the commodity this year. Deciphering the January export data, Chan Sokheang, President of the Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF), told Khmer Times, “We are expecting an increase of approximately 35-40 percent in rice exports to the European market in 2023.” Twenty European countries accounted for around 48 percent of the total milled rice exported by Cambodia this January. They together imported 17,795 tons of Cambodian rice, worth more than \$13.44 million, according to the CRF. Sokheang said, “The European market has now started to recognise the quality and the consistency of quality of the rice, we are shipping to them. I think

a lot of Asian people are now living in European countries and they have started liking Cambodian rice. “We have good quality and aroma, and we comply with the chemical residue standards of Europe.” After staying around 203,280 tons in 2019 and about 203,861 tons in 2020, the rice export to Europe declined to 168,063 tons in 2021 only to jump back to 221,709 in the previous year. Among European countries, France imported 6,170 tons of rice worth over \$4.11 million, the Netherlands 2,357 tons valued at \$2.31 million, the Czech Republic 2,287 tons, the United Kingdom 1,669 tons, Spain 1,137 tons, Germany 1,064 tons, Italy 1,011 tons, Portugal 494 tons and Greece 323 tons. In January, more than 36,900 tons of milled rice, worth around \$28.83 million, were shipped to global buyers by Cambodia. China (including Hong Kong and Macau), figured behind Europe in terms of the import of Cambodian rice. At 15,045 tons, it accounted for 41 percent of the total rice export from Cambodia, earning approximately \$11.50 million, in January. The apex body of rice millers and exporters attributed the “slight drop” in rice imports by China to the New Year holidays. “We witnessed a slowdown in the export because they (Chinese) had the New Year in very early January. As is the culture of business operations in China, they take (a break of) two weeks before and two weeks after the Chinese New Year. You cannot expect any deal (during that period),” said the CRF president. “In February, the Chinese market has started to come back,” he remarked. During January, the Cambodian

milled rice was shipped to 34 countries. Countries like the US, Australia, New Zealand, Russia, Canada, Saudi Arabia and Gabon purchased around 2,189 tons of rice valued at \$2.53 million, according to a CRF stats. Among ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) member states, Malaysia and Singapore together bought 1,871 tons worth \$1.09 million of milled rice from the Kingdom. Of this, import by Malaysia was 1,748 tons. In the first month of 2023, Cambodia earned \$92 million in revenue from the export of milled rice and paddy. The Kingdom also exported around 252,714 tons of paddy to neighbouring countries, the rice federation said. According to the CRF, of all the rice varieties produced in the country, the premium aromatic rice (Malys Angkor) accounted for 22,810 tons of export in January, followed by Sen Kra Ob (9,359 tons), premium white rice (1,721 tons), parboiled rice (1,867 tons) and organic milled rice (1,144 tons). Cambodia, which has set a rice export target of 1 million tons in the coming years, in 2022 shipped 637,004 tons of milled rice to 59 international destinations and earned \$414 million in revenue. The export of the commodity was 3.2 percent more than the 617,069 tons shipped in the previous year, according to CRF data. The country plans to earn revenue of around \$800 million per year from the export of milled rice, and over \$1 billion from value-added products made from rice. In an attempt to reach the 1 million tons export target, the country that aims to emerge as the “rice basket” will have to almost double the 2022 figure for the shipment of

milled rice. On its part, the rice federation will encourage farmers to increase farm output, particularly of the fragrant rice that has higher market demand and fetches good prices. According to the CRF, the Cambodian government has sought to open new markets through free-trade agreements (FTAs), the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPA), and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with several countries. Exported milled rice varieties in 2022 included premium aromatic rice, fragrant rice, long grain white rice, parboiled rice, organic rice, and glutinous rice, said CRF, the government-recognised organisation. Agriculture, one of the key pillars of the Cambodian economy, contributed 24.4 percent to the gross domestic product in 2021, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501239693/40-rise-in-rice-export-to-europe-likely-in-2023/>

## Laos, Cambodia Discuss Potential High-Speed Rail Link



*Laos News | 16 February, 2023*

Prime Minister of Laos Mr. Sonexay Siphandone was in talks with his Cambodian counterpart, Mr. Hun Sen during his recent official visit about the possibility of building a high-speed railway connecting both countries and also other nations in the region. According to Cambodianess, not only did the two prime ministers sign agreements and action plans to enhance comprehensive and long-lasting strategic partnerships, but the idea of a high-speed

railway connecting the nations was also brought to the table. The news report said that both prime ministers were of the same opinion in connecting the two Lao provinces of Champasack and Attapeu to the two Cambodian provinces of Preah Vihear and Ratanakiri to further foster people-to-people relations. However, there are currently no further details on how the new connections would be implemented. "We also discussed the high-speed rail link between Cambodia, Laos, and other countries," Mr. Hun Sen said. "Our discussion also covered issues related to tourism including land and air tourism connectivity by connecting cities, especially Luang Prabang, Siem Reap, and Phnom Penh. It can provide opportunities for tourists to come to Laos and Cambodia [or] to Cambodia and Laos, providing opportunities for the people of our two countries." The Cambodian PM stated that both countries will also increase trade volume and collaboration in the energy sector, as Cambodia purchases electricity from Laos to fulfill its expanding demand. "Cambodia is one of the prominent markets for Laos' energy export. So we focus on cooperation on hydroelectricity as well as coal electric power," he added, referring to Laos as the "battery of ASEAN." "At present, no railway line connects Cambodia and Laos directly. However, there has been an increase in the number of train routes within the two countries. In 2022, Laos also saw a visit from a Cambodian delegation to explore the possibility of connecting Laos and Cambodia with a railway line.

Source : <https://laotiantimes.com/2023/02/16/laos-cambodia-discuss-potential-high-speed-rail-link/>

## Myawady border trade crosses \$151.543 million in January

 Myanmar News | 16 February, 2023

The value of trade through the Myawady border post amounted to US\$151.543 million in January 2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated. Trade via the Myawady border met 70.16 per cent of the target last month, with exports worth \$48.301 million and imports worth \$103.242 million. The overall trade figures showed a sharp drop of \$66.737 million compared to that in the corresponding period last year, with a decrease of \$42.015 million in exports and \$24.722 million in imports. The exports in agricultural products, livestock products, fishery products and manufacturing groups declined, while imports showed a decrease of \$1.519 million in capital goods, \$14.389 million in intermediate goods and \$8.814 million in consumer goods. Nonetheless, the trade value in January 2023 was up by \$55.301 million from that of December 2022, with an increase of \$11.672 million in exports and \$43.638 million in imports. Exports of agricultural products, forest products, livestock products, minerals, finished industrial goods and other goods rose. Similarly, import growth of capital goods (US\$10.005 million), intermediate goods (\$16.095 million) and consumer goods (17.538 million) were recorded last month.—

TWA/EM

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myawady-border-trade-crosses-151-543-million-in-january/#article-title>

## Vietnam needs 600 billion USD to achieve carbon neutrality

 Vietnam News | 16 February, 2023

Vietnam needs a budget of up to 600 billion USD to achieve the target of carbon neutrality by 2050, according to Kazuo Kusakabe, Chief Representative of Toshiba Asia Pacific Pte Ltd in Hanoi. Speaking at a forum on measures to boost post-COVID-19 cooperation between Vietnam and Japan towards green growth organised by the Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM) under the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) on February 15, Kusakabe said climate change is a challenge for the world, including Vietnam. The Vietnamese Government needs to step up the approval of big projects and those supporting green growth, he stressed. CIEM Director Tran Thi Hong Minh said, to address challenges caused by climate change toward green growth after the COVID-19 pandemic, it is necessary to strengthen international cooperation. As one of the most vulnerable countries by climate change, Vietnam has been proactive in proposing many solutions to minimise the impacts of climate change, including its commitment to net-zero emissions by 2050 at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in the UK, she said. To solve challenges related to climate change, Vietnam has carried out cooperation programmes with Japan, especially in terms of green growth, Minh

said, noting that these activities have produced many important results, especially in the fields of investment, import-export, sustainable infrastructure development, and human resource development. According to reports from the MPI's Foreign Investment Agency, Japan has always been one of the largest foreign investors in Vietnam. Key areas with great potential for cooperation between Vietnam and Japan include electrical and electronic equipment, wooden architecture, wind power, biomass and solar power, organic aquaculture and farming. Nguyen Anh Duong, Director of the CIEM's General Research Department, said Japan and Vietnam can consider four orientations to promote cooperation towards green growth in the coming time, focusing on improving institutional capacity, regulations, and policies related to green growth; developing sustainable infrastructure in Vietnam; promoting low-carbon and low-emission value chains; and developing international treaties, rules and international standards related to green growth. According to Dr. Vo Tri Thanh, Director of the Institute for Brand and Competitiveness Strategy, Vietnam needs to boost international cooperation and roll out measures to mobilise domestic and international private capital to complete its target of net-zero emissions by 2050. Participants at the forum discussed and analysed new domestic and international trends and motivations to promote green growth efforts in Vietnam. They also proposed recommendations to further expand cooperation between the two countries./ VNA

Source : <https://vietnamnet.vn/en/vietnam-needs-600-billion-usd-to-achieve-carbon-neutrality-2110715.html>

## Foxconn expands operation in Vietnam



*Vietnam News | 16 February, 2023*

VOV.VN - Foxconn, Apple's largest contractor, has decided to pour US\$62.5 million into a land lease contract in Bac Giang province of Vietnam to expand its operation in Vietnam, according to South China Morning Post (SCMP). The Taiwanese giant, formally known as Hon Hai Precision Industry, has signed the deal with Saigon – Bac Giang Industrial Park Corp. to occupy a plot of 45ha to 'meet its operational needs and expand production capacity. The site, located in the Quang Chau Industrial Park in Bac Giang province, was rented through Foxconn's subsidiary Fulian Precision Technology Component Co. The lease will run through February 2057, the company said. Foxconn signed a US\$300 million agreement with a Vietnamese developer last August to build a new factory in Bac Giang to produce iPads and AirPods. The firm's latest deal in Vietnam comes after its iPhone factory in the central Chinese city of Zhengzhou was affected by pandemic control measures. Many of Apple products are currently manufactured in Vietnam, such as AirPods, Apple Watch and some iPad models. Apple is also planning to move some MacBook Pro production lines to Vietnam by mid-2023.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/foxconn-expands-operation-in-vietnam-post1002084.vov>

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