

## Highlight News / February 24, 2022



- Chinese investors keen to return to Cambodia
- Cambodia-India trade reaches \$37M in January
- Lucky Air to resume flights to Laos
- MNA to launch Mandalay-Chiang Mai direct flight on 2 March
- Air passengers soar over 90% in Jan-Feb
- Vietnam's trade value reaches 72 bln USD by mid- February



**Advisory Institute for Trade and Investment by TCC (AiTi)**

## Chinese investors keen to return to Cambodia



*Cambodia News | 23 February, 2023*

Chinese investors and business people are keen to return to Cambodia following the opening of China's borders and Cambodia, on its part, is 'China Ready.' The bonhomie between the business communities of the two countries came to the fore once again at a forum organised by Cambodia-China (Hainan) Trade and Investment Promotion Forum in Phnom Penh yesterday. Nearly 200 participants including officials, businessmen and investors representing Cambodia and China attended the forum. In his opening remarks at the event, Sok Sopheak, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Commerce, said that Cambodia is expecting a rise in international trade and investments following the Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with China and South Korea, in addition to becoming a party to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement. Cambodia has reformed and put forward a number of measures to support investments and businesses over the past several years, Sopheak reminded while urging business people from China to raise their level of investments in Cambodia. "Chinese businessmen and investors can make use of the rising opportunities in Cambodia," he said, persuading them to run businesses in the Kingdom as in the pre-Covid-19 time. The event also showcased the investment environment in

Cambodia and business-friendly policies of the government and the opportunities they provide to Chinese businesses and investors. Shen Danyang, Vice Governor of Hainan province, recalled the cooperation between the province and Cambodia in the agriculture sector, mainly in the cultivation and trade of bananas. The province will continue to strengthen cooperation on agriculture and expand the ties to tourism and investment as well, he said. "We should use the Cambodia-China FTA and RCEP to deepen cooperation between the two countries, particularly with Hainan province," Shen said. He also encouraged enterprises in Hainan to look for potential investments in Cambodia and partner with local companies in the Kingdom. At the event, several MoUs and agreements on cooperation between Chinese companies and local companies were signed. They included tie-ups by Hainan Nongkeng Hot Farming Industry Group and EAgriculture and Ecological Services Investment Company Project and CCPIT/CCOIC Hainan and Cambodia's Sino-Cambodian (Thai Vinh Long) Industrial Special Economic. Cambodia-China FTA and the RCEP came into force earlier in 2022. The bilateral trade between the two recorded \$11.6 billion in 2022, up by 4.4 percent compared to a year before, of which Cambodia's exports amounted to \$1.2 billion, a 17.9 percent decrease, and imports \$10.4 billion, a 7.9 percent increase. Prime Minister Hun Sen has recently said that the bilateral free trade agreements and the RCEP opened the market wider

for Cambodian products, particularly agricultural items. The Premier said signing an FTA with China is a massive opportunity for Cambodia's agricultural sector as China is a huge market.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501243609/chinese-investors-keen-to-return-to-cambodia/>

## Cambodia-India trade reaches \$37M in January



*Cambodia News | 23 February, 2023*

In January 2023, the bilateral trade between Cambodia and India amounted to \$37 million, according to the General Department of Customs and Excise's report. During the period, Cambodia exported \$22 million worth of goods to India. The Ministry of Commerce and the Embassy of India in Cambodia have stepped up cooperation to further promote trade and investment between the two countries. Cambodia and India have accelerated their internal technical work to establish the negotiation for a bilateral free trade agreement, stressing that the pact would enhance trade, investment and cooperation in other sectors. Cambodia would be able to diversify its market to large markets like India for its products under the bilateral trade agreement, said Lim Heng, Vice president of the Cambodian Chamber of Commerce. "India is a large market, we can boost export of our products and promote investment opportunities mutually," Heng said. The direct flights between the two nations would not only serve tourists but also

attract investment in the Kingdom, he added. The Ministry of Tourism has proposed to the Indian side for direct flights between both countries to boost tourism and trade ties. Currently, there are no direct flights between the two countries, as tourists and passengers travelling by air from India to Cambodia have to transit flights in Thailand or Singapore or Malaysia before reaching Cambodia.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501243610/cambodia-india-trade-reaches-37m-in-january/>

## Lucky Air to resume flights to Laos



*Laos News | 23 February, 2023*

At least seven foreign airlines have opened flights to Laos to accommodate the growing regional tourism trade, which has made a significant recovery after Laos opened its doors to international visitors last year, a Lao Airlines operations manager has said. Lucky Air, a low-cost airline based in Kunming, China, recently announced that it will resume scheduled flights to Laos next month, Kucinta-air reports. Lucky Air will restart flights to Vientiane on March 13 while flights to Luang Prabang will be scheduled from March 19. The Lucky Air flight will depart from Kunming for Vientiane at 8am on March 13, and touch down in Vientiane at 8.40am before leaving for Kunming at 9.40am and landing in Kunming at 12:15 pm, according to the report. Another Lucky Air flight will leave Kunming for Luang

Prabang at 8am on March 19, and arrive in Luang Prabang at 8.30am before taking off for Kunming at 9.30am and touching down in Kunming at 11.55am. Lucky Air will operate flights to Vientiane on Mondays and Fridays and to Luang Prabang on Wednesdays and Sundays, mainly to accommodate the expected influx of Chinese visitors. Further boosting regional air travel, Jeju Air Co., the Republic of Korea's biggest low-cost carrier, announced that it will resume flights to Laos and Vietnam in April after three years of suspension due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The budget carrier plans to commence services on routes from Incheon to Vientiane, and to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam on April 20, according to the South Korean news agency Yonhap. Director of Lao Airlines' Commercial Department, Mr Noudeng Chanthaphasouk, told the Vientiane Times on Wednesday that the aviation industry is rebounding thanks to increasing passenger demand. "At the moment, at least seven airlines from Thailand, Vietnam, China and Singapore have resumed flights to Laos, mainly to Vientiane and Luang Prabang," Mr Noudeng said. In addition, direct flights operated by several low-cost airlines in Thailand, South Korea and Malaysia will be taking to the skies in the first half of this year. In the meantime, Lao Airlines will launch flights from Pakxe in Champassak province to major cities in China, including Guangzhou, in a bid to attract yet more

visitors to Laos. Mr Noudeng said Lao Airlines plans to operate flights from Vientiane to Guangzhou, Shanghai, Chengdu, Changzhou and Hangzhou to increase links between Laos and China and spur the growth of tourism. Lao Airlines has also scheduled flights to South Korea in response to the growth of regional tourism. In further flight offerings, Lao Airlines plans to increase the number of flights from Luang Prabang and Champassak to China. The national flag carrier currently operates three flights a week from Vientiane to Kunming, the capital of Yunnan province.

Source: [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent2023\\_Lucky38.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent2023_Lucky38.php)

## MNA to launch Mandalay-Chiang Mai direct flight on 2 March



Myanmar News | 23 February, 2023

Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) will operate a regular flight from Mandalay to Chiang Mai every Thursday commencing on 2 March. The flight will leave Mandalay International Airport at 3:45 pm and will arrive at Chiang Mai Airport at 5:35 pm (local time in Thailand). The flight will leave Chiang Mai Airport at 6:35 pm (local time in Thailand) and will arrive at Mandalay International Airport at 7:25 pm. MNA sells a single ticket at US\$172 and a return at US\$280. MNA launched Yangon-Chiang Mai-Yangon flights on 9

December 2022. — TWA/MKKS

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/mna-to-launch-mandalay-chiang-mai-direct-flight-on-2-march/#article-title>

## Air passengers soar over 90% in Jan-Feb



*Vietnam News | 23 February, 2023*

HCMC – Vietnam’s aviation sector has recovered robustly, achieving a high growth rate compared to the pre-pandemic year of 2019. In a report the Civil Aviation Authority of Vietnam (CAAV) sent to the Ministry of Transport on air transportation so far this year, the number of flights and air passengers has surged sharply. According to the report, CAAV has estimated the number of flights at 78,800 this year to date, rising 62% over the same period of last year, excluding the number of connecting flights at 35,400, up 80% year-on-year. Some 19.7 million passengers have traveled through local airports, jumping 91.5% over the year-ago period. The number of international guests has risen 1.95% to 4.7 million, and domestic guests 14.8 million, increasing 48% over the same period in 2022. Vietnam’s air carriers have transported 9.8 million guests in the year to date, including 7.4 million locals and 2.4 million foreigners, soaring 92% year-on-year.

Source: <https://english.thesaigontimes.vn/air-passengers-soar-over-90-in-jan-feb/>

## Vietnam’s trade value reaches 72 bln USD by mid-February



*Vietnam News | 23 February, 2023*

Hanoi (VNA) - According to the General Department of Vietnam Customs, from the beginning of this year to February 15, the country's total trade valued topped 72 billion USD, with export turnover standing at 37 billion USD and a trade surplus of nearly 1.7 billion USD. Notably, in the first half of February alone, the country's export turnover reached 13.44 billion USD. Phones and components; computers, electronic products and components; machinery, equipment, tools and spare parts; and textile and garment were the four groups of exports which enjoyed a turnover of "billion dollars" in the reviewed period. In the meantime, import turnover was 12.38 billion USD. Two groups of imports of the "billion dollars" group were computers, electronic products and components; machinery, equipment, tools and spare parts. In 2022, the country's total trade value reached a record high of USD 730.2 billion USD./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnams-trade-value-reaches-72-bln-usd-by-mid-february/248814.vnp>