

Highlight News / March 08/2023



- June target for trial operation of Siem Reap-Angkor International Airport
- Increase in number of tourists entering through Laos-Cambodia border before the SEA Games
- Laos-China Railway carrying record 10,000 passengers a day
- Over 1,000 Myanmar workers sent to S Korea under EPS within 2 months
- Viet Nam enjoys trade surplus of over \$2.8 billion in two months
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June target for trial operation of Siem Reap-Angkor International Airport



Cambodia News | 7 March, 2023

The construction of Siem Reap-Angkor International Airport has been now 86 percent complete, and the new airport in Siem Reap province is expected to be put into trial use in June this year and into official operation by October. The information was shared by Liu Minglin, Director General and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Yunnan Investment Group Co., Ltd., the developer of Siem Reap-Angkor International Airport, while paying a courtesy call on Prime Minister Hun Sen at the Peace Palace, Monday, according to Eang Sophalleth, Assistant to the Cambodian Premier. Liu also informed the Prime Minister of his company's intention to promote the airport to attract flights from other countries and to invest in solar energy in Siem Reap province. The Prime Minister was happy with the construction progress of the airport, stressing that it will not only boost the internal connectivity, but also link Cambodia to other countries. Mr Hun Sen welcomed the company's plan to attract flights to Siem Reap and to invest in solar energy, saying that the company can consider investing in the production of solar panel for local supply and export. C. Nika – AKP

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501250489/june-target-for-trial-operation-of-siem-reap-angkor-international-airport/>

Increase in number of tourists entering through Laos-Cambodia border before the SEA Games



Cambodia News | 7 March, 2023

The tourists, especially international tourists seem to increase from Laos to Cambodia through Trapeang Kriel border, Stung Treng province, after the Government opened the entry of tourists into the country and close to the 2023 SEA Games, which Cambodia will host. Officials and vendors near the Trapeang Kriel border seem to show a happy face when they see tourists coming and going in a different hustle and bustle than before. Un Po Soeun, Director of Stung Treng Provincial Department of Tourism, described that tourists have started to recover after the covid-19 crisis. Moreover, in the future, it is a source of pride for Cambodia to host the SEA Games, and he observed that the number of tourists coming and going before the event.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501250856/increase-in-number-of-tourists-entering-through-laos-cambodia-border-before-the-sea-games/>

Laos-China Railway carrying record 10,000 passengers a day



Laos News | 7 March, 2023

The number of passengers travelling on the Laos-China Railway is continuing to grow, reaching a record high of 10,197 on March 4, according to the railway operator. In January and February the railway carried a total of 417,400 passengers, an increase of 256.2 percent compared to the same period last

year. The railway also transported 647,700 tons of goods in these two months, an increase of 320 percent compared to the same period last year. In a bid to ensure the smooth operation of rail services, the Laos-China Railway Company Limited is monitoring passenger volume and planning train journeys accordingly, as well as improving travel arrangements and allowing tickets to be purchased further in advance of travel. To accommodate more passengers, two EMU trains are being joined together, while the number of carriages on standard trains has been increased to 12. In addition, railway staff are being trained in the use of Chinese, English and Thai languages to ease communication with foreign travellers, while other aspects of service are also being improved. Rail personnel are also carrying out regular security checks on entry and exit at stations and supervising people embarking and disembarking from trains, to ensure the movement of passengers is orderly and safe. In light of the increase in passenger numbers, the Laos-China Railway Company Limited is providing an extra service between Vientiane and Luang Prabang. The normal timetable sees an EMU train make a round trip journey each day, departing Vientiane at 7.30am and travelling through the provinces of Vientiane, Luang Prabang, Oudomxay and Luang Namtha to the Boten border crossing into China. The extra train will depart Vientiane at 9:20am and arrive in Luang Prabang at 11:13am. Travelling south, the train will depart Luang Prabang at 11:40am and arrive in Vientiane at 13:33pm.

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent46_Laos_china_y23.php

Over 1,000 Myanmar workers sent to S Korea under EPS within 2 months



Myanmar News | 7 March, 2023

A total of 1,040 Myanmar workers have been despatched to the Republic of Korea through the Employment Permit System (EPS) in January and February this year, according to the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul. Workers include 345 manufacturing workers, 28 CBT manufacturing workers, 236 re-entry manufacturing workers and 374 agriculture and livestock workers and 57 construction workers. The South Korean government is officially re-accepting Myanmar workers after the Covid-19 pandemic, and 1,293 Myanmar workers were sent in August, 978 in September; 1,169 in October, 728 in November and 599 in December. An overseas employment recruitment agency saw off Myanmar workers at the Yangon International Airport and the labour attaché of the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul welcomed them at Incheon Airport. — TWA/MKKS

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/over-1000-myanmar-workers-sent-to-s-korea-under-eps-within-2-months/#article-title>

Viet Nam enjoys trade surplus of over \$2.8 billion in two months



Vietnam News | 7 March, 2023

HÀ NỘI — Total import-export revenue is estimated at US\$96.06 billion in the first two months of this year,

down 13.2 per cent year on year, with a trade surplus of \$2.82 billion, reported the General Statistics Office (GSO). According to the office, the country has exported \$49.44 billion worth of goods so far this year, down 10.4 per cent over the same period last year, with \$37.92 billion coming from the foreign-invested sector, accounting for 76.7 per cent. In February alone, total export revenue is estimated at \$25.88 billion, up 9 per cent over January and 11 per cent year on year. In the first two months of this year, eight kinds of products recorded exports of over \$1 billion, accounting for more than 69.9 per cent of the total. Particularly, three enjoyed revenue of over \$5 billion. The manufacturing-processing sector contributed \$44.38 billion to the country's total two-month export revenue, accounting for 89.8 per cent, while agro-forestry sector made up 6.9 per cent, fisheries 2 per cent and fuel and minerals 1.3 per cent. In January and February, the country spent \$46.62 billion on importing goods, down 16 per cent year on year, mostly on production materials. In February, the figure dropped 6.7 per cent over the same period last year to \$23.58 billion. In the first two months of this year, imports of 13 groups of goods exceeded \$1 billion, with two recording imports worth more than \$5 billion. So far this year, the US has remained the largest import market of Việt Nam with a revenue of \$13.1 billion, while China has been the country's biggest exporter with a value of about \$14.6 billion. In the January-February period, Việt Nam's trade surplus with the EU is estimated at \$4.8 billion, up 1.8 per cent. Meanwhile, the country has

suffered a trade deficit of \$6.4 billion with China, \$4.7 billion with the Republic of Korea, \$1.5 billion with ASEAN countries, and \$237.2 million with Japan. To meet the target of about 6 per cent growth in export revenue this year, the Ministry of Industry and Trade has asked businesses to actively improve the competitiveness of their products, while expanding their export markets. The ministry will strengthen the exploitation of potential markets, while switching to official export channels in association with the building of trademarks. The ministry will also renovate its trade promotion activities and develop digital infrastructure to increase distribution through e-commerce platforms. Besides, the ministry will organise training courses for businesses and support them to make full use of free trade agreements.

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1493648/viet-nam-enjoys-trade-surplus-of-over-2-8-billion-in-two-months.html>

Vietnamese real estate remain attractive to foreign investors



Vietnam News | 7 March, 2023

Hanoi (VNA) – The Vietnamese real estate market has remained attractive to foreign investors and investment funds despite difficulties countering domestic firms, according to insiders. The 2023 Asia-Pacific Investor Intentions Survey released recently by CBRE Vietnam showed that Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi are among top 10 most attractive destinations for trans-border investment. Particularly, for the first

time, Ho Chi Minh City ranked third in the list, even above Australia. Vietnam drew greatest attention from investors from Asian countries and territories, including Hong Kong, Singapore, China, the Republic of Korea and Japan. With a forecast urbanisation rate of 42% in 2025, Vietnam has high potential in real estate market development. With more people rising to the middle class, the country has become a magnet for real estate investment. At the beginning of 2023, Singaporean firms conducted a number of large-scale deals in Vietnam. Keppel Land, a real estate developer that is running more than 20 projects worth 3.5 billion USD around the world, signed a memorandum of understanding with Khang Dien Group of Vietnam to cooperate in residential area building and sustainable urban development projects in Ho Chi Minh City in February. Keppel Land CEO Louis Lim said that the firm is keen on strengthening its presence in Vietnam, one of its major markets with great long-term potential. Meanwhile, Sembcorp Development has also reached a deal with Becamex IDC on partnership in developing five green, smart and sustainable industrial parks in Vietnam in the next three years with total investment of about 1 billion USD. These industrial parks will be built to meet green, smart and sustainable criteria, using high technologies in management. The report "Vietnam Real Estate: Perspectives from China and Southeast Asian Countries" by PropertyGuru Group said Vietnam's open economic policy and integration into global supply chains have made growth possible.

Therefore, a resilient supply chain is key to Vietnam's economic strength and increasing the attractiveness of real estate to foreign investors. If Vietnam's transport infrastructure of seaports, highways, high-speed railways and airports is expanded and completed, real estate in Vietnam will be a more attractive destination for foreign capital, both direct and indirect investment, the report said. According to the Foreign Investment Department under the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the real estate sector drew the second largest amount of foreign direct investment among all sectors in 2022, attracting more than 4.45 billion USD, accounting for 16.1% of the country's total./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnamese-real-estate-remain-attractive-to-foreign-investors/249435.vnp>
