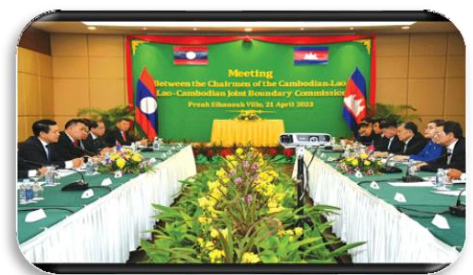
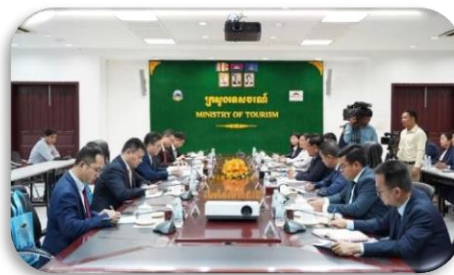


Highlight News / April 25/2023



- 43% jump in trade between Cambodia, Indonesia in Q1
- Three foreign groups plan to pour \$3.7 billion into Viet Nam
- Laos, Cambodia agree to install 387 more border posts
- Mustard seed fetching higher prices marketable in Mandalay
- Vietnam central bank plans loan restructuring for struggling businesses
- Motorcycle sales continue slump in first quarter



43% jump in trade between Cambodia, Indonesia in Q1



Cambodia News | 24 April, 2023

Trade between Cambodia and Indonesia rose by 43.2 percent to \$304 million in the first quarter of this year, according to a recent General Department of Customs and Excise report. The trade has just received a boost following Indonesia AirAsia started operating direct flights between the two countries. Apart from trade, direct flights can also enhance tourism, investment and other economic activities. The trade volume between the two countries rose during the first quarter of the year compared to the same period last year. From January to March 2023, Cambodia exported \$12 million worth of goods to the ASEAN's largest economy, a 74 percent increase over the same period last year, the report read. Meanwhile, the Kingdom's imports increased by 42 percent to \$292 million from Indonesia. Cambodia and Indonesia have also discussed further cooperation in trade, investment and tourism by promoting the export of Cambodian agricultural products to the Indonesian market. Indonesia AirAsia officially launched the direct flight from Jakarta to Phnom Penh on April 10 at the Indonesian Embassy in Phnom Penh. With direct flights, it is hoped that the number of tourist visits will continue to increase. Lim Heng, vice president of the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce, said that both countries have great potential in developing the tourism sector further. "Direct flights will play an

important role in attracting tourists and facilitating travels of businessmen and investors to Cambodia," Heng told Khmer Times. At a meeting with Indonesia's senior officials in March, Cambodia's Minister of Commerce Pan Sorasak urged the Indonesian side to import agricultural products from the Kingdom such as rice, cassava, cashew nuts and mangoes. He also urged Indonesian investors to consider investing in agriculture, such as setting up rice mills, processing cassava into medicinal products and packaging them for domestic use, and importing mangoes and fruits. The Indonesian side noted that Cambodia has developed a strong and resilient economy and expressed its intention to strengthen cooperation with the Kingdom to boost bilateral trade, investment and tourism.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501277914/43-jump-in-trade-between-cambodia-indonesia-in-q1/>

ASEAN-China Center plans Cambodia exhibitions to attract tourists



Cambodia News | 24 April, 2023

The ASEAN-China Center (ACC) is collaborating with Cambodia to organise tourism promotion events, such as exhibitions, in both Cambodia and China. ACC Secretary-General Shi Zhongjun believes that the region, including Cambodia, will see an increase in tourism, particularly due to the control of the Covid-19 situation. Additionally, the ACC plans to provide training for Chinese guides who speak Khmer and arrange exchange visits for Cambodian

and Chinese journalists to report on tourist attractions in both countries. Cambodia has agreed to continue cooperating with the ACC to promote tourism after the Covid-19 crisis. The agreement was reached after a meeting with Tith Chantha, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Tourism, and a delegation from ACC led by Zhongjun at the Ministry of Tourism on Friday. The two sides recalled their previous cooperation in tourism, but the Covid-19 pandemic curbed those activities, leading to the suspension of several tour promotional campaigns in ASEAN. However, ACC pointed out that tourism prospects started improving this year following China's decision to reopen its borders. Zhongjun said ACC's tourism cooperation with Cambodia would continue as it intends to strengthen activities in association with the Kingdom. Besides playing a key role in promoting the tourist destinations of Cambodia and China, it will campaign for more direct and frequent flights to tourist destinations. ACC will also encourage more tourists and investors to visit Cambodia. Chantha also reiterated the significance of promoting tourism growth in both countries as well as attracting tourists from other countries. He said Cambodia has the capital of peace as the most important attraction and has several attractive tourist destinations, especially for the Chinese tourism market. The Permanent Secretary also pointed out to the ACC delegation that on the occasion of Khmer New Year, more than 13 million domestic and international tourists visited the country. It once again reiterated that Cambodia

is a safe, secure and orderly destination. Since the government controlled the Covid-19 situation well, people and tourists walk around without any worries, enjoying the Khmer New Year Festival. Chantha also said that Cambodia expects to receive about four million international tourists, including around one million Chinese tourists this year. Nearly 13.2 million people travelled to tourist destinations across the country during the three-day holiday of Khmer Traditional New Year, according to a report from the Ministry of Tourism. Among them, 55,700 were foreigners, the report said, adding that on the first day, there were almost 2.1 million visitors, more than 4.2 million on the second day, and about 6.85 million on the last day. Siem Reap province topped the list of destinations, receiving around 2.12 million tourists, followed by Battambang province with 1.5 million tourists, Kampong Cham province with over 1.4 million, and Phnom Penh with nearly 1.1 million, it pointed out.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501278044/asean-china-center-plans-cambodia-exhibitions-to-attract-tourists/>

Laos, Cambodia agree to install 387 more border posts



Laos News | 24 April, 2023

Laos and Cambodia have agreed to jointly maintain border markers and install 387 more border posts to clearer define their shared borderline. The Laos-Cambodia and Cambodia-Laos Joint Boundary Commissions met on April 21 in Sihanoukville

province, Cambodia and reached the agreement, the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a press release. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Saleumxay Kommasith, who is also Chairman of the Laos - Cambodia Joint Boundary Commission led the Lao delegation in the talks with Senior Minister in charge of Border Affairs and Chairman of the Cambodia- Laos Joint Boundary Commission Var Kim Hong. The 387 posts will be installed in necessary areas including in curving borderline and densely populated communities. In this regard, the meeting assigned technical teams of both sides to jointly work on the border sites starting in early May and complete the work by the next two years. The joint commissions also discussed on the disagreed points of borderline, which was the results of a joint inspection of 86 percent of the border. The discussion took place with 'constructive and frank' manner, the Lao ministry said. The meeting assigned technical teams of both sides to jointly carry out further survey and discuss in line with the principle agreed upon by both sides. Then, the teams are required to submit solution recommendations to the chairmen of the two joint boundary commissions toward solving the unresolved border areas. Both sides reached consensus to work together to implement the Boundary Treaty between Laos and Cambodia, which the two governments signed on February 13, 2023. The Lao ministry said the outcomes of the meeting contributed to enhancing further the friendly relations and cooperation between Laos and Cambodia. It fulfills the intension

of the two Parties, states and peoples in building the shared border of peace, friendship and cooperation. In Cambodia, the Lao DPM and his delegation also visited Sihanouk Autonomous Port.

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten2023_Laoscambodia77.php

Mustard seed fetching higher prices marketable in Mandalay



Myanmar News | 24 April, 2023

After Thingyan period, the mustard seeds from Kachin State, northern Shan State, Kalay, Kalewa, Bhamo, Katha, Nawnghkio, Hsipaw and Kyaukme flowing into Mandalay fetch good prices, and the transactions are soaring in Mandalay market, according to Mandalay bean merchants. Although the mustard seeds were priced at only K3,200 per viss in the same period of last year, it is now K5,100 per viss and the transactions are good, said U Soe Win Myint, owner of Soe Win Myint Wholesale Centre in Mandalay. "The mustard seeds in the market after the Thingyan period fetch higher prices compared to the same period of last year. There are two kinds of mustards for consumption and oil production. The mustard for oil production is grown just in one season as winter crop. It starts growing in November and enters the market in January. It is a marketable crop. It is exported to India and Bangladesh yearly. Currently, there is demand from India. Therefore, the mustard farmers should expand sown acreage. It is more productive in hilly regions. The mustard for consumption can be grown in every region," he said.

The edible crop, mustard is mainly grown in northern and southern Shan State, Kachin State, Kayah State and upper Sagaing Region, and the mustard seeds from these regions are resold through Mandalay market. —Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)/KTZH

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/mustard-seed-fetching-higher-prices-marketable-in-mandalay/#article-title>

Vietnam central bank plans loan restructuring for struggling businesses

 *Vietnam News | 24 April, 2023*

HANOI (Reuters) - Vietnam's central bank will restructure loans for some businesses facing difficulties, including delaying loan repayments, the government said, as it seeks to shore up a slowing economy. Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh has asked the State Bank of Vietnam to draft the decision with a view to increasing the number of firms subjected to restructuring, and extending the timeframe over which it happens, the government said in a statement at the weekend. Several companies in Vietnam, a regional manufacturing hub, have been struggling amid weakening global demand, with exports falling 11.9% in the first quarter of this year. Vietnam's economic growth slowed to 3.32% in the January-March period, against a 5.92% year-on-year expansion in the fourth quarter of 2022. Chinh at a weekend meeting with the central bank also called for commercial banks to

cut lending interest rates to support businesses and households. The central bank last month cut several policy rates to support growth amid global uncertainty.

Source : <https://www.investing.com/news/economy/vietnam-central-bank-plans-loan-restructuring-for-struggling-businesses-3062243>

Three foreign groups plan to pour \$3.7 billion into Viet Nam

 *Vietnam News | 24 April, 2023*

HÀ NỘI — Three foreign groups unveiled their plans to pour US\$3.7 billion into Việt Nam at the Prime Minister's meeting with foreign investors in Hà Nội on Saturday, reported the Ministry of Planning and Investment. Among them, a group from the Republic of Korea is to invest \$1.6 billion in heavy industry and logistics production; a German investor is eyeing green production using renewable energy with an estimated capital of \$1.5 billion; and a Japanese investor plans to spend \$600 million on medical equipment production. To welcome the investment wave, Minister of Planning and Investment Nguyễn Chí Dũng said Việt Nam needs to prepare the necessary conditions, including "packages" of preferential policies and support for new investment in the context of the global minimum tax to be applied in 2024, improve the competitiveness of the investment environment and harmonise the interests of investors. In the long term, Việt Nam will continue to remove bottlenecks in mobilising resources and production and trade. It

will step up the disbursement of capital and consolidate trust with the motto "Placing the people and businesses at the centre, the subject, the goal and the driving force of development," he said. — VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1524531/three-foreign-groups-plan-to-pour-3-7-billion-into-vietnam.html>
