

Highlight News / May 02/2023



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World Bank expects international rice prices to climb by 17 percent this year



Cambodia News | 1 May, 2023

The World Bank projects international rice prices to climb 17 percent from a year earlier to \$510 a tonne in 2023, before settling lower at \$490 a tonne next year. In its annual Commodity Market Outlook released in Washington Thursday, the bank said rice prices had risen 11 percent in the first quarter of this year on the back of strong demand and tight supplies. Strong demand has reflected “major festivals and restocking in Asia” along with currency appreciations against the US dollar in India, Thailand and Vietnam, the bank said. Tight supplies are meanwhile affecting “most of Asia’s rice producers – including China, India, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam,” it said. The bank said another factor was “devastated harvests and exports of rice” following floods in Pakistan in September last year. International rice prices – based on prices for long-grain rice (5 percent broken) in Thailand – averaged \$437 a tonne last year, down from \$458 a tonne in 2021 and \$497 a tonne in 2020. Several factors contributed to the 11 percent rice price gain in the first quarter: strong demand related to major festivals and restocking in Asia; currency appreciations against the U.S. dollar in India. Sao Da – AKP

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501281716/world-bank-expects-international-rice-prices-to-climb-by-17-percent-this-year/>

Deep-water port construction to increase PAS capacity



Cambodia News | 1 May, 2023

The government has been increasing the capacity of listed Sihanoukville Autonomous Port (PAS) through the construction of a deep-water port to allow all types of cargo ships to dock without having to transit at other ports and reduce shipping costs and shipping time. According to the PAS report, it has a container capacity of more than 550,000 TEUs per year, while transit cargo reached more than 750,000 TEUs in 2022, exceeding the port capacity. PAS said that in 2024, there will be a new port with a length of 350 meters, which will increase the storage capacity of 1 million TEUs per year. In addition, PAS plans to develop the port in three phases. By 2026, the new container terminal, which will be 350 meters long and 14.5 meters deep with a container capacity of 1.45 million TEUs per year, is expected to be completed. The second phase of the new container terminal will be implemented in 2028 and the third phase, to be completed in 2029, will increase the container capacity to more than 2.67 million TEUs per year. The new port will allow cargo ships worldwide to dock without transit at other ports, eliminating water depth barriers, especially reducing costs and shipping time and increasing competitiveness, the report said. At a press conference last week, Lou Kimchhun, Director General, PAS, said that the busy trade activities required the development of container terminals to increase the depth of the

waterway, responding to the growth of international trade, transportation and the achievement of plans to allow all cargo ships to dock. “When all cargo ships can dock at PAS, the cost of sea transport will be lower than at present, leading to competition for the national trade sector, increasing the economic profit,” he said. Cambodia has two main ports – PAS and the Phnom Penh Autonomous Port. Both are listed on the Cambodia Securities Exchange. PAS and PPAP posted revenues of almost \$130 million last year, according to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport’s report. Freight through PAS increased by 2.45 percent to \$86 million in 2022 while that of PPAP rose by 17.10 percent to \$40 million, the report indicated. Sun Chanthol, Minister of Public Works and Transport, said recently that the growth reflected the active throughput of the ports thanks to an increase in agricultural exports, as well as the export of textile and garment products.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501281966/deep-water-port-construction-to-increase-pas-capacity/>

Lao Airlines resumes flights to Changsha in China



Laos News | 1 May, 2023

The first Lao Airlines flight from Vientiane to Changsha, the capital of central China’s Hunan province, took off on Friday, reviving the route after China reopened its borders and lifted Covid-related travel restrictions. The twice-weekly flight on Monday and Friday is designed to meet the needs of the

growing number of tourists and businesses in the region, bolstering trade and general economic activity between Laos and China. Director of Lao Airlines’ Commercial Department, Mr Noudeng Chanthaphasouk, told the Vientiane Times on Friday that the Vientiane- Changsha route was popular with many tourists and businesses before the pandemic hit and air travel ground to a halt. “The first flight (using a Boeing 737) on Friday was 80 percent full despite the fact that tickets only went on sale two days before the flight,” Mr Noudeng said. “Many Chinese operating businesses in Laos come from Hunan province and many of them own shops in the Xang Jieng Market in Vientiane. That’s why the Vientiane-Changsha flight is so popular among businesspeople.” Mr Noudeng said Lao Airlines has received a great response from the Chinese market and plans to schedule more flights to China (a market of 1.4 billion people) to promote people-to-people exchanges and facilitate business. The Vientiane-Changsha flight is intended not only to revitalise tourism in Laos, but also to boost Laos’ connectivity with the rest of the region and rejuvenate the economy. “Lao Airlines is keen to tap the potential of the Chinese market as it gears up for the return of Chinese tourists,” Mr Noudeng said. Located in the middle of China and the middle reaches of the Yangtze River, Hunan province has a population of more than 67 million people. In 2019, Chinese tourists made 155 million international trips, with more than one million Chinese nationals visiting Laos that year. Lao Airlines currently operates 12

direct flights to cities in China and Asean member countries. In China, the national flag carrier has resumed flights to Kunming, Guangzhou and Changsha. Lao Airlines also plans to schedule flights from Vientiane to Shanghai, Chengdu, Changzhou and Hangzhou to increase links between Laos and China and spur the growth of tourism. If these flight routes are authorised by the Chinese government, Lao Airlines will resume flights to these cities at the end of this year. Meanwhile, some Chinese airlines are flying into Laos in response to the growth of tourism in the region. In other areas, Lao Airlines has resumed flights to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City as well as rescheduled flights to Thailand and Cambodia and now operates regular services to Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Siem Reap.

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent82_Lao_y23.php

Over 1,270 Myanmar food processing businesses apply for GACC within 18 months



Myanmar News | 2 May, 2023

A total of 1,270 Myanmar food processing companies and factories submitted over 2,200 applications to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) within 18 months, according to the Ministry of Commerce. According to GACC Decrees 248 and 249, GACC registration is mandatory for food exporters starting from 1 January 2022. Those individuals executing edible oil, oilseeds, stuffed

pastry products, edible bird's nest and related products, edible grains, grains milling industrial products and malt, fresh and dehydrated vegetables, dried beans, plant species, nuts and seeds, dried fruits, unroasted coffee and cocoa bean, special dietary food excluding milk-based formula, functional foods, honey products, aquatic products including farm products, animal products and animals feed and livestock animal businesses need to apply for GACC licences to place their goods in China's market. The relevant authorities for the registration with GACC are the Agriculture Department, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the Fisheries Department and the Food and Drug Administration Department. Between 1 December 2021 and 28 April 2023, 2,279 applications by 1,270 factories have been forwarded to the GACC through the Agriculture Department (2,136 applications), the Fisheries Department (120), the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (14) and the Food and Drug Administration Department (nine). Exporters can directly access China International Trade Single Window through <https://cifer.singlewindow.cn> by creating accounts for those food groups which are not listed on those aforementioned 18 groups. As of 21 April 2023, a total of 1,844 applications have been successful in registering with the GACC with the approval of the competent authority. Regarding the registration of the importing companies, the Department of Animal and Plant Quarantine under the GACC will check quarantine access for the imported grains, raw

coffee beans, cocoa beans, vegetables, spices, edible grains, pulses, oil crops and herbal animal products and plant for their origins. The companies cannot directly proceed with registration and they need to carry out this step through competent authorities and departments concerned by sending emails via dapq@customs.gov.cn or submitting letters to the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar or Myanmar Embassy to China. — NN/EM

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/over-1270-myanmar-food-processing-businesses-apply-for-gacc-within-18-months/#article-title>

Registered capital per enterprise in Vietnam declines in Jan-Apr



Vietnam News | 1 May, 2023

HCMC – Though the country saw a rebound in new market entrants in April with nearly 16,000 firms, the average registered capital per enterprise fell in the first four months of the year over the year-ago period. Each company which was registered in the first four months had VND9.3 billion in capital on average, down 27.2% against the same period last year. The General Statistics Office said that last month, there were nearly 16,000 new enterprises established nationwide with total pledged capital of VND154,600 billion, up 12.3% and 6.2% compared to the month earlier, respectively. Around 9,610 businesses resumed operations in April, rising nearly 53% against the previous month and up 36.6% year-on-year. In the year till now, an additional 49,900 businesses with total registered capital of

VND465,000 billion had entered the market, rising a mere 0.6% in volume but dropping sharply in registered capital. If VND604,600 billion in extra capital registered by 17,174 existing firms in January-April was taken into account, the total amount of newly-pledged capital would be VND1,069.6 trillion, dropping 46% over the year-ago period. Nearly 29,000 businesses resumed their operations in the first four months, down 6.2% over the same period last year, raising the number of newly established and restarted businesses to 78,900, declining 2% year-on-year.

Source : <https://english.thesaigontimes.vn/registered-capital-per-enterprise-in-vietnam-declines-in-jan-apr/>

Vietnam greets 3.7 million foreign tourists in four months



Vietnam News | 1 May, 2023

Nearly 3.7 million foreign tourists travelled to Vietnam in the first four months of 2023, according to Vietnam National Administration of Tourism (VNAT). The number of domestic tourists during the period was estimated at 38 million. Total revenue from tourists was estimated at 196.6 trillion VND (8.3 billion USD). Of the total visitors, up to 88.7% travelled by air, 10.1% by road, and 1.2% by sea. In April alone, Vietnam welcomed 984,000 international travellers, the highest figure from the beginning of this year and an increase of 9.9% from the previous month. The country served 10.5 million domestic tourists in the month. The Republic of Korea remains Vietnam's biggest tourism market in the first four months of this

year with one million visitors, followed by the US with 263,000 and China with 252,000 travellers. The number of Chinese tourists to Vietnam in April was 112,000, up 61.5% from the previous month thanks to China's border reopening to group tours from March 15. Revenues from accommodation and catering services between January to April are estimated to reach 214.8 trillion VND, representing a year-on-year increase of 25.%. Meanwhile, thanks to exciting cultural and tourism activities taking place in many localities in the early months of the year across localities, travel revenue was estimated at 9.1 trillion VND, nearly 2.1 times higher than the same period last year. This year, Vietnam is striving to serve 110 million tourists, including 8 million foreigners, and earn around 650 trillion VND from tourism services. According to VNAT, the screening of the film "A tourist's guide to love" which was shot in Vietnam has attracted the attention of audience around the world. The film features the beauty of local landscapes along with the beauty of Vietnamese people and culture at six main locations namely Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City; Da Nang; Hoi An, My Son (Quang Nam) and Ha Giang. It ranks third in the list of globally most-watched movies on Netflix with 13.4 million viewing hours. The film not only popularises the image of Vietnam's beauty to international friends, but also inspires international tourists to come to Vietnam immediately, the VNAT said./.

Source : [https://en.dangcongsan.vn/tourism/vietnam-greets-37-million-foreign-tourists-in-four-months-](https://en.dangcongsan.vn/tourism/vietnam-greets-37-million-foreign-tourists-in-four-months-604229.html)