

Highlight News / May 16/2023



- Cambodia Q1 exports to RCEP countries up 16%
- Cambodian pepper gets China approval for direct exports
- S. Korea supports poultry industry in Laos with high tech equipment
- Myanmar diamond jewelry export allowed
- Toyota Vietnam tops passenger car market in April
- Foreign invested sector - important growth driver of Vietnam: official



Cambodia Q1 exports to RCEP countries up 16%



Cambodia News | 15 May, 2023

Cambodia exported \$2.89 billion worth of goods to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) countries in the first quarter of this year, up 16 percent from the same period last year, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce. Cambodia's top three export destinations in the RCEP were Vietnam, Thailand, and China, with shipments worth \$1.25 billion, \$958 million, and \$328 million, respectively. China is Cambodia's largest source of imported goods, with a total value of \$2.53 billion. Vietnam and Thailand follow closely, with imports of \$957 million and \$440 million, respectively. The RCEP free trade agreement entered into force on January 1, 2022. The regional trade pact comprises 15 Asia-Pacific countries including 10-member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — and their five trading partners, namely China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. Lim Heng, vice president of the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce, said the mega trade pact has boosted Cambodia's exports, attracted new investment, and contributed to the country's economic development. Cambodia's exports and imports to RCEP countries have increased due to the trade preferences under the mega-regional trade pact, said Penn Sovicheat,

spokesman at the Ministry of Commerce, yesterday. "With almost zero trade tariffs, exporters have been able to take advantage of the trade deal, resulting in increased exports and imports from Cambodia," Sovicheat said. Cambodia's trade with RCEP countries made up 19 percent of the country's total trade during the period. Heng said that the RCEP has the potential to attract new investment into Cambodia to produce goods and services for export, as the RCEP market is huge. "The agreement has not only increased exports of goods to RCEP countries, but it has also attracted foreign investment to produce goods and services for export to the regional market," Heng told Khmer Times last week. The mega-regional pact will eliminate as much as 90 percent of the tariffs on goods traded among its signatories over the next 20 years. Being the world's largest trade bloc, the RCEP trade deal has a combined GDP of \$26.2 trillion, representing around 30 percent of the global GDP, 28 percent of global trade, and 32.5 percent of global investment. Cambodia's exports to RCEP countries reached \$6.34 billion in 2022, a year-on-year increase of seven percent, a Ministry of Commerce report showed. RCEP accounted for almost 60 percent of Cambodia's international trade of \$52 billion in 2022.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501290262/cambodia-q1-exports-to-rcep-countries-up-16/>

Cambodian pepper gets China approval for direct exports



Cambodia News | 15 May, 2023

Cambodian pepper will be available in China directly after the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) approves Cambodia's export proposal. The Chinese Embassy announced last week that the GACC approved seven packaging factories and 28 registered pepper farms for pepper exports. Cambodian pepper has finished all export procedures and is now allowed to be shipped to China, it said. Pepper farmers in the country are expected to benefit from the move, which will boost production and diversify markets, said Mak Ny, president of the Cambodia Pepper and Spices Federation. "This is great news for pepper farmers, and we will be seeking partners to export the pepper to China," Ny told Khmer Times yesterday. Pepper is the first Cambodian agricultural product and spice crop to be approved for direct export to China this year, according to the statement. However, the embassy did not specify when the first export of the commodity from Cambodia would take place. China has completed risk assessments of Cambodian prawn, fish, sweet corn, and longan since the beginning of 2022. Cambodia has around 6,000 hectares dedicated to pepper cultivation, with an average annual yield of 20,000 to 30,000 tons, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries. The report said that Cambodia exported 822,654 tons of pepper in the first three months of this year.

The Cambodia Pepper and Spices Federation said that the current price of pepper is between \$3,000-\$3,500 per ton. Cambodia exports both Geographical Indication (GI) pepper from Kampot and non-GI pepper, including mixed pepper, good-practice-agriculture pepper and organic pepper. GI pepper is mostly exported to the EU. Kampot Pepper Promotion Association President Ngnoun Lay said he expects the association's pepper, one of Cambodia's only two products registered as a Geographical Indication in the European Union, will gain access to the Chinese market. "As the association is looking to expand its market, the move will give hope not only to normal pepper but also to GI pepper gaining market access to China," Lay said.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501290261/cambodian-pepper-gets-china-approval-for-direct-exports/>

S. Korea supports poultry industry in Laos with high tech equipment



Laos News | 15 May, 2023

Livestock production and processing will speed up in Laos, thanks to Greengoods Company Limited which will provide high technology equipment from the Republic of Korea. The handover ceremony of the livestock processing equipment was held on May 10 at the Faculty of Agriculture Campus of the National University of Laos, which was organised by Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), Vientiane. Through KOTRA's global ESG+

programme, this is the first ESG+ programme initiated in Laos this year. The donation of poultry slaughtering and processing equipment worth US\$ 88,308 was handed over from Korean company Greengoods Company Limited to Parksarpmi Cooperation Centre of Laos. The Regional President of KOTRA Southeast Asia-Oceania, Mr Lee Jongseob, the Director-General of KOTRA, Vientiane, Mr Kim Pilseong, the Head of Parksarpmi Cooperative Center, Ms Nalin Thamavong, the CEO of Greengoods Company Limited, Mr LEE Jaewon, attended the ceremony. The donations are aimed to upgrade the poultry industry and allow farmers to practice livestock processing technology from Korea. The equipment will allow farmers and villagers to boost the efficiency of broiler production, increase productivity, and ultimately, the income of farmers. During the visit Mr Lee Jongseob said, “Korea offers advanced technology in the field of agriculture and livestock, while Laos has a suitable environment to pursue agriculture and livestock rearing. It has a potential market too. Therefore, it is a win-win cooperation that links educational programmes employing instrumentation facilities.” Ms Nalin Thamavong said that the advanced livestock processing equipment and technology will contribute to the future income generation of the centre’s members. Mr Lee Jaewon said, “We have developed a breed that is suitable for the environment of Laos and we are working with the cooperative to distribute safer poultry food and raise awareness of food hygiene among comprised 40

Cooperative members from 23 farms and students at the Faculty of Agriculture of the National University of Laos.” Mr Kim Pilseong said, “Greengoods is creating positive synergy in cooperation with the local community of small-scale farmers in Laos. The Greengoods participated in the KOTRA’s ESG+ program and supported the idle equipment donation and capacity building program three times. They donated Korean agricultural equipment worth US\$ 33,615 for the transfer of idle agricultural equipment in 2021 and US\$ 18,874 for the transfer of EM microbial fermentation idle equipment in order to promote eco-friendly consumption in 2022. Furthermore, KOTRA is transferring Korea’s know-how to Win-Win Partnerships of Laos through the Global ESG+ programme.” Greengoods Company Limited had signed an MoU in 2019 with the Faculty of Agriculture of the National University of Laos for farm support, student exchange support, development cooperation project, and R&D technology support. Since the company has been cooperating with the local community, as a result, in 2022, the Parksarpmi Cooperation Centre was the first centre to be recognised by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry in Xaythany district, Vientiane.

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent91_S_Korea_y23.php

Myanmar diamond jewelry export allowed



Myanmar News | 15 May, 2023

The Ministry of Economy and Commerce under the Military Council issued an announcement saying that it will allow the export of diamond jewelry to foreign countries. Previously the ministry banned the export of both polished diamonds and diamond jewelry but now they are allowing the export of diamond jewelry. In this new announcement, the ministry banned only the export of polished diamonds. But the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA) said that this new policy would not have a serious impact on the diamond jewelry market though it allows the export of diamond jewelry. Diamond traders said that after allowing the export of diamond jewelry to foreign countries the traders could have a bigger and wider market as they could trade diamond jewelry made with gold in both domestic and foreign markets. A diamond and gold trader said that they would export the diamond jewelry to the countries which had friendly relations with them and currently they initially only explore opportunities. The ministry made an announcement in 2020 that banned the export of diamonds, crude oil, ivory, elephants, horses and rare animals, weapons, ammunitions and antiques by sea, border trade and air cargo so that the diamonds could not be exported in any form - rough, polished and in jewelry. Now the Ministry of Economy and Commerce under the Military Council changed this ban in its new order. In this new order, the word 'diamond 'was replaced with the new wording 'rough and polished diamonds which have not been made into jewelry'.

Source : <https://mizzima.com/article/myanmar-diamond-jewelry-export-allowed>

Toyota Vietnam tops passenger car market in April



Vietnam News | 15 May, 2023

Toyota Vietnam sold 4,415 passenger cars, including the luxury brand of Lexus, in April, topping the passenger car market, the joint venture reported. It delivered 4,247 vehicles of Toyota models to buyers, comprising 1,876 domestically assembled cars and 2,371 imported completely built-up units. Corolla Cross and Vios were among the 10 best sellers in the market with respectively sales of 1,310 and 695 units. Meanwhile, 168 Lexus-branded cars were sold, raising the number of those vehicles in Vietnam so far to 10,960, the firm added. Last month, members of the Vietnam Automobile Manufacturers' Association (VAMA) sold 22,409 automobiles of all kinds, a month-on-month decrease of 25%. Of the total, there were 15,748 passenger cars, 6,487 commercial vehicles and 174 special-purpose ones, down 27%, 19%, and 51% from March, respectively. The sales of domestically-assembled cars decreased by 18% while that of imported ones dropped by 34% compared to the previous month. During January - April, VAMA members sold a total of 92,801 vehicles, falling 30% year on year.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/toyota-vietnam-tops-passenger-car-market-in-april-post1020260.vov>

Foreign invested sector - important growth driver of Vietnam: official



Vietnam News | 15 May, 2023

Hanoi (VNA) – With the increasing project number and investment value, foreign invested enterprises have become a dynamic sector and an important growth driver for the Vietnamese economy, said Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment Do Thanh Trung. With open policies and a favourable, stable, and increasingly improved business climate, Vietnam is one of the leading countries and has obtained many major achievements in foreign investment attraction, he told a workshop held by the Vietnam Investment Review in Hanoi on May 15. Over the last 35 years, the foreign invested sector has always been considered an important part of the Vietnamese economy and given conditions by the Party and State to develop, cooperate, and compete healthily and fairly with other economic sectors, the deputy minister noted. As of the end of April, Vietnam attracted nearly 446 billion USD in foreign investment, 280 billion USD of which had been disbursed, statistics show. Despite impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Vietnam was still among the 20 biggest recipients of foreign investment in 2020 as reported by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). This proves Vietnam's successes in attracting external resources, Trung said. The foreign invested sector has made substantially contributions to the country's integration into the world, expansion of relations with

other countries, and promotion of its position and role in the region and the world, he went on. Vietnam is still assessed as an attractive investment destination, he said, citing a recent survey by the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) which revealed that 60% of Japanese firms plan to expand operations in Vietnam in the next one or two years. Meanwhile, European investors rank Vietnam fifth among the leading global investment places. Choi Joo-ho, General Director of Samsung Vietnam, said Samsung has invested in the country since 2008 and is now present in many localities like Thai Nguyen, Hanoi, and Bac Ninh. As of 2022, the Korean group had poured 20 billion USD into Vietnam and created about 300,000 jobs. In particular, half of the Samsung mobile phones exported globally is produced in the country. However, the UNCTAD report also pointed out that competition in foreign investment attraction among developing countries will become fierce, especially amid a forecast decline in foreign investment flows in 2023 and an increase in investment demand for post-pandemic recovery and development. To attract more foreign direct investment (FDI), many foreign firms recommended Vietnam continue building a transparent, predictable, and optimal investment and business climate. Samsung Vietnam held that foreign investors should also boost social activities and contribute more to local economic growth. Deputy Minister Trung said aside from measures for keeping macro-economic stability, improving infrastructure, and developing human resources,

Vietnam will also carry out others, including promoting an ecosystem for science, technology, and innovation, devising a flexible management mechanism, developing a strong domestic sector able to cooperate with the foreign invested one, and focusing on high and new technologies, modern services, the manufacturing industry, information technology, and financial services. The country will also bring into play its internal strength and competitive edges to enhance the ties between the domestic and foreign invested sectors so as to secure sustainable economic development, he added./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/foreign-invested-sector-important-growth-driver-of-vietnam-official/253059.vnp>
