

*Highlight News / May 30/2023*



- Cambodia's NPLs 'manageable' amid rising interest rates
- \$2 million electric bike plant launched in Kandal province
- Vientiane marks International Mountain Tourism Day
- Myanmar-China trade fair boosts business for Myanmar companies
- Vietnam posts trade surplus of 9.8 billion USD in five months
- VN received 4.6mil foreign visitors in five months, over half the year's target



## Cambodia's NPLs 'manageable' amid rising interest rates



*Cambodia News | 30 May, 2023*

The possibility of banking and financial service consumers' failures to make required interest or principal repayments on debts has been manageable for banks and microfinance institutions (MFIs) respectively in Cambodia even though the credit default indicator increased in 2022 compared to the previous year, an NBC report said. The annual banking supervision report issued by National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) pointed out that the Non-Performing Loan (NPLs) ratios—borrowers' failure to make repayment—in banking and microfinance industries has increased to 3.1 percent and 2.5 percent in 2022 from 2 percent and 2.4 percent respectively in the previous year. The Banking Supervision Report 2022 further pointed out that Vietnamese bank Saigon Thuong Tin Bank (Cambodia) Plc or Sacombank and Thai banks Cambodian Commercial Bank (CCB) and Bangkok Bank Public Company Limited (Bangkok Bank) have the highest NPL ratios among commercial banks operating in Cambodia. However, the report stated that Sacombank and Bangkok Bank's NPL ratios have fallen one percent and 3.9 percent to 15.6 percent in 2022 from 11.3 percent respectively in the previous year, while that of CCB and RHB Bank (Cambodia) Plc—another commercial bank—has increased to 12 percent and 10.1 percent from 4.4 percent and 4.6 percent respectively. "The ratio is at

a level that is manageable," the report pointed out, adding that Asia-Pacific Development Bank Plc, Branch of Kasikorn Bank Public Company Limited (Phnom Penh), Chip Mong Commercial Bank Plc and MB Bank (Cambodia) Plc are the four commercial banks whose NPL ratios have been at the lowest levels between zero percent to 0.2 percent. The annual banking supervision report also indicated that the NPL ratios of the three commercial banks dominating Cambodia's banking market including Aceda Bank, Advanced Bank of Asia Limited and Canadia Bank have risen to 2.7 percent, 3.1 percent and 4.1 percent in 2022 from 2.1 percent, 1.1 percent and 3.4 percent in the previous year respectively. "The banking system in the country has maintained its resilience, strength and trust from both local and foreign through the efforts made by the [central bank] in participating with the government to release necessary measures to prevent and reduce impacts at a maximum level," the report pointed out, adding that the system consists of 58 commercial banks. However, the report went on to say that the NPL ratio of some specialised banks in Cambodia has stayed remarkably higher—up to 71.9 percent in 2022—than the highest levels in the commercial bank category, while more than a majority of the specialised banks have faced rising NPL ratios at different pace. According to the report prepared by NBC's Directorate General of Banking Supervision, the NPL ratios of Angkor Capital Specialized Bank, Evergrowth (Cambodia) Specialized Bank and

Maritime Specialized Bank have increased to 71.9 percent, 45.8 percent and 34.3 percent in 2022 from 61.1 percent, 41.5 percent and 11.4 percent respectively in the previous year. In the microfinance sector, the NPLs ratio for microfinance deposit-taking institutions (MDIs) has stayed unchanged at 1.4 in 2022 compared to the previous year even though that of four MDIs have increased, while one of them has gained a falling one, said the report. Mohanokor, AMK, LOLC (Cambodia) and Amret have been MDIs whose NPLs ratios have risen to 3.7 percent, 3.6 percent, 2 percent and 0.5 percent in 2022 from 1.1 percent, 3.1 percent, 1.6 percent and 0.3 percent respectively in the previous year, while that of Prasac Microfinance Institution has fallen to 1.2 percent from 1.5 percent. Among the non-MDIs in the microfinance sector, the NPLs ratios of Piphup Thmey Microfinance, Rolya, Jet's Cash Box Finance, Vivath Golden Finance and Asia Pacific Finance have increased to 72.6 percent, 58.3 percent, 58.3 percent, 55.9 percent and 50.2 percent 2022 from 62.5 percent, 56.7 percent, 47.5 percent, non-available and 17.9 percent respectively. The report stated that the interest rates charged by banks on credits in riel and US dollar have increased to 12.2 percent and 10 percent per annum in 2022 from 11.4 percent and 9.7 percent per annum respectively in the previous year, while the interest rates for deposits in riel and US dollar have risen to 6.8 percent and 5.4 percent from 6.2 percent and 4.7 percent respectively. The interest rates charged by MFIs on credits in riel and US dollar have declined

to 15.2 percent and 14.4 percent per annum in 2022 from 16.8 percent and 15.9 percent per annum respectively in the previous year, while the interest rates for deposits in riel and US dollar have risen to 9.2 percent and 8.5 percent from 7.1 percent and 7 percent respectively, the report said.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501298784/cambodias-npls-manageable-amid-rising-interest-rates/>

## \$2 million electric bike plant launched in Kandal province



*Cambodia News | 30 May, 2023*

South Korean eco-friendly electric two-wheel vehicle supplier Verywords Co Ltd inaugurated its plant to assemble electric scooters in Kandal province, said a senior official of the company. It will compete with existing suppliers in the domestic market in the country. The electric motorbike assembly plant was inaugurated on Friday by the Minister of Mines and Energy Suy Sem and attended by Park Jung-wook, Ambassador of South Korea in Cambodia as well as Rho Hyun-jun, Country Director of Korea International Cooperation Agency along with other national and international guests. Andy Chun, General Director of Verywords, told Khmer Times yesterday that the plant for an e-Mobility system that includes a battery, charging station and electric scooters is expected to assemble approximately 3,000 units annually in the first phase and plans to scale up the capacity to more than 5,000 units per year in the next phase after three years of

construction. Chun further said that Verywords is considering exporting its finished products to other markets in Southeast Asia region such as Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia by strengthening its assembly capacity with over 50 local workers who have worked in different sections of the facility such as assembly, maintenance, sales and management. “We want to provide our scooter products in the local market. We will compete our model with other domestic suppliers at a lower price,” said Chun, adding that Verywords plans to sell its scooter products to local customers under \$2,000 per unit to compete with existing suppliers such as Honda Scoopy that are priced at about \$2,500 per unit. Sem said Verywords Assembly Factory is in the Mekong Logistic Center in Dei Eth Commune, Kien Svay District of Kandal province. “The establishment of the factory for assembling electric motorcycles will help promote the use of electric vehicles in the country, reduce environmental impacts and lead to more efficient use of energy in the transport sector.” “We hope to accelerate the transition and the employment opportunities it creates will foster inclusive growth and prosperity in the country,” said Jung-wook. The e-Mobility plant was built on an area of 2,400 square metres in the industrial complex about 20km from downtown Phnom Pen with the support KOICA Inclusive Business Solution (IBS) project. KOICA IBS project has been promoted from 2021-2025 with the aim of establishing a sustainable e-Mobility ecosystem for carbon reduction in Cambodia, where greenhouse gas emissions are rapidly increasing

due to rapid economic growth, and providing employment and business opportunities in the country. KOICA’s Hyun-jun said the Verywords Assembly Factory is also established for ‘Carbon Neutral Based on Korean Green New Deal Technologies for Circular Economy’ project while the international cooperation agency emphasizes the 5Ps—People, Peace, Prosperity, Planet and Partnership in implementing sustainable development projects worldwide. “These values are close to the sustainable development goals, which are a global blueprint for ensuring sustainable development and addressing various socio-economic and environmental issues,” said Hyun-jun. The e-Mobility system products are based on the battery swap system (BSS) and consist of a battery, a charging station and electrical scooters. Verywords has identified the purchasing power and preferences of local customers through market research and plans to initially produce a 3kw small e-Scooter as its flagship model and to expand its market share through diversification of product types and technological advancement such as improving the developed kiosk-type charging station model.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501298595/2-million-electric-bike-plant-launched-in-kandal-province/>

## Vientiane marks International Mountain Tourism Day



Laos News | 30 May, 2023

Events to mark the 5th International Mountain Tourism Day took place in Vientiane on Monday,

attended by hundreds of tourism-related business operators and reporters from Laos, China and other countries. The theme of the day was “Enjoy the Wonder of Mountains, Share a Beautiful Life and Jointly Promote Tourism Revitalisation”, and was an opportunity for Laos to restore its tourism industry after its collapse during the Covid-19 pandemic. Speaking at the event, Deputy Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism Mr Ounthuang Khaophan, on behalf of the Lao government, thanked the International Mountain and Tourism Alliance for choosing Laos to host International Mountain Tourism Day 2023. “I am confident that the beauty of the Lao lifestyle, as well as the country’s scenic splendour, including majestic mountain ranges, will attract more visitors from around the world,” Mr Ounthuang said. International Mountain Tourism Day was also a chance for Laos to prepare to host Visit Laos Year 2024, which will further promote tourism and encourage more people to visit Laos, he added. The event serves to encourage tourists to explore countries’ natural beauty, particular the wilder areas, an activity that is increasingly popular among travellers. Travel into remote and rural areas also provides people with jobs and if carefully managed will have little impact on the environment. Such activities can include hiking, camping, learning about different types of plants, and observing the lifestyle of local people. The income earned from these activities contributes to the protection of forest animals and the conservation of wild animals that are on the verge of

extinction, according to the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism. Events organised for International Mountain Tourism Day included an exhibition of mountain tourism opportunities, handicrafts, and other Lao tourism products. Tourism operators attending the event were able to gain a deeper insight into Laos’ many scenic attractions and the country’s dramatic landscape, especially in northern areas. International Mountain Tourism Day was introduced by the International Mountain Tourism Alliance in 2018, as a festival for mountain tourism enthusiasts and practitioners, as well as a shared platform that benefits and is jointly developed by the global mountain tourism industry and International Mountain Tourism Alliance members. The event has become the most influential brand devoted to sustainable mountain tourism governance and development. International Mountain Tourism Day was first held in Nepal in May 2019. It was viewed as an important step in cooperation in international mountain tourism activities that have a common goal to build cooperation, increase consultation, and share in the development of mountain-based tourism.

Source : [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent102\\_Vientiane\\_y23.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent102_Vientiane_y23.php)

## Myanmar-China trade fair boosts business for Myanmar companies



*Myanmar News | 30 May, 2023*

YANGON, May 30 (Xinhua) -- A four-day Myanmar-China trade fair held in Myanmar's capital Nay Pyi

Taw between May 25-28 attracted more than 100 businesspeople from both countries and saw numerous deals on cooperation signed. Companies from the two countries signed agreements on business cooperation for agricultural products, foodstuffs, soft drinks and beverages, pharmaceutical products, household appliances and electric vehicles. U Khin Aung Thet, manager of Six Six Eight Co. Ltd., a beans and pulses company from Myanmar, which had signed an agreement with a Chinese company, said, "It's a good case. It's an opportunity. As a result, we will sell our beans and pulses to China." "The signing of the agreement will earn income for our company as well as for the country," U Khin Aung Thet said, adding that the trade fair is essential to his company finding customers. "China has technologies. Their technologies are better than ours. The trade fair is an integration of the businesses from the two sides. It is beneficial for both countries," he said. Daw Cho Cho Aye, owner of Myat San jade and jewelry shop, said that she is happy to participate in the trade fair. "We are exhibiting our products for the first time at the trade fair as a cooperation between China and Myanmar," she said. Daw Cho Cho Aye comes from Hpakant in Kachin State, where is known for its jade product. "Chinese people love jade from our Kachin State and owing to this its price is relatively high," she said. Ma May Zaw Khine, founder of Danu Mal Coffee and Food Production, eyes the vast Chinese coffee market. "We have now received offers to export our coffee to China. If we can export more,

our farmers will benefit more," she said, adding her company is now exporting coffee to Thailand. "We are interested in the packaging from China. We need to learn about packaging from the Chinese designers," she said. Some Myanmar companies told Xinhua that by participating in the Myanmar-China trade fair, they received business opportunities by exhibiting their products and networking with Chinese businesspeople. One of them is Ma Ei Ei Win, owner of the Nay Pyi Taw Pone Yate Thit wood carving company, who is eager to learn the technology from her Chinese peers. "The Chinese are better than us in technology. Our business can improve with their technologies," she said. "We are trying to export our products. We can expand our network here. Our products can be sold here (trade fair)," she said, adding that nearly 100 wood carving products are being exhibited at the trade fair. A total of 60 associations or enterprises from Myanmar and more than 70 Chinese enterprises participated in the four-day event. Myanmar and China organized the trade fair to further enhance bilateral trade, expand investment and promote closer relationships between entrepreneurs of the two countries, officials said.

Source : <https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20230530/b3e8edcbefd7435cbd3ed7f9e835dc30/c.html>

## Vietnam posts trade surplus of 9.8 billion USD in five months



Vietnam News | 30 May, 2023

Vietnam's import-export value in the first five months of this year was estimated at 262.54 billion USD, down 14.7% year-on-year, with a trade surplus of 9.8 billion USD, the General Statistics Office (GSO) announced on May 29. In the period, Vietnam exported about 136.17 billion USD worth of goods, a year-on-year drop of 11.6%, while imports totalled 126.37 billion USD, down 17.9% year on year. As many as 23 export items joined the more than one-billion-USD club, making up 87.4% of the total export turnover. Regarding the structure of exports, processed commodities earned 120.24 billion USD (88.3%); agro-forestry products, 10.79 billion USD; aquatic products, 3.37 billion USD; and fuel and minerals, about 1.77 billion USD. As for imports, the domestic economic sector imported 43.95 billion USD worth of goods, down 18.5% year-on-year while the foreign-invested sector imported 82.42 billion USD worth of goods, down 17.5%. Of the import revenue, 118.31 billion USD was spent on production materials and 8.06 billion USD on consumer goods. The US was the biggest importer of Vietnamese products with 37.2 billion USD, while China was the largest import market with 43.4 billion USD. Given unpredictable developments in import and export activities, the Ministry of Industry and Trade is continuing to closely monitor developments in the world market and propose cooperation frameworks and solutions to develop traditional markets and diversify export markets. It will also continue supporting businesses to take advantage of signed free trade agreements (FTAs) to effectively

exploit markets and boost exports. The ministry will continue diversifying export markets and products, focusing on developing exports through cross-border e-commerce, and foreign distribution systems, promoting brand development for Vietnamese goods, and increasing the export of highly-processed goods and those made with high technology, having a high localisation rate. The ministry considers e-commerce an important distribution channel, especially for agricultural products and consumer industrial goods./. VNA

Source : [https://vietnamnet.vn/en/vietnam-posts-trade-surplus-of-9-8-billion-usd-in-five-months-2148607.html#vnn\\_source=news&vnn\\_medium=listtin1](https://vietnamnet.vn/en/vietnam-posts-trade-surplus-of-9-8-billion-usd-in-five-months-2148607.html#vnn_source=news&vnn_medium=listtin1)

1

## VN received 4.6mil foreign visitors in five months, over half the year's target



*Vietnam News | 30 May, 2023*

Vietnam welcomed nearly 4.6 million international arrivals in the first five months of 2023, soaring 12.6-fold from the same period last year, according to the latest report from the General Statistics Office (GSO). However, the number of foreign visitors in May fell 6.9 per cent from the previous month. It should be noted that Việ̣t Nam reopened its border and resumed international tourism activities from March 15, 2022. The country aimed to receive five million foreign tourists in 2022, but only managed to draw in 3.66 million. Việ̣t Nam set sight on eight million foreign tourists this year, but the target was made before China officially announced its reopening in

early February and reallocated group tours to Việt Nam in mid-March. Chinese tourists accounted for one-third of all international arrivals to Việt Nam in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic broke out. The tourist arrivals figure for the first five months of 2023 is still only 63 per cent of the 2019 figure. Of the international arrivals in the first five months, 88 per cent came to the country by air, 10.9 per cent by road, and 1.1 per cent by sea. Most tourists to Việt Nam in the first five months are from Asia (3.4 million), Europe (621,000), and America (396,000). 171,000 visitors are from Oceania and 10,500 are from Africa, according to the GSO. Regarding key markets, South Korea continues to have the most visitors coming to Việt Nam with over 1.3 million arrivals, followed by China (nearly 399,000), the United States (over 307,000), and China's Taiwan (nearly 252,000). Rounding up the top 10 markets are Thailand, Japan, Malaysia, Cambodia, Australia, and Singapore. Revenue from tourism services went up 89.4 per cent while earnings from accommodation and restaurant services rose 22.1 per cent, the GSO said, attributing the increases partly to many holidays during the five months. Recently, Vietnamese tourism has been featured by foreign media, helping enhance its attractiveness to international travellers. Notably, Cát Bà Island of the northern port city of Hải Phòng was given second place among the 10 most spectacular beaches in Asia by Microsoft Travel, the northern province Ninh Bình was named among the world's top 10 best

hidden family vacation spots to visit in 2023 by Canada's The Travel magazine, and the North-South, or Thống Nhất (Reunification), railway was listed as one of the world's most amazing train journeys by the Australian version of renowned travel guide book publisher Lonely Planet. Meanwhile, Vietnamese fried spring rolls (known as "nem rán" in the northern region and "chả giò" in the southern region) and summer rolls ("gỏi cuốn") are on the list of 50 most popular appetizers in the world compiled by international food magazine Taste Atlas. In May, Prime Minister Phạm Minh Chính signed off the Government's Resolution No. 82/NQ-CP on the main tasks and measures for accelerating effective and sustainable tourism recovery and development. It specified many measures for developing tourism into a key economic sector so as to turn Việt Nam into one of the 30 countries with the highest tourism competitiveness. — VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnet.vn/en/vn-received-4-6mil-foreign-visitors-in-five-months-over-half-the-year-s-target-2148761.html>

---