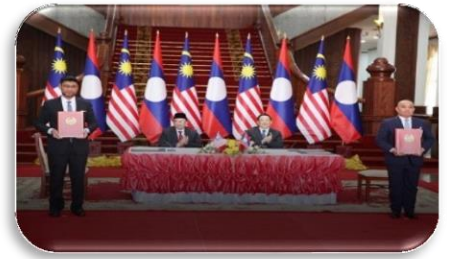


Highlight News / July 03/2023



- China ready to sign 7th MoU with Cambodia on increasing rice purchase by 500,000 tonnes
- National intellectual property policy ready for council of ministers' review
- Lao, Malaysian ports seek logistics-transport link to boost trade, investment
- Over 480 companies, rice mills, warehouses apply for GACC in H1 2023
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China ready to sign 7th MoU with Cambodia on increasing rice purchase by 500,000 tonnes



Cambodia News | 2 July, 2023

Lon Yeng, Secretary-General of the Cambodian Rice Federation, told the Cambodia-China Friendship Radio on Thursday that Cambodia and China have already signed six MoUs on Cambodia's rice exports to the Chinese market and ready to sign the 7th MoU and many more. Cambodia's Minister of Commerce Pan Sosak has earlier announced about the 7th MoU on exporting 500,000 tonnes of rice to the Chinese market for 2023-2024, while expressing his hope that the proposal would help increase Cambodia's rice exports even more. Yeng also said that 400,000 tonnes of rice had been delivered as per the sixth MOU. He urged the farmers to do their best as they are cultivating the type of rice that China needs. He added that China will be able to purchase this quantity of rice to support the lives and economy of Cambodian farmers and raise future living standards for the populace. Fresh news

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501317088/china-ready-to-sign-7th-mou-with-cambodia-on-increasing-rice-purchase-by-500000-tonnes/>

National intellectual property policy ready for council of ministers' review



Cambodia News | 2 July, 2023

The Ministry of Commerce will submit the draft Cambodia National Intellectual Property Policy 2023-2028 for review in the next plenary session of the

Council of Ministers. The Minister of Commerce Pan Sorasak unveiled the plan when chairing a work review meeting of the National Committee for Intellectual Property (NCIPR) on June 29. Once adopted, the intellectual property policy will contribute to promoting and protecting intellectual property, reputation, brands and products of Cambodia, he said. The policy, he added, will also promote new research and development and innovation especially in digital technology and other industries to support Cambodia's digital economic ambition. He also advised NCIPR to secure comprehensive draft of sub-decree for effective implementation of the intellectual property policy once adopted. AKP-Lim Nary

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501317275/national-intellectual-property-policy-ready-for-council-of-ministers-review/>

Lao, Malaysian ports seek logistics-transport link to boost trade, investment



Laos News | 2 July, 2023

The Managing Director of Laos' Thanaleng Dry Port, Sakhone Philangam (right), and Group Managing Director and CEO of Mutiara Perlis Sdn Bhd (MPSB Company) Mr Wan Ahmad Azheed Wan Mohamad (left) on Tuesday display signed Memorandums of Collaboration between the two entities, after the signing was witnessed by the prime ministers of Laos and Malaysia. Lao, Malaysian ports seek logistics-transport link to boost trade, investment

Operators of Laos' Thanaleng Dry Port and Malaysia's Perlis Inland Port are seeking cost-effective logistics and transport link to boost trade and investment between the countries and beyond. The Lao investor and Mutiara Perlis Sdn Bhd (MPSB) – the operator of the Malaysian port signed memorandum of cooperation (MoC) this week during the official visit to Laos by Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on June 26-27. The Lao National Railway State Enterprise and Malaysian Railway, Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad (KTMB), also signed similar MoC. Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone and his Malaysian counterpart, who brought with him business executives, witnessed the signing. Prior to the signing, Datuk Rani Hisham Samsudin Group Chief Executive Officer of (KTMB) and Dato Shabaruddin Ibrahim, Executive Chairman of MPSB visited the Thanaleng Dry Port and its associated Vientiane Logistics Park to discuss opportunities. Welcoming the guests, Thanaleng Dry Port's Managing Director Sakhone Philangam said his rail and road terminal port has become a transport and logistics connector. Being a converging point between the Laos-Thailand and Laos-China railways, cargo passing through the dry port in Vientiane can access Chinese market by trains within shorter time comparing to transport by load. From China's megacity of Chongqing, the rail link, more than 11,000 kilometres long, crosses the border at Alashankou in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, and then passes through Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus and Poland before

reaching Duisburg in Germany. By rail, cargo from southeast Asia could reach European market in around two weeks as opposed to 45 days by sea route. "Why don't we think of linking by land, not relying 100 percent on sea transport?," Mr Sakhone asked. From the multimodal transport node dry port, cargo can reach Laem Chabang, Thailand's main deep seaport about 150km south of Bangkok. From Bangkok, the trade route connects to the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur and even onwards to Singapore. Overland by road, the trade route connects to Vung Ang seaport in Vietnam's Ha Tinh province, according to Mr Sakhone. "We are linking Asean to Europe by rail," the director said. A number of Thai exporters have already shifted cargo to China by the railways, notably seasonal fruits such as durians. The route enables the Thai exporters to cut transport costs by 30 percent compared to previous route on roads that took longer time. Shifting durians from Thailand by rail, for instance takes just three days to reach Chinese buyers, Mr Sakhone responded to questions raised by the Malaysian guests. He added that a sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) centre is being built in partnership with the Chinese side to certify farm products and quicken their movement, notably to the Chinese markets. The Malaysian businesses said the two ports would complement one another. They expressed hope that future movement of the goods will be better facilitated by the presence of the two ports. To tap trade and investment potential brought by connectivity, Vientiane Logistics Park Co., Ltd – the

developer and operator of the Thanaleng Dry Port is also building a logistics complex where investors can set up operations, according to Mr Sakhone. The complex comprises seven zones, including a tank farm, export processing centre, logistics park, free trade zone, technology and halal hub, and administrative and office zone. Investors will enjoy a number of incentives including corporate tax holiday of 8-16 years and value-added tax reduction, among others. In addition, companies that manufacture or assemble goods in Laos will enjoy privileged access to major markets in countries whose governments have waived or reduced import tariffs on made-in-Laos products. More than 30 countries including Australia, Canada, members of the European Union (EU 28), Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Switzerland and Turkiye have extended such special treatment to Laos.

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContenten_LaoMalasian125.php

Over 480 companies, rice mills, warehouses apply for GACC in H1 2023



Myanmar News | 2 July, 2023

This year, 145 companies, 161 rice mills and 182 warehouses submitted proposals to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC), according to the Ministry of Commerce. Last year, 62 companies, 79 rice mills and 19 warehouses also sent proposals to the GACC in 2022. The task force calls for Expression of

Interest (EOI) to apply for a GACC certificate. After the screening process, the documents of the applicants are forwarded to GACC. The Sanitary and Phytosanitary Protocol (SPS Protocol) workshop was held on 14 June at the Mingala Hall of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI). The SPS protocol is a must for legitimate rice export to foreign countries including China. Over 300 stakeholders in the rice industry including officials of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF), rice millers and exporters were present at the workshop. Rice is a driven force of Myanmar's export sector. MRF organized that workshop with a view to make awareness of the SPS protocol measures for biosecurity, rules laid down by the trade partners, increase export earnings from rice exports and availability of rice that ensures food safety in the domestic markets, U Ye Min Aung, president of the MRF emphasized. He also urged the employers and those in-charge of the rice millers and warehouses to systematically store the rice stocks and to share the export procedures at the event. The Agriculture Department also discussed matters regarding SPS Protocol inspection, global trading environment, institutions of food safety and the SPS mechanisms, 16 border posts, pest control divisions and procedures to issue the SPS certificates. Afterwards, officials of the Myanmar Inspection and Testing Service (MITS) also continued discussions about inspection procedures, health, safety and welfare regulations of the warehouses for the workers, wearing protective wears and warehouse pest

control services, basic infrastructure in rice storage to keep rodents out of the warehouses, having light traps in handling warehouse pests, having nets to keep the birds away, keeping the equipment clean, efforts to meet criteria set by China, integrated pest management in rice, forger release to kill the pests prior to export to China and checking marking of packages for complete and correct labelling. The Consumer Affairs Department also highlighted inspections for rice milling units, MITS's inspection on warehousing and logistics for rice exports and requirements in seeking Pre-shipment inspection (PSI) certificate. The MRF aims to achieve a rice export target of 2.5 million tonnes in the current financial year 2023-2024, generating an income of US\$1 billion. Myanmar exported 2,261,203 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners in the past 2022-2023 FY (April-March), bagging \$853.472 million. China topped the list with over 775,000 tonnes. — NN/EM

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/banking-transactions-for-imports-on-myanmar-china-border-to-commence-1-august/#article-title>

Viet Nam to returns to high growth in medium term: IMF

 *Vietnam News | 1 July, 2023*

According to the IMF, the nation experienced a strong post-pandemic economic recovery in 2022. GDP rose by a historically high 8 percent, driven by strong domestic and external demand. Average inflation was contained at 3.2 percent, although price

pressures picked up steadily during the year. Viet Nam's economic growth is projected to recover in the second half of 2023, reaching around 4.7 percent for the year, supported by a rebound in exports and expansionary domestic policies. Inflation is expected to remain contained below the SBV's 4.5 percent ceiling. The measures taken by the SBV and the government have helped soften the impact of headwinds, the IMF stated, suggesting that further efforts to safeguard macroeconomic and financial stability and accelerate reforms would ensure that the economy remains on a secure footing. The policy mix should be re-balanced with greater emphasis on fiscal support to the economy and the most vulnerable. Fiscal policy should take the lead in providing support to the economy and the poorest and most vulnerable groups, especially as the government has fiscal space, the financial institution recommended. Achieving Viet Nam's ambitious development and climate objectives will require accelerating reforms to improve the business environment, critical infrastructure, and invest in education. Scaling-up social and infrastructure spending, including to meet Viet Nam's climate objectives, will require revenue mobilization efforts. The authorities' new plans on energy and climate are an important step forward, and the priority should now be on implementing concrete actions, the IMF stressed. There has been a strong push in controlling corruption in recent years and continued efforts to improve governance and the business environment would be welcome, highlighted in the

article. The Anti-Money Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism framework also warrants strengthening. Efforts to reduce data gaps, including on the fiscal and external accounts, would help improve policy making and generate greater economic benefits. An IMF team led by Division Chief in the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department Paulo Medas conducted discussions for the 2023 Article IV consultation with Viet Nam from June 14-29. The team exchanged views with Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, senior officials of the State Bank of Viet Nam (SBV), the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Planning and Investment, the Central Economic Commission, the National Assembly, and other government agencies./.

Source : <https://en.baochinhphu.vn/viet-nam-to-returns-to-high-growth-in-medium-term-imf-111230701083440061.htm>

Retail sales of consumer goods, services up 10.9% in H1

 *Vietnam News | 1 July, 2023*

Hanoi (VNA) – Total revenue from retail sales of consumer goods and services increased 10.9% year-on-year in the first six months of this year to more than 3 quadrillion VND (127 million USD), according to the General Statistics Office (GSO). Specifically, retail sales of goods stood at 2.3 quadrillion VND, up 9.3%, with the sales of food and foodstuff growing by 13.5% and those of cultural and educational products increasing by 9.3%. Retail sales of goods in January-June period in some localities rose

sharply such as Binh Duong (15.6%), Quang Ninh (14.5%), Hai Phong (14%), Dong Nai (12.3%) and Khanh Hoa (9.7%) compared with the same period last year. Accommodation and food services generated about 321.7 trillion VND in the reviewed period, up 18.7% from a year earlier. Tourism revenue surged 65.9% year-on-year to around 14.5 trillion VND. Localities seeing a sharp increase in revenue include Da Nang (174%), Hanoi (106.9%), Hai Phong (93.2%), and Ho Chi Minh City (78.5%). Revenue from other services was estimated at 303.4 trillion VND, up 14.4% over the same period last year. In June alone, retail sales of consumer goods and service revenue totaled 505.7 trillion VND, an increase of 0.5% month on month and 6.5% year on year. The total retail sales of consumer goods and services in the second quarter of this year were estimated at 1.520 quadrillion VND, a year-on-year rise of 1.6%, the GSO reported. Defining the domestic market as one of the important factors that promote GDP growth of the whole country, the Ministry of Industry and Trade will focus on effectively carrying out programmes on promoting trade in the domestic market, while pushing up the distribution of goods through digital platforms, and e-commerce to expand domestic consumption. The ministry will enhance the implementation of a strategy on domestic trade development to 2030, with a vision to 2045 and other projects on domestic trade development. It will support businesses in trade promotion activities, build trademarks and popularise regional specialties and typical products

of Vietnam. The ministry will also focus on modernising the distribution system in rural and mountainous areas to bring more Vietnamese goods to the countryside, combining traditional trade with modern ones and closely monitoring the prices of essential commodities for effective operation as well as ensuring the supply of electricity and petrol for the market in all situations./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/retail-sales-of-consumer-goods-services-up-109-in-h1/255579.vnp>
