

Highlight News / August 17, 2023



- Cambodian apparel, knitted & non-knitted items exports fall
- Cambodia records 3 mln int'l tourists in 7 months
- Vientiane Speeds Up Revamp of Roads for ASEAN Chairmanship 2024
- H&M probes alleged Myanmar factory abuses as pressure intensifies
- Vietnamese Goods Week in Thailand in full swing
- Vietnam Implements New E-Visa Policy for Foreign Arrivals



Cambodian apparel, knitted & non-knitted items exports fall



Cambodia News | 17 August, 2023

Cambodia exported apparel items, clothing accessories and knitted and non-knitted or crocheted items worth \$4.5 billion in the first seven months this year—down by 20.6 per cent year on year from \$5.6 billion. Knitted and non-knitted apparel and clothing accessories (item codes 61 and 62) accounted for 33 per cent of the total exports in the period. Cambodia exported apparel items, clothing accessories and knitted and non-knitted or crocheted items worth \$4.5 billion in the first seven months this year—down by 20.6 per cent year on year (YoY) from \$5.6 billion, according to the country's general department of customs and excise (GDCE). Knitted and non-knitted apparel and clothing accessories (item codes 61 and 62) accounted for 33 per cent of the country's total exports during the period, amounting to \$13.5 billion. In July, such exports fell by 26.6 per cent YoY to \$814.6 million from over \$1.1 billion. Exports of Cambodian garments have been falling since the fourth quarter of last year, according to Kaing Monika, deputy secretary-general of the Textile, Apparel, Footwear and Travel Goods Association in Cambodia (TAFTAC). In the beginning of August this year, the sector had 1,077 factories that employed nearly 760,000, TAFTAC data show. Last year,

export of items under codes 61 and 62 totalled over \$9 billion, an increase of 12.7 per cent from \$8 billion in 2021, a Cambodian media outlet reported citing GDCE figures. Fibre2Fashion News Desk (DS)

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501344357/>

[cambodian-apparel-knitted-non-knitted-items-exports-fall/](#)

Cambodia records 3 mln int'l tourists in 7 months



Cambodia News | 17 August, 2023

Cambodia registered 3,037,344 international tourists in the first seven months of 2023, a significant rise of 308 percent from 743,459 over the same period last year, said a Ministry of Tourism's report released on Wednesday. Thailand topped the chart among the international arrivals to the Southeast Asian country during the January-July period this year, followed by Vietnam and China, the report said. According to the report, 1,065,233 foreign tourists visited Cambodia by air, up 237 percent and 1,972,111 by land and waterways, up 362 percent. "Based on this figure, Cambodia is expected to attract at least 5 million international tourists in 2023," Tourism Minister Thong Khon said, noting that the kingdom received only 2.27 million foreign travelers in 2022. Xinhua

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501344304/cambodia-records-3-mln-intl-tourists-in-7-months/>

Vientiane Speeds Up Revamp of Roads for ASEAN Chairmanship 2024



Laos News | 17 August, 2023

Authorities in Vientiane Capital are trying to wrap up the construction and repair of roads in the rainy season as part of preparations to host the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2024. The Mayor of Vientiane Capital, Atsaphanthong Siphandone, called on The Department of Public Work and Transport to expedite road work repair for the upcoming event next year. The department has signed 12 contracts with the constructors to repair roads in the capital of Vientiane which would cost LAK 28.9 million (USD 1,480). According to the department, repair work in urban and suburban areas, particularly near hotels and tourist attractions, is about 42% complete. After receiving resident inquiries about the traffic resulting from the construction, the department requested the district offices for public works and transport to check road conditions and monitor drainage before seeking financial support from the government to fix them. In addition, the mayor advised the department to repair roads and drainage urgently between August to September to improve road traffic. The Ministry of Public Works and Transport is expected to spend more than LAK 190 billion (USD 11,256,569) to repair roads and manage flooding in

Vientiane in preparation for the ASEAN Summit in 2024. Nearly LAK 20 billion was used to address temporary and long-term flooding on major roads throughout Vientiane Capital in 2022. However, this year residents in Vientiane reported chronic flash flooding caused by poor drainage.

Source: <https://laotiantimes.com/2023/08/17>

[/vientiane-speeds-up-revamp-of-roads-for-asean-chairmanship-2024/](#)

H&M probes alleged Myanmar factory abuses as pressure intensifies



Myanmar News | 17 August, 2023

LONDON — H&M is investigating 20 alleged instances of labour abuse at Myanmar garment factories that supply the world's second-largest fashion retailer, it told Reuters, just weeks after top rival Zara-owner Inditex said it was phasing out purchases from the Southeast Asian country. A British-based human rights advocacy group tracked 156 cases of alleged worker abuse in Myanmar garment factories from February 2022 to February 2023, up from 56 in the previous year, indicating a deterioration of workers' rights since a military coup in February 2021. Wage reduction and wage theft were the most frequently reported allegations, followed by unfair dismissal, inhumane work rates,

and forced overtime, according to a report by the non-governmental organisation, the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC). "All the cases raised in the report by BHRRC are being followed up and where needed remediated through our local team on the ground and in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders," H&M said in a statement. "We are deeply concerned by the latest developments in Myanmar, and we see increased challenges to conduct our operations according to our standards and requirements," the Swedish retailer said. The BHRRC has tracked allegations of workers' rights abuses in Myanmar garment factories since the military junta took power, plunging the country into a political and humanitarian crisis. The tracker includes abuse cases at 124 separate factories. The BHRRC said it tracks cases of alleged abuses through sources including union leaders, international media, and local media such as Myanmar Labour News, and seeks to verify reports by checking with brands and interviewing workers. Reuters has not independently verified its findings. There have been 21 cases of alleged abuses linked to Inditex suppliers over the two-year period, and 20 linked to H&M suppliers, according to the report. Inditex declined to comment on the report. A spokesperson for Myanmar's military government did not reply to a request for comment on the

findings. The Myanmar Garment Manufacturing Association did not reply to a request for comment.

Source: <https://www.todayonline.com/world/hm-probes-alleged-myanmar-factory-abuses-pressure-intensifies-2234581>

Vietnamese Goods Week in Thailand in full swing



Vietnam News | 17 August, 2023

Bangkok (VNA) – The annual Vietnamese Goods Week in Thailand is taking place in Bangkok, featuring a record number of some 100 Vietnamese firms showcasing their products. Jointly organised by Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade and Thai leading retail company Central Retail, the expo is promoting the culture, tourism, and specialties from the Mekong Delta region and Ho Chi Minh City. It is also popularising goods under the One Commune One Product (OCOP) programme from various Vietnamese localities. Simultaneously, it is offering opportunities for Vietnamese businesses to connect and engage in trade with retail distribution systems in Thailand. Addressing the opening ceremony on August 16, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Do Thang Hai emphasised that in recent years, the Vietnamese government has facilitated the direct exports to distribution systems in various markets, including Thailand. The 2023 Vietnamese Goods Week in Thailand is expected to boost the positive

growth of the nations' trade via connecting hundreds of small- and medium-sized enterprises. Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce Jurin Laksanawisit remarked that the countries share a close and robust relationship within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The trade event, according to him, provides a great opportunity to enhance the bilateral trade, investment, and tourism ties. As part of the programme, organisers have scheduled a networking activity to help link supply and demand between the sides' business communities, particularly regarding the areas of food, household items, furniture, and hotel operations, among many others. The event, in its sixth edition, lasts until August 20./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnamese-goods-week-in-thailand-in-full-swing/266386.vnp>

Vietnam Implements New E-Visa Policy for Foreign Arrivals



Vietnam News | 17 August, 2023

BANGKOK (NNT) - The Vietnamese Government has introduced a significant change to its visa policy by granting e-visas to all foreign arrivals at 52 designated ports of entry, starting August 15. The decision is outlined in the latest Resolution No. 127/NQ-CP. Previously, Vietnam had been issuing

30-day single-entry e-visas to citizens from 80 specific countries. Under the new regulation, the Vietnam Immigration Department, a division of the Ministry of Public Security, will issue e-visas to foreign arrivals through an electronic payment system. These e-visas will allow multiple entries within a span of 90 days, offering travelers greater flexibility and convenience. The list of entry points includes 13 airports, such as Hanoi's Noi Bai International Airport, Tan Son Nhat International Airport in Ho Chi Minh City, Da Nang Airport, and others. Additionally, 16 land border gates and 13 seaports have been included in this new policy. In tandem with this change, the Government also issued Resolution No. 128/NQ-CP, which modifies the visa exemption duration for citizens of specific countries. Nationals of Germany, France, Italy, Spain, the UK, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Belarus are now allowed to stay in Vietnam for 45 days upon entry, as opposed to the previous 15-day limit. This extension applies regardless of passport type or the purpose of their visit, as long as they meet entry requirements in accordance with Vietnamese law. Officials said both resolutions are expected to greatly enhance Vietnam's visa policies and facilitate travel to Vietnam for visitors from around the world.

Source: <https://thainews.prd.go.th/en/news/detail/TCATG230817131307613>