

Highlight News / September 05/2023



- Unemployment rate to fall to 0.3 percent in 2023
- Indonesia to import 250,000 tons of rice from Cambodia
- EU provides grant of 18.40 million Euros in the form of budget support
- Myawady border trade tops US\$55 mln in August
- US expects to upgrade Vietnam ties, risks China anger
- Cars imported from Thailand, Indonesia flood Viet Nam market



Unemployment rate to fall to 0.3 percent in 2023



Cambodia News | 5 September, 2023

Cambodia's unemployment rate is expected to decline to 0.3 percent in 2023 from 0.4 percent last year, according to the latest figures released on Sunday by the labour ministry based on the data of the United Nations agency International Labour Organisation (ILO). The figures show that Cambodia's unemployment rate has been the lowest among countries with similar levels of economic growth and lower than other countries in the region such as Thailand, Vietnam and Laos, while the average level among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations is estimated to fall to 2.4 percent in 2023 from 2.6 percent in the previous year. "The unemployment rate in developing countries is normally low as the largest number of the people have jobs in the agriculture and informal economy," said the figures, adding that the National Institute of Statistics of the Ministry of Planning has not conducted the socio-economic survey in 2018, 2019, 2022 and 2023. The unemployment rate of Indonesia is expected to decline to 3.3 percent from 3.6 percent, according to the figures that also pointed out that the unemployment rate of Japan is expected to stay at the same rate at 2.6 percent, while the average rate in the low-income countries in the Asia Pacific region will increase to 6.3 percent from 6.2 percent.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501354673/unemployment-rate-to-fall-to-0-3-percent-in-2023/>

Indonesia to import 250,000 tons of rice from Cambodia



Cambodia News | 5 September, 2023

Indonesia has received a nod from the Cambodian government for the supply of 250,000 tons of rice a year, President Joko Widodo said on Monday. This development follows India's decision to cease rice exports to Indonesia as part of its national food security policy. "I appreciate the positive response from Cambodia regarding Indonesia's intention to import 250,000 tons of rice from our neighbor," the president said after a meeting with newly-appointed Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet at the State Palace in Jakarta. In a reciprocal gesture, Indonesia will support Cambodia's food security program by supplying fertilizers, the president added. Initially, Indonesia had planned to import 1 million tons of rice from India, but the request was declined, according to Trade Minister Zulkifli Hasan. Zulkifli said explained in a hearing with the House of Representatives' Commission VI on trade that the current rice supply remains secure. He noted that the state logistics agency, Bulog, has been assigned the task of procuring 2 million tons of rice from Thailand and Vietnam. Government data indicates that national rice stocks in Bulog's warehouses reached nearly 1.6 million tons as of Monday, in addition to 400,000 tons of supply commitments from neighboring countries to be delivered later this year

based on previous agreements. The government is taking proactive measures to increase food reserves in preparation for potential droughts and disruptions in harvests caused by the El Nino phenomena. Jakarta Globe

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501354908/indonesia-to-import-250000-tons-of-rice-from-cambodia/>

EU provides grant of 18.40 million Euros in the form of budget support



Laos News | 5 September, 2023

The European Union approved a grant 18.4 million Euros to the Lao government in the form of budget support for the implementation of two programmes. The first programme supported the work of the education sector from 2018-2021 with the aim of encouraging the implementation of policies in the development plan of the education sector to be completed as targeted, especially efforts to ensure everyone has access to at least basic education, improve the quality of education and government management in the sector, and secondly the Nutrition Support Programme running from 2019-2022. The objective is to support the reduction of food insecurity, with a focus on women and disadvantaged groups. By the end of 2023, the EU is considering approving 4.4 million Euros, which is the last tranche of the second programme to support the national budget. This money will be used to finance the most prioritised activities of key sectors, particularly education and health. The EU's financial

support has significantly contributed to the implementation of National Socio-economic Development Plan, scaling up the development of the social sector to improve the stock of human capital, alleviation of poverty, and helping Laos to progress in the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Source : http://vientianetimes.org.la/freefreenews/freecontent_172_EU_y23.php

Myawady border trade tops US\$55 mln in August



Myanmar News | 5 September, 2023

The Myawady border between Myanmar and Thailand bagged more than US\$55 million from cross-border trade in August. The rain-triggered landslides cut off Myawady road section near Dawna mountain and Tawnaw Waterfall on 7 August and disrupted trade process. Under the continuous efforts of the Department of Highways and the supervision of the Kayin State government, a Bailey bridge was constructed on the landslide-hit road section. Myawady-Kawkareik segment of Asian Highway reopened to a single lane from 15 August, allowing the six-wheel trucks to drive in the lane. Trucks loaded with export/import goods got road access. Thanks to the reopening of the road, perishable goods such as green commodities namely onion, chili pepper and fisheries were sent to the Myawady border without damage. The corn can be exported to Thailand in time under Form D Customs tariff. Furthermore, importation of fertilizer,

feedstuff, CMP raw materials and construction materials went smoothly, according to the Myawady Trade Zone. Myawady border witnessed exports worth US\$15.219 million with 1,457 trucks and imports worth \$40.023 million with 2,327 trucks in August, totalling \$55.242 million with 3,784 trucks. Myawady road plays a pivotal role in Myanmar-Thailand border trade. It is also crucial for the goods flow for Kayin and Mon States. Thus, the authorities concerned made a concerted effort to resume the road, as per Myawady trade zone. — NN/EM

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myawady-border-trade-tops-us55-mln-in-august/#article-title>

US expects to upgrade Vietnam ties, risks China anger



Vietnam News | 5 September, 2023

HANOI (Reuters) -The United States expects to elevate its diplomatic relations with former foe Vietnam to the top level as President Joe Biden travels to Hanoi in a week, in a move that may irk China and with unclear business implications. Fearful of the potential reaction from its much larger neighbour, Vietnam had initially expressed caution about the upgrade. That led the Biden administration to multiply efforts to persuade the southeast Asian nation, including through multiple visits of high-ranking members of the U.S. government in recent months. The unprecedented push has led Washington to expect to be elevated to the top tier of Vietnam's diplomatic ranking, together with China and Russia, from two notches below now. Biden said

it publicly in July and officials in both countries have since informally expressed optimism about the two-step upgrade, although no official statements have been released from either government. Perhaps seeking to assuage Beijing, Vietnam is discussing top-level visits to Hanoi after or even shortly before Biden's arrival on Sept. 10, with officials saying China's President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Qiang could meet Vietnamese leaders in coming days or weeks. China's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Monday. Risks that a double upgrade with Washington may not go down well in Beijing remain high, but Vietnam's communist leaders may have calculated the best timing for the move is now as U.S. relations with China are "likely to get worse in the future," said Le Hong Hiep, a senior fellow at Singapore's Iseas-Yusof Ishak Institute. "Vietnam's economy badly needs a boost in capital, technology, and market access", said Alexander Vuving of the Hawaii-based Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, noting that may have been a key reason for the possible upgrade. A boost of U.S. military supplies to Hanoi has also long been discussed but no immediate deal is expected as these talks take time, Hiep said. Meanwhile, Vietnam is talking with several other countries to upgrade and expand its mostly Russian-made arsenal, and has recently engaged in multiple high-level defence meetings with top Russian officials. Supporting Vietnam's ambitions to become a hub for the semiconductor industry is also part of Washington's

inducements, but public funds so far available under the CHIPS Act are very limited. The U.S. may offer more, said Vu Tu Thanh, head of the Vietnam office of the US-ASEAN Business Council. Energy is another sector where cooperation could increase as Vietnam prepares to become a player in Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and offshore wind although administrative and funding delays are dampening the mood. The upgrade of relations is expected to boost U.S. firms' plans in Vietnam. Planemaker Boeing and energy firm AES may make announcements during Biden's visit, people familiar with the plans said. The companies had no immediate comment. The U.S. is already Vietnam's largest market for its exports and U.S. customs procedures could be eased to boost trade, Thanh from the US-ASEAN Business Council.

Source : <https://www.fijitimes.com/us-expects-to-upgrade-vietnam-ties-risks-china-anger/>

Cars imported from Thailand, Indonesia flood Viet Nam market



Vietnam News | 5 September, 2023

HA NOI — In the first seven months of 2023, Viet Nam imported nearly 80,000 CBU cars of all kinds, with a total turnover of US\$1.87 billion, a sharp increase of 2.4 per cent in quantity and 0.1 per cent in value compared to the same period last year. During the period, Viet Nam purchased 36,087 vehicles from Thailand, an increase of 45.2 per cent in quantity with an import turnover of \$762.2 million. In July alone, cars imported from Thailand reached

3,714 units, or equivalent to a turnover of \$84 million. In the first seven months and in July alone, Thailand secured the first position in auto exports to Viet Nam. Thus, the average value of vehicles imported from Thailand to Viet Nam with a declared price at the port in July was \$21,000/car or equivalent to VNĐ493million/unit. Imported vehicles from Thailand are now favoured by Vietnamese consumers including Toyota Corolla Cross, Camry, Corolla Altis, Fortuner, Ford Everest, Honda HR-V, Mazda CX-30 and CX-3, Forester Subaru and so on. Meanwhile, the volume of cars imported from Indonesia ranked second with 3,520 units, reaching a turnover of \$47.85 million in July. In the January-July period, Indonesia exported 29,498 vehicles to Viet Nam with an export turnover of \$399.63 million. Imported cars from Indonesia are estimated at \$13,500/car or equivalent to VNĐ318 million/car. Ranking in third place is China with 591 vehicles, valued at \$26 million in July and 6,420 units in the seven months with a turnover of \$250 million. Accordingly, the average value of vehicles imported from China to Viet Nam with a declared price at the port in July was \$39,000/car or equivalent to VNĐ930million/unit. Most imported vehicles are trucks and specialised vehicles for the construction industry. As a result, in the past seven months 2023, more than 72,000 vehicles were imported to the country from Thailand, Indonesia and China accounting for 90.2 per cent of the country's total Completely Built Units (CBU) imports. In 2022, the

Vietnamese auto market imported a record 173,467 cars of all kinds, with total turnover exceeding \$3.84 billion. Compared to the same period in 2021, imported cars into Việ̣t Nam increased by 8.5 per cent in quantity and 5.1 per cent higher in turnover value. Also, in 2022, Indonesia and Thailand were the two largest import markets. In particular, Indonesia surpassed Thailand in terms of imported cars, but Thailand still ranks No 1 in terms of turnover. In 2022, Việ̣t Nam imported 72,671 units with a turnover of more than \$1 billion from Indonesia and 72,032 vehicles from Thailand valued at \$1.43 billion. They were followed by China with 17,340 vehicles with a turnover of \$714.5 million. — VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1593292/cars-imported-from-thailand-indonesia-flood-viet-nam-market.html>
