

Highlight News / September 11/2023



- Cambodia earns \$278.6 million from milled rice export in January-August
- Cambodia's exports worth \$15.7 billion in 8 months, up 0.3 pct
- Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos strengthen unity, coordination: Party leaders
- Myanmar pulses exports earn over US\$580 mln in past five months
- Cashless payments in e-commerce to account for 50% by 2025
- Digital economy to account for 40% of HCMC's GRDP by 2030



Cambodia earns \$278.6 million from milled rice export in January-August



Cambodia News | 10 September, 2023

Cambodia exported 401,699 tonnes of milled rice in the first eight months of 2023, earning a total revenue of \$278.6 million, the Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF) said in a news release on Saturday. The Southeast Asian country shipped milled rice to 56 countries and regions during the January-August period, the news release said, adding that China remained the top buyer. The kingdom exported 143,818 tonnes of milled rice to China during the above-mentioned period, generating a gross revenue of \$91.6 million, the news release said. CRF President Chan Sokheang has set a full-year milled rice export target for the kingdom at 700,000 tonnes in 2023, noting that China is a huge market. “The federation will continue to collaborate with the Ministry of Commerce to ensure that the annual sales of milled rice to China top 400,000 tonnes each year (in the future),” he said. According to the news release, rice varieties the country exported included fragrant rice, organic rice, white rice, parboiled rice, and japonica rice. Xinhua

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501357757/cambodia-earns-278-6-million-from-milled-rice-export-in-january-august/>

Cambodia’s exports worth \$15.7 billion in 8 months, up 0.3 pct



Cambodia News | 10 September, 2023

Cambodia exported products worth \$15.7 billion in the first eight months of 2023, a slight increase of 0.3 percent from \$15.64 billion in the same period last year, said a General Department of Customs and Excise’s report released on Friday. The report said the kingdom’s export to China surged by 16.8 percent to \$940 million during the January-August period this year from \$804.6 million in the same period last year. China is the third-largest export destination for the Southeast Asian country after the United States and Vietnam, the report showed. Main items Cambodia exported included apparel, footwear, and travel goods, bicycles, and a number of agricultural goods such as rice, rubber, cassava, bananas, mangos and longans. Commenting on a significant rise in the export to China, Cambodian Ministry of Commerce’s Secretary of State Penn Sovicheat said the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement and the Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement (CCFTA) had injected a vigorous impetus into the country’s trade growth. “The two free trade agreements are catalysts for our long-term and sustainable export growth, and they are a magnet to attract more foreign direct investments to Cambodia,” he told Xinhua.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501357435/cambodias-exports-worth-15-7-billion-in-8-months-up-0-3-pct/>

Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos strengthen unity, coordination: Party leaders



Laos News | 10 September, 2023

Hanoi (Vietnam News/ANN) -- General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Nguyen Phu Tr**o**ng, President of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) Samdech Techo Hun Sen (right), and Secretary General of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP), President Thongloun Sisoulith held a high-level meeting in Hanoi on Wednesday. The important event is meant to strengthen and enhance the relations between the three Parties and the people of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos as regional and global situation grows increasingly complex and the three Parties and three countries are entering a new development phase. At the meeting, the three Party leaders informed each other about the situation of each Party and each country, especially with regards to Party building works and socio-economic development. They exchanged views on recent global and regional developments and discussed areas of mutual interests. The three leaders also evaluated the results of cooperation between the three Parties and three countries in the past period, agreed on major orientations for the cooperation between the three Parties and three countries in various fields for the common interests of the people. The leaders of the three ruling parties congratulated each other on the important and comprehensive achievements that the three countries have

accomplished. They expressed joy and assessed that the cooperation between the three Parties and the people of the three countries is developing extensively and intensively across multiple fields, especially in political relations, effective defence and security cooperation, positive progresses in economic, cultural, scientific, educational, and technical cooperation. The leaders of the three Parties in their talks highlighted the historical tradition of unity and mutual support among the three Parties and the three countries' peoples, which is seen as valuable asset and one of the most important sources of immense strength for the cause of national liberation and independence in the past as well as nation-building and development in the present. At the same time, they affirmed the need to continue to disseminate and educate the people of the three countries, especially the younger generation, to preserve and nurture the good relationship between Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. CPV General Secretary Tr**o**ng, CPP President Hun Sen, and LPPR Secretary General Sisoulith concurred that in the current context, the three Parties and three countries need to strengthen unity and tighten coordination, support each other, and continue to consider the relations between the three Parties as the guiding star for the overall relations between the three nations. The three countries need to bolster cooperation in defence and security along with foreign affairs, make breakthroughs in economic cooperation, strengthen cooperation in culture, education, science and technology, tourism, and

agriculture; and further promote cooperation between the Party and State agencies, people's organisations, and localities of the three countries based on maximising the potential and strengths of each country. The three sides agreed to continue to effectively utilise existing mechanisms and explore the establishment of new cooperation mechanisms to enhance cooperation between the three Parties and three countries for the benefit of the people of the three countries, for peace, stability, cooperation, and development in the region and the world.

Source : http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freefreenews/freecontent_VietnamCambodiaLaos175_23.php

Myanmar pulses exports earn over US\$580 mln in past five months



Myanmar News | 9 September, 2023

Myanmar shipped more than 720,000 tonnes of pulses, with an estimated value of over \$580 million, to foreign countries over the past five months (Apr-Aug) of the current financial year 2023-2024, according to the Ministry of Commerce. The pulses exports by seaborne trade bagged \$488.39 million (over 607,129.941 tonnes), while over 113,789.11 tonnes of pulses worth \$97.986 million were sent to the neighbouring countries through land border between 1 April and 31 August 2023, totalling \$586.377 million from exports of over 720,919 tonnes. Myanmar's pulses exports crossed over US\$1.4 billion from over 1.9 million tonnes in the past FY 2022-2023, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics indicated. Myanmar mainly exports black gram,

green gram and pigeon peas to foreign markets. Of them, black gram and pigeon peas are mostly sent to India while green grams are conveyed to China and Europe. India has growing demand and consumption requirements for black gram and pigeon peas. According to a Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India signed on 18 June 2021, India will import 250,000 tonnes of black gram and 100,000 tonnes of pigeon peas (tur) from Myanmar for five consecutive years from 2021-2022 financial year to 2025-2026 FY. This G-to-G pact will not affect the pulses' annual quota set by India. Myanmar's exporters are also entitled to deliver the pulses to India under that annual quota. The prevailing prices are K2.505 million per tonne of black gram (urad) and K4.15 million per tonne of pigeon pea (tur). Black grams which India primarily purchases are commonly found only in Myanmar, whereas pigeon pea, green gram and chickpeas are grown in African countries and Australia, the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association said. — NN/EM

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myanmar-pulses-exports-earn-over-us580-mln-in-past-five-months/#article-title>

Cashless payments in e-commerce to account for 50% by 2025



Vietnam News | 10 September, 2023

Hanoi (VNA) – The Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) has set a target to increase the cashless payment ratio in e-commerce, especially e-

payments through payment intermediaries or applications, to 50% by 2025. As part of efforts to implement the national plan on e-commerce development, the ministry has set ambitious targets for non-cash payment in e-commerce activities. Another goal is to raise the ratio of payments conducted through payment intermediary service providers to 80% of non-cash payments in e-commerce activities by 2025. According to the Centre for Information and Digital Technology (CID) under the MoIT's E-commerce and Digital Economy Agency (iDEA), the centre has been and will continue to implement various solutions, and develop infrastructure facilities to promote non-cash payments, including the National E-commerce Payment System (Keypay). In addition, the centre will also focus on researching and developing a secure payment system for e-commerce activities based on the commercial arbitration (ESCROW) method, toward protecting both consumers and sellers in non-cash payment transactions. To support all parties involved in secured online payment transactions, the centre planned to launch a system that will ensure transaction security in e-commerce activities, which aims to protect consumers' rights in the digital environment and safeguard the interests of all parties involved in online transactions. The ratio of e-payments via ESCRO is expected to rise, while the rate of cash-on-delivery (COD) payment is projected to decrease. Attention will be also paid to increasing reliability, thus promoting transactions; resolving disputes with a clear legal basis; and

protecting the interests of both buyers and sellers. Transactions conducted without the involvement of intermediary payment service providers, such as bank transfers, cash deposits at service counters, and postal money transfers, currently make up a significant portion of non-cash payment transactions, the centre said. This poses potential risks for consumers during transactions because when the goods/services fail to meet requirements, sellers may not accept returns, and consumers may also be unable to complain or be protected in such transactions. The main reasons for this are the shopping habits of consumers who still use cash, the low trust of consumers in e-payment infrastructure supporting e-commerce activities, and the lack of consistent and coherent measures to protect consumers and sellers in non-cash payment transactions./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/cashless-payments-in-ecommerce-to-account-for-50-by-2025/267608.vnp>

Digital economy to account for 40% of HCMC's GRDP by 2030



Vietnam News | 10 September, 2023

Lam Dinh Thang, director of the HCM City Department of Information and Communications, said the city aspires to regain its outstanding position and high GDP growth rates. The most vivid evidence is the preparation, proposal, submission and implementation of Resolution 98 on piloting policies for HCM City development after the resolution was ratified by the National Assembly. The municipal

authorities have designed solutions, including breakthrough measures on science and technology development, innovation, digital transformation, digital economy, green economy and circular economy. Regarding the digital economy, HCM City is accelerating growth by including digital economy development criteria in the city's Party Committee's resolutions and the yearly socio-economic development programs. The city has been developing digital infrastructure, and promoting non-cash payments in a number of fields, especially administration, education, healthcare and transport. With these measures, the city's digital economy made up 15.48 percent of GRDP in 2021 and 18.66 percent in 2022. Despite challenges in the level of awareness of digital economy, the lack of unification in measurement methods and tools, and the limited resources to support small and medium enterprises, Thang said that the digital economy is expected to make up 25 percent of GRDP by 2025 and 40 percent by 2030. Tran Minh Tuan, director of the Digital Economy and Digital Society under the Ministry of Information and Communications, said that the position of the digital economy in HCMC serves as a strong driving force for sustainable growth based on four main pillars – information and communications technology (ICT) industry, digital transformation in industries, digital administration and data valuation. However, Tuan said that HCM City needs to supplement the pillars of digital administration and data valuation. At the same time, the city needs to quickly shift to implementing some

phases of the economy on an online basis. The city needs to universalize artificial intelligence (AI) apps and Vietnamese-developed apps; and create policies for digital economy development. It would be better to pilot all kinds of models, and then standardize them and then improve management, monitoring and digital administration. It is also necessary to build a strategy on digital economy with the important role assigned to the Department of Information and Communications. Tuan said that to make the digital economy account for 40 percent of GRDP by 2030, HCM City should not 'go alone', but needs to develop regional linkages. He explained that HCM City, with great advantages in IT service and software, needs to cooperate with the neighboring provinces of Binh Duong, Dong Nai and Ba Ria-Vung Tau, where there are industrial zones with competitiveness in hardware. HCM City has capacity of leading digital transformation, so it is necessary to build a big data center for the southeastern region there. It is also necessary to establish a list of public data resources that need to be collected; and establish a public data sharing mechanism with the region's Big Data Center to promote the connection of public data and related business systems. A representative from the Posts and Telecommunications Institute of Technology suggested that the city appraise and analyze the digital economy annually to keep a close watch over development, and discover problems and find solutions; build scenarios for digital economy development by 2025-2030 so as to consider

feasibility, and suggest solution packages that fit every scenario; and study the digital economy and digital transformation in key fields in HCM City. Regarding a regime to develop digital economy, Pham Binh An, deputy head of the HCM City Institute for Development Studies, said that the city has a new ‘stick’ – Resolution 98, which allows it to apply ‘sandbox’ – the piloted institutional frame, allowing a limited number of enterprises to test new technologies and business models.

Source : <https://vietnamnet.vn/en/digital-economy-to-account-for-40-of-hcmc-s-grdp-by-2030-2187341.html>
