

Highlight News / September 21, 2023



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Cambodia plans to increase export of milled rice to China by 20%



Cambodia News | 20 September, 2023

Cambodia is planning to increase its milled rice exports to China by 20 percent, Prime Minister Hun Manet said yesterday dismissing critics who are sceptical about the increasing bilateral trade ties between both nations. The announcement was made yesterday during a meeting with 18,104 workers from 18 factories based in Bati district, Takeo province. The event was attended by Deputy Prime Ministers, ministers and senior officials representing all the ministries. Prime Minister Hun Manet highlighted his China trip saying that he had fruitful discussions with Japan and ASEAN member countries to strengthen cooperation aimed at attracting investment and open trade opportunities with these countries. He also said that he would be meeting international investors and Cambodian investors during his scheduled visit to the United States on September 21. The premier emphasised that trade relations with China have benefitted the Kingdom by getting many huge investment projects that created hundreds of thousands of jobs for locals and increased the country's export value, especially in the agriculture sector. Besides trade projects, relations with Beijing have also opened gates for tourists, scholarships for Cambodian students and construction materials from China. He went on to add that the potential of collaboration with China in terms of trade expansion,

investment opportunities and exchange of education systems is huge. Cambodia is not the only country that traded with China. In fact, there are many countries across the globe that depend on the country's production including the United States, Europe and ASEAN member countries, he added. Mr Hun Manet said President Xi Jinping has agreed to the proposal to increase Cambodia's rice export by about 20 percent. He asked relevant institutions to study the possibility of exporting agricultural products to many cities in China, and not just focus on Beijing. He asked the private sector, especially rice exporters to work in unison to boost rice exports and become more competitive compared to the neighbouring countries. "Cambodia is a small country surrounded by big neighbouring countries. Therefore, we should unite and work together to guarantee the price, quality and quantity of the product or we will not win over the current economic challenges," Mr Hun Manet said. Before expanding exports, one must strengthen the internal process first, hence all the private sectors must work together and cooperate more closely with relevant government institutions, he said. The premier asked Dith Tina, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to focus on producing agricultural products with quality standards as well as increasing the amount of crop production as the government is keen on the potential of rice export to many countries, especially to the cities in the provinces of China.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501363031/cambodia-plans-to-increase-export-of-milled-rice-to-china-by-20/>

Fresh Cambodian coconuts, Venezuelan avocados approved to enter China



Cambodia News | 20 September, 2023

Chinese customs authorized imports of fresh coconuts from Cambodia and fresh avocados from Venezuela starting on Monday, according to a notice by China's General Administration of Customs (GAC). The moves followed the visits of Cambodian and Venezuelan leaders to China in September, which delivered tangible outcomes. Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet paid an official visit to China from September 14 to 16. China and Cambodia have further consolidated their decades-long friendship and pledged further efforts to build a community with a shared future, with a series of consensus reached during the prime minister's recent visit to Beijing. The two countries agreed to promote cooperation based on the "Diamond Hexagon" cooperation framework, which covers political cooperation, production capacity, agriculture, energy, security and people-to-people exchanges, the Xinhua News Agency reported. According to Cambodian customs data, in the first eight months of 2023, bilateral trade stood at \$8.09 billion, up 1.1 percent year-on-year. Cambodia's exports to China rose 16.8 percent to reach \$940 million. With more Cambodian agricultural products being exported to Chinese market, China has become the main export market for Cambodian rice,

fresh bananas, mangoes and longan. According to China's Ministry of Commerce, trade between China and ASEAN members rose from more than \$100 billion in 2004 to \$975.3 billion in 2022. The two nations have been each other's largest trading partners for three years in a row. The visit by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet to China followed the visit of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro Moros, who paid a state visit to China from September 8 to 14. China and Venezuela signed a number of cooperation agreements, and they reached a consensus on Belt and Road cooperation and closer partnership in trade, education, tourism, space, civil aviation, sci-tech and the media, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on September 14. During the first eight months of the year, bilateral trade rose 17.6 percent year-on-year to reach 18.27 billion Yuan (\$2.5 billion), according to data from the GAC. Global Times

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501363495/fresh-cambodian-coconuts-venezuelan-avocados-approved-to-enter-china/>

Laos reports

1st monkeypox case



Laos News | 20 September, 2023

The Lao Ministry of Health has confirmed the first case of monkeypox in the country, urging health officials nationwide to stay on the alert for more cases of the virus. A man, who has been found contracted monkeypox after traveling from a

neighboring country, is currently under observation at a hospital in Lao capital Vientiane, according to a notice issued by the Lao Ministry of Health on Tuesday. The health ministry said more cases could be detected in Laos because of the high number of people traveling to other countries, including those where cases of the virus have been reported. To prevent an outbreak of monkeypox, the ministry has asked health departments in provinces that border neighboring countries to respond to the disease. The ministry has advised staff at government and private hospitals and clinics to test for monkeypox in anyone presenting with fever and an unexplained acute rash. If the virus is suspected, a swab taken from a skin lesion must be sent to the National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology for analysis. The ministry has also recommended that provincial health departments set up laboratory facilities to test for monkeypox. In addition, they should make preparations for the treatment of patients and inform the public about ways to avoid infection. Monkeypox is an infectious disease caused by the monkeypox virus. Most people fully recover, but some get very sick. The virus can be transmitted to humans through physical contact with someone who is infectious, with contaminated materials, or with infected animals. The symptoms of monkeypox include an unexplained acute rash and back pain, swollen

lymph nodes, acute onset of fever, headaches, muscle pain and body aches, and low energy.

Source: <https://english.news.cn/20230920/a713a7753e004299987a97f08b1a3e76/c.html>

Myanmar earns over USD1M from honey export within five months



Myanmar News | 20 September, 2023

YANGON (XINHUA) – Myanmar exported more than 1,000 metric tonnes of honey worth over USD1.76 million within five months in the April-August period this year, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI) told Xinhua yesterday. The country exports honey mostly to Japan and South Korea, Director at the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the MOALI U Soe Naing told Xinhua yesterday, saying that the United States, Thailand, and China also order honey from Myanmar. The Southeast Asian country expects to boost generating incomes from honey export in accordance with the Good Beekeeping Practice (GBP). “We inspect the beekeeping together with the field inspection teams in line with the GBP. It is expected to earn more if we produce honey as per the GBP standards,” he said. The honey will be free from contamination by antibiotic residues when the process is carried out under good beekeeping techniques.

Countries have various standardisations for antibiotic residues in honey; some don't allow involvement of the antibiotic residues in the honey, he added. Myanmar's exported animal products, including honey, were valued at USD2.315 million during the April-July period of the 2023-24 Financial Year, showed the data from the Ministry of Commerce. The country exports agricultural, animal, marine, minerals, and forest products.

Source: <https://borneobulletin.com.bn/myanmar-earns-over-usd1m-from-honey-export-within-five-months/>

PM calls on US semiconductor firms to invest more in Vietnam



Vietnam News | 20 September, 2023

Washington DC (VNA) – Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh had a working lunch with chief executive officers of leading US enterprises in the semiconductor industry in Washington DC on September 19 morning (local time). The event, part of his trip to attend the high-level week of the 78th United Nations General Assembly and bilateral activities in the US, was also attended by US Ambassador to Vietnam Marc Knapper and President and CEO of the US's Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) John Neuffer. The US businesspeople spoke highly of the potential of the

semiconductor industry in Vietnam, which boasts high-quality human resources and increasingly improved capacity of local enterprises and training establishments. They held that the two countries' cooperation potential in this industry is substantial and highly meaningful for bilateral relations in the new period. Participants discussed investment opportunities in Vietnam and proposed cooperation measures for developing a semiconductor ecosystem in the country, with the US being a strategic partner of leading importance. In the long term, they said, US firms can consider the possibility of building chip factories in Vietnam. PM Chinh said that aside from existing cooperation focuses, in the recent statement on establishing the countries' comprehensive strategic partnership, Vietnam and the US agreed to turn science - technology and innovation into a new pillar of bilateral ties. He asked the two countries' enterprises to coordinate actively with each other and prioritise some focal fields of Vietnam, including the semiconductor industry. Applauding the semiconductor companies that have invested and operated in Vietnam – a contribution to the elevation of bilateral relations, the Vietnamese government leader called on US semiconductor enterprises to continue investing more in the country in all steps, from infrastructure building, technology transfer, design, production, distribution, and manpower training with the participation of both

countries' businesses, research institutions, and training establishments. That will create conditions for improving human resources quality and Vietnamese firms' capacity, and gradually helping the country further engage in value and supply chains of the global semiconductor industry, he went on. Developing the semiconductor industry matches the current global trend as well as the potential and resources of Vietnam while generating benefits for people, so Vietnamese people will take an active and effective part in this process, he added. PM Chinh went on to say that the Vietnamese Government, ministries, and sectors will create an equal and healthy business environment and provide the best possible conditions for foreign enterprises, including semiconductor companies of the US, to operate stably, effectively, and sustainably in the country. He emphasised the spirit of harmonised interests, risk sharing, and mutual benefits to contribute to the countries' relations. On this occasion, the PM witnessed the exchange of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the implementation of activities to boost the semiconductor chip designing and developing capacity in Vietnam between the Vietnam National Innovation Centre (NIC) under the Ministry of Planning and Investment and the Cadence Design Systems, Inc.; an MoU on developing human resources for the semiconductor industry in Vietnam between the NIC and Arizona

State University; and another on developing human resources for hi-tech industries between the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training and Intel./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/pm-calls-on-us-semiconductor-firms-to-invest-more-in-vietnam/268253.vnp>

Canada a potential market for Viet Nam's rice: Insiders



Vietnam News | 20 September, 2023

OTTAWA — With a high demand for rice, Canada is considered a potential market for exporters of Việ̣t Nam, according to insiders. Việ̣t Nam holds the 5th place among the rice exporters to the North American country. After the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) took effect, Việ̣t Nam's rice export value to this market increased by more than 60 per cent to nearly US\$9.5 million in the 2018-22 period, according to the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA). In the first six months of this year, its value rose by more than 35 per cent year-on-year, topping \$6 million. However, Vietnamese rice makes up just 3 per cent in volume and 1.5 per cent in value of the North American country's import of this commodity and less than one-tenth of the market share of Thai rice. Therefore, ample room remains for Vietnamese rice since it has a competitive advantage in terms of

price in comparison with other products of the same type. In an interview granted to the Vietnam News Agency, Trade Counselor Trần Thu Quỳnh said the embassy in Canada has made great efforts to support Vietnamese businesses, particularly those of overseas Vietnamese, to access the retail system of the host country. As a result, Việt Nam's rice products have posted a strong growth in both quantity and export price since the beginning of this year, she said, adding that the price of Vietnamese rice reaches \$800-830 per tonne on average. According to Quỳnh, the number of businesses importing Vietnamese rice in the Canadian market is still modest and operating in some large cities such as Vancouver, Montreal, or Toronto. Previously, they often imported Thai rice but have shifted to importing ST25 brand, contributing to the growth of Vietnamese rice to this market, she noted. Đinh Trung Dũng, director of the Vietnam Canada Trading Ltd, said that Canada is a large rice consumption market, demanding about 500,000 tonnes per year. However, this market also has strict requirements in terms of quality. Therefore, he said that there should be close coordination from all parties, including the local Trade Office, exporters and importers, to ensure stable quality, especially for the ST25 brand, as the Thais did for their high-quality Hom Mali rice. The Vietnam Trade Office in Canada is also actively coordinating with domestic agencies, rice

associations and exporters and importers to increase Việt Nam's rice market share in the Canadian market, Quỳnh said, elaborating that importers will get support to market research to draw up business expansion strategies. — VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1593988/canada-a-potential-market-for-viet-nam-s-rice-insiders.html>
