

Highlight News / September 27, 2023



- Cambodia and India vow stronger cooperation on tourism development
- Cambodia and Australia launch food innovation partnership to support agri-food SMEs
- China-Laos rail freight transport sees significant expansion in 2023
- Tachilek border trade with China and Thailand valued at US\$77.698 mln
- International aviation market shows signs of recovery
- Vietnam enjoys rise up economic freedom rankings



Cambodia and India vow stronger cooperation on tourism development



Cambodia News | 26 September, 2023

Cambodia and India have pledged to enhance further cooperation on tourism development to stimulate mutual tourist' movement. The commitment was made in a meeting between Sok Soken, Minister of Tourism, and Dr. Devyani Khobragade, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to Cambodia. In the meeting, Soken thanked the Indian government for its support for Cambodia's tourism development projects, including the three Quick Impact Projects on Developing Mobile Application to Promote Eco-Tourism Communities, Enhancing Eco-Tourism Activities in Phat Sanday Eco-Tourism Community in Kampong Thom Province and Promoting and Developing Boeung Sne Eco-Tourism Community. The Ambassador expressed satisfaction with the two countries' amicable relations, especially since 2023 marks the 71st Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Cambodia and India. In this regard, the Minister and the Ambassador discussed initiatives to create a spiritual and religious tourism package. The pair exchanged views on promoting Indian investment in Cambodia's tourism industry. They also agreed to promote direct flights between Phnom Penh and New Delhi via Cambodia Angkor Air

to attract more tourists between the two countries. They also expressed their commitment to further elevate tourism cooperation by promoting socio-cultural-economic and people-to-people connectivity. Last year, Cambodia welcomed 34,016 Indian tourists, up from 840 recorded in 2021, according to the Ministry of Tourism's report. Chea Vannak – AKP

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501366506/cambodia-and-india-vow-stronger-cooperation-on-tourism-development/>

Cambodia and Australia launch food innovation partnership to support agri-food SMEs



Cambodia News | 26 September, 2023

Cambodia and Australia launched a new Food Innovation Partnership to support Cambodia's agri-food small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to develop new products, meet food safety standards, and improve their market reach. The partnership is funded by the Royal Government of Cambodia through Khmer Enterprise, and the Australian Government through the Cambodia Australia Partnership for Resilient Economic Development (CAPRED). This initiative will also collaborate with the Institute of Technology of Cambodia, the Royal University of Agriculture,

the National University of Battambang, and the Kampong Speu Institute of Technology, according to a joint press release. The partnership focuses on the Food Innovation Fund, which provides financial support to SMEs to develop new products, improve their market reach, or meet food safety standards, and the Food Innovation Service Sector, which assists SMEs in accessing food and technology services such as food processing, technology, market information, branding, and packaging. It also targets the Agri-Food Innovation Summit, bringing together SMEs, researchers, and other stakeholders to share knowledge and ideas about food innovation. “Australia is committed to supporting the development of a vibrant agri-food sector that contributes to resilient, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth in Cambodia,” said Justin Whyatt, Australian Ambassador to Cambodia. “In line with Khmer Enterprise’s vision and mission to expand the market potential for SMEs both locally and internationally, this fund will help to level the playing field for Cambodian SMEs and give them the resources they need to succeed,” said Dr. Chhieng Vanmunin, Khmer Enterprise’s CEO. Chea Vannak – AKP

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501366475/cambodia-and-australia-launch-food-innovation-partnership-to-support-agri-food-smes/>

China-Laos rail freight transport sees significant expansion in 2023



Laos News | 26 September, 2023

In the first eight months of 2023, the China-Laos Railway has transported 3,101,400 tons of goods, an increase of 138 percent year on year, according to the Laos-China Railway Co., Ltd. (LCRC). Lao News Agency (KPL) on Monday quoting deputy director of the LCRC, Anongdeth Phetkaysone, reported that the goods importing from China to Laos were 344,700 tonnes while the goods exporting from Laos to China were 2,752,200 million tons. The main products exported to China included fruits, cassava flour, barley, rubber, beer, iron ore, rock and chemical fertilizers. In addition, the China-Laos Railway has transported over 5 million tons of cargo since it was put into operation in 2021. The China-Laos Railway, a landmark project showcasing high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, began its operation in December 2021. The 1,035-km cross-border railway connects southwest China's Kunming city with the Lao capital Vientiane.

Source: <https://english.news.cn/20230926/f031f53c3d344c76b65114d370627f4d/c.html>

Tachilek border trade with China and Thailand valued at US\$77.698 mln



Myanmar News | 26 September, 2023

According to statistics from the Ministry of Commerce, a trading volume worth US\$77.698 million with China and Thailand has been recorded through the Tachilek border in the first five and a half months of the 2023–2024 financial year. From 1 April to 19 September, the border trade post exported \$30.581 million and imported \$47.117 million worth of goods. It is reported that garlic, lead sulphide, cardboard paper scraps, and plastic scraps were exported to neighbouring countries. — TWA/CT

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/tachilek-border-trade-with-china-and-thailand-valued-at-us77-698-mln/#article-title>

International aviation market shows signs of recovery



Vietnam News | 26 September, 2023

Hanoi (VNA) – Vietnam's international aviation market has gradually recovered in the first nine months with an increase in the number of foreign passengers, said the Vietnam Civil Aviation Authority (CAAV). According to statistics, the period saw airports across the country welcoming 89 million passengers,

including 23.7 million foreigners, up 20% and 266.8% year-on-year, respectively. Vietnamese airlines transported 44.1 million passengers, an increase of 20.3% compared to the same period in 2022. Of the total volume, 11.5 million were foreigners, soaring by over 300% annually. The international air transport market continues to maintain its recovery momentum for most traditional markets (excluding China and Russia) and records the presence of some new markets in Central Asia such as Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan, according to the CAAV. In addition, Vietnamese airlines have been expanding their operations on some routes to India and Australia. Experts said the recovery of foreign passenger throughput is due to the open-door policies of countries, especially those in Northeast Asia. Currently, there are 64 foreign airlines and five Vietnamese airlines offering over 169 international routes linking Vietnam to 28 countries, territories in North America, Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. Among them, the top 10 international markets with the highest number of arrivals in Vietnam include the Republic of Korea, Thailand, Taiwan (China), Japan, China, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong (China), Australia, and India. On the contrary, CAAV statistics showed a 15.3% decrease in local airports' cargo throughput in the nine months, which totaled 887,500 tonnes. In

particular, the volume of international cargo transported went down by 24% to 637,000 tonnes./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/international-aviation-market-shows-signs-of-recovery/268567.vnp>

Vietnam enjoys rise up economic freedom rankings



Vietnam News | 26 September, 2023

VOV.VN - Vietnam has climbed four spots to rank 106th among 165 countries and territories in the Economic Freedom of the World Index, as released by Canada's Fraser Institute. The rankings measure the degree of which both policies and institutions of countries are supportive of economic freedom. They consider five metrics - government size, legal system and property rights, currency stability, freedom to trade internationally, and regulation. In the government size category, the country ranked 83rd, with a slight decrease in score from 6.56 to 6.53. In the legal system and property rights category, it reached 77th spot, an increase from 4.96 to 5.15. This represents the first time that the country's score has surpassed five in this category. Regarding currency stability, Vietnam secured 128th position with its score rising from 6.96 to 7.02. Vietnam made progress in international trade freedom, ranking 98th with its score rising from 6.4 to 6.52. In terms of the regulation of the credit market, labour market, and

businesses, Vietnam finished 103rd with a slight score improvement from 6.08 to 6.10. Singapore topped the list, followed by Hong Kong (China), Switzerland, New Zealand, and the US. In Southeast Asia, Malaysia fell three notches to 56th, whilst Thailand rose eight to 64th and the Philippines dropped three to 70th. Indonesia ranked 74th, marking a decline of one notch, Cambodia fell three to 78th, and Laos rose one to 107th. The annual Economic Freedom of the World Index assesses the economic freedom of individuals and their ability to make their own economic decisions by analysing the policies and institutions of 165 jurisdictions.

Source: <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/vietnam-enjoys-rise-up-economic-freedom-rankings-post1048468.vov>