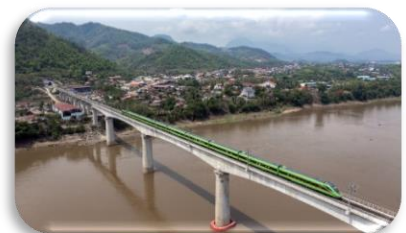


Highlight News / October 17/2023



- Siem Reap-Angkor Int'l Airport to start official commercial operation today
- BRI strengthens China-Cambodia ties
- China-Laos, China-Vietnam int'l cold-chain freight trains begin operation
- Laos, Singapore reaffirm partnership in trade, investment
- Rubber price rebounds to K1,750 per pound after two-week fall
- Palm oil reference price declines following high import
- Vietnam lawmakers expect country to miss 2023 GDP growth target
- Vietnam's public debt management on right track: Ministry



Siem Reap-Angkor Int'l Airport to start official commercial operation today



Cambodia News | 16 October, 2023

The Siem Reap-Angkor International Airport (SAI) will start its official commercial operation on Oct. 16, after the airport flight demonstrations and tests of check-in demo, passenger boarding and landing as well as many other necessary procedures have been made successfully. SAI has 38 berths and is able to handle 7 million passengers a year, and the figure will rise to 12 million passengers annually from 2040. Additionally, the airport can handle 10,000 tonnes of air cargo per year from 2023 and 26,000 tonnes a year from 2040, as well as 65,800 flights per year from 2023 and up to 112,700 flights annually from 2040. As planned, on Dec. 1, 2023, SAI will be officially inaugurated under the presidency of Dr. Hun Manet, Prime Minister of Cambodia. Construction of Siem Reap-Angkor International Airport began in March 2020 with an investment of approximately \$1.1 billion by the Angkor International Airport Investment (Cambodia) Co., Ltd. According to the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation's report, Cambodia registered 3.4 million air travellers during the first eight months of 2023, a year-on-year increase of 180 percent. Tourism is one of the four pillars supporting Cambodia's economy. The country attracted up to 6.61 million international tourists in 2019, generating a gross revenue of

US\$4.92 billion, according to the Ministry of Tourism.AKP-CheaVannak

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501376475>

[/siem-reap-angkor-intl-airport-to-start-official-commercial-operation-today/](https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501376475/siem-reap-angkor-intl-airport-to-start-official-commercial-operation-today/)

BRI strengthens

China-Cambodia ties



Cambodia News | 16 October, 2023

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has been ushering in a new chapter for the China-Cambodia ironclad friendship, providing tremendous benefits to both sides, Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Wang Wentian said on Friday. Ten years into its proposal, upholding the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, the initiative transcends geographical barriers and proves to be, as its name indicates, a “belt” of cooperation and a “road” leading to friendship, Wang said in a written article released to Xinhua, noting that a decade ago when Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the initiative, it was an instant hit, winning widespread acclaim and support from the international community. The ambassador said as China's ironclad friend, Cambodia was among the first supporters of the initiative, firmly believing that not only is it an international cooperative platform promoting global governance and win-win cooperation with mutual benefits but also an international public good contributing to Cambodia's economic and social development. “Under the strategic guidance of our leaders, China and

Cambodia enjoy a relationship anchored in equality, mutual trust, brotherhood, and cooperation,” which is reflected in the high-quality development of the Belt and Road and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, Wang said. He added that the initiative has rapidly improved people’s lives and that deepening cooperation in production capacity, trade, investment, agriculture and infrastructure has witnessed the success of flagship projects such as the Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone, the Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Expressway, the Siem Reap Angkor International Airport, the Morodok Techo National Stadium and the Lower Sesan 2 Hydropower Station. The ambassador said China has been Cambodia’s top trading partner and investor many years in a row and that Cambodian rice, bananas, mangoes, longans, coconuts and other agricultural products have made their way to the Chinese market, while “Made in China” smartphones and electric cars are becoming increasingly popular in Cambodia. “In a mere decade, BRI cooperation has come to fruition, bringing tremendous benefits to Chinese and Cambodians alike,” he said. The initiative forges an ever closer bond between the two peoples, Wang said, adding that in recent years, China and Cambodia have carried out a variety of cultural and people-to-people exchanges with a view to further advancing communication and cooperation in the fields of youth, local exchanges, education, tourism and medical services. “Our bond is further strengthened by China’s full support to Cambodia in

the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, including the dispatching of the very first traditional Chinese medical science team and China-aided free medical services such as the cataract blindness elimination project, which brings health and hope to Cambodian patients,” Wang said. The ambassador said that as they are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the initiative, China and Cambodia are embarking on a new journey of cooperation, with the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation soon to be held, providing an important platform for discussing major development plans and the future course of jointly promoting high-quality Belt and Road cooperation for leaders of participating countries. “At the milestone of the 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Cambodia and the China-Cambodia Friendship Year, we have every reason to be confident that, by working closely together, China and Cambodia will keep on forging ahead with BRI cooperation, developing an ever more vigorous community with a shared future in the new era, and adding fresh chapters to the legend of friendship we so dearly treasure,” Wang said. Manila times

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501376482>

[/bri-strengthens-china-cambodia-ties/](#)

China-Laos, China-Vietnam int'l cold-chain freight trains begin operation



Laos News | 17 October, 2023

KUNMING, Oct. 16 (Xinhua) -- On Monday morning, two cold-chain freight trains carrying fruits and

vegetables left southwest China's Yunnan Province for Laos and Vietnam respectively, marking the launch of international cold-chain train services on China-Laos, China-Vietnam routes. The two maiden train trips, which began from Yanhe Station of Yuxi City, Yunnan, are expected to reach the Laos capital, Vientiane, and Vietnam's Lao Cai after about a day's trip. Currently, one trip is scheduled daily from Kunming of Yunnan to Vientiane for the China-Laos international cold-chain freight train service, while one trip a week service is scheduled between Kunming and Lao Cai. The transport frequency of the services will be adjusted according to customer needs in the future, said the service operator, China Railway Kunming Bureau Group Co., Ltd. The new cold-chain logistic services are expected to inject impetus into the common prosperity and high-level opening along the railway routes, said Tao Qiang, deputy director of the company's cargo transport department.

Source : <http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/1016/c90000-20084097.html>

Laos, Singapore reaffirm partnership in trade, investment



Laos News | 17 October, 2023

VIENTIANE, Oct. 16 (Xinhua) -- Laos and Singapore have reaffirmed their partnership in the fields of trade and investment during an official visit to Laos by a high-level Singaporean delegation. Lao Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Thongphane Savanphet welcomed Singapore's Permanent Secretary for

Foreign Affairs Albert Chua and his delegation when they visited Laos on Oct. 12-13, according to a Laopattana report on Monday. They co-chaired the inaugural Laos-Singaporean Bilateral Consultation meeting in Vientiane on Oct. 12. During the meeting, the Lao side asked the Singapore government to encourage more Singaporean businesses to invest in Laos. Laos welcomes Singaporean investment in the fields of agriculture, green energy, tourism and hotels. The two sides reviewed progress made in their joint endeavors in environmental protection, water source management, climate change, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The two sides also exchanged views on regional and global developments.

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freefreenews/freecontent_Laosomga201_23.php

Rubber price rebounds to K1,750 per pound after two-week fall



Myanmar News | 15 October, 2023

The price of rubber bounced back to around K1,750 per pound in Mon State's rubber market after a two-week decline. The prices touched a low of K1,590 per pound of Ribbed Smoked Sheet Local 3 and K1,610 for sun-dried rubber at the end of September. The prevailing prices moved up to K1,730 per pound for sundried rubber and K1,750 for RSS Local 3. The figures showed a two-week increase of K150 per pound. Rubber tapping business halted for a while in the monsoon season and resumed in mid-September at the opening

prices of K1,770 per pound of Ribbed Smoked Sheet Local 3 and K1,750 for sun-dried rubber. This being so, the current market value has not reached the opening prices of the season. Global demand for rubber, rubber production in the Southeast Asian nations and the market supply are contributing factors to Myanmar's rubber prices. The rubber price in Mon State, a major rubber production state in Myanmar, is related to those factors as well, the traders elaborated. Myanmar's annual rubber production is estimated at some 300,000 tonnes. Seventy per cent of rubber produced in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries. The association aims to achieve rubber exports of 300,000 tonnes in the current 2023-2024 financial year beginning 1 April. The rubber production in the last FY 2022-2023 reached over 360,000 tonnes, more than 200,000 tonnes of which were shipped to foreign trade partners. Rubber is commonly produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber season data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region with 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres. Myanmar bagged more than US\$449 million in revenue in rubber exports in the 2020-2021 FY. — NN/EM

Source : <https://www.gnIm.com.mm/rubber-price-rebounds-to-k1750-per-pound-after-two-week-fall/>

Palm oil reference price declines following high import



Myanmar News | 15 October, 2023

The palm oil inflows from importing countries these days have risen when the foreign oil price stood at US\$800 per tonne on 11 October, resulting in wholesale reference price reduction. About 15,000 tonnes of palm oil in early October and 14,000 tonnes on 11 and 12 October were imported respectively. The wholesale reference price was set lower to K4,340 per viss in the second week from K4,390 in the first week of October. The foreign palm oil price dipped to \$825 per tonne on 4 October and \$812.5 on 9 October from \$832.5 per tonne on 29 September. Some importing companies sell the cooking oil to some big stores where the oil is distributed to the small stores at K4,600 per viss in Yangon, K4,700 in Nay Pyi Taw, K4,950 in Mandalay, K4,800 in Patheingyi/Magway and K5,000 in Monywa. The peanut oil prices move in the range between K12,500 and K16,000 per viss. Daw Sein Sein, a seller from Myingyan said that palm oil was sold at K5,000 per viss as she was allowed to buy three barrels of oil six times from the district association concerned in September and October. Meanwhile, an 18-litre jerry can of palm oil was sold at K85,000-90,000 depending on the brands. — TWA/KK

Source : <https://www.gnIm.com.mm/palm-oil-reference-price-declines-following-high-import/#article-title>

Vietnam lawmakers expect country to miss 2023 GDP growth target

 *Vietnam News | 16 October, 2023*

HANOI, Oct 16 (Reuters) - Vietnam is expected to miss this year's economic growth target, the country's lawmaking body said on Monday. "The manufacturing sector, the country's economic driver for years, has been slowing down," the National Assembly said in a statement. The Southeast Asian country's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow at more than 5% annually, according to state media citing a National Assembly report. Vietnam had earlier set a GDP growth target of 6.5% for this year, down from 8.02% last year. Weak global demand, however, has weighed on the country's exports this year. GDP in the July-September quarter grew 5.33% from a year earlier, faster than an expansion of 4.05% in the second quarter, but much slower than the low-base growth of 13.71% in the same period of 2022.

Source : <https://www.reuters.com/markets/asia>

[vietnam-lawmakers-expect-country-miss-2023-gdp-growth-target-2023-10-16/](https://www.reuters.com/markets/asia/vietnam-lawmakers-expect-country-miss-2023-gdp-growth-target-2023-10-16/)

Vietnam's public debt management on right track: Ministry

 *Vietnam News | 16 October, 2023*

Vietnam's public debt accounted for 37.4% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) as of the end of 2022, while national external debt stood at about 36.1% of GDP, according to data released by the Ministry of Finance (MoF). According to the

ministry's Bulletin No.16 on Public Debt of Vietnam for the 2018-2022 period, to date, all targets set by the National Assembly in public debt repayment for the 2021-2025 period have been completed. In the 2021-2023 period, the Government's total borrowing reached 42.9% of the plan. The Government's direct debt repayment obligation was equivalent to 53.3% of the plan, while withdrawal of Government loans for re-lending has been within the limit. The average issuance term of government bonds in 2021, 2022, and 2023 ensured the target of 9 - 11 years set by the National Assembly. The growth rate of government guaranteed outstanding debt in a year did not to exceed the growth rate of nominal GDP in the previous year, according to the bulletin. Meanwhile, the total borrowing level of the local budget reached 26.3% of the plan approved by the National Assembly. The debt repayment obligation of local administrations reached 41.1% of the plan approved by the National Assembly. Debt safety targets for each year in the 2021-2023 period have been kept within the approved ceiling levels and safety thresholds. Truong Hung Long, Director General of the MoF's Debt Management and External Finance Department said that in the 2021-2023 period, Vietnam has shown strong performance in public debt management, while making full and on-time debt payments, contributing to improving the national credit rating. He noted that in 2022 when many countries saw their credit ratings downgraded, both Moody's and S&P, the two international credit rating agencies, upgraded

Vietnam's ratings, while Fitch maintained its ratings. Speaking at a recent conference, Andrea Coppola, the WB's Lead Country Economist, lauded Vietnam's reforms in public debt management in terms of legal framework and institutional management. He advised Vietnam to reform institutions to facilitate public debt mobilisation, thus supporting the development of the domestic capital market and contributing to effective budget management.

Source : <https://en.nhandan.vn/vietnams-public-debt-management-on-right-track-ministry-post130392.html>
