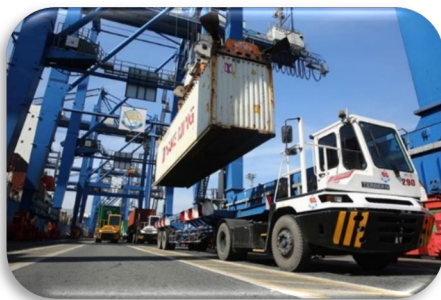




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## Kingdom focusing on renewables to boost energy efficiency



*Cambodia News | 23 October, 2023*

Studies carried out by leading renewable energy agencies and experts point out that Cambodia's green energy drive will offer ultimate solutions to its energy efficiency issues. Green energy is the hot new phrase coined in recent times as a mantra for environmental friendliness while giving due importance to the crucial need for energy to run the economy. Experts and organisations promoting the use of renewables point out that green energy and efficiency are a dynamic duo. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IREA) has been highlighting many findings, which prove that power generation from many types of renewables are 100 percent while non-renewables achieve only 25–85 percent efficiency. According to the Ministry of Mines and Energy, energy efficiency is defined as a reduction in the amount of energy consumed whilst maintaining the same or better level of output. "By enabling a gain in the amount of 'output' delivered from a unit of energy used, energy efficiency is a major approach to reducing energy demand and realise energy cost savings, thereby improving energy security, the affordability of energy services, and the environmental sustainability of energy supply." The ministry pointed out that the potential for energy efficiency remains largely untapped in Cambodia. Leveraging these opportunities could result in multiple benefits including improvement in

energy security, reduction of energy cost and higher overall economic competitiveness, reduction of living costs and poverty alleviation, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and other environmental pollutants apart from the creation of new markets for energy efficiency technologies and services. The Cambodian government has recently come out with 'National Energy Efficiency Policy 2022-2030' to "transform energy consumption by adopting energy efficiency, thereby contributing to a strong, vibrant and competitive economy while fostering sustainable development." The Asean Green Energy Grid is seen as integral step not only for Cambodia but also for the whole region to boost energy efficiency. "The cooperation among the Asean nations is remarkable. The major three strands of cooperation are Asean Power Grid, sub-regional target settings and sharing of expertise," said Michael Williamson, Section Chief at Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) Energy Division, earlier speaking to Khmer Times. He underlined the importance of the role played by Asean as a sub-region in the quest for realizing the lofty objectives of renewable energy. A grouping, christened the Asean Power Grid (APG) aspires to achieve the goal of a regional power interconnection across the region. Initially operating on cross-border bilateral terms, it eventually aims to go sub-regional and ultimately create a total integrated South East Asia power grid system. The twin objectives of fulfilling the growing demand for electricity and greater access to energy services in the region form

the purpose of the APG project, among the physical energy infrastructure projects in the masterplan of the Asean connectivity. It aims to boost cross-border electricity trade generating benefits for the region. Cambodia's current installed solar power generation capacity is 432MW, which is projected to grow initially to 1,000MW by 2030 and eventually 3,155MW by 2040.

Source :

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501380196/kingdom-focusing-on-renewables-to-boost-energy-efficiency/>

## Cambodia asks Chinese EV company to install more charging stations



*Cambodia News | 23 October, 2023*

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Sun Chanthol has encouraged Chinese electric vehicle (EV) company BYD to install more EV charging stations in the country as the trend of battery-power car use surges. Chanthol, who is also the first vice-chairman of the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC), made this proposal at a meeting with Liu Kading, Vice President of BYD in China on Friday. "In the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Sun Chanthol asked BYD firm to invest in installing more EV charging stations in Cambodia, providing convenience to EV users in the country," read a CDC press release. As of January, the number of registered EVs in Cambodia reached more than 700, a ten-fold increase compared to a year before, according to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, citing

that the number of people using EVs has increased significantly as users started realizing their benefits. The Cambodian government is committed to reducing pollution through the use of fuel-efficient vehicles and the switch to EVs — at least to 40 percent of total vehicles and 70 percent of motorcycles by 2050. The government has developed a strategic policy to turn Cambodia into a regional and global production hub for automotive and electronic components, draw in more investment in the field, and boost exports. In order to encourage more investment in electric vehicles, the Deputy Prime Minister asked the company to provide successful examples as an input for drafting legal documents related to investment in the sector in Cambodia. Chanthol recommended that BYD study the feasibility of building an auto assembly factory in Cambodia, citing that the country has the manpower advantage with 65 percent of the total Cambodian population being young and highly productive. In the meeting, BYD's Liu Kading said Cambodia is one of the growing markets for EVs. "The company exports vehicles to the Cambodian market because it sees political stability, economic potential, the development of social infrastructure, Cambodia's digital policy, and especially the rapid growth of electric vehicle uses in Cambodia," Liu said. "The automotive and electronics sectors have been earmarked as priority sectors for Cambodia to develop. Through partnership[s] with the private sector, these sectors have grown rapidly in recent years," read the CDC's roadmap.

Source :  
<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501380198/cambodia-asks-chinese-ev-company-to-install-more-charging-stations/>

## IMF says exports, tourism will spur Laos' economic growth by 4%.



*Laos News | 24 October, 2023*

RADIO FREE ASIA Lao, Oct. 23 -- Revenue from tourism, foreign investment and exports will help Laos' struggling economy grow by 4% in 2024, the International Monetary Fund said in a forecast. But that won't be enough to counter the continuing high inflation rates – more than 25% – that have put many Laotians on the edge of poverty, several Laotians told Radio Free Asia. “People in rural areas are still looking for food from forested areas,” a Saravane province resident said. “They don't have the money to buy food in the market. They only buy the necessities.”

Source : <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/laos/imf-growth-forecast-10232023180356.html>

## Laos gears up to attract more int'l visitors in 2024.



*Laos News | 24 October, 2023*

VIENTIANE, Oct. 22 (Xinhua) -- Provincial authorities across Laos are making preparations to welcome a higher influx of foreign visitors during Laos' chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) next year and as part of Visit Laos Year 2024. The Lao government considers tourism as its top priority in revitalizing the economy. The

government hopes that at least 4.6 million foreign and Lao tourists will travel in the country in 2024, generating a revenue of 712 million U.S. dollars. The Visit Laos Year 2024 tourism promotion campaign will be officially launched in November. The government is increasingly emphasizing the country's potential as a nature-based tourist destination. There are also colorful traditions to be observed among Laos' many ethnic groups, while old temples and historical sites are another drawcard. Almost 1.7 million foreign tourists visited Laos in the first six months of 2023, with Thai, Vietnamese and Chinese nationals topping the list.

Source :  
<https://english.news.cn/20231022/ab974e5e1aa74b48bbe804b1e4443971/c.html>

## MoC issues over 400 Form E certificates at Muse trade zone within 15 day



*Myanmar News | 21 October, 2023*

The Ministry of Commerce has issued over 400 Form E certificates at Muse 105th-mile trade zone within 15 days this month. Exporters can apply for Form E (ASEAN-China Free Trade Certificate of Origin) tax relief for some of Myanmar's export items. The Form E certificate is granted in line with rules and regulations. A total of 414 Form E certificates were issued between 1 and 15 October 2023 for frozen crab, crab, eel, cotton, rice, broken rice, dried plum, black sesame and gum karaya. Additionally, export/import licences can be sought via the

Tradenet 2.0 platform or manually at border posts. Muse border saw 776 export trucks and 1,191 import trucks between 1 and 15 October. Trade value totalled US\$31.706 million, comprising exports worth \$14.317 million and imports worth \$17.389 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce. At present, the Chinese Yuan and US dollar are used as the official currency for border transactions for Sino-Myanmar trade. Transactions for pulses, corn, sesame and peanuts can be made in Yuan in addition to dollars. Meanwhile, trade for rice, broken rice, agricultural produce and fisheries such as crab and eel are allowed to be paid in Yuan. Exporters are depositing the export earnings following the directives of the Central Bank of Myanmar. Trade is steadily flowing at the Muse border, with over 100 trucks in and out of the zone daily. The main export items are green gram, onion, cotton, eel, peanut, zinc mineral, gum karaya, corn, frozen crab, crab, broken rice, rice, cashew nut, sesame and plum. Meanwhile, vehicles and machinery, motorcycle parts under a Semi-knocked-down system, petrol, nickel, iron rods, batteries, battery cycle, footwear and carbon powder are primarily imported into the country.

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/moc-issues-over-400-form-e-certificates-at-muse-trade-zone-within-15-days/#article-title>

## Russian delegation meets businesspersons at UMFCCI



Myanmar News | 23 October, 2023

A delegation led by Mr Grigoriev Evgeny Dmitrievich, Chairman of the External Relations Committee member of the Government of St Petersburg in the Russian Federation, met businesspersons at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry-UMFCCI Office in Yangon yesterday. First, Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe, the General Secretary of the UMFCCI gave a speech. Then, Mr Grigoriev Evgeny Dmitrievich discussed cooperation between Russia and Myanmar in marine product industry, agricultural produce, and other export sectors, as well as the sectors to increase business activities. He invited Myanmar products to be displayed at the exhibition and market fair, which will be held in St Petersburg in the winter, where products from 30 countries will be displayed. He also talked about solar technology and Russian tea production, small hydropower sector and environmental protection. After that, the businessmen who attended the event discussed the economic aspects that will benefit the two countries and the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee explained the sectors that will be connected to the rice export sector, the aquatic products sector, and the shipping and technical sector in the deep sea fishing, and the garment industry. The meeting between the Russian delegation and Myanmar businessmen is to promote Russian-Myanmar business cooperation and increase the trade sector.

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/russian-delegation-meets-businesspersons-at-umfcc/#article-title>

## Viet Nam-UK trade surges 16.6 per cent in one year



*Vietnam News | 23 October, 2023*

HÀ NỘI — The trade relationship between Việt Nam and the United Kingdom experienced significant growth in bilateral trade over the past year, according to data released by the UK government's Department for International Trade on 19 October. The data includes trade information from all four constituent countries of the United Kingdom: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The total trade in goods and services between the UK and Việt Nam during the four quarters leading up to the end of Q1 2023 amounted to 6.7 billion British pounds (US\$8.14 billion), marking a substantial increase of 16.6 per cent compared to the same period in 2022. UK exports to Việt Nam showed remarkable growth, totalling one billion pounds during this period. This represents a notable increase of 21.1 per cent year-on-year. Of the UK's exports to Việt Nam during this period, goods accounted for 797 million pounds (77.5 per cent), while services amounted to 231 million pounds (22.5 per cent). The exports of goods to Việt Nam surged by 33.3 per cent, while exports of services experienced a slight decrease of 8 per cent compared to the same period in 2022. The top five goods exported from the UK to Việt Nam were pulp & waste paper, beverages & tobacco, and medicinal & pharmaceutical products, each constituting around 10 per cent of all UK goods exported to Việt

Nam. Cars and plastics in non-primary forms followed with 4.4 per cent and 4.1 per cent, respectively. On the other hand, UK imports from Việt Nam during the reviewed period reached 5.7 billion pounds, up 15.8 per cent year-on-year. Of these imports, goods constituted 5.4 billion pounds (94.6 per cent), while services accounted for 306 million pounds (5.4 per cent). Imports of goods from Việt Nam experienced a growth of 12.6 per cent, whereas imports of services surged by 137.2 per cent year-on-year. The top five goods imported to the UK from Việt Nam included telecoms & sound equipment (capital) (1.7 billion pounds or 31.2 per cent of all UK goods imported from Việt Nam), clothing (542.9 million pounds or 10.1 per cent), footwear (524.8 million pounds or 9.8 per cent), furniture (consumer) (310.3 million pounds or 5.8 per cent), and other manufactures (consumer) (290.7 million pounds or 5.4 per cent). Despite the impressive trade growth, the UK reported a total trade deficit of 4.6 billion pounds with Việt Nam during the four quarters leading up to the end of Q1 2023, compared to a trade deficit of 4.1 billion pounds in the previous year. The flourishing trade relationship between Việt Nam and the UK can be attributed to their robust economic ties and collaborative efforts, notably following the implementation of the Việt Nam-UK Free Trade Agreement (UKVFTA) on 1 May 2021. Additionally, the UK's recent official signing of an agreement to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement

for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) on 16 July 2023 further strengthens their trade cooperation with the bloc members, including Việt Nam.

Source :

<https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1605565/viet-nam-uk-trade-surges-16-6-per-cent-in-one-year.html>

## Steel industry expected to recover in 2024



*Vietnam News | 23 October, 2023*

Hanoi (VNA) – Despite sluggish performance driven by a fall in steel prices, experts are optimistic about the steel industry's recovery in 2024 as the Government's policies and the revised Land Law are put in place to support the realty market and the construction industry. According to the Vietnam Steel Association (VSA), steel manufacturing output in September totaled nearly 2.34 million tonnes, up 2.41% month-on-month and down 4.2% year-on-year. Steel consumption was nearly 2.2 million tonnes, increasing 4.69% month-on-month, and 9.4% year-on-year. The results were spurred by the Government's policies to remove bottlenecks and bolster economic growth from January – September, including those accelerating the disbursement of public capital for transport infrastructure development. With recovery in demand, steel enterprises have recorded sound production results. Consumption of construction steel, hot-rolled coil steel and steel billets of Hoa Phat Group reached 596,000 tonnes in September, rising 7% against the previous month. Meanwhile, Vietnam Steel

Corporation sold 268,000 tonnes of steel in September, the highest amount recorded since the outset of this year. However, the VSA said although public investment and the realty market are heating up, which will boost steel demand for the remainder of the year, it is not until Q1 of 2024 that the steel market will see strong recovery. Vietnam's steel industry has been in a downward spiral, with steel prices falling 19 times since the start of 2023. Prices have been hovering around 13.5 million VND (548.56 USD) per tonne, due to gloomy real estate market, slow public investment disbursement, and fierce competition from China. According to the steel industry's specialist Nguyen Van Sua, a slump in the realty market since the end of 2022 has driven steel demand down, while steel products imported from China at cheaper prices have created pressure on domestic steel prices. In a bid to stabilise steel prices, it is necessary to accelerate the implementation of real estate and public investment projects, Sua said, adding that when the realty market becomes more vibrant, the steel market will heat up. VNDirect Securities Corporation said that the steel industry will boom in 2024. The adoption of the amended Land Law will help remove financial bottlenecks for house buyers, throwing a charge into the real estate market. Meanwhile, Director of Mercantile Exchange of Vietnam Pham Quang Anh believed that concerted efforts of the Government to promote the disbursement of public capital will stimulate demand and step up domestic business and production activities. With robust signs from the

realty and construction sectors, the steel market will recover soon, he added

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/steel-industry-expected-to-recover-in-2024/270051.vnp>

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