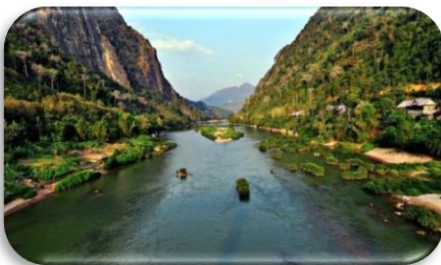


Highlight News / November 08/2023



- Siem Reap-Angkor Int'l Airport records new high number of daily passengers
- Rice exports rake in \$450 million in ten months
- Laos Records Seven Months of Trade Deficit in 2023, Totaling USD 675 Million
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Siem Reap-Angkor Int'l Airport records new high number of daily passengers



Cambodia News | 7 November, 2023

The number of air passengers passing through the newly-commenced Siem Reap-Angkor International Airport (SAI) has continued to grow, with a record of 3,200 a day, up from 2,600 on Oct. 24. The State Secretariat of Civil Aviation (SSCA) 's report showed on Monday that the airport recorded 42 daily flight movements, up from 34 last month. "The average number of air passengers increased from 2,600 to 3,200 per day, and most of them are from ASEAN countries and China," SSCA's Under Secretary of State Sin Chansereyvutha said. Currently, seven airlines are operating at the SAI – six foreign and a local airline. Located in Tayek commune in Sotr Nikum district, about 50 kilometers from Siem Reap provincial city, SAI commenced its operations on Oct. 16. As a 4E-level international airport that can accommodate long-haul flights from across the globe with a 3,600-meter runway and 38 berths, SAI can manage seven million passengers annually and is expected to increase its capacity to a staggering 12 million passengers—a year from 2040. AKP

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501388197/siem-reap-angkor-intl-airport-records-new-high-number-of-daily-passengers/>

Rice exports rake in \$450 million in ten months



Cambodia News | 7 November, 2023

Exports amounting to approximately 530,000 tonnes of milled rice have fetched Cambodia a revenue of \$450 million in the first ten months of the current year. The figures were revealed in a report from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries on Monday. Neighbouring countries were the destination for paddy rice exports earning \$708 million according to the report. Fragrant rice, organic rice, white rice, parboiled rice and japonica rice were primarily the varieties that made up Cambodia's rice exports, the report revealed. Last week saw a landmark achievement with Cambodia's first-ever export of milled rice to Indonesia. The very first shipment of the commodity reached Semarang City in Indonesia's Central Java province. Spokesperson of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Im Rachna pointed out that Indonesia is a new market for Cambodia's rice in the region. He credited the coming together of the government and the private sector for paving the way to this new market for rice. "We strive to work together with the main goal of providing economic benefits and the development of Cambodia's agricultural sector, as well as the success of public-private partnerships to contribute to Cambodia's economic growth," Rachna said. In a release through his official Telegram channel, he gave the entire credit for the opening of the new market for milled rice to the

meaningful negotiations. “The export of the commodity to Indonesia will help increase the kingdom’s export volume, and contribute to improving the livelihoods of farmers,” he said. China and Europe make up the forefront of the major markets for the Southeast Asian country’s milled rice. Setting a lofty target of 700,000 tonnes as a full-year milled rice export target for Cambodia in 2023, CRF President Chan Sokheang also recognized the potential of China as a massive 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,” he said.

Source : [https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501387897/](https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501387897/rice-exports-rake-in-450-million-in-ten-months/)
/rice-exports-rake-in-450-million-in-ten-months/

Laos Records Seven Months of Trade Deficit in 2023, Totaling USD 675 Million



Laos News | 7 November, 2023

Laos has grappled with a trade deficit for seven of the first nine months of this year, totaling USD 675 million. Only in February and March did the country register a trade surplus. In September, the trade deficit expanded to USD 218 million, marking the highest deficit recorded this year. This increase was primarily due to imports continuing to surpass exports. The overall value of imports and exports reached USD 1.006 billion, with exports valued at USD 394 million and imports at USD 612 million, as reported by the Lao Trade Portal. Among exported

goods, mixed gold and bullion took the lead with a total value of USD 53 million, while diesel emerged as the most imported product with a value of USD 69 million. Other notable exports included paper and paper products, gold ore, potassium salt, rubber, pulp and scrap paper, iron ore, sugar, clothing, and bananas. China secured the top spot among Laos’ top five export countries, accounting for USD 177 million, followed by Vietnam, Thailand, Australia, and India. Meanwhile, Laos has been importing products such as mechanical equipment, land vehicles, steel and steel products, electrical appliances and equipment, plastic, gasoline, and pulp and scrap paper. Thailand remained in the top position as Laos’ largest import source, contributing USD 264 million, immediately followed by China, Vietnam, the United States (US), and Australia.

Source : <https://laotiantimes.com/2023/11/07/laos-records-seven-months-of-trade-deficit-in-2023-totaling-usd-675-million/>

Laos Sets Tourism Record Boasting 285 Percent Surge in 2023



Laos News | 7 November, 2023

Nestled amid the green landscapes of Southeast Asia, Laos finds itself at the epicenter of an extraordinary tourism surge, statistics by the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism revealed. The first nine months of this year have seen an astonishing influx of more than 2.4 million foreign tourists, marking a jaw-dropping 285 percent increase compared to the same period last year.

This is a testament to Laos's growing appeal on the global stage. According to the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism, ASEAN countries contributed over 1.6 million tourists, with substantial numbers from the Asia-Pacific region, Europe, and the US. This influx is attributed to improved accessibility facilitated by faster travel on highways and the Laos-China railway, which has become a popular means of transportation. But contrary to expectations, local tourist groups believe the majority of visitors came from Western countries. The government and local businesses have been collaborating to boost tourism through international exhibitions and ASEAN tourism fairs. With a target of 4.6 million visitors, Laos aims to generate USD 712 million in revenue in 2024.

Source : <https://laotiantimes.com/2023/11/07/laos-sets-tourism-record-boasting-285-percent-surge-in-2023/>

Union National Race Village (Yangon) jetty construction set to be completed in Nov

 Myanmar News | 7 November, 2023

The construction of the jetty at the Union National Races Village (Yangon), For the convenience of visitors to the Union National Race Village (Yangon) in Thakayta Township of Yangon Region through the Bago River, a jetty construction will be completed in November. The visitors can enjoy the picturesque scene of rivers, mangroves and jetties during their sea journey, and they can also take a cruise. They can also get to Botahtaung and Pansodan jetties,

and those from the upper part of the Bago River can also visit there by boat. The jetty construction was developed in 2022-2023 FY using K449.505 million. Although it was scheduled to be completed in February 2023, the construction will be completed in November. The jetty is 96 feet in length and 12 feet in width, and it also includes an 80-foot steel truss bridge.

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/union-national-race-village-yangon-jetty-construction-set-to-be-completed-in-nov/#article-title>

Myanmar, India sign MoUs under Quick Impact Projects (QIP)



Myanmar News | 7 November, 2023

The signing ceremony for three Memoranda of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Republic of India under Quick Impact Projects (QIP) was held at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Nay Pyi Taw, on 6 November 2023. The ceremony was attended by Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Daw Than Than Lin, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, U Lwin Oo, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Wah Wah Maung, Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Dr Htain Lin Oo, the deputy minister and deputy attorney-general for Legal Affairs, senior officials from relevant ministries, Mr Ashish Sharma, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India and officials from

Embassy of India. The Memorandum of Understanding for Water Supply using Solar Power in the Drought-Affected Villages of Central Dry Zone of Myanmar and Memorandum of Understanding for Departmental E-library Project were signed by U Thein Toe, Director-General of the Dry Zone Greening Department and Environmental Conservation Department, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and Mr Ashish Sharma, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India and Memorandum of Understanding for the Electrification of Rural Villages by Small Wind Energy in Kungyangon Township, Yangon was signed by Daw Nwe Ni, Director-General of the Department of Advanced Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology and Mr Ashish Sharma, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India. The Indian Government will provide a grant of 150,000 USD and this grant will contribute to the Water Supply using Solar Power in the Drought-Affected Villages of the Central Dry Zone of Myanmar, a Departmental E-Library Project and Electrification of Rural Villages by small Wind Energy in Kungyangon Township, Yangon. This assistance will support economic cooperation and strengthen the existing bilateral relations between Myanmar and India. The Quick Impact Project (QIP) allows for a project cost of 50,000 USD each, and similar projects are to be negotiated with the Indian Government to support Myanmar's socioeconomic development.

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myanmar-india-sign-mous-under-quick-impact-projects-qip/>

Vietnam's EV maker VinFast to invest 1.2 billion USD in Indonesia

 *Vietnam News | 7 November, 2023*

Jakarta (VNA) – Vietnam's first electric vehicle (EV) maker VinFast plans to build a plant with an investment capital of 18.6 trillion Rp (1.2 billion USD) in Indonesia, according to Presidential Chief of Staff of Indonesia Moeldoko. Moeldoko told a press conference on November 6 that the construction will begin as soon as possible. He, however, did not reveal further details of the plan. Vinfast is one of the largest EV manufacturers in Southeast Asia, with its cars exported to Europe and America, the official said, adding its investment in Indonesia can help form an EV ecosystem in the country. Indonesia's media reported that in early September, Vinfast leaders had a meeting with Indonesian Trade Minister Zulkifli Hasan who pledged to facilitate the automaker's operation. Secretary General of the Association of Indonesia Automotive Industry (Gaikindo) Kukuh Kumara told Indonesia's Antara News Agency in late October that Vinfast has discussed and expressed its willingness to join the association. The manufacturer is completing necessary procedures with the Indonesian government before officially entering the country's auto market, he said./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnams-ev-maker-vinfast-to-invest-12-billion-usd-in-indonesia/270825.vnp>

Vietnam likely to achieve digital economic growth of around US\$45 billion by 2025



Vietnam News | 7 November, 2023

VOV.VN - With a young population, a strong ability for digital transformation among consumers, and increasing digital consumption, Vietnam is anticipated to achieve digital economic growth of US\$45 billion by 2025. According to a report released by Google, the nation's digital economy is expected to grow by 20% per year throughout the 2023 to 2025 period and is on track to reach about US\$45 billion by 2025, the fastest in Southeast Asia. According to details given by Nguyen Binh Minh, member of the Executive Committee of the Vietnam E-Commerce Association (VECOM), this prediction has a solid basis as it shows the results of the robust e-commerce development process over recent times. This is despite being greatly impacted by the difficult economic situation following the global COVID-19 pandemic. The infrastructure platform has been continuously upgraded, thereby creating many fresh opportunities for businesses to participate within the market. Furthermore, the country's legal corridor has also recorded many timely adjustments, which has created optimal conditions for e-commerce to develop smoothly and in the right direction. With many driving forces in terms of international economic relations and the nation's growing position in the market, the Vietnamese digital economy will certainly continue to grow

rapidly and stably over the coming years, Minh said. Firms have also become confident in the strong boom recorded in e-commerce coupled with the development of the digital economy. In line with this, Vietnamese digital platforms are increasingly proving their ability to meet the development needs of local businesses. The digital transformation capacity of businesses has therefore made significant progress, with many technology businesses boasting very good digital evolution capabilities, he continued. The increasing application of information and communication technology in general and new technologies amid Industry 4.0 such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), and Blockchain shows the good adaptability of Vietnamese businesses to the changing factors within the digital economy and their ability to innovate is clearly improving. The VECOM representative also underlined the need to continuously fine-tune legal regulations aimed at maintaining growth momentum whilst ensuring the health and sustainability of e-commerce and the digital economy. Along with continuing to improve the legal corridor, which is an important driving force, orienting and assisting local businesses to widely apply digital technology represents a very important factor in order to help businesses grow stronger in the near future. Moreover, it can be viewed as necessary to continue to develop and maintain the market's rapid expansion ability, such as creating optimal conditions for digital marketing and digital finance activities in the future, he added.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/vietnam-likely-to-achieve-digital-economic-growth-of-around-us45-billion-by-2025-post1057628.vov>
