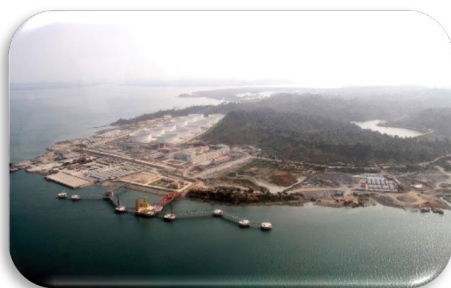
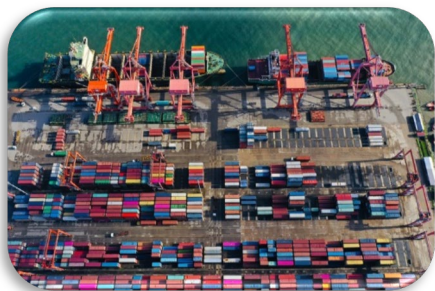




- PM says Preah Sihanouk set to be country's logistics hub
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PM says Preah Sihanouk set to be country's logistics hub



Cambodia News | 8 November, 2023

The Royal Government of Cambodia is on a mission to develop the coastal Preah Sihanouk province as the logistics hub of the country, said Prime Minister Hun Manet yesterday. At a get-together with garment workers in the Prey Nob district of Preah Sihanouk, the Prime Minister said that the government has already launched a master plan for the development of the province. Mr Hun Manet said the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) has been entrusted with the task of developing the railway and deep seaport infrastructure to facilitate the efficient movement of goods. The Prime Minister pointed out that the development of port and railway infrastructure will play a crucial role in Cambodia's rapid socio-economic expansion. "The first phase of the expansion of the deep-sea port will help increase the flow of goods through Cambodia and also the transport of goods from Cambodia. This will make cross-border shipments through Cambodia's deep-sea port more profitable," the premier said. If the first phase of the deep-water port expansion is successful, it will facilitate the movement of about 93 percent of cargo containers, reducing the cost of shipping from between \$400 and \$500 now to only \$200 per container, he said. Sihanoukville Autonomous Port Terminal in the first phase has a length of 350 metres and a depth of 14.5 metres. It is being built with a loan of more than \$200 million

from Japan. The premier also instructed MPWT to look into upgrading the railway lines for a maximum speed of 80 km per hour from the current 50 km per hour. "I have advised (MPWT) to study the possibility of reducing the cost of land transportation. If this railway is completed, we will be able to transport more goods," he said. "The Cambodian government will continue to build infrastructure as it helps to reduce transportation costs and boost the economy," the Prime Minister assured. Cambodia currently has two railway lines, the first line from Phnom Penh to Sihanoukville and the second from Phnom Penh to Poipet, Banteay Meanchey province and it shares a border with Thailand. The railway system is under the management of the Royal Railway, a subsidiary of the conglomerate Royal Group. In early 2023, MPWT and Chinese companies presented the results of a study on the Phnom Penh-Poipet railway project with a total length of 382 km.

Source :

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501388709/pm-says-preah-sihanouk-set-to-be-countrys-logistics-hub/>

Japanese wagyu beef exports to Cambodia decline by 60 percent



Cambodia News | 8 November, 2023

Japanese wagyu beef exports to Cambodia declined by 60 percent during the first eight months of the year, Japanese media reported citing governmental sources. Wagyu, one of the most expensive meats in the world, is the collective name

for the four major Japanese breeds of beef cattle. Generally priced above \$90 a kilo and upwards in the global markets, Wagyu beef is a highly sought-after and prized type of meat that is known for its rich, buttery flavour and high levels of marbling. Wagyu cattle have been derived by cross-breeding native Japanese stock with the imported ones, mostly from Europe. Nikkei Asia reported that a tougher crackdown is being carried out by the Japanese authorities to end the smuggling of wagyu beef, especially to China. And there were allegations that smugglers were using Cambodia as a hub to launder wagyu beef into China. China's ban on Japanese beef imports started in 2001 following an outbreak of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in Japan. Though the situation was brought under control across Japan within the next year, China retained the ban until 2019 when it partially lifted the controls. According to travel websites focusing on China, wagyu beef is still not readily available across the country. Cambodia was the biggest importer of wagyu beef from Japan in 2020 and 2021, fuelling suspicions of the country being used as a base to launder the meat into China. There were some cases of Chinese men being arrested by Japanese police on suspicions of smuggling wagyu beef into China using Cambodia as a platform. There were also arrests from the part of Japanese police following attempts to smuggle fertilised eggs of wagyu cattle into China. Speaking to Khmer Times, Mohammed Thaslim, an entrepreneur in the food and beverages sector, who imports beef from India and other

countries, said the decline could be attributed to market trends. "I admit that wagyu is one of the best beef varieties, but there are also other good varieties that are imported from many countries including Australia and Spain. The demand goes up and down as it is not stagnant and this will have an impact on the imports. "Cambodian local beef is also of superior quality and good taste. I am pretty sure that it will be competing on the world stage with other beef varieties in the coming years," he added. A senior official with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry was earlier quoted by media as saying that the country now produces 95 percent of the meat required for domestic consumption. Two months before, Khmer Times reported on South Korea's decision to export 'hanwoo,' or premium Korean beef, to Cambodia, quoting the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry sources. Both countries have already signed the first contract for South Korean beef to be exported to the Kingdom. Cambodia and South Korea started an agreement on quarantine negotiations eight years ago, Yonhap News Agency reported, quoting official sources. As per the report, South Korea is looking at exporting 2,000 tonnes of premium beef worth \$100 million to Cambodia over the next five years. According to Statista, a prominent global online data gathering platform, Cambodia's meat market sales volume comprising fresh meat, processed meat and meat substitutes is expected to reach \$2.127 billion in the current year. It is also expected to grow at an annual rate of 8.33 percent until 2028.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501388703/japanese-wagyu-beef-exports-to-cambodia-decline-by-60-percent/>

Laos Explores Growth Opportunities in Wood Processing Industry through EU, Regional Cooperation.



Laos News | 8 November, 2023

In the meeting with the Indonesian delegation in Jakarta, Director-general of the Forest Inspection Department of the Laotian Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Khamphone Mounlamai, mentioned that Laos aspires to reach a similar partnership agreement with the EU in the near future. Indonesia's success story extends to its record-breaking export value of forestry products, reaching USD 14.21 billion in 2022 despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. This result led to the signing of a voluntary partnership agreement with the European Union to facilitate the issuance of licenses exempting Indonesian wood products from the due diligence process under the European timber regulation. As the wood processing industry in Laos is poised for significant growth in export value and economic development, the Lao government has been working with partners from the European Union and Southeast Asia to strengthen the regulatory and institutional framework of the forestry sector.

Source : <https://laotiantimes.com/2023/11/08/laos-explores-growth-opportunities-in-wood-processing-industry-through-eu-regional-cooperation/>

EOI invited for Myanmar GDE Consortium in Kyaukphyu SEZ collaboration



Myanmar News | 8 November, 2023

To form a Myanmar GDE Consortium, the Central Committee on Myanmar Special Economic Zone under the Ministry of Commerce will call for an Expression of Interest (EOI) and measures are underway to establish a Myanmar Government Designated Entity Consortium to collaborate in the offshore deep-sea port project at Kyaukphyu SEZ. The companies owned by Myanmar citizens will be scrutinized to join the consortium under rules and regulations. The companies must be domestically owned private companies or public companies registered under the Myanmar Companies Law 2017. They must run continuous operations from the incorporation and must hold the Company Extract Form and company registration certificate issued by the Directorate of Investment and Company Registration, and must not be suspended on the DICA's online registry system MyCO. The company must be incorporated for more than 10 years or must have five years of experience in successful infrastructure development processes. If the entity is incorporated in the presence of Rakhine ethnic residents, the set period of incorporation will be eased to a certain extent. Furthermore, the Average Minimum Annual Turnover must be US\$20 million or an equivalent amount of foreign currency or local currency in the past three years. Those entities must

not be blacklisted or disqualified by the ministry, Nay Pyi Taw Council, region and state governments. Those companies must employ adequate numbers of skilled staff and professionals who could provide technical support to the project. Each entity must present a document affirming that they can put an investment of at least \$5 million in the proposal. The financial report during the past three years together with the audit report must be submitted. Tax clearance certificates by the respective tax offices must be provided as well. Those interested companies can take out an EOI form with a K10,000 payment at the SEZ division of Office 3, the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization under the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw or MTPO located at 622/626 on the corner of Merchant Road and Bosunpat Street in Pabedan Township, Yangon, by 18 November. The EOI and other necessary documents must be submitted to the respective offices by 15 December. The following phone numbers 067 408648, 067 408619, and 018371203 can be reached for further details.

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/eoi-invited-for-myanmar-gde-consortium-in-kyaukphyu-sez-collaboration/#article-title>

Vietnam sends over 132,000 labourers abroad in 10 months



Vietnam News | 8 November, 2023

Hanoi (VNA) - Vietnam sent more than 132,000 labourers abroad in the first 10 months of 2023, according to the Department of Overseas Labour

under the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MoLISA). The figure surpassed the target set for the year by 20%. Among the workers sent abroad in the period, 44,669 were female, accounting for nearly 30%. Japan remained the top destination of Vietnamese guest workers with 67,550, followed by Taiwan (China) with more than 50,960, the Republic of Korea (RoK) with approximately 6,000, and China with nearly 1,700. According to statistics from enterprises, about 21,100 labourers were sent abroad in October alone. Previously, the MoLISA has issued a decree regulating economic and technical norms on foreign language training for Vietnamese labourers working abroad under contracts./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-sends-over-132000-labourers-abroad-in-10-months/270880.vnp>

Vietnam seeks to become player in aerospace supply chains



Vietnam News | 8 November, 2023

Hanoi (VNA) – The Hanoi Supporting Industry Association (HANSIBA) in collaboration with relevant units held a press conference and business exchange on requirements for quality management system in the aviation sector, in the capital city on November 7. This event aimed to promote partnerships in the production and supply of products and services of HANSIBA's member businesses with multinational and FDI firms from developed economies such as the US, Europe, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. First Secretary of the Japanese Embassy in Vietnam Matsumoto Izumi said Japan's ONAGA Co. Ltd has opened a factory in Vietnam to manufacture components for aircraft

manufacturer Boeing. Its goal is to connect enterprises from the US, Japan and Vietnam together. General Director of the Vietnam-Japan support industry development and investment consulting company Ishida Takayuki said Boeing has committed to assisting Vietnamese firms in joining its supply chain for accessories, and expects to hold workshops to facilitate their involvement in supplying aerospace components. A representative from ONAGA said a AS9100 Aerospace Quality Management System certificate is crucial for Vietnamese companies considering entry into the aerospace industry. With this certificate, both domestic and foreign firms could fully join the global aerospace supply chains of multinationals in this industry. HANSIBA Chairman Nguyen Hoang suggested ONAGA Vietnam and the Vietnam-Japan support industry development and investment consulting company assist the Vietnamese firms in completing the necessary procedures to obtain the certificate. He also proposed that Japan help the Vietnamese businesses build aviation-standard production processes, train a contingent of skilled technical engineers and workers, and jointly select products to be manufactured, among others.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-seeks-to-become-player-in-aerospace-supply-chains/270906.vnp>
