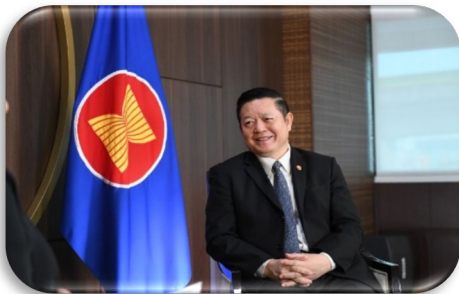


Highlight News / November 29/2023



- Sa Kaeo plays crucial role in logistics sector, commercial relationships with Cambodia, Vietnam and China
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Sa Kaeo plays crucial role in logistics sector, commercial relationships with Cambodia, Vietnam and China



Cambodia News | 28 November, 2023

Prime Minister Srettha Thaweesin visited Sa Kaeo province on November 25, overseeing talks regarding the province's significance in Thailand's border trade and logistics network. Sa Kaeo, a vital border town, handles a significant volume of traffic and trade, with over 10 million people crossing annually and a border trade value of approximately 110 billion baht. In a recent online message, Srettha highlighted Sa Kaeo's capacity to enhance Thailand's commercial relationships with adjacent nations, such as Cambodia, Vietnam, and China. He pointed out that the province, being only two and a half hours away from LaemChabang Port in Chon Buri, plays a crucial role in Thailand's logistics sector. A key focus of his visit is the enhancement of border crossing efficiency and security. The premier has tasked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with addressing four critical issues within the next 30 days. These include the introduction of a Temporary Border Pass for non-Sa Kaeo residents, allowing for passport-free border crossings; the establishment of a passport office at the KlongLuek – Poipet checkpoint, a busy travel hub; and the creation of a Thai consulate in Siem Reap to facilitate Thai nationals and enhance cooperation with Cambodia, particularly in the implementation of a Facial Recognition system for travellers. Pattaya mail

Source :

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501398538/sa-kaeo-plays-crucial-role-in-logistics-sector-commercial-relationships-with-cambodia-vietnam-and-china/>

Cambodia's two airports to have e-Arrival system in 2024



Cambodia News | 28 November, 2023

Ministry of Interior's General Department of Immigration will launch a new system, so-called "Cambodia e-Arrival" at two police posts of Preah Sihanouk International Airport and Phnom Penh International Airport shortly. The system will play a crucial role in facilitating passengers entering Cambodia in filling out required forms in advance via e-forms which include visa on arrival information, immigration certificate, and customs and health declarations. Besides, the system will also be launched at the new Siem Reap-Angkor International Airport in 2024, according to Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet while presiding over the inauguration ceremony of the new airport recently. AKP-Lim Nary

Source :

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501398559/cambodias-two-airports-to-have-e-arrival-system-in-2024/>

Laos' inflation drops slightly to 25.24 pct in November.



Laos News | 28 November, 2023

Laos recorded an inflation rate of 25.24 percent in November, a slight decrease from 25.8 percent in October, according to the latest report from the Lao

Statistics Bureau. The weak kip is seen as one of the main factors driving inflation, according to a report released by the Lao Statistics Bureau on Monday. The highest price rise in November was recorded in the hotel and restaurant category, which stood at 35.2 percent year-on-year. The prices of cooked food such as grilled fish, spicy meat salad and noodle soup, as well as the cost of beer, wine and other alcoholic beverages drove prices in this category. Other categories driving inflation included the clothing and footwear category at 31.8 percent year-on-year, medical care and medicines at 26.5 percent, the food and non-alcoholic beverage category at 26.4 percent, the household goods category at 25.3 percent, the alcohol and tobacco category at 24.5 percent, and the communications and transport category at 22.1 percent. The cost of goods and services has tended to rise more slowly in recent months after inflation hit its peak at 41.26 percent in February. One of the most positive aspects is that Laos registered a trade surplus of more than 943 million U.S. dollars in the first nine months of 2023, with exports reaching more than 5.95 billion U.S. dollars and imports valued at 5.01 billion U.S. dollars, according to the report.

Source:

<https://english.news.cn/20231128/386e00e66b6145809ca4526bc42744fb/c.html>

ASEAN Chief visits Laos this week.



Laos News | 28 November, 2023

The Secretary General of ASEAN, Dr Kao Kim Hourn will pay a three-day visit from 28-30 November to Lao

in preparation for its ASEAN Chairmanship in 2024, according to the Asean Secretariat. With the invitation from Foreign Minister Saleumxay Kommasith, Dr Kao will lead an ASEAN Secretariat delegation consisting of officials from the three Community Pillars to attend bilateral meetings with senior Laotian officials. The delegation will meet and exchange views with Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone, as well as other key cabinet ministers responsible for cross-pillar issues. The meetings aim to discuss the ASEAN Secretariat's role in supporting Lao PDR's upcoming ASEAN Chairmanship, guided by the theme "Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience." Last week, Vientiane revealed its official logo and the chair's theme. The Asean chair will hold the first foreign ministerial retreat on 28-29 January in Luang Prabang, according to informed diplomatic sources. It will hold its first Asean retreat and will be the first of hundreds of meetings that will follow throughout 2024 after the new chair kicks off its action plans and deliverables.

Source: <https://www.thaipbsworld.com/asean-chief-visits-laos-this-week/>

Taninthayi's fishery industry: Soaring costs and plummeting prices threaten operations and jobs



Myanmar News | 28 November, 2023

Falling seafood prices, rising fuel costs, and unstable currency rates are severely impacting Taninthayi Region's fishery exports to Thailand, potentially bringing the industry to a standstill,

according to industry insiders. An offshore trawler usually costs 13 million baht (around K120 million) per trip. Despite a potential catch worth 18 million baht (K170 million), traders often face losses due to additional operational expenses. A merchant from Myeik says, "Fleets of 10 to 20 trawlers remain docked. Small-scale fishermen have stopped completely. The impact is profound on all offshore boats. I heard medium-sized iron-hauled boats are faring relatively better in Rakhine waters. But plummeting prices, soaring operational expenses, and unfavourable currency rates have forced us in Taninthayi Region to halt operations." A barrel of fuel oil costs over K660,000, while a container of fish barely fetches K65,000. "Our fishing boats came back. We just decided to dock them since the market is no longer favourable. The current situation hurts all offshore boats, especially large-scale ones because they need more men to operate. Since they use surface-and midwater-fishing methods, they struggle to catch fish. Thai buyers no longer accept their fish since there's a surplus. The exchange rate makes the situation worse, too," complains another offshore fishing business owner. Traders are required to exchange 50 per cent of the earnings from fishery exports at the designated currency rate and spend the remaining 50 per cent within a month. Additionally, Thai buyers are driving down seafood prices, worsening the situation. An official at the Myeik District Squid Entrepreneurs Association said, "It affects squid traders, too. At the beginning of the season last year, a salver of squids earned

K350,000. But the market opened to K200,000 this year and has fallen as low as K150,000. We decided to stop operating once the boats return. The fishermen are going to lose their jobs. Sea exports aren't advantageous. Land transport costs from K600,000 to K900,000 additionally. A kilogramme of parquet fish barely makes K500 now. We can't go on like this." Taninthayi Region is home to 1,500 offshore fishing boats, and local people are worried that losses in the fishery industry might spread to other sectors.

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/taninthayis-fishery-industry-soaring-costs-and-plummeting-prices-threaten-operations-and-jobs/>

Maungtaw border facilitates agri, fisheries, and industrial export products to Bangladesh



Myanmar News | 28 November, 2023

Myanmar primarily conveyed agricultural produce, fisheries and finished industrial goods to Bangladesh through the Maungtaw border, according to the Ministry of Commerce. At present, the goods flow into the Maungtaw border through the Sittway-Buthidaung-Maungtaw and Sittway-Angumaw-Maungtaw routes. Mostly, goods are delivered to the border via the Sittway-Angumaw-Maungtaw route. Then, they are exported to Bangladesh via the Kanyinchaung Economic Zone. Between 1 and 21 November, Myanmar sent 38.25 tonnes of areca nuts worth \$0.06 million, 27 tonnes of jengkol \$0.008 million, 110 tonnes of fresh ginger

\$0.022 million, seven tonnes of mango \$0.003 million, 101.3 tonnes of rohu \$0.128 million, 45.5 tonnes of dried small fish \$0.029 million, 46 tonnes of dried anchovy \$0.017 million, 1.54 tonnes of Katla fish \$0.002 million, 22 tonnes of preserved jujube pack \$0.007 million, nine tonnes of Tun Shwe Wah ointment \$0.005 million and 13 tonnes of Thanaka pack \$0.007 million to Bangladesh via Maungtaw border. Maungtaw border sees no import then. The export prices at Maungtaw border were \$300 per tonne of jengkol, \$200 per fresh ginger, \$1,266 per tonne of rohu, \$3,150 per tonne of dried anchovy, \$630 per tonne of dried small fish, \$330 per tonne of preserved jujube pack, \$1,000 per tonne of areca nut, \$500 per tonne of Tun Shwe Wah ointment, \$500 per tonne of Thanaka pack, \$420 per tonne of mango and \$1,306 per tonne of Katla fish. The cross-border trade value via Myanmar's Maungtaw border with neighbouring Bangladesh was targeted to hit US\$1.53 million in November, comprising exports worth \$1.5 million and imports worth \$0.03 million, yet the actual trade amounted to \$0.286 million with exports only, reaching 18.69 per cent of trade target. Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/maungtaw-border-facilitates-agri-fisheries-and-industrial-export-products-to-bangladesh/>

Vietnam targets 44 billion USD in textile, apparel export turnover in 2024: VITAS

Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS) has set a target of earning 44 billion USD from textile and apparel exports in 2024 as positive changes have been seen from the last quarter of this year. Speaking at a recent press conference, VITAS Chairman Vu Duc Giang said that this year, the export revenue is estimated to top 40 billion USD, about 9.2% less than that of last year. "Amid the gloomy landscape as a result of the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and large inventory due to falling demand, the achievement is considered a breakthrough demonstrating great efforts of the business community," Giang said, adding that in 2023, Vietnamese textile and garment products entered 104 countries and territories – a record number. According to VITAS, the US remained the biggest importer of Vietnamese textile and apparel products with a turnover of over 11 billion USD by the end of September. It was followed by Japan with about 3 billion USD, the Republic of Korea 2.43 billion USD, and the EU 2.9 billion USD. Among key markets, Vietnam's exports to the EU failed to meet expectations with nine-month revenue dropping 13%. Vietnamese producers have been making efforts to diversify products for export with 36 types of products. Diversifying markets, products, customers, and partners is a way for Vietnam's textile and garment industry to reduce its reliance on large markets, Giang said, adding it is also an important measure for Vietnam to realise next year's target. According to VITAS, the garment industry will continue implementing measures for sustainable



development with green production and greenhouse gas emission reduction. Vietnam will need to focus on developing the fashion industry, building domestic brands and then making them globally known, he said

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-targets-44-billion-usd-in-textile-apparel-export-turnover-in-2024-vitas/271937.vnp>

capital city has also introduced the light art experience, and announced the decision recognising Hoan Kiem Lake, its surrounding areas and the Old Quarter as a city-level tourist area.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/hanoi-welcomes-226-mln-tourists-in-11-months/271935.vnp>

Hanoi welcomes 22.6 mln tourists in 11 months



Vietnam News | 28 November, 2023

Hanoi welcomed 22.6 million tourists in the first 11 months of 2023, an increase of 32.4% year on year, the Hanoi Department of Tourism has reported. Among the arrivals, international tourists accounted for 4.1 million, three times higher compared to the same period in 2022. The total tourism revenue reached 84.25 trillion VND (3.5 billion USD), a rise of 58.4% year on year. Director of the Hanoi Department of Tourism Dang Huong Giang said that the city has diversified products to serve visitors' demand. It has effectively promoted rural, agricultural tourism economic, community tourism models. The department is developing water-way tour packages, tourism villages in Soc Son district and a craft village creative centre associated with tourism activities in Phu Xuyen district, among others. Besides, it has created a digital tourism map in many languages piloted in some districts. Many tourist destinations have introduced electronic ticket systems to serve visitors. Hanoi has launched 15 night-tourism products with the message "Hanoi Night - Touching Point of Emotions", expected to bring new, unique experiences to visitors. The