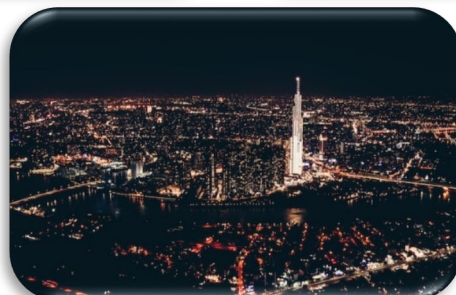




- Numbers up – but foreign tourists down by almost 50% for Siem Reap Water Festival
- Listed Malaysian steel products manufacturer, Leformbags supply deal in Cambodia worth \$1.9 million
- Laos requires cell phone registration by mid-December.
- 5th Laos-Thailand Friendship Bridge 80 percent complete, set to open next year.
- Manufacturing sector exports generate US\$5.87 bln. as of 17 November
- Myanmar to prioritize Viet Nam for sugar export
- New foreign investments in Jan-Nov rise 14.8% y-o-y
- Vietnam's year-to-date exports down 6.4%, Nov industrial output up 5.8%



Numbers up – but foreign tourists down by almost 50% for Siem Reap Water Festival



Cambodia News | 29 November, 2023

The Siem Reap Provincial Administration says that during the three days of the Royal Water Festival there were 304,261 tourists visiting Siem Reap, an increase of about 10% compared to 2019. However, only 14,261 were foreign tourists, a decrease of 46.37% compared to the same period in 2019 when there were 26,592. The number of national tourists was about 290,000, an increase of about 16% compared to the same period in 2019 of about 250,000, of which the Angkor area is about 147,000, Phnom Kulen is about 8,000 people along the Siem Reap River and about 110,000 people in the tourism community, about 25,000 people.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501398982/in-pictures-numbers-up-but-foreign-tourists-down-by-almost-50-for-siem-reap-water-festival/>

Listed Malaysian steel products manufacturer, Leformbags supply deal in Cambodia worth \$1.9 million



Cambodia News | 29 November, 2023

LEFORM Bhd, a steel products manufacturer, has secured a supply contract worth USD 1.95 million from Nim Meng Group Co Ltd in Cambodia. The contract, executed by Leform Metal SdnBhd, a subsidiary owned 85% by Leform, involves supplying highway guardrail products for the National Road No 5 Improvement Project. The

project aims to enhance transportation capacity and logistics efficiency in Cambodia, with work expected to start in August 2024 and conclude by December 2024. Leform sees this contract as a significant step in expanding its regional business footprint and gaining a larger market share in the steel industry. Leform's shares increased by 1 sen or 3.51% today, concluding at 29.5 sen each and achieving a market capitalisation of RM437 million.

Source :

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501398756/listed-malaysian-steel-products-manufacturer-leformbags-supply-deal-in-cambodia-worth-1-9-million/>

Laos requires cell phone registration by mid-December.



Laos News | 29 November, 2023

Laos is requiring that all of the country's 6.45 million cell phone users register their numbers by Dec. 16 or risk losing service, citing a crackdown on online scamming and content critical of the government. An official with the Lao Ministry of Technology and Communications, who like other sources in this report requested anonymity for safety reasons, confirmed the deadline to RFA Lao, noting that "everybody's phone number must be registered" with the owner's facial scan and residency information, among other personal details. "Whoever doesn't register his or her number will not be able to make calls [after the deadline], meaning the number will be completely cut off," the official said. "All individuals and businesses must register their

numbers by the deadline, Dec. 16, 2023." Some people welcomed the move as a way to clamp down on criminals and illegal activities, but others saw it as a threat to privacy and yet another way to stifle dissent in the one-party country.

Source:

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/laos/registration-11282023143213.html>

5th Laos-Thailand Friendship Bridge 80 percent complete, set to open next year.



Laos News | 29 November, 2023

Construction work on the fifth Laos-Thailand Friendship Bridge across the Mekong River is now 80 percent complete and is expected to open to the public sometime next year, Thai media reported. The remaining work on the bridge, which links Thailand's Bueng Kan province to Laos' central province of Khammuan, will be finalised in 2024, the Bangkok Post quoted Thailand's Deputy Minister of Transport Manaporn Charoensri as saying. The new bridge will ease the movement of goods, people and services and increase the value of trade between Thailand, Laos and Vietnam from "billions of baht to tens of billions of baht", Ms Manaporn said following an inspection of the bridge on Monday. The bridge, together with its access roads, spans 16.18 kilometres, 12.13km of which are in Thailand and the rest in Laos. The bridge is a part of a new transport route passing through Nong Khai, Bueng Kan, Nakhon Phanom and Sakhon Nakhon provinces.

When the bridge opens, many more vehicles will use this route so the existing single-carriageway approaches will have to be upgraded and turned into a dual carriageway, the report stated.

Source:

https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freefreenews/freecontent_233_5th_y23.php

Manufacturing sector exports generate US\$5.87 bln. as of 17 November



Myanmar News | 29 November, 2023

The export value from the manufacturing sector amounted to over US\$5.86 billion as of 17 November in the financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, showing a billion dollar drop compared to the corresponding period last FY, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed. Exports of finished industrial goods by the private sector were estimated at \$3.75 billion, while exports worth \$2.1 billion were performed by the public sector. Finished industrial exports include garment exports, sugar, natural gas and other goods. Myanmar exports agricultural produce, livestock products, fisheries, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods and other goods. Of them, the manufacturing sector bagged the highest foreign income. Garment export is ranked first among the top ten items, including natural gas and minerals.

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/manufacturing-sector-exports-generate-us5-87-bln-as-of-17-november/>

Myanmar to prioritize VietNam for sugar export



Myanmar News | 29 November, 2023

Myanmar will prioritize Viet Nam for sugar export as a purchase order for 10,000 tonnes of sugar has already been received from Viet Nam, according to the Myanmar Sugar and Sugarcane Related Association. Myanmar has planned to export sugar to Bangladesh, Indonesia and other foreign countries. Yet, sugar exports to VietNam will be arranged first upon its purchase order. Myanmar ships exports to foreign trade partners beyond self-sufficiency. Myanmar's sugarcane crushing operations are in full swing from November to December. The sugarcane production is estimated at 400,000 tonnes per year. New sugar will start flowing into the domestic market in December. This year, The sugar mills raised the price of sugarcane to K150,000 per tonne for the 2023-2024 sugarcane season from the earlier set rate of K110,000 per tonne.

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myanmar-to-prioritize-viet-nam-for-sugar-export/#article-title/>

New foreign investments in Jan-Nov rise 14.8% y-o-y



Vietnam News | 29 November, 2023

New foreign investments in January-November have soared by 14.8% year-on-year to nearly US\$28.85 billion, according to a Ministry of Planning and Investment report. In the year to November 20, total capital from newly registered and adjusted foreign

investment projects and share acquisitions by foreign investors has grown remarkably against the same period last year. Foreign direct investment (FDI) disbursements in Vietnam have reached a record high of US\$20.25 billion so far this year, setting a new benchmark between 2018 and 2023. This surge is attributed to government support and collaboration across various sectors to overcome legal obstacles. Authorities have presented investment registration certificates to 2,865 foreign investment projects worth US\$16.41 billion, up by a steep 42.4% versus the same period last year. There have been 1,152 operational foreign investment projects adjusting up their capital by over US\$6.47 billion, a 32.1% increase. The manufacturing and processing industries have attracted over US\$20.97 billion, accounting for 72.71% of the total. The real estate sector has secured the second position with over US\$2.87 billion, making up almost 10% of the total, despite a 31.4% decline compared to the same period last year. Quang Ninh Province has continued to lead in FDI attraction, with registered capital nearing US\$3.11 billion, capturing almost 10.8% of the total registered capital and surging by 42.3% over the same period in 2022. HCMC comes in second with over US\$3.08 billion in registered capital, representing 10.7% of the total, albeit experiencing a 12.9% decline. Investors from 110 countries and territories have invested in Vietnam, with Singapore leading the way with nearly US\$5.15 billion, followed by Hong Kong (China) with over US\$4.33 billion and South Korea with more than

US\$4.17 billion. As of November 20, 2023, Vietnam had had 38,844 active FDI projects with total registered capital of nearly US\$462.4 billion. The cumulative realized capital of these projects has reached almost US\$294.2 billion, accounting for 63.6% of the total registered capital.

Source : <https://english.thesaigontimes.vn/new-foreign-investments-in-jan-nov-rise-14-8-y-o-y/>

Vietnam's year-to-date exports down 6.4%, Nov industrial output up 5.8%



Vietnam News | 29 November, 2023

Vietnam's exports in the year to November 15 fell 6.4% from a year earlier to \$306 billion, government data released on Wednesday showed. Its industrial output in November rose 5.8% from a year earlier, the General Statistics Office said in a report, while November consumer prices rose 3.45% from a year earlier.

Source :

<https://www.reuters.com/markets/asia/vietnams-year-to-date-exports-down-64-nov-industrial-output-up-58-2023-11-29/>
