

Highlight News / January 08, 2023



- General Science announces \$255 million expansion plan in Cambodia
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- Thailand's Aging Population Drives Lao Labor Market Across the Border
- Myanmar's natural gas exports bag over US\$2 bln in 8 months
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General Science announces \$255 million expansion plan in Cambodia



Cambodia News | 07 January 2024

The 18-month project will add capacity for 3.5 million units of semi-steel radial passenger car tires and 750,000 all-steel truck bus tires per year at the plant, inaugurated in April last year. Founded in 2002, Jiangsu General Science Technology Co., Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as GS) is a modern high-tech enterprise focusing on the R&D, production, and sales of high-quality tires. In September 2016, GS was listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange in China. GS has three production bases in China, Thailand, and Cambodia, with a dedicated and professional marketing team and a well-distributed sales network. GS sells products in more than 70 countries and regions, like the United States, Europe, Asia, and Africa. The Thailand production base is located in Rayong Industrial Park, Thailand, close to Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, and Laem Chabang deep-water port. In 2022, GS opened the Cambodian factory as its second overseas production base to accelerate international development. It is located on 18 hectares of land in Preah Sihanuk and employs 1,600 people. This expansion not only will add capacity but also create more

employment opportunities and aid Cambodia's industrialization process.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501418887/general-science-announces-255-million-expansion-plan-in-cambodia/>

Kingdom's BOP deficit stood at 3 percent of GDP in 2023 Q3



Cambodia News | 07 January 2024

The Kingdom's Balance of Payment (BOP) deficit stood at KHR 996 billion, which is three percent of the country's GDP, according to the latest numbers revealed by the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) yesterday. The current and capital accounts surplus stood at KHR 1,634 billion, which is 4.9 percent of the GDP. The quarter-on-quarter change is estimated at KHR 228 billion and the year-on-year change is calculated to be KHR 9,796 billion. Meanwhile, the financial account for the third quarter of 2023 stood at KHR 611 billion, which is 1.8 percent of GDP. The quarter-on-quarter change was KHR 1,394 billion and the year-on-year change was KHR 3,341 billion. Within the financial account, direct investments, portfolio investments, other investments and reserve assets stood at KHR 3,689 billion, KHR 212 billion, KHR 3,862 billion and KHR 996 billion. According to NBC, in the second quarter of 2023, Cambodia's BOP switched to a surplus of KHR 1,366 billion from a deficit of KHR 322 billion in the previous quarter due to the change from deficit to surplus on current and capital accounts when

the inflow of net incurrence of liabilities decreased. Current and capital accounts recorded a surplus of KHR 1,865 billion from a deficit of KHR 461 billion in the previous quarter because of the decline in goods and services accounts and primary income account deficit while the surplus on secondary income account decreased. Financial account recorded net incurrence of liabilities KHR 2,012 billion, decreased by KHR 251 billion (11.1 percent) compared to the previous quarter, primarily resulting from the decrease in net incurrence of liabilities in direct investment while the net acquisition of financial assets in portfolio investment increased and the net acquisition of financial assets in other investment switched to net incurrence of liabilities. As of the end of the second quarter of 2023, Cambodia's international investment position posted net external liabilities of KHR 162,416 billion, increased by KHR 5,546 billion (3.5 percent) from KHR 156,870 billion at the end of the first quarter of 2023, and increased by KHR 16,468 billion (11.3 percent) from KHR 145,948 billion at the end of the second quarter of 2022. As per the latest data available, Cambodia's exports topped \$18.59 billion during the first ten months of 2023, up 0.2 percent compared to the same period last year. The country's main exports were apparel, footwear, travel goods, bicycles, and agricultural products such as rice, rubber, cassava, bananas, and mangoes. The top five export destinations for Cambodia during the period were the United States, Vietnam, China, Thailand and Japan. The US remained the Kingdom's biggest market during the first ten months of this year with exports worth \$7.49

billion, a 1.6 percent decrease from \$7.61 billion during the same period a year ago. Exports to Vietnam rose 40 percent to \$2.26 billion, from \$1.66 billion while exports to China also increased 19.3 percent to \$1.17 billion, the report showed. The garment, footwear and travel goods industry is the largest foreign exchange earner for Cambodia. The sector consists of roughly 1,133 factories and branches, employing approximately 840,000 workers, mostly female. Penn Sovicheat, spokesman at the Ministry of Commerce, earlier told Khmer Times that the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership agreement and the free trade agreements with China and Korea that came into force in 2022 have played important roles in promoting Cambodia-made products and contributed to attracting new foreign investment.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501418108/kingdoms-bop-deficit-stood-at-3-percent-of-gdp-in-2023-q3/>

China and Laos are collaborating to facilitate quicker cross-border customs clearance between the two countries



Laos News / 05 January 2024

Chindavong Xaiyasin, counselor of education and culture at the Lao embassy in China, disclosed in an exclusive interview with China Daily that Laos'

deputy minister of foreign affairs visited Beijing last week to explore ways to further reduce the time taken to clear customs when traveling by train. The ongoing discussions focus on cutting border port clearance time from two hours to one. The increasingly efficient China-Laos Railway is fueling Laos' growth and revitalising trade and economy in Southeast Asia, Xaiyasin said.

Source: https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freefreenews/freecontent_04_Railway_y24.php

Thailand's Aging Population Drives Lao Labor Market Across the Border.



Laos News | 04 January 2024

Thailand needs more workers, and the younger Lao population is all set to step in. In response to increasing requests from companies for more migrant workers, Thailand has taken steps to facilitate their entry into the country. The government recently granted a stay extension to migrant workers from Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam until 20 January 2024, while they go through the work permit application process. This move comes at a crucial time as Laos grapples with an economic downturn, high inflation, and currency depreciation over the past year. The challenging economic conditions have made the

prospect of working in Thailand more appealing for Lao migrant workers.

Source: <https://laotiantimes.com/2024/01/04/thailands-aging-population-drives-lao-labor-market-across-the-border/>

Myanmar's natural gas exports bag over US\$2 bln in 8 months



Myanmar News | 06 January 2024

The value of Myanmar's natural gas exports totalled over US\$2 billion in the current financial year 2023-2024, according to the Ministry of Commerce. Of the top export groups, Myanmar's natural gas export sector ranked second between 1 April and 22 December. The statistics released by the Ministry of Planning and Finance indicated that natural gas earnings crossed \$841.7 million in the Q1 (April-June) of the current FY, which was down by \$67.8 million compared to that of the corresponding period last FY. Myanmar exported natural gas to Thailand, China, and Japan. Yadana, Yedagun, Shwe, and Zawtika offshore gas production projects conduct drilling and extraction of natural gas at present.

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myanmars-natural-gas-exports-bag-over-us2-bln-in-8-months/>

Myanmar's fisheries exports bag US\$448 mln from over 290,000 tonnes in Apr-Nov



Myanmar News | 07 January 2024

Myanmar conveyed over 290,000 tonnes of fisheries worth US\$448 million to more than 40 foreign countries in the past eight months of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, said U Nyunt Win, director of the Department of Fisheries in Nay Pyi Taw. The fisheries are steadily delivered to Japan, countries from the Middle East, European Union member countries, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei, and Australia. Myanmar Fisheries Federation and the Department of Fisheries are closely working together to bolster fisheries exports. "Fisheries exports are separated into three main categories: fish, shrimp and others. Fisheries exports are estimated at 180,000 tonnes, while shrimp export volume was 30,000. Myanmar exports fisheries to its trade partners via maritime and border channels. China and Thailand are the main buyers of Myanmar's fisheries," U Nyunt Win elaborated. Myanmar has been focusing on fisheries processing in line with Good Manufacturing Practices to ensure seafood safety and comply with the relevant countries' import rules and regulations. Beyond seaborne export, Myanmar sends fisheries to neighbouring countries such as China and Thailand through Myawady,

Muse, Kawthoung, Sittway, Myeik and Maungtau border points. The department and exporters are joining hands in fulfilling the requirements of each country that imports Myanmar's fisheries and exerting concerted efforts not to reduce export volume. The country is endeavouring to adhere to the stricter regulations for seafood export set by countries like China. Myanmar is committed to meeting market demand and boosting fisheries exports.

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myanmars-fisheries-exports-bag-us448-mln-from-over-290000-tonnes-in-apr-nov/>

VN inflationary pressure to ease in 2024



Vietnam News | 06 January 2024

Speaking at the workshop, jointly held by the Institute of Economics and Finance under the Academy of Finance and the Price Management Department at the Ministry of Finance, Deputy Director of the Institute Nguyen Duc Do explained that the world economy, especially the US and China, is expected to slow this year. Given this, Vietnam's exports are projected to remain modest, he said. The struggling real estate market will adversely affect the entire economy and lead to low growth in the year. Do also set out several scenarios for the consumer price index (CPI) growth, the main gauge of inflation,

ranging from 2.5% to 3.5%. Economist Dinh Trong Thinh said Vietnamese enterprises will optimise opportunities generated by free trade agreements (FTAs) and the economy would grow 5.5%-6.5%, with inflation hovering around 3.2% - 3.5%. Associate Professor, Dr. Ngo Tri Long stressed that the inflation target of 4% - 4.5% approved by the National Assembly would be possible thanks to the Government's experience in price management, plus aggregate demand yet to show signs of rebound. However, the factors that cause inflationary pressure still remain, but the outlook is better in a number of countries, reducing the once high CPI growth forecast due to service fee adjustments, heard the workshop. Its Price Management Department will also keep a close watch on economic developments and impacts of global inflation on Vietnam to take appropriate solutions, while closely monitoring the domestic market to give policy consultation and flexible management scenarios. Statistics show that Vietnam's CPI rose 3.25% in 2023, much lower than the target of about 4.5%. Economists reported that the building of price management scenarios that match the reality is an important basis to control inflation.

Source: <https://vietnamnet.vn/en/inflationary-pressure-to-ease-in-2024-economists-2235656.html>

Vietnam's 2023 outbound investments dip 21.2% y-o-y



Vietnam News | 07 January 2024

HCMC – Vietnam's 2023 outbound investments totaled US\$420.9 million, dropping 21.2% compared to the previous year, according to data from the General Statistics Office (GSO). GSO data showed that Vietnam had 124 new overseas projects last year, with total pledged capital of US\$282.7 million. While this represented a 33.7% fall over 2022, 25 projects underwent capital adjustments, resulting in a 1.3-fold increase and contributing an additional US\$138.2 million to outbound investments. The wholesale and retail sector accounted for 37.3% of total investments, followed by information and communications with a 28.7% share. Vietnam extended its investment presence to 26 countries and territories in 2023. Canada topped the list, attracting US\$150.3 million, equivalent to 35.7% of the total investment. Singapore followed with US\$122.6 million (29.1%), and Laos secured US\$116.7 million (27.7%). Minister of Planning and Investment Nguyen Chi Dung emphasized the growing collaboration with Laos, noting continuous development in bilateral investments. Successful projects contributed to socioeconomic development and earned recognition from the Lao government.

Source: <https://english.thesaigontimes.vn/vietnams-2023-outbound-investments-dip-21-2-y-o-y/>
