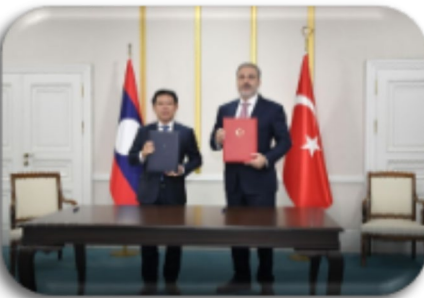




- SSEZ's export-import valued at \$3.36 billion in 2023
- Cambodia, ADB agree to support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises
- Laos' inflation rate rises slightly in January 2024.
- Lao, Türkiye foreign ministers ink pact to bolster cooperation.
- Myanmar's rice exports top 1.16M tonnes worth US\$574M in ten months.
- Myanmar provides insight into current situation at 24th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting
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SSEZ's export-import valued at \$3.36 billion in 2023



Cambodia News | 7 February, 2024

The total import and export volume of the Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone (SSEZ) were valued at \$3.36 billion in 2023, a year-on-year increase of 34.8 percent, the zone's operator said in a statement issued recently. "The trade volume through the SSEZ accounted for approximately 7.18 percent of Cambodia's total trade volume," the source pointed out. Jointly ventured by Chinese and Cambodian investors, the SSEZ is a flagship project under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Situated in the south-western coastal province of Preah Sihanouk, the SSEZ is the country's largest industrial zone in terms of size and occupancy. Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone has attracted 180 enterprises and private institutions from China, Europe, the U.S., Southeast Asia and other regions, creating nearly 30,000 jobs.

Source :

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501435871/ssezs-export-import-valued-at-3-36-billion-in-2023/>

Cambodia, ADB agree to support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises



Cambodia News | 7 February, 2024

The Foreign Trade Bank of Cambodia (FTB) on Tuesday joined the Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s Trade and Supply Chain Finance Program (TSCFP) to boost trade finance for micro, small, and

medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Cambodia. FTB Chief Executive Officer Dith Sochal and ADB Country Director for Cambodia JyotsanaVarma signed the deal in Phnom Penh. "The agreement is part of the ADB's private sector development initiative to promote the sector's participation in Cambodia's economic diversification," Varma said at the event. "It will fill market gaps by providing financing through partner banks to support trade and MSMEs, representing about 99 percent of all enterprises in Cambodia," she added. As a partner bank of the TSCFP, the FTB will provide support to corporate and MSME clients in Cambodia by allowing trade finance instruments issued by the FTB to be covered by TSCFP credit guarantees, she said, adding that this assistance is expected to help increase the number of international banks engaged in the Cambodian market. Sochal said the FTB has already been working with the ADB program to boost its knowledge and skills in trade facilitation, he said, adding that the program has helped build capacity within the FTB on report preparation, good practices, innovative strategies, training modules, and performance measurement. The TSCFP has provided loans and guarantees to more than 200 partner banks in many countries to support trade, boosting imports and exports that foster growth, according to the ADB. Since 2009, the TSCFP has supported \$57 billion in trade in more than 45,000 transactions in emerging markets, the lender said.

Source :

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501435837/cambodia-adb-agree-to-support-micro-small-and-medium-sized-enterprises/>

Laos' inflation rate rises slightly in January 2024.



Laos News | 7 February, 2024

Laos recorded an inflation rate of 24.44 percent in January 2024, a slight increase from 24.37 percent in December 2023, according to the latest report from the Lao Statistics Bureau. According to a report released by the bureau on Wednesday, the highest price rise in January was recorded in the hotel and restaurant category, which stood at 35.98 percent year-on-year. Other categories driving inflation included the clothing and footwear category at 33.38 percent year-on-year, medical care and medicines at 31.03 percent, the food and non-alcoholic beverage category at 25.26 percent, and the household goods category at 24.50 percent. The surge in demand during the festive season led to an increase in the prices of food and alcoholic drinks, which is one of the main factors driving inflation, according to the report. The Lao central bank, the Bank of the Lao PDR (BOL), will attempt to lower the rate of inflation to 9 percent or another single-digit figure by the end of 2024, by ensuring that the income export revenues enter the banking system.

Source :

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20240207/ac65e13de9894ca99c4f3743321973ee/c.html>

Lao, Türkiye foreign ministers ink pact to bolster cooperation.



Laos News | 7 February, 2024

The governments of Laos and Türkiye plan to expand cooperation in economics and trade and have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to this effect. The two foreign ministers signed the MOU on behalf of their ministries, aiming to broaden the two countries' longstanding cooperation. They discussed bilateral cooperation in past years and the possible future direction of strengthened links, and also shared opinions on regional and global issues of mutual interest. The two ministers noted the many achievements over the 60 years of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, agreeing that their ties have continuously enhanced in the political, economic, trade and other arenas. Bilateral trade reached a peak in 2018 and 2019 but subsequently declined by 75 percent when the Covid-19 pandemic struck, according to an official report. The value of two-way trade then rose to US\$11.83 million in the first 11 months of 2023, signalling post-pandemic recovery as trade turnover exceeded the figure of US\$11 million recorded in 2022.

source :

https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freefreenews/freecontent_27_LaoTürkiye_y24.php

Myanmar's rice exports top 1.16M tonnes worth US\$574M in ten months.



Myanmar News | 7 February, 2024

The value of Myanmar's rice and broken rice exports amounted to US\$574 million from over 1.16 million tonnes in the past ten months of the current financial year 2023-2024 beginning 1 April, comprising 1.08 million tonnes by seaborne trade and 80,000 tonnes at border, as per the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF). The export volumes were registered at 87,648 tonnes worth \$36 million in April, 110,706 tonnes worth \$48 million in May, 62,725 tonnes worth \$28 million in June, 58,334 tonnes worth \$26 million in July, 59,971 tonnes worth \$28 million in August, 84,773 tonnes worth \$42 million in September, 119,526 tonnes worth \$63 million in October, 175,990 tonnes worth \$90 million in November, 195,829 tonnes worth \$99 million in December and 213,605 tonnes worth \$111 million in January respectively. Therefore, the rice export volume was recorded as the highest in January, followed by December and November. The figures showed a drop in June, July and August. The federation aims to achieve 2.5 million tonnes of rice export in the current FY, expecting to earn \$1 billion. Myanmar exported 2,261,203 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign trade partners in the past 2022-2023 FY (April-March), estimated at \$853.472 million. Myanmar bagged over \$809.135 million from

approximately 2.164 million tonnes of rice export in the 2021-2022 FY (Apr-Mar).

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myanmars-rice-exports-top-1-16m-tonnes-worth-us574m-in-ten-months/#article-title>

Myanmar provides insight into current situation at 24th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting



Myanmar News | 7 February, 2024

Myanmar attended the 24th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting and explained the terrorist attacks happening in Myanmar and the measures aimed at autonomy, self-determination and arrangements of free and fair multiparty democratic elections, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador of Myanmar to Belgium U Soe Lin Han attended and participated in the meeting held at the SQUARE Brussels Meeting Centre in Brussels, Belgium, on 2 February. Speaking at the meeting, the Myanmar ambassador expressed Myanmar's gratitude for the EU's Trade Special Tax Exemption Programme (GSP/EBA) and the country's awareness of the labour rights of workers in Myanmar in line with the due diligence required under the GSP/EBA programme and actions taken by the government under the existing laws. The causes of terrorist attacks in Myanmar include online fraud gangs and drug trade issues, so the three countries, Myanmar-China-Thailand, are coordinating to suppress and clear these problems effectively, he said. He said that efforts are being made politically to have the

autonomy of ethnic groups and the right to self-determination before they are discussed in the parliament for enactment. He also explained the country's continuous effort to hold a free, fair, multiparty democratic election. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Laos and the rotating chair of ASEAN, Mr Saleumxay Kommasith, said he would commit to finding a long-term sustainable way based on Myanmar's implementation process. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, Mr Parnpree Bahiddha-Nukara, said Thailand believes that increasing humanitarian aids will improve the situation in Myanmar. He also urged the EU to have positive interactions with the community in Myanmar and international community in the process of providing humanitarian aid to the country. In the meeting, Mr Josep Borrell, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/ Vice-President of the European Commission-HR/VP, and the ASEAN and EU foreign ministers discussed the positions of their respective countries. ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Kao Kim Hourn also attended the meeting.

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myanmar-provides-insight-into-current-situation-at-24th-asean-eu-ministerial-meeting/>

PM urges logistics connectivity for Vietnamese farm produce

 Vietnam News | 7 February, 2024

Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh has recently issued a dispatch aimed at enhancing logistics connectivity to drive the consumption and export of agricultural, forestry and aquatic products, considering it one of the key tasks in agriculture and rural development. Under the dispatch, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) is entrusted with the critical task of orchestrating collaborative efforts with relevant ministries, agencies and local authorities to promptly submit a scheme on developing logistics services, improving the quality and competitiveness of Vietnamese farm produce until 2030 with a vision to 2050 to the Prime Minister. It must also partner with localities to review and supplement the zoning of logistics service centres tailored specifically for farm produce, coordinate with the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT) to hold training courses on logistics, supply chains in general, and farm produce logistics chains in particular, for State and local management officials, businesses, and cooperatives operating in agriculture sector. The MARD is also assigned to partner with the MIT and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to concretise the contents of the Vietnam-China Joint Statement and signed cooperation documents on agricultural cooperation, opening farm produce markets, diversifying traditional distribution channels through wholesale markets, farm produce logistics service centres at border gates, and creating favourable conditions for farm produce trade via official channels through e-commerce platforms. The MIT is responsible for spearheading the formulation and submission of a

national logistics service development strategy for the 2025-2035 period, with a vision to 2045. It is tasked with collaborating with the MARD to intensify trade promotion activities and help firms build effective agricultural supply chains linked with logistics services for entry into global markets. Other specific tasks are also assigned to the ministries of planning and investment, finance and transport, centrally-run cities and provinces, the Vietnam Logistics Business Association and agriculture associations.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/pm-urges-logistics-connectivity-for-vietnamese-farm-produce/279364.vnp>

Phone exports rank top in 1H

January



Vietnam News | 7 February, 2024

Export revenue for phones and accessories in the first half of January stood at \$2.86 billion, a year-on-year increase of 6.7 per cent, figures from the General Department of Vietnam Customs show. Phones and accessories therefore ranked first in export value, the Hai Quan (Customs) online newspaper reported. They have been among Vietnam's major export items over recent years. Exports of phones and accessories earned \$52.38 billion in 2023, ranking second after computers and components. Key export markets for are China, with export turnover of \$16.87 billion, the US with \$7.9 billion, the EU with \$7.2 billion, and South Korea with \$3.51 billion.

Source : <https://en.vneconomy.vn/phone-exports-rank-top-in-1h-january.htm>
