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Cambodian firms urged to explore US rice market



Cambodia News | 6 June, 2024

Minister of Commerce Cham Nimul yesterday encouraged domestic rice exporters to explore the market in the United States (US). The minister stated this during a meeting with Patrick Murphy, Executive Vice President of Rice and Grains Global Sourcing at Otis McAllister and a delegation from the Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF) at the ministry to discuss the possibility of exporting more Cambodian rice to the US. According to a statement by the Ministry of Commerce, Murphy expressed satisfaction with the overall progress of Cambodia. He also praised Cambodia's agriculture sector, especially rice products, which are good in quality. In response, Nimul encouraged 16 major rice export companies who are members of CRF to work directly with Otis McAllister Company to reach an agreement to export Cambodian rice to the US soon. CRF Secretary-General Lun Yeng told Khmer Times yesterday that it had another meeting with the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) led by Deputy Prime Minister Sun Chanthol and Otis McAllister Company. He added that Otis McAllister needs to inspect the production standards of rice mills before agreeing to purchase for the US market. "We have two companies that qualify for the US market standards, but I have been asked not to name them yet. I do not want to release any information about the agreement yet because it is an internal matter of

the companies," Yeng added. "It is not easy to persuade the US buyers. We have to invite them to inspect the production standards first," Yeng emphasized. According to Yeng, Cambodia has exported low quantities of rice to the US, between 2,000-3,000 tonnes per year, but if the Otis McAllister company agrees to buy Cambodian rice, it will go up 5,000-20,000 tonnes per year. "We have the ability to supply 200,000 tonnes per year," said Yeng. According to Yeng, for the first five months of 2024, over 300,000 tonnes of rice were exported from Cambodia to nearly 50 destinations. In the first four months this year, Cambodia exported 248,491 tonnes of rice worth \$170.2 million. Each year, Cambodia produces more than 12 million tonnes of paddy rice or more than seven million tonnes of milled rice, which is 50 percent more than the domestic demand, Yang Saing Koma, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, said last month. "Our goal is to ensure food security and sustainable economy and environment, besides supporting farmers," he said. "Cambodia's rice sector is not only successful in ensuring national food security, but it also contributes to global food security."

Source :

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501500219/cambodian-firms-urged-to-explore-us-rice-market/>

Huawei expands network coverage to 80 percent in Cambodia



Cambodia News | 6 June, 2024

Huawei Technologies (Cambodia) Co Ltd, a Chinese multinational digital communication technology recently revealed that the company expanded the information and communication technology (ICT) to 80 percent of the Khmer population while providing technology training courses to about 1,000 workers each year. This came as Kun Nhem, Director General of the General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE) led a delegation to visit Tao Guangyao, President of Huawei Southeast Asia Multi Country Management and Chief Executive Officer of Huawei Technologies (Cambodia) held at Exchange Square in Phnom Penh on May 30. During the meeting, a representative of Huawei presented the summary of the company's achievements in Cambodia over the past 25 years which focused on four areas, first is the development of digital infrastructures across the country. The second is the improvement of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) by collaborating with key partners to install and deploy 2G, 3G and 4G networks, serving about 80 percent of the total population through the use of new technologies and advanced solutions. The third is the digital revolution and technological innovation while the last contribution is the commitment of Huawei to participate with the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) in promoting the digital economy and digital government. The GDCE Director appreciated Huawei for investing in the Kingdom and employing over 200 Khmer staff in the company. He also thanked for providing technology training courses to approximately 1,000

workers each year as well as offering scholarships to students who want to learn technical skills. He went on to encourage Huawei to strengthen the existing cooperation with RGC aimed at achieving sustainable and resilient development in the country. On the occasion, Nhem handed over a letter of appreciation to Tao, thanking him for donating 10 units of Huawei laptops to GDCE. It may be recalled that on April 2, Huawei CEO met Aun Pornmoniroth, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance (MEF) to promote the digitalisation of economic, financial and trade sectors in line with the Cambodia Digital Economic and Society Policy Framework 2021-2025 (CDESPF) and the Cambodia Financial Technology Development Policy (CFTDP) 2023-2028. Later in the day, Tao visited Cham Nimul, Minister of Commerce (MoC), discussing matters for future cooperation where he requested recommendations from the minister for the successful operation in Cambodia. By working closely with RGC, Huawei will play a critical part in accelerating the Kingdom's digital economic landscape and introduce new and up-to-date financial technology that will be relevant towards building a sound and robust financial and commerce system that is a prerequisite for thriving in the digital age.

Source :

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501500211/huawei-expands-network-coverage-to-80-percent-in-cambodia/>

Laos, Singapore, Cambodia Unite to Facilitate Cross-Border Electricity Trade.



Laos News | 6 June, 2024

The number of secondary school students in Grades 4 and 7 across Laos has declined for the third consecutive year, as reported by the Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES) during the announcement of the exam timetable on 3 June. These students, totaling more than 115,500 nationwide, are preparing for their final exams this month. However, the decline in the number of students taking these exams has been particularly noticeable this academic year. Only 68,850 Grade 4 students are set to take the exams, representing a decrease from 76,322 last year and 83,544 in 2022. Similarly, the number of Grade 7 students taking exams has significantly dropped to 46,744 from 50,276 last year and 55,828 in 2022. Despite efforts, economic challenges such as low wages and inflation significantly contribute to the dropout rate among students. In 2023.

Source : <https://laotiantimes.com/2024/06/05/decline-in-secondary-school-enrollments-continues-for-third-consecutive-year/>

Myanmar aims to surpass national export targets amid economic growth



Myanmar News | 6 June, 2024

Officials concerned are helping solve the problems of companies that can export aquatic products in cooperation with relevant associations and

departments so as to meet and exceed the national export target, including the main exports such as rice, beans, corn and rubber, as stated by the Ministry of Commerce. In order to export according to the target specifications, officials are also helping to solve the difficulties encountered in exporting in coordination with associations like the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association and Myanmar Fishery Products Processors and Exporters Association. Among foreign exports, 2.5 million tonnes of rice are destined to be exported in the financial year 2024-2025. According to statistics of 4 June 2024, eight rice ships are docked at eight international ports to export rice. A total of 135,920 tonnes of rice, including 12,500 tonnes of rice from Alone International Port Terminal, 12,500 tonnes from Yangon International Gateway Terminal, 10,000 tonnes from the Myanmar Terminal (formerly known as Bo Aung Kyaw Port Terminal), 9,800 tonnes from Wilmar International Port Terminal and 91,120 tonnes from Sule Pagoda Wharves will be exported. In addition, four more ships will arrive at Yangon International Port to export 74,000 tonnes of rice.

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myanmar-aims-to-surpass-national-export-targets-amid-economic-growth/>

Myanmar ships 19,000+ tonnes of rubber to foreign markets in May



Myanmar News | 6 June, 2024

Myanmar shipped over 19,400 tonnes of rubber worth US\$26.8 million to foreign trade partners in May through maritime and border trade channels, according to the Ministry of Commerce. Myanmar exported 8,270 tonnes of rubber to China, over 6,670 to Malaysia, 2,190 to Vietnam, 500 to Indonesia, 360 to Japan, 315 to India, 200 to rubber, over 100 to South Korea and small volumes to Sri Lanka and Bangladesh last month, totalling over 17,300 tonnes worth \$23.88 million. Between 1 and 24 May, Myanmar delivered over 1,610 tonnes of rubber to Thailand and 516 to China, totalling over 2,120 tonnes worth \$2.93 million to neighbouring countries through border posts. Additionally, Myanmar exported 147,170 tonnes of black gram, pigeon pea and green gram with an estimated value of \$131.29 million in May, comprising 66,036 tonnes of black gram valued at \$64.48 million, 53,630 tonnes of green gram worth \$34.787 million and over 27,500 tonnes worth \$32.26 million, the Ministry of Commerce's statistics showed. More than 50,000 tonnes of black gram were sent to India, while green gram and pigeon peas were exported to India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Pakistan, China and Thailand.

Source : <https://www.gnfm.com.mm/myanmar-ships-19000-tonnes-of-rubber-to-foreign-markets-in-may/>

VietNam's semiconductor industry poised to bolster industrial real estate: experts



Vietnam News | 6 June, 2024

The growth of Việ̣t Nam's semiconductor industry will facilitate the development of the industrial real estate sector, and Việ̣t Nam needs to focus more on creating favourable conditions for investors, experts said. According to Thomas Rooney, Senior Manager of Industrial Services at Savills Vietnam, Việ̣t Nam is becoming a top destination for semiconductor investors. Việ̣t Nam has a favourable location in Southeast Asia, a large supply of necessary rare-earth elements for semiconductor chip production, and a stable political environment. It is also actively pushing for the development of the semiconductor industry with favourable policies. According to other Savills Việ̣t Nam experts, while customers renting industrial properties in the South are usually rubber, plastic, foodstuff and beverage businesses, more computer and electronics firms do so in the North. As the wave of semiconductor investment grows, it will also facilitate the development of industrial real estate in the North. Rooney noted that rising investment in semiconductor manufacturing was leading to a rise in demand for factories and industrial parks that satisfy the infrastructure requirements of the industry, including a stable power source, high internet speed and effective water treatment systems. Upgrading the quality of these factories to attract investors was crucial, he

said. Việt Nam's semiconductor industry has a lot of growth potential. It has attracted many top companies in semiconductors over the years, including Samsung, Qualcomm, Infineon and Amkor, with factories and factory expansion projects worth billions of dollars, according to experts. For example, in 2022 Samsung opened its largest research and development centre in Southeast Asia in Hà Nội. The country's semiconductor industry is expected to reach over US\$6.16 billion by the end of 2024, helping it become one of the world's most important production hubs for semiconductor companies worldwide. Rooney said that the Government and businesses needed to work together to improve the investment climate, infrastructure and manpower to create suitable conditions for the development of the semiconductor industry and industrial real estate. He said that Việt Nam's current infrastructure was still underdeveloped, especially its power transmission lines during peak months and power supply systems. "The semiconductor industry requires a great deal of power, so Việt Nam needs to speed up its large-scale energy infrastructure projects," he said. He also noted that Việt Nam was lacking highly skilled engineers for the semiconductor industry, and it needed to tackle this challenge to attract more investment from international technology companies. Việt Nam's electricity development plan for 2021 – 2030 prioritises stable supply of power for investment projects and targets sustainable energy

development. The country is also developing high-tech industrial parks, such as the Việt Nam National Innovation Centre in Hà Nội, in order to create favourable conditions for foreign investors. The Ministry of Planning and Investment has also been instructed to work with the Ministry of Information and Communication, the Ministry of Education and Training, and other relevant agencies to build a programme to develop manpower for the semiconductor industry, which aims to train 50,000 qualified workers by 2030. The semiconductor industry supplies important components for the production of modern electronic devices, such as microprocessors and data storage devices. According to the US Semiconductor Industry Association, the global semiconductor market is expected to reach US\$600 billion by 2025, up 14 per cent from 2023, thanks to the increasing demand for electronic devices.

Source :

<https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1656840/viet-nam-s-semiconductor-industry-poised-to-bolster-industrial-real-estate-experts.html>

Vietnam's coffee prices on the rise



Vietnam News | 6 June, 2024

Coffee prices continued to rise sharply on June 5, ranging from 122,000 - 123,500 VND (4.8-4.86 USD) per kilogramme in the Central Highlands – the largest coffee growing area in the country. Accordingly, the highest price was reported in Dak Nong province, at 123,500 VND/kg. In Dak Lak

province, coffee prices increased by 3,000 VND per kg compared to June 4 to reach 123,000 VND/kg. The product is being purchased at the same price in Gia Lai and Kon Tum. The weakening of the US dollar to its lowest level in the past two weeks, and speculative activities in many countries worldwide, among other factors, are driving up the prices of most commodities, including coffee. The prices of Robusta coffee in London have seen significant increases, hovering around 3,846 USD - 4,319 USD per tonne. Arabica coffee prices in New York have also experienced the rising trend. In addition to Brazil, other countries such as Colombia, Peru, and Honduras are in the coffee harvest season, with a slight increase in production but it is still lower than the market demand, leading to a continued upward trend in coffee prices.

Source :<https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnams-coffee-prices-on-the-rise-post288072.vnp>
