



Economy and Finance

Weekly News Digest

Issue 2022/No.12

Content:

1. Government encourages SMEs to join online marketplace
2. Cambodia-South Korea FTA to come into force in next 60 days
3. Home loan application amounts over \$5 billion despite Covid-19
4. PTT believes oil price unlikely to hit \$100 a barrel
5. Food prices in decline as festival ends
6. Disruptions in China can lead to 'ripple-effects' across global supply chain, says HSBC
7. IMF cuts 2022 global growth forecast as U.S., China recovery wanes
8. Facebook: Daily active users fall for first time in 18-year history
9. Price inflation: The heat is on

Government encourages SMEs to join online marketplace

Citing this, the Ministry of Commerce urged local small and medium-sized enterprises to participate in online marketplaces. The online market will be launched soon. The call came as the Ministry of Education suspended the official launch ceremony of the online marketplace from last October. This was announced yesterday by Pentagon Spokesperson Penn Sovicit. In

addition, the Ministry of Finance said that it is working to establish an online marketplace in the near future, adding that payment merchants and banks are connected to the online marketplace.

Source: [Khmer Times](#)

Cambodia-South Korea FTA to come into force in next 60 days

King Norodom Sihamoni signed the agreement on January 29th after the ratification of the Korea-Cambodia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was approved by the National Assembly and the Senate. Cambodia and Korea will inform each other. "Now, I will prepare a document through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to inform Korea that the legislature and His Majesty will enter into force within 60 days of the FTA going into effect," he said. The promulgation of the Korea-Cambodia Free Trade Agreement Approval Act opens the way for Cambodia and Korea to fully realize free trade between the two countries.

Source: [Khmer Times](#)

Home loan application amounts over \$5 billion despite Covid-19

According to the annual report of the National Bank of Cambodia, home-buying loans in Cambodia will increase by 37% in 2021, indicating a growing demand for home ownership among Cambodians. In 2021, total bank lending to consumers increased by 20% to

\$36.8 billion, with 1.2 million accounts. Of all loans issued in various sectors of the economy, home loans account for 13%, which means an increase of 37% per year. Dawn Sofap, director of personal loan sales at J Trust Royal Bank, is convinced that banks and financial institutions are still growing steadily. "In recent years, there has been an increase in home loans offered by banking institutions to their customers.

Source: [Khmer Times](#)

PTT believes oil price unlikely to hit \$100 a barrel

State-owned oil and gas conglomerate PTT Plc said international oil prices would not exceed \$100 a barrel, despite concerns over supply disruptions caused by conflicts between exporting countries. Conflicts have arisen in several regions, including the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the Yemeni rebel attack on the United Arab Emirates, and the conflict between Iraq and Turkey, raising concerns among some oil traders. Global market demand has increased after many countries reopened to reopen their economies late last year. If these conflicts are not contained, "we will see oil prices go up to \$100, but it won't be long," Outtapol said.

Source: [Bangkok Post](#)

Food prices in decline as festival end

Pork, chicken and egg prices could fall after the Lunar New Year holiday, according to the domestic trade ministry. After an on-site price check at the global market held in Thawi Watthana on Thursday, department head Wattanasak Suriam said overall prices for pork, chicken and eggs are expected to drop after the festivities on Tuesday, particularly in Thawi Watthana. He said the current average price for fresh chicken is 6,580 baht per kg, while the #3 eggs, a popular size among consumers, costs 3.33 baht per piece, within the limits allowed by the Department of Commerce.

Source: [Bangkok Post](#)

Disruptions in China can lead to 'ripple-effect' across global supply chain, say HSBC

China's zero-Covid regulations will affect worldwide deliver chain restoration as any small disruption withinside the United States of America will in all likelihood lead to "ripple effects" throughout the world, consistent with the top of transport at HSBC. The pandemic has revealed "how lean the deliver chain has become. And there may be little margin of error," stated Parash Jain, worldwide head of transport and ports fairness studies at HSBC. "The sheer significance of China on the subject of a worldwide alternate approach that any small disruption in China, could have a ripple impact throughout the delivery chain," Jain advised CNBC's "Squawk Box Asia" on Monday.

Source: [CNBC](#)

IMF cuts 2022 global growth forecast as U.S China recovery wanes

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) lowered its global growth forecast for this year as rising Covid-19 cases, supply chain disruptions and high inflation hamper the economic recovery. From 5.9% in 2021 to 4.4% in 2022, this year's figure is 0.5 percentage points lower than previously thought. For example, the emergence of the Covid omicron variant and the market volatility since the October forecast.

Source: [CNBC](#)

Facebook: Daily active users fall for first time in 18-years history

Social media large Facebook has seen its day-by-day energetic users (DAUs) drop for the primary time in its 18-12 months history. Facebook's figure agency Meta Networks says DAUs fell to 1.929bn withinside the 3 months to the give up of December, as compared to 1.930bn withinside the preceding quarter. The

company additionally warned of slowing sales increase withinside the face of opposition from competitors like TikTok and YouTube, at the same time as advertisers also are reducing spending. Meta's stocks slumped with the aid of using extra than 20% in after-hours buying and selling in New York. The slide in Meta's proportion fee wiped around \$200bn (£147.5bn) off the agency's inventory marketplace value. Shares in different social media platforms, which include Twitter, Snap and Pinterest, additionally fell sharply in prolonged buying and selling.

Source: [BBC](#)

Price inflation: The heat is on

A surge in price inflation has rarely been so well signaled. From April 1st, the upper limit on the price of household fuel will increase significantly. Let's find out exactly how much it is today. A few days after this increase, employers and employees will notice a significant increase in national insurance contributions and an increase in local tax bills, reducing their disposable income. The target area is 2%, a 5.4% increase over the previous year, most recently for large baskets of goods and services. Food and gasoline are the ones that people have already noticed that prices are rising the fastest, with prices rising by 31% compared to last year. used car. Gasoline prices are approaching £1.50 per barrel at the end of 2020, from £1.14 per liter to around \$90 per barrel.

Source: [BBC](#)

Centre for Governance Innovation and Democracy, AVI

Address: #24, Street 566, Boeung Kok 2, Toul Kok, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

• Email: cgid.avi@gmail.com • Tel: 086 727 657 / 092 964 141

• Facebook: Asian Vision Institute • Twitter: Asian Vision Institute • Telegram: AVI Channel • LinkedIn: Asian Vision Institute