

Free rice ATMs installed on Vietnam's streets

18th June, 2020



Creative Commons 2.0
via Sara on flickr.com

A Vietnamese entrepreneur has come up with an ingenious idea to help hungry people in Vietnam. Businessman Hoang Tuan Anh designed an ATM that dispenses rice

instead of cash. He arranged for the ATMs to be installed on streets in cities across Vietnam. Mr Anh said he was troubled by the number of people going hungry after losing their jobs in the coronavirus. An estimated five million people lost their livelihoods as a result of the pandemic. The "free-rice ATMs" have become so popular that Anh is arranging for more to be manufactured and installed. He told reporters that other businesses, sponsors and donors have offered to help fund his project, allowing him to extend the reach of the ATMs.

Mr Anh explained what was behind his initiative. He told the BBC: "I wanted to invent a 24/7 automatic dispensing machine providing free rice for people out of work following an ongoing nationwide lockdown to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus." Mr Anh estimated that his machines have dispensed around 3,000 tons of free rice to those in need. People are permitted to "withdraw" 1.5kg of rice twice a day. Many people are appreciative of Mr Anh's efforts. A mother who recently lost her job told the Reuters news agency: "I read about this rice ATM on the Internet. I came to check it out, and couldn't believe it came out of the ATM. I really hope the sponsors keep doing this."

Sources: bbc.com / vnexpress.net / voanews.com

Writing

Businesses need to spend more time on money on helping communities. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

idea / arranged / troubled / lost / result / popular / manufactured / donors / extend / initiative / automatic / novel / ton / appreciative / withdraw / news / Internet / believe

True / False

- a) An entrepreneur had an ingenious idea to help hungry people. T / F
- b) The entrepreneur created an ATM that gave vouchers to swap for rice. T / F
- c) The ATMs are currently only in Vietnam's capital city. T / F
- d) The entrepreneur is finding it difficult to find people to help his project. T / F
- e) The ATMs only work until 10pm. T / F
- f) The ATMs have dispensed about 3,000 tons of free rice. T / F
- g) People can take rice out of the ATM two times a day. T / F
- h) A woman who lost her job said she was disappointed with the ATMs. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. ingenious | a. continuing |
| 2. dispenses | b. situated |
| 3. installed | c. backers |
| 4. livelihood | d. range |
| 5. reach | e. allowed |
| 6. initiative | f. creative |
| 7. ongoing | g. source of income |
| 8. permitted | h. grateful for |
| 9. appreciative | i. hands out |
| 10. sponsors | j. plan |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about rice?
- b) What do you think of entrepreneurs?
- c) What do you think of the free-rice ATM idea?
- d) What kind of free ATMs does your country need?
- e) How ingenious is the free-rice ATM?
- f) How has the pandemic changed your life?
- g) What three adjectives best describe this story?
- h) What advice do you have for Mr Hoang?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. come up with an | a. be installed on streets |
| 2. an ATM that dispenses rice | b. behind his initiative |
| 3. He arranged for the ATMs to | c. it out |
| 4. five million people lost | d. instead of cash |
| 5. allowing him to extend the | e. of Mr Anh's efforts |
| 6. Mr Anh explained what was | f. reach of the ATMs |
| 7. free rice for people out | g. 1.5kg of rice twice a day |
| 8. permitted to "withdraw" | h. ingenious idea |
| 9. people are appreciative | i. of work |
| 10. I came to check | j. their livelihoods |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of rice?
- What else can businesses do for needy people?
- When was the last time you appreciated someone's help?
- How important is rice?
- What can the world do to make sure people have food?
- When was the last time you got something for free?
- What questions would you like to ask Mr Hoang?

Spelling

- A Vietnamese nrprueeeetrn
- come up with an giinsenou idea
- an ATM that epsdiness rice instead of cash
- people lost their vdslilioleoh as a result
- be manufactured and denlislat
- allowing him to xtneed the reach
- explained what was behind his ntiviiiiaet
- pdrinoigv free rice for people
- the spread of the eolnv coronavirus
- People are permitted to awdrtwih 1.5kg
- people are iericpaptvae of Mr Anh's efforts
- I really hope the ossprosn keep doing this

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. b	4. g	5. d
6. j	7. a	8. e	9. h	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Rice

You think rice is the best thing to put in vending machines. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): newspapers, gum or tissues.

Role B – Newspapers

You think newspapers are the best things to put in vending machines. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): rice, gum or tissues.

Role C – Gum

You think gum is the best thing to put in vending machines. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): newspapers, rice or tissues.

Role D – Tissues

You think tissues are the best things to put in vending machines. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): newspapers, gum or rice.

Speaking – Vending machine

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to put in a vending machine at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| • umbrellas | • rice |
| • toothpaste | • juice |
| • gum | • newspapers |
| • tissues | • potato chips |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.