

Free rice ATMs installed on Vietnam's streets



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."

Source: breakingnewsenglish.com

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'rice'?
3. What do you know about rice?
4. What do you think of entrepreneurs?
5. What do you think of the free-rice ATM idea?
6. What kind of free ATMs does your country need?
7. How ingenious is the free-rice ATM?
8. How has the pandemic changed your life?
9. What three adjectives best describe this story?
10. What advice do you have for Mr Hoang?

Vocabulary

Paragraph 1

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| 1. entrepreneur | a. One's means of getting the necessities of life. |
| 2. ingenious | b. The extent or range of effect, impact or influence. |
| 3. dispense | c. A person who organizes and operates a business or businesses, taking on financial risks. |
| 4. troubled | d. Clever, original, and inventive. |
| 5. livelihood | e. Showing distress or anxiety. |
| 6. sponsor | f. A person, business or organization who promises to donate money to a charity, team, project, event, etc. |
| 7. Reach | g. Supply a product (from a machine). |

Paragraph 2

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| 8. initiative | h. Take out something from somewhere. |
| 9. invent | i. Gave authorization or consent to someone to do something. |
| 10. curb | j. New or unusual in an interesting way. |
| 11. novel | k. An act or strategy intended to resolve a difficulty or improve a situation; a fresh approach to something. |
| 12. permitted | l. Feeling or showing gratitude or pleasure. |
| 13. withdraw | m. Create or design something that has not existed before; be the originator of. |
| 14. appreciative | n. Restrain or keep in check; stop from happening. |

Match the following synonyms from the article.

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| 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 |