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Free rice ATMs installed on Vietnam's streets – 18th June, 2020

Level 4

A businessman had an ingenious idea to help hungry people. Hoang Tuan Anh designed a "free-rice ATM". He installed them in cities across Vietnam. Mr Anh worried about the growing number of hungry people. Around five million Vietnamese people lost their jobs because of coronavirus. The popularity of the ATMs means Mr Anh is making more of them. Businesses and donors are helping his project. This will allow him to extend the reach of the ATMs.

Mr Anh explained that he wanted to invent, "a 24/7 automatic dispensing machine" to provide free rice for people out of work during lockdown. He estimated that his machines have given out 3,000 tons of free rice. People can take out 1.5kg of rice twice a day. A mother who recently lost her job appreciated Mr Anh's efforts. She said: "I read about this rice ATM on the Internet....I really hope the sponsors keep doing this."

Level 5

A businessman had an ingenious idea to help hungry people in Vietnam. Hoang Tuan Anh designed an ATM that dispenses rice. He got the ATMs installed on streets in cities across Vietnam. Mr Anh was troubled by the number of people going hungry after losing their jobs. Around five million people lost their livelihoods because of coronavirus. The popularity of the "free-rice ATMs" means Mr Anh is manufacturing and installing more of them. He told reporters that other businesses, sponsors and donors offered to help fund his project. This will allow him to extend the reach of the ATMs.

Mr Anh explained what was behind his idea. He wanted to invent, "a 24/7 automatic dispensing machine" to provide free rice for people out of work during his country's lockdown. Mr Anh estimated that his machines have dispensed around 3,000 tons of free rice. People are allowed to "withdraw" 1.5kg of rice twice a day. Many people appreciate Mr Anh's efforts. A mother who recently lost her job is one of them. She said: "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."

Level 6

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."