



**THE RESEARCH OF
THE LEGAL SYSTEM OF LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC AND LEGAL INFORMATION RELATED TO
SOCIAL, CULTURAL, POLITICAL AND SECURITY OF
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

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The Research of Legal system of Lao People's Democratic Republic and Legal
Information Related to Social, culture , Political and Security of
Lao People's Democratic Republic

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A Report on the Legal System of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

Chapter 1

General information about the legal system of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

The information about the population of Lao People's Democratic Republic

The majority of Laos's population descended from the Tai tribe, so their geography, culture, tradition and ways of life are similar to Thailand. Particularly those who have lived near the Mekong River, their social life and culture is the same as the way of life of the Thai people in the Northeastern (Esarn) region and the Northern region. Most of them are Laotian people who have been settled down along the Thai border for many years. The Mekong River or the natural border between Thai-Laos is approximately 1,100 kilometers long from the North to the South; however it cannot separate their relationships and traditions but it is the connection in the way that they use to communicate with each other.

Thai – Laos relations

Since 1993, Laos has had diplomatic relations with Thailand covering trading, and shipping. Laos began these diplomatic relations with Thai on December 2nd, 1975. Laos was administered by France at that time. Since then this relationship has included in various aspects and covered many segments of both countries.

The colonization of Laos

Laos had been administered by France and America for long time, and then they acquired their sovereignty on December, 2nd 1975. At that time, Lao established itself as Lao the People's Democratic Republic. The regime of the country has been changed from Absolute Monarchy under the control of France and America to constitutional monarchy in 1893.¹

¹ Constitution 1893, colony of France and America in king sri sawang wong period. Constitution 1991 at the first of socialism and then amendment on 2003

Laos have got their independence on December 2nd 1975. In 1991 they enacted a constitution based on socialist ideas.

It is important to note that when Laos obtained its independence or freedom, it affected its social and cultural system involving the political system and its form of government. The administration was changed from a colonized country to a sovereign more. The government planned the administration following socialist concepts. They established the new constitution based on the people's sovereignty on August 15th 1991.² This constitution demonstrated the success of the people who had fought for freedom of their own country for decades. Moreover, it also encompassed the preservation, development (political, economic, societal and cultural), peace, rights and responsibilities of the population. In addition The Government's Discus (it refers to the process and use of the state's power including the national assembly, the president, and the government) was settled, the legal system was categorized in many fields such as the economic field, the social and cultural fields, and the administrative field, etc.

The legal System of Laos

Before the founding of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

The law of Laos was called a "civil code" during the time of being a colonized country; the customs and traditions were influenced by France. There were sets of law codes including civil codes, criminal codes, procedural civil and criminal codes and other laws which had been enacted since 1972.

Legal system during 1975-1989

After the investiture of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on December 2nd 1975, the previous laws were removed and invalidated. During the period 1975-1989, Laos followed referenda, orders, suggestions, and legal to implement effective laws. In 1986, Laos transformed the economic system in the country; this market economy was

² People' democratic means all power belongs to the people by the people and for the benefit of the public.

named the “new economic mechanism” and the government established this law for economic-social development.

The first legal system in 1990 – present

In 1990, Lao People’s Democratic Republic promulgated and declared some laws especially Law of the People’ Court, Law regarding the Public Prosecutor, Law on Court Fees, Law on Criminal Procedures, Law of Civil Procedure, Penal Laws, Property Laws, Tort Laws, Law on Transactions, Laws on Family Registration, Laws on Nationality and so on. Thereafter, the government of Laos has legislated and adjusted many laws following current situations and trends. Lao People’s Democratic Republic pays attention on the improvement of the country’s laws in consideration of confirming the internationalization of the country with globalization. Since the beginning, the government has attempted to systematize the internal legal system since they are concerned with international acceptance.³

The Legislative Drafting Process of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Legislation in Laos conforms to the legal act No. 19/PMO on July 12th 2012; the formal form is called “legislative process” which is the hierarchy of law by virtue of the provision of section 4th as follows: 1. Constitution, 2. Law, 3. National Assembly Resolutions, 4. Standing Committee Resolutions, 5. Presidential Ordinances, 6. Government Decrees, 7. Government Resolutions, 8. Prime Minister orders/ Decisions, 9. Minister Orders and Decisions and Instructions, 10. Provincial Governor/ Capital Orders/ Decisions, 11. District/ Municipality/ Orders/ Village Regulations, 12. National Assembly Laws⁴. Furthermore, the process of drafting bills has to pay attention to;

1. The legislation has to correspond with the policies, the constitution, the laws and the current social- economic context.

³ Paimany Saiwongsa, Introduction to Law, Faculty of Law and Politics , National University of Lao PDR

⁴ Decree of the President of Lao People’s Democratic Republic on Attending Party Meeting and the Implementation of International Treaties no.01/PPT 7th October 2009.

2. The legislation has to correspond with the treaties and international contracts that the Lao People's Democratic Republic has entered into.

3. The legislation has to take place in each organization which has jurisdiction.

4. The plans and processes have to be managed effectively (legislative process and adjustment).

5. All processes have to be done honestly; there are needs for cooperation between various sections for expanding the democratic basis and listening to the people's opinions.

6. The legislation has to support the concepts of being scientific and public in nature.

The Stages of Bill Drafting Process

In accordance with drafting law of Lao PDR No.19/PMO on July 12th 2012, the processes are divided into 7 parts⁵ as follows;

1. Guidelines or the drafts and the relevant information has to be prepared in advance

2. Bill drafting

3. Reviewing the correspondence of the draft with the constitution by the Ministry of Justice

4. Submitting the draft or bill to the government

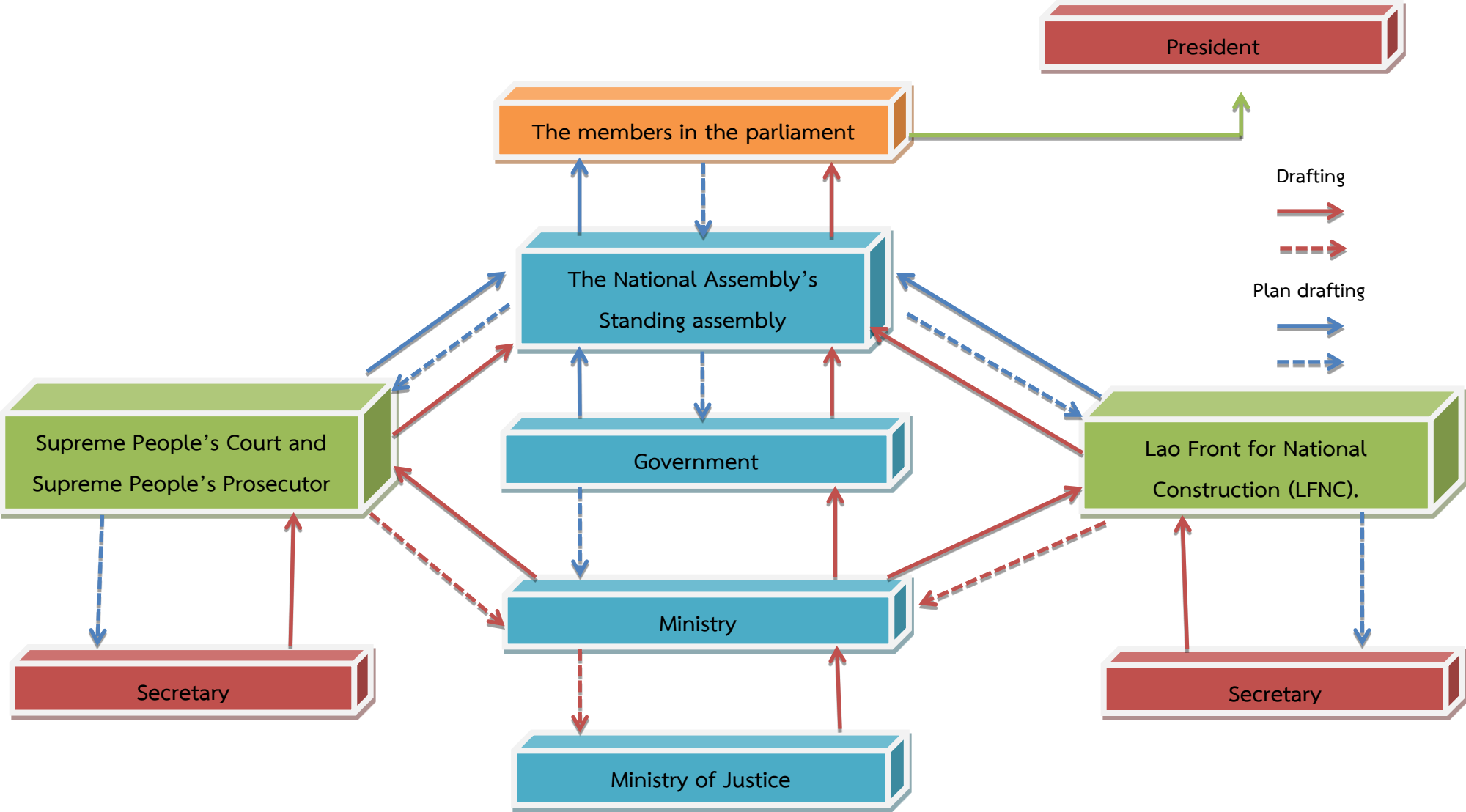
5. Government considers the draft and the members in the parliament make the commitment, and then the draft will be propose to the National Assembly Committee

6. Consideration of the National Assembly

7. The president promulgates ordinances

⁵ The drafting law of Lao PDR No.19/PMO on July 12th 2012

The Stages of Bill Drafting Process of Lao PDR



First stage: Preparation of relevant information and technical aspects.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic, or Lao PDR, has the preliminary guidelines for making laws by authorizing members and committees to consider the laws. The members in legislative authority includes: 1. President 2. National Assembly Committee 3. Government 4. Supreme People's Court 5. Supreme People's Prosecutor 6. Lao Front for National Construction (LFNC). The committees have to propose the draft bill, technical aspects and proposed laws to the relevant organizations and committees for consideration. Furthermore, in the process of law development and adoption they have to explain the rationale, necessity, objective, expectation, and extent precisely. Needs, conditions, and suggestions have to be mentioned for the National Assembly Committee's consideration.

Drafts and adopted law can be divided into 2 types: 5 year plans and annual plans. The 5 year plans is the first plan which is submitted by the first National Assembly after occasional committee's meetings and their resolutions. The annual plan is considered and submitted by the National Assembly committee in advance with the submitted draft and the adopted 5 year plan. In the first stage, the relevant organization drafting the bill will ensure the guidance of the law attached with the additional aspects by reasonable explanations and requirements. The purposes of laws, benefits or advantages, will be submitted to the Ministry of Justice before the 1st September in the 4th year of Committee of National Council. They will analyze and synthesize the draft before proposing it to the government.

The government has to examine and make draft suggestions and submit the improved law to the committee of National Assembly within January of the next year.

The obligations of the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Prosecutor, and the Lao Front for National Construction are to submit their own draft and developed law and then propose it to the government before the 1st September of the 4th year of Committee of National Council. The government will use this information before giving their consideration and estimation prior to sending it to the National Assembly's members. (Look at the blue line in the processing chart)

Checking the guidance of the draft and developed law

When all relevant organizations have already proposed the draft to the National Assembly Committee, the sifting committee and other joint commission involving The Law Committee; The Economy, Planning and Finance Committee; The Cultural and Social Committee; The Ethnic Affairs Committee; The National Defense and Security Committee and The Foreign Affairs Committee have to reanalyze the law and then reporting to the National Assembly Committee⁶.

Proposing and considering the draft and developed law

The National Assembly Committee's duty is to compile and to present the 5 years plan of draft and developed law to the committees of the National Assembly's first meeting since this group will consider it for approval.

In terms of the annual plan of the draft and developed law, the National Committee is the approval warrantor relating it to the accepted 5 years plan, and the proposals from the relevant organizations and commissions. In case of urgent situation which do not follow the annual plan, the committees of the National Assembly will consider and approve this law using the proposals of relevant organizations and commissions. Then The National Assembly Standing Committee has to report the developed draft and law to next meeting of the National Assembly.

Operation plan for drafting bills and improved laws

The National Assembly's Standing Committee submits the approved annual plan and the 5 year plan to the government and relevant organizations and commissions to make new laws in order to function following the drafting bill and the improved law's plan. In the session of the government, the government will appoint the committee in their group making the operation plan, (The duty of the Ministry of Justice is to support and to follow up the related commission and organization's work for making the operation plan and to ensure that this plan will be finished punctually).

⁶ National Assembly Committee is composed of six Law Commissions: Economic Commission, Planning and Finance Commission, Commission on Culture – Society and Minority Group, National Defence Commission, Anti-sebversive Activities Commission and Commission for Foreign Relations.

Second stage: Bill drafting (Red line Chart)

Implementing the policy about the legal drafting is the duty of relevant legislative drafting departments which were mentioned earlier.

General authorities and responsibilities of legislative drafting committee

- Generate plans for drafting and amending laws under the departments' jurisdiction together with budget plan.
- Organizing its own legal department,
- Appointment of responsible legislative drafting committee,
- Policy advice to the responsible legislative drafting committee
- Approval of plans for drafting and amending laws under the departments' jurisdiction together with budget plan
- Approval of substance and content of draft law proposed by responsible legislative drafting committee,
- Propose draft bill together with relevant issues or seek review from the government,
- Propose to the Prime Minister to appoint responsible protecting committee of the propose draft to the State council for the draft legislation under the responsibility of the government,
- Evaluate and make an enforcement assessment of the draft legislation under the department jurisdiction.

Procedure for responsible legislative drafting committee

1. Provide policy for responsible legislative drafting committee
2. Appoint responsible legislative drafting committee
3. Collecting relevant information
4. Drafting legal substance
5. Seeking advice and recommendations from various social segments such as the ministry of finance, ministry of interior in order to approve the financial and

infrastructure of relevant departments to be established which are to be submitted in writing to the responsible legislative drafting committee within 15 days since the date of submission of the draft law. Moreover, the convention of the responsible legislative drafting committee must be undertaken to consult and review, opinion and all drafted provisions must be published in the government's website or in the department website for the minimum of 60 days so citizen of all walks may submit their opinions about the draft law.

6. Create recommendation and impact assessment of the draft law.

The creation of the new legislation can be the revision of particular legislative provision within the area of the particular law for the purpose of ensuring conformity of different laws and practical efficiency.

The drafting instruction covers directions, principles, policies, scopes, and modifications under the extent of the law.

The appointment of responsible legislative drafting committee

The Legislative Drafting Department shall nominate responsible committees; the deputy ministry or deputy chief is the chairman and the committees are the heads of legislative departments and law education officers. They are nominated to make and develop new laws successfully and punctually following the operation plan. In cases where the drafting is linked to many organizations, legislative drafting's responsible committees have to include representatives from those related organizations.

The duties and responsibilities of the legislative organization

1. Create a plan and draft laws in its responsibilities along with the budget plan
2. Create legislation
3. Appointment of responsible legislation.
4. Providing policy advice to the committee responsible for drafting the law.
5. To adopt an action plan and a budget plan proposed by the committee responsible for drafting the law.
6. The composition and content of the draft law, the committee responsible for drafting the law.

7. Issues related to the draft law proposed or requested an opinion from the government.
8. The prime responsibility to protect lawmakers to draft legislation to clarify the Royal National Council. The draft law is the responsibility of the government.
9. Evaluation of compliance with the law in the establishment of their responsibilities.
10. Other responsibilities according to the instructions.

Third Stage: Reviewing the correspondence of the draft with the constitution by Ministry of Justice

Fourth Stage: Submitting the draft of bill to the government

Fifth Stage: Government considers the draft and the members in the parliament pass a resolution, and then the draft will be proposed to National Assembly Committee

Sixth Stage: Consideration of the National Assembly Committee. In this part the committee has to approve the draft

Seventh Stage: The National Assembly proposes the drafted bill to the president in consideration of promulgation of ordinances within 10 days after receiving the draft from the National Assembly

From the above bill drafting process, when the seven processes have been completed, the President signs and then promulgates the bill. The bill becomes law and is called a "Presidential Edict". In case of information about methods, actions and operations of the government based on Presidential Edict is a called resolution or an order (from No.7-12). This resolution or order is about the explanation of duties from the top to the local administration. In urgent situations when Presidential Edicts have not been promulgated, the government will promulgate an interim order or governmental edict.

The Hierarchy of Law

There are 2 types of law⁷ in the Lao People's Democratic Republic: General Law and the Specific Law

General Law is categorized into 12 segments.

1. Constitution
2. The Laws
3. Resolutions of the National Assembly
4. Resolution of the National Assembly's Standing assembly
5. Presidential Edicts
6. Decision and Decrees of the government
7. Resolutions of the government
8. Orders and Resolutions of the Prime Minister
9. Orders, Resolutions, and Suggestions of a Minister, Heads of Organization equivalent to the government.
10. Orders, Resolutions, and Suggestions of provincial governors
11. Orders, Resolutions, and Suggestions of district and municipal chiefs
12. Villages' principles

Specific Laws

Specific law or International Treaties; this special law entails specific law enforcement which is drafted and operated from the Presidential Edict of Lao PDR. The content involves instruction, the association and the operation based on International Treaties No. 01/SIAA on 7th October 2009.

1. Socio – Cultural Context

1.1 The policy's socio – cultural context and law

The social and cultural aspect of the Lao People's Democratic Republic after the country has received its independence from France (after 1975), the ideologies of Laos have focused on

⁷ The drafting law of Lao PDR No.19/PMO on July 12th 2012. Section 4

peace, freedom, neutrality, democracy, unity, and development. In the first period, Laos can follow their own culture and tradition alongside of economic independence. National culture is developed and the material improvement is undertaken, this development is interested in order to raise the livelihood and spirit of the population in the country.

The government of Lao PDR has planned the political goal of building the socio – cultural strength of the country. During 1975 – 1989, it was called National Liberation and destroying the old laws (Old laws were extirpated seriously and it becomes one of the effective processes leading to communism). In this period, the Lao People’s Revolutionary Party was the government; the government had created the new laws in the form of “Order” and “Legal Act”. For example, Order in 1976 was about prosecution No. 53 on October 16th 1976; this order mentioned about investigating, arresting, decrees, so it was held to be sacred law (or reliable law) for criminal proceeding of the Lao PDR at that time⁸. The order in 1976 was cancelled when the new laws in 1990 were promulgated including People’s Court, People’s Prosecutor, Criminal law, and Criminal proceeding⁹. Besides, the temporary disciplines about mobility¹⁰ and the operating system of the state council were announced because the constitution had not been promulgated at this time. Therefore, the public officers had to protect the country and do their own duties which were based on orders, principles, and temporary laws of the Lao People’s Revolutionary Party.

The social and cultural aspects of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic

The social and cultural aspects of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic are based on the significant meeting of the Lao People’s Revolutionary Party for the third time in 1982. From this meeting, the ideology is marked as “people are happy, the country is wealthy and developed, harmony society, and democracy is justice and civilization.” This determination or this ideology in the early period of Lao PDR aimed to accomplish the results of the revolution and to heal the war losses. The government believed that the ideology of the people and Lao society pointed to the country’s protection and economic development. The investment from

⁸ Viengvilai Thiengjansai , criminal proceeding law, 2006 page 4

⁹ Law on the Council of Ministers of Lao PDR , 30 July 1978

¹⁰ Subin sangsawang , administrative developing law , 2014 page 107

both domestic and international investors has been increased continuously. However, when the economy had been developed, a group of some people had been changed their points of view and goal. Hence, Orders and Legal acts from the Lao People's Revolutionary Party had been used until 1989 and it was replaced by other laws.

In 1990, socio – cultural law had been promulgated from the revolution of Lao People's Revolutionary Party in the fourth meeting. Family law was the first legislated law because the government claimed that it was necessary to change the people's ways of life in the modern society based on the old trading and culture's conservation.

In 1991, there was the fifth meeting of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party on March 27th – 29th 1991, this meeting focused on the problems in the community. The policy pointed to social aspects which affected economic development and people's subsistence. Furthermore, social section was one of the important factors for political stability and social discipline. Besides cultural aspects were also mentioned, the revolution of the fifth meeting of Lao People's Revolutionary Party had already prescribed the characteristics of Lao's fundamental culture into 3 characteristics: National characteristics, Public characteristics, and Development characteristics. It was concluded that the appropriate characteristics of Lao's fundamental culture had to be integrated, developed, and increased continuously. Moreover, inappropriate civilization should be resisted. In 1993, Mr. Kumtai Sripundon, the head of Centre management of Lao People's Revolutionary Party, made a formal statement about this topic as follows:

“...receiving the goodness and development of civilization is accepted in the community, however the inappropriate culture should be resisted because it is the cause of destroying our beautiful culture and traditions”¹¹.

Mr. Kumtai Sripundon also mentioned about Lao people had been wearing shorts/trousers instead of wearing the traditional Lao sarong. Moreover, he also mentioned Lao labor during the economic transformation and the Soviet Union's political collapse. During the fifth meeting, some laws had been promulgated such as the Property Law in 1990, the Labour

¹¹ Kamtai sripundon ,A testimony to the press conference and culture throughout the year 1993.

Law 1994, and the Criminal Law in 2001.

Since 1996, the Lao People's Revolutionary Party has realized the significance of developing the socio-cultural aspect uninterruptedly. In addition, the revolution of the sixth meeting of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party on March 5th, 1996 emphasized the "Guarantee of the political stability, the peace and the discipline of the society which are outstanding factors for advancement." This policy embraced the state of society, environment and the natural resources in Lao PDR. Laws during the sixth meeting have been legislated concerning environment conservation. Then in 1999, the seventh meeting of Lao People's Revolutionary Party took place. The cultural policy was defined following the objectives of cultural and spiritual improvement; to open people's vision, to realize about social value, and to understand the vision of life. People in the country have to open their minds to change and accept the national culture or other culture and present Lao tradition and culture to the world. At the same time, Lao people have to analyze and then accept only good cultures, which are appropriate for the country in order to avoid degeneration. Besides, various laws had been promulgated such as the Promulgation of the Law on Hygiene, Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (2001), the Promulgation of the Law on Development and Protection of Women (2004), Promulgation of the Law on National Heritage (2005).

In the last period of developing the country after colonization, the revolution of the eighth meeting of Lao People's Revolutionary Party (during 2006 - 2010) have paid more attention to socio - cultural issues by proposing that the policy about resolving the weaknesses of the society, such as corruption and drugs have become the serious issues. This corruption has highlighted about the rule of the discipline of the government officers and those who do not follow the rule, or become corrupt (law - breakers), and then they have to be punished harshly. Furthermore, illicit drugs were mentioned in the eighth meeting of Lao People's Revolutionary Party on March 5th 2006, in the report on government work. For the past 5 years, the government has tried their best to destroy opium in the country and their work was successful in 2006, and this achievement was memorialized in the history as the great work of Lao People's Revolutionary Party. So, the socio - cultural policy has been implemented vigorously.¹²

¹² Lao People's Revolutionary Party document Resolution No. 8 2006, Arunmai , Published by state

The law during the eighth meeting highlighted the strength of society; socio – cultural laws were legislated such as the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Utility of Children (2006), the Law on Education (2007), the Law on Labour Organizations of the Lao PDR (2007), the Law on Sports and Recreation (2007), the Law on Aquatic and Wild Animals (2008), the Law on Mass Media (2008), the Law on Heritage and the Basis of Inheritance (2008), the Law on Handicraft (2008), the Law on the Printing Business (2008), the Law on the Lao Front for National Construction (2009), the Law on Tobacco Control (2009), the Law on *Lao People's Revolutionary Youth* Union (2009), and the Law on the Prohibition of Drugs (2012).

At the ninth meeting of Lao People’s Revolutionary Party, there were various laws enacted including the Law on Libraries (2012), the Law on Female Unions (2013), the Law on Social Security (2013), the Law on Youth Criminal Law (2013), the Law on Safety of Bio-Technology (2013), the Law on Drugs and Medical Products (2013), the Law on Food (2014), the Law on Healthy Care (2005) (in Lao: “Pin Pua”), the Law on Tourism (2005), the Law on HIV/AIDS Prevention (2010), the Law on Museums (Centre Library) (2012), the Law on Education (2007), the Law of Standards (2010), the Law on Wildlife Protection (2008), the Law on Plant Protection (2008), the Law on Construction (2009), and the Law on Customer Protection (2010) (in Lao: “Poo Zom Zai”), etc.

The Present Socio – Cultural Policy of the Lao People’s Democratic Revolution

During 2011 – 2015,¹³ the Socio – Cultural Policy of the Lao People’s Democratic Revolution was based on economic development. The government has been concerned about the significance of socio –cultural growth because it increases the Lao People’s quality of life. At the same time, the government also endeavors to improve social development and to be equal to neighboring countries. According to the National Economic and Social Development Board for 5 years (7th edition in 2011-2015); the percentage of government’s investment has been increasing consecutively every year. And socio – cultural development was planned in the ninth meeting of the Lao People’s Revolutionary Party.

The Direction of National Economic and Social Development Board for 5 years (7th edition

¹³ Lao People's Revolutionary Party document Resolution No. 9 2011, Arunmai , Published by state

in 2011-2015)¹⁴

It is based on the following social-cultural policies:¹⁵

1. The Development of Local Society and Solving Poverty: This section focused on the adaptation of government service and promotion for rural people and rural area's income. Special supporting policies were specified to ensure that this goal could be achieved following the Millennium Development Goal (MDGs).¹⁶ The main mission assigned to the administrative sector of the government is intended to reach Lao people following the four strategies of the Central Committees of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party¹⁷. The four strategies highlighted development in rural areas by increasing family income from trading some products. At first the progress focused on sufficiency, selling local products to the market, and using their local natural resources for production. The Agricultural Improvement Institute offers instruction in how to produce grain products by providing knowledge and information. Moreover, they also provide other basic factors in order to develop the rural areas, and then the countryside would become a viable economic area within 2015

- An attempt to reduce the amount of low-income families, the percentage of low-income families has to be lower than 10%.

- Building the role model of developed villages following 4 strategies¹⁸ in at least 1-2 villages for each district.

- An attempt to consolidate the remote villages in order to improve their ways of life and raise their income.

2. Education and Human Resource Development

¹⁴ Lao People's Revolutionary Party document Resolution No. 9 2011, Arunmai , Published by state No.141 PG 12052011 , 30 march 2011 Page 69

¹⁵ Lao People's Revolutionary Party document Resolution No. 9 2011, Arunmai , Published by state No.141 PG 12052011 , 30 march 2011 Page 69

¹⁶ MDGs (Millennium Development Goals, progress report for the Laos PDR 2013 jointly prepared by the Government of The Lao PDR and the United Nations)

¹⁷ Policies to achieve the four sides (Lao called "tha-ru, tha-lueng")

¹⁸ Village master development means health, social-culture, education, no drug case

Education had been considered as the great tool to produce productive human resources for the development of the country. The policies of the government have offered opportunities in terms of integrated education, such as establishing new majors and fields to support the equality of education. The education system was reorganized and many institutions were developed, as the government would like to increase the quality of human resources covering occupational skills, educational skills, engineering skills, producing government's administrative officers, traders, managers, agriculture and forestry workers. Many were trained in accordance with the current employment situations in each area: People would get jobs and higher income to support their livelihood. Moreover, there were conclusions and directions for developing the educational system as follows:

- An attempt to increase the percentage of primary school enrollment up to 98% and secondary school to 75%
- Supporting and offering a good environment for people over 15-24 ages in order to improve education among the tribes in Lao. It had to reach 99%.
- Founding the Technical Vocations and Technology Colleges in economic areas or provinces of at least 3 colleges.

3. Health system

This policy focused on disease prevention and health care by providing the good quality of medical treatment and service for people throughout the country. Lao health had to be good based on the goals and objectives of the developed plan within 2015.

- Pointing to a decrease in the percentage of maternal deaths or the deaths of mothers when giving birth, the number must be less than 260 per 100,000 children. Furthermore, the number of children deaths had to decrease following these proportions; 45: 1,000 (under 1 year old), and 70: 1,000 (under 5 years old).
- Lao people must have pure and clean water for at least 80% of the population in the country. The usage of the toilets or rest rooms must be at least 60%.
- Controlling the spread of dengue fever, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS.

4. Labor – Social Welfare System

Human resource development and Lao laborers' professional strength were mentioned in this policy: Lao laborers were supposed to have good skills, knowledge, capability, masterfulness, good attitudes, and discipline. The government has provided opportunities for laborers such as appropriate employment, labor protection and safety and better social welfare. Admiration and glorification to honorable persons who have made great benefits for the country was also mentioned (gratefulness policy). Meanwhile a social welfare system was seriously developed. Moreover, people in the society were persuaded to help and support underprivileged people and disaster victims. The policies in 2015 were mentioned as follows:

- Lao PDR estimated that the employment requirement was about 3.3 million laborers within 5 years including 70% in agriculture, 7% in industry - construction - mine, and 23% for general service. The government had to come up with at least 277,000 employees. They also need to keep the percentage of unemployed at least lower than 2% and advance the centers of skill development to at least seven places.

- Creating a progress plan for senior staff who participated in the revolution in 1954 at least 71,000 of these veterans have made the great contributions to the country. The government also planned to provide houses or residences for Specific Disabilities¹⁹ (from battle in War) to 100%.

- Spreading the social insurance to provincial session in order to ensure that at least 50% of population receives health insurance.

5. News Publication and Cultural Section

In terms of news conferences or publications, the government had to be a medium between the people and Lao People's Revolutionary Party; the government had to demonstrate the paths of the party, and the laws and disciplines of the government. People were able to obtain information about scientific knowledge, new technologies, and sustainable living. Resisting bad behaviors or criminal situations also was mentioned because of country's cultural heritages. Culture aspects were specified as the basis of the country's permanence. The policies in 2015 were mentioned as follows:

- The government had to expand the radio broadcasting to cover over 95% of the

¹⁹Specific Disabilities means those who are not disabled from birth but by war.

country.

- The government had to improve the quality of TV program in each area, expanding the broadcasting time to at least 10 hours per day, and established ground control stations covering 80% of the country.

- The government had to build the cultural villages of at least 700 villages and cultural families of about 100,000 families. They had to build the central parks in at least 4 places, municipal for one place per district, and town municipality one place per municipality.

6. Justice section

The government had to build and train lawyers in terms of quantity and quality, and duties in the first stage of political development. They supported for establishing a law of state's strategy, supporting justice processes based on law of state, developing administrative cycles (in Lao called the gear wheel of administration) and operating progress. The justice's administrative regulations had to be organized and qualified because people must receive the productive results and service. The policies about the justice aspect in 2015 were mentioned as follows:

- Legislation and improvement of civil law, criminal law, and legal acts (additional law) were revisions of previous laws.

- The final judgment of courts had to be enforced immediately, and enhancing the quality of document conformation, solving economic disagreements (permission of judge) and the system of correctness and justice.

7. The Development of Equality between Male-Female and the Improvement of Female and Youth's Liberty²⁰.

The population development

The government encouraged Lao people to realize the significance of education for gaining more knowledge, capability, having good jobs and careers, and higher income. And people had to be concerned about their health, manners, morals, and patriotism. Increasing

²⁰ Youth means Young women and men aged 15-35 years.

Human development Index (HDI)²¹ had based on main aim until 2015, it predicted that the number of Lao people was going to increase to 6.9 million within 2015 (the rate of expansion was 2% per year). Female development focused on equality between male-female, which was a major policy of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party. The policies about human rights in 2015 were mentioned as follows:

- Increasing female leaders in administrative organizations such as party, government and mass organizations (Lao Front of National Construction, (Lao Federation of Trade Unions, Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union and Female Union). The percentage had to cover 15% of all organizations and 30% of female officers in the National Assembly.

- Decreasing the discrimination between male and female, and violence against females had to be a serious concern.

In term of youth development, new generations had to gain more knowledge, patriotism, wider visions, enhancing ways of life, paying more attention to education, expanding their information and ideas, scientific research – new technology, running businesses, and following the objectives of the development plan in 2015.

- Encouraging new generations to participate in the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union up to 30%.

- Establishing the Standing Youth Organization based on “2 Harmonies, 3 Goodnesses, and 4 Developments”²² and building the leader group of the new generation up to over 50% over all.

8. Sports and Acrobatics Section

Sport and Acrobatic Promotion covering from the city to rural areas and villages, this policy was highlighted to raise the interest of youth in sports, to develop Lao sport to be

²¹ HDI = “Human Development Index: A tool developed by the United Nations to measure and rank countries”. Levels of social and economic development based on four criteria: Life expectancy at birth, mean years of schooling, expected years of schooling and gross national income per capita. The HDI makes it possible to track changes in development levels over time and to compare development levels in different countries.

²² 2 Concord3 good4 development means Domestic harmony, global unity, to be good child , good citizen , self-development and family development, social development, developing country

professional level, to advance athletes into international level and to support the rural sports or games from each tribe, such as playing the top of Mong Tribe. The ninth National Game in 2011 at Luang Prabang district and the tenth National Game in 2014 at Udom district had to proceed successfully.

9. Scientific – Technology Field

It was accepted that scientific knowledge and development of technology play an important role in industry and civilization. The government needed to research/explore the integration of new technologies in consideration of country's potential development. There was a plan by using electronic progress in administrative fields thoroughly to cover all districts and villages covering 20% in the country. The government also had to support on new- technology investigation which is friendly with environment with other people able to access these items.

Protection on intellectual property and registration of copyright were set to ensure/develop social justice and to raise the capacity of international competition.

10. Preventing and Solving Drug Problems

According to the strategies of solving the problems about illegal drug production, addiction, trafficking and crime, the government had attempted to expunge drugs out of the country. However, all processes were practiced without any resolute violence in order to prepare for Asean community's rules. Moreover, the government attempted to develop the occupational skills of people in the rural areas, to remedy drug addiction and put an end to drug problems.

11. Environment Development

Environmental development and natural resources preservation were focused on permanent development; the government had to join economic wisdom connected to local wisdom concerning conservation. The natural resources (soil, water, forest, and air) were to be used wisely along with preserving them for the future. There was another plan for raising the standard of national environment's equality (25 cities were planned) covering Viang Jan (the capital) and 6 cities of the Mekong riverside (Luang Pra Bang, Huay Sai, Zaiya Buree, Kraisorn

Promviharn, Ta Khag, and Parksae). Those cities were set as the role model for environment conservation leading to clean and beautiful cities. In addition, the forest areas covering at least 60% of country had to be protected.

1.2 Foreign relations policy between Lao PDR and other Countries/ organizations

(in a period time)

1. After Laos has received its freedom/independence. During 1975 – 1979²³ the international relations of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic was based on the 1st – 9th revolution of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party. In the first stage, during the 1st revolution of Lao People's Revolutionary Party on December, 1st – 2nd 1975 at association No. 6, Viangjan capital included the 246 representatives, who were chosen by Lao people from every district of the country, administrative representatives of People’s Liberation Army, and other organizations in Lao Patriotic Front, cooperation of patriotic army and honorable persons, patriotic intellectual development and Lao people who lived outside the country. The first centre meeting had specified the concept of Lao international relations covering “peace, independence, friendship, and neutralism”; it was the first change from old relations (under 80 year’s colonialism) to new relations (democracy and freedom). All of the representatives made a commitment and declared the country as “Lao People’s Democratic Revolution”, they also created national symbol, a national flag, national song, formal language, Lao Supreme People’s Assembly and the government of the Lao PDR.

The first period of foreign policy pointed to Special Cooperation in terms of the military’s relations which were with Vietnam and Cambodia (associated countries), the policy highlighted on building good relationships with supporting countries and getting assistance from international sources. They also realized the need for good connections with the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of *China* (PRC) and other socialist countries.

1950 was the first year that Lao has diplomatic relations and now Lao has formal diplomatic relations with over 135 countries.²⁴ The relations were illustrated as follows: 1. Participation in the United Nations (UN) on December 14th 1955 so Laos becomes one of the

²³ Lao history and international relation , Institute of Foreign Affairs, The ministry of international affairs no.004 PG 12012010 , 2009

²⁴ www.mofa.gov.la

members of the UN among 193 countries and Lao also attended to other region's organizations. Lao PDR declared international cooperation in 1986 and participation in "The Association of South East Asian Nations" on July 23rd 1997; natural resources were the capital for economic revolution leading to market strategy under the control of the government. Furthermore, Lao also sought the trade and investment in various ways particularly foreign investment; permission to pass through the international border openly which led to trading exchange from many investors. The investors launched various tourism businesses in Lao PDR and the economic expansion of Lao was increasing annually.

International relations with neighbor countries increase especially diplomatic relations with Thailand and Lao under the "Treaty of Amity and Cooperation" in 1992. This treaty was signed in order to confirm about the independent respect, both countries would not invade each other. Moreover, Lao and Thai made an agreement on trading cooperation and investment protection, an agreement on dispute resolution for the eradication of adversaries, treaty on extradition between Thailand and Lao PDR, cooperation of peace and order maintaining along Thai - Lao border and the cooperation on local development for solving problems and obstacles such as political issues, economic problems, trade - investment, academic, culture, labor and employment, illegal products, drugs, and international criminals.

In the past, Lao PDR had two sided diplomacy and various sided diplomacy, Lao had made diplomatic relations with all socialist countries based on Marxism - Leninism and the proletarian spirit. For example, on February 18th 1976 Mr. Kraisorn Promwiharn, the leader of the Lao National Assembly Committee, went to the Socialist Republic of *Vietnam* to make relations. Then Lao and Vietnam made the treaty on friendship and cooperation, and the treaty on border cooperation between the two countries on July 18th 1977.

By 1977, Lao had made diplomatic relations with over 54 countries; there were 16 Lao Embassies in many counties in 1978 and the relationship with other socialist countries and others were maintained. Lao also joined in many UN activities and regional organizations pursuant to all treaties and agreements.

2. International Relations of the Lao PDR during 1980-1985²⁵

During this time the policy on International Relations relied on the resolution of the third meeting of The *Lao People's Revolutionary Party* on April 27th 1982, the concept of relation was based on peace, freedom, friendship and special harmony. It was still the period of national creation, protection and adherence to the agreement on peace and stability of the country. Lao still had connections with Vietnam and Cambodia, Soviet and other socialist countries. The government aimed at independence and peace in Indo-china and South East Asia.

3. Changing of International Relations in Lao PDR during 1986 – 1990

According to the changing situations of the world, Lao had to change their policy of international relation as well. The resolution of Lao People's Revolutionary Party at the fourth meeting on November, 13th 1986 particularly on diplomatic relation with other countries was based on peace, independence, and good relationships with other countries as mentioned earlier. Lao still had kept the good relationship with socialist countries and neighboring countries.

4. International Relations were changed extremely in all aspects during 1991 – 1995²⁶

At this time, the collapse of Soviet Union also affected on the relationship between Lao, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. However, Mr. Kraisorn still concentrated on the policy of international relations following the resolution of People's Revolutionary Party at the fifth meeting on March, 27th – 29th 1991. Many aspects had been changed and adapted rationally and prudently, but they used the same previous ideologies. The government also expanded the relation in many areas such as economic association, scientific – technology association following the concept of the equality of each country.

5. International Cooperation during 1996 - 2000

According to the resolution of Lao People's Revolutionary Party at the sixth meeting on March, 18th – 20th 1996, the concepts of peace, freedom, friendship and cooperation with other countries were still the main ideology for Lao's International Relations Development. However, all conclusions had to rely on the urgent situations and revolutions in the world. Moreover, the

²⁵ Lao People's Revolutionary Party policy 3rd, Sission date April 27, 1982.

²⁶ Lao People's Revolutionary Party document Resolution No. 5 2/4-1991, Arunmai , Published by state Page 17-18.

policy also was based on political situations and economic aspects which at the core was national improvement and following the ideas of socialism.

6. International Corporation had been opened widely during 2001 -2005

In the seventh meeting of Lao People's Revolutionary Party on March, 12th – 14th 2001; the main ideas of this conference were divided into two sections including the outstanding points and world development. The international relations policy has always been based on the previous missions and additional concepts were added. The additional goals in 2001 -2005 were able to allow Lao to be the host in international conferences and events following the concepts of peace, freedom, friendship and cooperation with other countries. Moreover, all of the policies had to respect the sovereignty, rights and equality of each country. In the 21st century, Lao People's Democratic Revolution had expanded its relations with many countries successfully for many years.²⁷

7. International Relation and Cooperation's Strategies for Suffering and the Eradication of Obsolescence.

International Relations and Cooperation's Strategies linked the Lao economy with the world economy, the openness of International Cooperation involved politic - economy, economy - national protection, and trade - technology. Therefore, the connection between political, diplomatic, and economic aspects covered building the sustainable environment for social and economic development, protecting the country for national peace, and following democracy and social development for raising the status of the country. Lao extended diplomatic relations²⁸ with China, ASEAN and other countries / organizations²⁹.

8. International Cooperation of the Lao People's Democratic Revolution based on the present social and economic development's plan³⁰ (2011 - 2015)

Due to the continuity of International Relations development of the Lao People's Revolution Party and the government, the results were shown in various aspects such as the

²⁷ Lao People's Revolutionary Party document Resolution No. 7, 2001 , Arunmai , Published by state Page 49-50.

²⁸ Lao People's Revolutionary Party document Resolution No. 8 ,2006, Arunmai , Published by state

²⁹ Lao People's Revolutionary Party document Resolution No. 8, 2006 , Arunmai , Published by state.

³⁰ Lao People's Revolutionary Party document Resolution No. 9,2011 , Arunmai , Published by state Page 89.

sustainable environment for social and economic development, national peace, economic strength, and ASEAN Cooperation, The Greater Mekong Sub region (GMS), The World Trade Organization (WTO) and Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

1.3 International Agreement on Social and Cultural Contexts between Lao and other Countries/International Organizations³¹

In this part, the agreements were categorized into three treaties;

1. Bilateral Treaties between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Governments of Foreign Countries.

2. Regional Cooperation Agreement

3. Multilateral Treaties of the Lao PDR

1. (Bilateral Treaties between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of Foreign Countries)

Australia

1. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Lao PDR concerning Mutual Cooperation in Combating Unlawful Migration, Trafficking in Humans and Smuggling of People
Bari(S)30/04/200361F³²(C)30/04/200362F
2. Memorandum between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Lao PDR of Subsidiary Arrangements relating to the “Asia Regional Cooperation to Prevent People Trafficking” Project Vientiane(S)3/12/2003(C)03/12/2003
3. Memorandum of Subsidiary Arrangements between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic Relating to the Australian Volunteers Program Vientiane(S)17/01/2006(C)17/01/2006
4. Subsidiary Arrangement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of Australia relating to the English for ASEAN Purposes Project Vientiane(S)03/06/1999(C)03/06/1999

³¹<http://www.laoofficialgazett.gov.la/> and <http://www.kpl.net.la/>

³²(S) Signature, (R) Ratification, (A) Accession, (a) Acceptance, (d) Succession, (N) Notification, (C) Consent to be bound

Cambodia

1. Memorandum between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia on Economic, Scientific, Technical and cultural Cooperation
Phnom Penh(S)07/11/1993(C)07/11/1993
2. Memorandum between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia on Tourism Cooperation
Phnom Penh(S)15/07/1995(C)15/07/1995
3. Memorandum between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia on Electric Power Development Cooperation
Vientiane (S)08/04/1997(C)08/04/1997
4. Memorandum on Communication and Transportation Cooperation
Vientiane(S)08/04/1997(C)08/04/1997
5. Treaty on Extradition
Vientiane(S)21/10/1999(C)07/07/2005
6. Agreement on the Cooperation in the Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals Control
Phnom Penh(S)14/12/1999(C)14/12/1999
7. Agreement on Education for the period of 2004 -2008
Vientiane(S)10/05/2004not yet entered into force
8. Agreement between the Government of Lao PDR and the Royal Government of Cambodia on Education for the period of 2009 - 2013
Vientiane(S)31/07/2009 not yet entered into force

Canada

Memorandum of Understanding relating to the Export from Laos of Certain Textiles and Textile Products to Canada
Ottawa(S)06/10/1994(C)06/10/1994

China

1. Agreement on Tourism Cooperation
Beijing(S)07/10/1996(C)07/10/1996
2. Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance Civil and Criminal Matters
Beijing(S)25/01/1999(C)15/12/2001
3. Memorandum of Understanding on the Cooperation in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals Control
Vientiane(S)15/01/2001(C)15/01/2001
4. Treaty on Extradition
Beijing(S)04/02/2002(C) 15/08/2003
5. Agreement on Cooperation on Against Illicit Trafficking and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances
Vientiane(S)19/11/2006(C)19/11/2006

Cuba

Agreement on Cooperation on Against Illicit Trafficking and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances
Havana(S)28/04/1997(C)27/02/2004

Czechoslovakia

1. Agreement on cultural cooperation
Vientiane(S)25/11/1977 not yet entered into force
2. Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation
Prague(S)11/07/1979(C)11/01/1979
3. Agreement on Health Cooperation
Vientiane(S)27/12/1979(C)10/02/1999

Denmark

Agreement on Improvement of Urban Environment in Vientiane Lao PDR
Vientiane(S)17/05/2001(C)17/05/2001

France

1. Memorandum between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of Republic of France on Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation
Paris(S)29/05/1989 not yet entered into force
2. Agreement on Establishment of Joint Commission on Economic Trade Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Republic of France
Paris(S)13/12/1989 not yet enter into force

Germany

1. Agreement between the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany regarding Technical Cooperation
Vientiane (S)13/07/2007(C)20/09/2007

India

1. Cultural Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Lao PDR
New Delhi(S)17/08/1994(C)06/03/1995
2. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Republic of India on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors
New Delhi(S)02/05/1997(C)02/05/1997
3. Agreement on Mutual Cooperation between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Republic of India on Drug Demand Reduction and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and related Matters
Vientiane(S)06/11/2002(C)25/02/2005
4. Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Republic of India on Cooperation in Science and Technology
New Delhi (S)16/06/2003(C)16/06/2003

Republic of Indonesia

1. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia on Cooperation in Tourism
Jakarta (S)26/07/1996(C)26/07/1996
2. Memorandum of Understanding on Forestry Cooperation
Vientiane(S)20/02/1997 (C)20/02/1997
3. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia on Forestry Cooperation
Vientiane(S)20/02/1997(C)20/02/1997
4. Memorandum of Understanding on the Cooperation in the Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals Control
Jakarta(S)22/01/2003(C)22/01/2003

Israel

Agreement concerning Technical Co-operation
Jerusalem(S)28/08/1994 Not yet enter into force

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

1. Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation
Pyongyang(S)10/12/1993(C)10/12/1993
2. Agreement on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation
Vientiane(S)06/06/1994(C)06/06/1994
3. Agreement on Cooperation in the Area of Health
Vientiane(S)17/07/2001(C)09/01/2004
4. Treaty between the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on Mutual Legal Assistance Civil and Criminal Matters
Pyongyang (S)20/06/2008 Not yet entered into force
5. Agreement on Establishment of Joint Commission on Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Democratic Republic People's Republic of Korea
Pyongyang(S)30/08/2008Not yet entered into force

Republic of Korea

1. Agreement on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation
Seoul(S)15/05/1996(C)24/06/1996
2. Arrangement for the Establishment of the Korea -Lao Vocational Training Center
Vientiane(S)10/10/2002(C)10/10/2002
3. Arrangement on the Establishment of the Joint Economic Committee
Seoul(S)09/04/2004(C)09/04/2004

Kuwait

1. Agreement on Tourist Cooperation
Kuwait(S)29/01/2009Not yet entered into force
2. Memorandum of Understanding on Agriculture Cooperation
Kuwait(S)29/01/2009Not yet entered into force
3. Memorandum of Understanding in the Field of Manpower Exchange
Kuwait(S)27/01/2009(C) 24/08/2009

Libya

Agreement on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation
Tripoli(S)25/09/2000(C)10/05/2001

Luxembourg

1. Protocol relating to the Cold Chain Reinforcement
Luxembourg(S)18/05/2001(C)18/05/ 2001
2. Protocol On Agreement on Support Project Health Sector in the Vientiane Province
Luxembourg(S)18/05/2001(C)18/05/2001
3. Protocol On Agreement to Support Rural Development Project in the Province of
Borikhamxay
Luxembourg(S)18/05/2001(C)18/05/2001

4. Memorandum of Agreement on Vocational Training Project in the Province of Khammouane
Vientiane(S)25/11/2003 Not yet entered into force
5. Agreement for cooperation in the fields of culture, higher education and research
Vientiane(S)16/10/2007(C)12/04/2010
6. Agreement relative to Lao-Luxembourg Health Initiatives Support Programme
Vientiane(S)16/10/2007(C)16/10/2007

Malaysia

1. Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of a Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation
Kuala Lumpur(S)04/06/1996(C)04/06/1996
2. Agreement on Cooperation in Tourism
Kuala Lumpur(S)11/08/1998(C)21/06/2001

Mongolia

1. Agreement on Cooperation in Plant Quarantine and Protection
Vientiane(S)24/01/2005(C)24/02/2005
2. Agreement on Cooperation in Veterinary and Quarantine Service
Vientiane (S)24/01/2005 not yet entered into force
3. Agreement of Cultural Cooperation Ulaan Baatar (S)11/10/1976 not yet entered into force
4. Agreement Between the Government of the Lao people's Democratic Republic and the Government of Mongolian on Cooperation in the Fields of Education, higher education and graduation Vientiane(S)14/12/1981(C)14/12/1981
5. Agreement on Cooperation in Domaine Postes Vientiane(S)13/12/1983(C)13/12/1983
6. Agreement Between the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of Mongolian on Cooperation in the Fields of Education, Culture, Science, Technology and Sport Vientiane(S)17/09/2007 Not yet entered into force

Morocco

Agreement on Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation
Rabat(S)06/09/2002(C)06/09/2002

Myanmar

1. Agreement on Tourism Cooperation
Vientiane(S)11/06/1994 (C) 11/06/1994
2. Agreement on Agricultural Cooperation
Yangoon(S)28/5/1995 (C) 28/05/1995
3. Agreement for Mutual Cooperation for Preventing Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs,
Psychotropic Substances and Controlled Precursors
Yangoon(S)29/3/1997(C)29/03/1997

Norway

1. Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the
Kingdom of Norway regarding Assistance to Phase II of Developing of a Legal Framework
for Hydropower Sector
Vientiane (S)24/04/1997Not yet entered into force
2. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the
Government of the Kingdom of Norway concerning Development Cooperation
Vientiane(S)24/04/1997(C)24/04/1997
3. Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the
Kingdom of Norway regarding Financial Assistance to water Supply and Sanitation Sector
Project
Vientiane(S)27/03/2000(C)27/03/2000

Pakistan

Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the
Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Combating Terrorism and Certain
other Crimes

Vientiane (S)23/04/2004(C)23/04/2004

Philippines

1. Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Republic of Philippines on Cultural Cooperation
Vientiane(S)17/10/1997(C)21/09/19982
2. Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Republic of Philippines on Cooperation in Public Health
Vientiane(S)17/10/1997(C)02/03/1998
3. Memorandum of Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Republic of Philippines on Cooperation against Ilicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Abuses
Vientiane(S)17/10/1999(C)17/10/1999
4. Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Republic of Philippines on Economic and Technical Cooperation
Manila(S)18/12/1997(C)24/03/1998
5. Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Republic of Philippines on Agriculture and Forest Cooperation
Manila(S)18/12/1997(C)21/09/1998

Russia

1. Agreement on Cultural and Science Cooperation
Moscow(S)09/03/1994 (C) 09/03/1994
2. Agreement for Mutual Cooperation for Preventing Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Controlled Precursors
Vientiane(S)14/05/1999(C)19/03/2004
3. Agreement on posts and Communication cooperation
Vientiane(S)29/03/1976not yet entered into force
4. Agreement Between the Government of the Lao people's Democratic Republic and the

Government of Russia on Cooperation in the Fields of Education, Higher Education and Graduation

Moscow(S)23/05/1978 (C) 23/05/1978

Sweden

1. Agreement on the National Drug Policy Plan No.3 between the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Sweden
Vientiane(S)16/02/2001(C)01/01/2001
2. Agreement on General Terms and Conditions for Development Cooperation
Vientiane(S)26/10/2001(C) 01/01/2002
3. Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Establishment of a Bilateral Informal Working Group on Human Rights
Vientiane(S)11/10/2002(C)11/10/2002
4. Specific Agreement between the Government of Sweden and the Government of the Lao PDR on Development Cooperation in Strengthening Legal Education 2003OE2008
Vientiane(S)19/11/2003 (C)01/12/2003
5. Agreement on Development Cooperation for the period 1 July 2004OE31 December 2006 Vientiane
Vientiane(S)15/06/2004(C)01/07/2004
6. Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Establishment of a Bilateral Informal Working Group on Human Rights (2nd Round)
Vientiane(S)02/11/2005(C)02/11/2005

Thailand

1. Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand on cooperation in the development of power in Laos.
Vientiane(S)19/06/1996(C)19/06/1996
2. Memorandum of Understanding on the Cooperation in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals Control
Bangkok(S)17/08/2001(C)17/08/2001

3. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Kingdom of Thailand on Labour
Vientiane(S)18/10/2002(C)18/10/2002
4. Treaty between the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand. On the transfer of inmates who were convicted and sentenced in criminal case.
Pakxe(S)20/03/2004(C)19/12/2007
5. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Kingdom of Thailand in Trafficking of Persons, Especially Women and Children
Bangkok(S)31/07/2005(C)31/07/ 2005

Vietnam

- a) Agreement on Cooperation on Man Power
Hanoi(S)29/06/1995(C)29/06/1995
- b) Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the Cooperation in the Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals Control
Hanoi(S)06/07/1998(C)06/07/1998
- c) Agreement on the cooperation in science and technology between the Governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Republic of Vietnam.
Vientiane(S)18 /12/2009(C)18/01/2009

List of Bilateral Treaties between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of Foreign Countries)

Table 1 Social and Culture

Country	Name of treaties	context
Canada	Memorandum of Understanding relating to the Export from Laos of Certain Textiles and Textile Products to Canada Ottawa (S)06/10/1994(C)06/10/1994	Memorandum of Understanding relating to the Export from Laos of Certain Textiles and Textile Products to Canada
Czechoslovakia	Agreement on cultural cooperation Vientiane(S)25/11/1977 not yet entered into force	This study maps the Asia-Europe government-to-government bilateral cultural agreements between partners. More than 150 agreements on cultural cooperation and almost 20 current Executive Programmes are detailed in this report. These agreements provide the policy framework for cultural cooperation and exchange, sometimes reinforced by specific joint implementation programmes and budgets. Other significant bilateral cultural cooperation is also identified,

		including several institution-to-institution agreements and cultural seasons. The study lists major multilateral agreements to which partner countries are party, together with reference sources
France	<p>1. Memorandum between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of Republic of France on Economic, Scientific, Technical and cultural Cooperation Paris(S)29/05/1989 not yet entered into force</p> <p>2. Agreement on Establishment of Joint Commission on Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technological Cooperation of Joint Commission on Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Republic of France Paris(S)13/12/1989 not yet entered into force</p>	<p>Treaty between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of Republic of France on Economic, Scientific, Technic and cultural Cooperation</p> <p>Joint Commission on Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Republic of France</p>

India	Cultural Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Lao PDR NewDelhi (S)17/08/1994(C)06/03/1995	Cultural Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Lao PDR
Luxembourg	1. Protocol On Agreement to Support Rural Development Project in the Province of Borikhamxay Luxembourg(S)18/05/2001 (C)18/05/2001 2.. Agreement for cooperation in the fields of culture, higher education and research Vientiane (S)16/10/2007 (C)12/04/201	Agreement to Support Rural Development Project in the Province of Borikhamxay between Lao and Luxembourg Agreement for cooperation in the fields of culture, higher education and research between Lao and Luxembourg
Mongolia	Agreement of Cultural Cooperation Ulaan Baatar (S)11/10/1976 Not yet entered into force	Agreement of Cultural Cooperation between Lao and Mongolia
Morocco	Agreement on Economic Cultural, Scientific and Technical Cooperation Rabat (S)06/09/2002(C)06/09/2002	Agreement on Economic Cultural, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between Lao and Morocco
Norway	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the

	of the Kingdom of Norway concerning Development Cooperation Vientiane (S)24/04/1997(C)24/04/1997	Kingdom of Norway concerning Development Cooperation
Philippines	Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Republic of Philippines on Cultural Cooperation Vientiane (S)17/10/1997(C)21/09/1998	Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Republic of Philippines on Cultural Cooperation
Russia	Agreement on Cultural and Science Cooperation Mosco (S)w09/03/1994 (C)09/03/1994	Agreement on Cultural and Science Cooperation
Sweden	Agreement on Development Cooperation for the period 1 July 2004- 31 December 2006 Vientiane (S)15/06/2004(C)01/07/2004	Agreement on Development Cooperation for the period 1 July 2004-31 December 2006

Table 2 Human Rights and protect woman and children

Country	Name of treaties	context
Sweden	1. Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Establishment of a Bilateral Informal Working Group on	Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Establishment of a Bilateral Informal Working Group on Human Rights.

	<p>Human Rights Vientiane (S) 11/10/2002 11/10/2002 2. Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Establishment of a Bilateral Informal Working Group on Human Rights Vientiane (S) 02/11/2005 (C) 02/11/2005</p>	<p>Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Establishment of a Bilateral Informal Working Group on Human Rights.</p>
Thailand	<p>Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Kingdom of Thailand on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children Bangkok (S)31/07/2005 (C)31/07/ 2005</p>	<p>Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Kingdom of Thailand on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children</p>

Table 3 Education and Tourism Cooperation

country	Name of treaties	context
Australia	<p>1.Memorandum of Subsidiary Arrangements between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Relating to the Australian Volunteers Program Vientiane (S)17/01/2006(C)17/01/2006</p>	<p>In 2013-14, 68 volunteers were on assignment in Laos, including 11 Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYADs) and 57 AVID volunteers. In 2012-13, a total of 47 AVID volunteers, including 13 AYADs, were on assignment in Laos. The volunteers work in sectors which complement the three strategic</p>

	<p>2.Subsidiary Arrangement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of Australia relating to the English for ASEAN Purposes Project Vientiane (S)03/06/1999(C)03/06/1999</p>	<p>areas of the country strategy: education, trade and rural development.</p> <p>Australia’s flagship intervention in the education sector, the Basic Education Quality and Access in Laos (BEQUAL) program, will be delivered in 65 of the most educationally disadvantaged districts in Laos. It aims to increase student participation, improve learning environments and improve teacher quality. BEQUAL will assist an estimated 450,000 children in going to school and staying in school, with a particular focus on the most educationally disadvantaged—girls, students with disabilities and children from ethnic minority groups. Teachers and teacher training institutions will be assisted to improve the quality of the education they deliver, including through training 520 people (360 women) from ethnic minority groups to become teachers in their communities. Teaching and learning environments will be improved through the construction</p>
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		or rehabilitation of 300 schools.
Cambodia	<p>1.Memorandum between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia on Tourism Cooperation Phnom Penh (S)15/07/1995(C)15/07/1995</p> <p>2.Agreement on Education of the period of 2004 -2008 Vientiane(S)10/05/2004 Not yet entered into force</p> <p>3.Agreement between the Government of Lao PDR and the Royal Government of Cambodia</p>	<p>Both countries provided guidance on implementation by specifying the priority sectors for enhanced cooperation, deciding together how to improve bilateral trade agreement between Cambodia and Lao PDR, considering the development of an agreement on Transit Goods between Cambodia and Lao PDR, promoting trade of agricultural products, cooperation on border trade, developing border trade markets, attending trade exhibitions, trade facilitation, investment and cooperation on tourism, and cooperation on a trade sector wide approach investment and cooperation on tourism, and cooperation on a trade sector wide approach</p> <p>Agreement on Education of the period of 2004 -2008 Cambodia and Lao PDR</p> <p>Agreement between the Government of Lao PDR and the Royal Government of Cambodia on</p>

	<p>on Education for the period of 2009-2013</p> <p>Vientiane(S)31/07/2009Not yet entered into force</p>	<p>Education for the period of 2009-2013.</p>
China	<p>Agreement on Tourism Cooperation</p> <p>Beijing</p> <p>(S)07/10/1996(C)07/10/1996</p>	<p>The members of the Joint Committee for the Agreement between and among the Governments of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China (PRC), the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for Facilitation of the Cross-Border Transport of Goods and People in the Greater Mekong Subregion (referred to as the "CBTA"), met in the Greater Mekong Subregion (referred to as the "CBTA"), met in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, for the Fourth Meeting of the Joint Committee on 22 November 2013. We were pleased to be joined in our discussions by staff of the Asian Development Bank.</p>
Indonesia	<p>Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of</p>	<p>The parties will, subject to the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding and the laws, rules,</p>

	<p>the Republic of Indonesia on Cooperation in Tourism Jakarta (S)26/07/1996(C)26/07/1996</p>	<p>regulation and national policies from time to time in force in their respective countries, decide to cooperate in facilitating travel and tourist visits ; further strengthen a close tourism partnership ; enhance mutual assistance for human resource development for the tourism sector ;and take necessary steps for exploring avenues of cooperation and sharing of information</p>
Republic of Korea	<p>Arrangement for the Establishment of the Korea -Lao Vocational Training Center Vientiane (S)10/10/2002(C)10/10/2002</p>	<p>Vocational training managed initially by the Ministry of Labor and eventually by the Semi-autonomous Korean National Vocational Training Management Agency, with support from the Korean Vocational Training Research Institute. Agency, with support from the Korean Vocational Training Research Institute.</p>
Kuwait	<p>Agreement on Tourist Cooperation Kuwait(S)29/01/2009Not yet enter into force</p>	<p>Agreement on Tourist Cooperation.</p>
Luxembourg	<p>Agreement for cooperation in the fields of culture, higher education and research Vientiane (S)16/10/2007(C)12/04/2010</p>	<p>Agreement for cooperation in the fields of culture, higher education and research between Lao and Luxembourg.</p>

Malaysia	Agreement on Cooperation in Tourism Kuala Lumpur (S)11/08/1998(C)21/06/2001	Agreement on Cooperation in Tourism between Lao and Malaysia.
Mongolia	Agreement Between the Government of the Lao people's Democratic Republic and the Government of Mongolian on Cooperation in the Fields of Education, Culture, Science, Technology and Sport Vientiane (S)17/09/2007 Not yet enter into force	Agreement Between the Government of the Lao people's Democratic Republic and the Government of Mongolian on Cooperation in the Fields of Education, Culture, Science, Technology and Sport.
Myanmar	Agreement on Tourism Cooperation Vientiane (S)11/06/1994(C)11/06/1994	Agreement on Tourism Cooperation.
Russia	Convention on the equivalent of a diploma and graduate diploma of The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Russian Republic Moscow (S)23/05/1978(C)23/05/1978	Convention on the equivalent of a diploma and graduate diploma of The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Russian Republic

Sweden	Specific Agreement between the Government of Sweden and the Government of the Lao PDR on Development Cooperation in Strengthening Legal Education 2003- 2008 Vientiane(S)19/11/2003(C)01 /12/2003	Specific Agreement between the Government of Sweden and the Government of the Lao PDR on Development Cooperation in Strengthening Legal Education 2003-2008
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Table 4 Health Cooperation

Country	Name of treaties	Context
Czechoslovakia	Agreement on Health Cooperation Vientiane (S)27/12/1979(C)10/02/1999	Agreement on Health Cooperation
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Agreement on Cooperation in the Area of Health Vientiane (S)17/07/2001(C)09/01/2004	Agreement on Cooperation in the Area of Health
Luxembourg	1.Protocol relating to the Cold Chain Reinforcement Luxembourg (S)18/05/2001(C)18/05/ 2001 2.Protocol On Agreement on Support Project Health Sector in the Vientiane Province	Protocol relating to the Cold Chain Reinforcement. Agreement on Support Project Health Sector in the Vientiane Province.

	<p>Luxembourg (S)18/05/2001(C)18/05/2001</p> <p>3.Agreement relative to Lao-Luxembourg Health Initiatives Support Programme Vientiane (S)16/10/2007(C)16/10/2007</p>	<p>Agreement relative to Lao-Luxembourg Health Initiatives Support Programme</p>
Norway	<p>Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway regarding financial assistance to water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project Vientiane (S)27/03/2000(C)27/03/2000</p>	<p>Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway regarding financial assistance to water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project</p>
Philippines	<p>Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Republic of Philippines on Cooperation in Public Health Vientiane (S)17/10/1997(C)02/03/1998</p>	<p>Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Republic of Philippines on Cooperation in Public Health</p>
Sweden	<p>Agreement between the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Sweden on the National Drug Policy Plan No. 3 Vientiane (S)16/02/2001(C)01/01/2001</p>	<p>Agreement on the National Drug Policy Plan No.3 between of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Sweden</p>

Table 5 Forestry Cooperation, the field of agricultural science and technology

Country	Name of Treaties	Context
Cambodia	<p>Memorandum between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia on Electric Power Development Cooperation</p> <p>Vientiane</p> <p>(S)08/04/1997(C)08/04/1997</p>	<p>Cambodia joined ASEAN as the 10th member country in 1999. Being a signatory party of the Memorandum of Understanding on ASEAN Power Grid (APG-MoU) endorsed in 2007, Cambodia has duties to fulfill the objective of the MoU that states that “member countries agree to strengthen and promote a broad framework for the Member Countries to cooperate towards the development of a common ASEAN policy on power interconnection development of a common ASEAN policy on power interconnection and trade, and ultimately towards the realisation of the ASEAN Power Grid to help ensure greater regional energy security and sustainability on the basis of mutual benefit.</p>
Denmark	<p>Agreement on Improvement of Urban Environment in Vientiane</p> <p>Lao PDR</p> <p>Vientiane</p> <p>(S)17/05/2001(C)17/05/2001</p>	<p>Vientiane is the largest city and capital of Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR). The total population in Vientiane is estimated around 331,000, with population density around 134 persons per</p>

		<p>km². The city is lacking a proper sanitation network, which is seriously threatening the health situation of the population due to discharge of wastewater into low-land areas.</p> <p>Therefore, the Department of Communication, Transport, Post and Construction (DCTPC) under Vientiane Capital City, initiated an Urban Environmental Sanitation Project for the improvement of the Vientiane urban environment, supported by Danish International Development Agency (Danida). This paper briefly highlights the basic objectives, major accomplishments and learning from this on-going project.</p>
<p>India</p>	<p>Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Republic of India on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors New Delhi (S)02/05/1997 (C)02/05/1997</p>	<p>The contracting parties shall encourage cooperation in the field of agricultural science and technology with the objective of increasing agricultural production.</p> <p>The contracting parties shall engage in joint activities in the areas of agricultural research , crop production ; horticulture , plant protection , animal science , fisheries, forestry , irrigation, agro-</p>

		based industry, human resources development and such other fields as may be mutually agreed upon by the contracting parties.
Republic of Indonesia	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia on Forestry Cooperation, Vientiane (S) 20/02/1997(C)20/02/1997	The Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS) is a wide-ranging initiative to gather information on, and examine, the evolution of key forestry issues as well as to review important trends in forests and forestry. The main purpose of the study is to provide a better understanding of the changing relationships between changing relationships between society and forests and thus to facilitate timely policy reviews and reforms in national forest sectors. The specific objectives are to: 1. Identify emerging socio-economic changes impacting on forest and forestry 2. Analyze probable scenarios for forestry developments to 2020 3. Identify priorities and strategies to address emerging opportunities and challenges The first APFSOS was completed in 1998, with an outlook horizon to 2010. During its twenty-first session, held in Dehradun, India, in April 2006, the Asia-Pacific

		Forestry Commission (APFC) resolved to update the outlook extending the horizon to 2020. The study commenced in October 2006 and is expected to be completed by September 2009.
Kuwait	Memorandum of Understanding on Agriculture Cooperation Kuwait(S)29/01/2009Not yet enter into force	The contracting parties shall encourage cooperation in the field of agricultural science and technology with the objective of increasing agricultural production. The contracting parties shall engage in joint activities in the areas of agricultural research , crop production , horticulture , plant protection ; animal science, fisheries , forestry , irrigation; agro-based industry, human resources development and such other fields as may be mutually agreed upon by the contracting parties
Mongolia	1.Agreement on Cooperation in Plant Quarantine and Protection Vientiane(S)24/01/2005(C)24/02/2005 2.Agreement on Cooperation in Veterinary and Quarantine Service Vientiane(S)24/01/2005	Agreement on Cooperation in Plant Quarantine and Protection Agreement on Cooperation in Veterinary and Quarantine Service

	Not yet entered into force	
Myanmar	Agreement on Agricultural Cooperation Yangoon (S)28/5/1995(C)28/05/1995	Agreement on Agricultural Cooperation
Norway	<p>1. Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway regarding Assistance to Phase II of Developing of a Legal Framework for Hydropower Sector Vientiane(S) 24/04/1997 Not yet entered into force</p> <p>2. Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway regarding financial assistance to water supply and sanitation sector project Vientiane (S)27/03/2000(C)27/03/2000</p>	<p>Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway regarding Assistance to Phase II of Developing of a Legal Framework for Hydropower Sector.</p> <p>Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway regarding financial assistance to water supply and sanitation sector project.</p>

Philippines	Agreement between the Governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Philippines regarding the cooperation in agriculture and forestry. Manila (S)18/12/1997(C)21/09/1998	Agreement between the Governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Philippines regarding the cooperation in agriculture and forestry.
Thailand	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand. About the collaboration on the development of electricity in Laos Vientiane (S)19/06/199 (C)19/06/1996	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand. About the collaboration on the development of electricity in Laos.

Table 6 Extradition, exchanging offenders and other mechanisms to facilitate extradition

Country	Name of Treaties	Context
Cambodia	Treaty on Extradition Vientiane (S)21/10/1999(C)07/07/2005	The main purposes of this Treaty is to state the agreement between Cambodia and Lao PDR about the mutual agreement in exchanging offenders and other mechanisms to facilitate extradition.

China	Treaty on Extradition Beijing (S)04/02/2002(C)15/08/2003	
Pakistan	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Combating Terrorism and Certain other Crimes Vientiane (S)23/04/2004(C)23/04/2004	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Combating Terrorism and Certain other Crimes

Table 7 labour

Country	Name of Treaties	Context
Germany	Agreement between the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany regarding Technical Cooperation Vientiane (S)13/07/2007(C)20/09/2007	Agreement between the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany regarding Technical Cooperation
Kuwait	Memorandum of Understanding in the Field of Exchange of Manpower Kuwait (S)27/01/2009(C)24/08/2009	Agreement in the Field of Exchange of Manpower Lao -Kuwait

Luxembourg	Memorandum of Agreement on Vocational Training Project in the Province of Khammouane Vientiane (S)25/11/2003 Not yet entered into force	Memorandum of Agreement on Vocational Training Project in the Province of Khammouane
Thailand	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Kingdom of Thailand in Labour Vientiane (S)18/10/2002(C)18/10/2002	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Kingdom of Thailand in Labour.
Vietnam	Agreement on Cooperation on Man Power Hanoi(S)29/06/1995(C)29/06/1995	Agreement on Cooperation on Man Power

Table 8 Scientific, technical cooperation, Communication and Transportation Cooperation

Country	Name of Treaties	Context
Cambodia	Memorandum on Communication and Transportation Cooperation Vientiane (S)08/04/1997(C)08/04/1997	The MOU serves as the legal basis to develop road transport among the three countries. It has 11 clauses and three appendixes stipulating contents relating to creating favorable conditions for people and all non-commercial and commercial motorised vehicles to move through border gates.

Czechoslovakia	Agreement on economic and technical cooperation Prague (S)11/07/1979(C)11/01/1979	Memorandum between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of Republic of Czechoslovakia on Economic, Scientific, Technic and cultural Cooperation
France	1.Memorandum between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of Republic of France on Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural CooperationParis (S)29/05/1989 not yet enter into force 2.Agreement on Establishment of a Joint Commission on Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Republic of France Paris (S)13/12/1989 not yet enter into force	Memorandum between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of Republic of France on Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation. Agreement on Establishment of a Joint Commission on Economic Trade Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Republic of France.
Germany	Agreement between the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany regarding Technical Cooperation Vientiane	Agreement between the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany regarding Technical Cooperation

	(S)13/07/2007(C)20/09/2007	
India	Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Republic of India on Cooperation in Science and Technology New Delhi (S)16/06/2003(C)16/06/2003	
Israel	Agreement concerning Technical Co-operation Jerusalem(S)28/08/1994 not yet entered into force	
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	1. Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation Pyongyang(S)10/12/1993 (C) 10/12/1993 2. Agreement on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation Vientiane (S)06/06/1994(C)06/06/1994 3. Agreement on Establishment of Joint Commission on Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Lao People's Democratic	Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation The objectives of this Framework Agreement are to: (a) strengthen and enhance economic, trade and investment cooperation among the Parties; (b) progressively liberalise and promote trade in goods and services as well as create a transparent, liberal and facilitative investment regime; (c) explore new areas and develop appropriate measures for closer economic cooperation

	<p>Republic and the Government of the Democratic Republic People's Republic of Korea Pyongyang(S)30/08/2008 not yet enter into force</p>	<p>and integration;</p> <p>(d) facilitate the more effective economic integration of the new ASEAN Member Countries and bridge the development gap among the Parties; and</p> <p>(e) establish a cooperative framework for further strengthening the economic relations among the Parties.</p>
Republic of Korea	<p>Agreement on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation Seoul (S)15/05/1996(C)24/06/1996</p>	<p>Agreement on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation</p>
Libya	<p>Agreement on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation Tripoli (S)25/09/2000(C)10/05/2001</p>	<p>Agreement on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation</p>
Malaysia	<p>Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of a Joint Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation Kuala Lumpur (S)04/06/1996(C)04/06/1996</p>	<p>The objectives of the new cooperation framework are to bridge the economic gap among the countries, and to promote prosperity in the sub-region in a sustainable manner. Such prosperity will not only benefit the four countries, but also add value to ASEAN and its solidarity. Stronger</p>

		Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand will also mean stronger ASEAN. It is in this way that it will act as a building block and move ASEAN forward at a more even pace, on the basis of self-reliance and shared prosperity.
Mongolia	<p>1. Agreement on Cooperation in Domains Postes Vientiane (S)13/12/1983(C)13/12/1983</p> <p>2. Agreement Between the Government of the Lao people's Democratic Republic and the Government of Mongolia on Cooperation in the Fields of Education, Culture, Science, Technology and Sport Vientiane (S)17/09/2007 not yet enter into force</p>	<p>Agreement on Cooperation in Domains Postes.</p> <p>Agreement Between the Government of the Lao people's Democratic Republic and the Government of Mongolia on Cooperation in the Fields of Education, Culture, Science, Technology and Sport</p>
Morocco	<p>Agreement on Cultural Economic Scientific and Technical Cooperation, Rabat (S) 06/09/2002(C) 06/09/2002</p>	<p>Agreement on Cultural Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation</p>
Philippines	<p>Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Republic</p>	<p>Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Republic of</p>

	of Philippines on Economic and Technical Cooperation Manila (S)18/12/1997(C)24/03/1998	Philippines on Economic and Technical Cooperation
Russia	1. Agreement on Cultural and Scientific Cooperation Moscow 09/03/1994 09/03/1994 2. Agreement on posts and Communication cooperation Vientiane (S)29/03/1976 Not yet entered into force	Agreement on Cultural and Scientific Cooperation Agreement on posts and Communication cooperation
Vietnam	Agreement on the cooperation in science and technology between the Governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Republic of Vietnam. Vientiane (S)18 /12/2009(C)18/01/2009	Agreement on the cooperation in science and technology between the Governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Government of the Republic of Vietnam.

Table 9 Trafficking in Humans and Smuggling of People

Country	Name of Treaties	Context
Australia	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Australia and the Government of	Australia has concluded Memoranda of Understanding, Joint Ministerial Statements and other agreements

	the Lao PDR concerning Mutual Cooperation in Combating Unlawful Migration, Trafficking in Humans and Smuggling of People	on matters of combating people smuggling, information exchange and related matters.
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An Overview of Lao PDR's Participation in Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary –General of the United Nation , Department of Treaties and Law Ministry of Foreign Affairs. October, 2013.

United Nations Multilateral Instruments

i) Charter of the United Nations and Statute of the International Court of Justice

1. Charter of the United Nations
2. Declaration of Acceptance by Laos³³ of the Charter of the UN (Admitted under GA resolution 995(X) of 14 December 1955) (S, 30 June 1952)³⁴
3. Statute of the International Court of Justice (annexed to the UN Charter), 1945 In force for all members of the UN.
4. Amendment to Article 23, 27, and 61 of the Charter of the UN. 17 December 1963 (R, 20 April 1965).
5. Amendment to Article 109 of the Charter of the UN, 20 December 1965, (R, 21 October 1966).
- 6.. Amendment to Article 61 of the Charter of the UN. 20 December 1971 (In force for all UN members).
7. Declaration of Laos Accepting the Jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice in Respect of Disputes which may be referred to the Court under the terms of article 22 of the Treaty of Peace with Japan. Vientiane 24 October 1952.

³³ Laos Formerly called "Laos" until December 2, 1975.

³⁴ (S) Signature, (R) Ratification, (A) Accession, (a) Acceptance, (d) Succession, (N) Notification, (C) Consent to be bound.

ii) Privileges and Immunities, Diplomatic Relations, Consular Relations

1. Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations 13 February 1946 (A, with Reservation 24 November 1956)67F³⁵.

2. Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies. New York, 21 November 1947. (A, 9 August 1960)68F³⁶

3. Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Vienna, 18 April 1961 (A, 3 December 1962).

4. Optional Protocol to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, concerning Acquisition of Nationality. Vienna, on 18 April 1961. (A, on 3 December 1962).

5. Optional Protocol to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, concerning the Compulsory Settlement of Disputes. Vienna, 18 April 1961(A, 3 December 1962).

6. Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. Vienna, 24 April 1963. (A, 9 August 1973

7. Optional Protocol to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations concerning Acquisition of Nationality. Vienna, 24 April 1963. (A, 9 August 1973).

8. Optional Protocol to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations concerning the Compulsory Settlement of Disputes. Vienna, on 24 April 1963. (A, 9 August 1973).

iii) Human Rights

1. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. New York, 9 December 1948. (A, 8 December 1950)

2. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, New York, 7 March 1966. (A, 22 February 1974)69F³⁷

³⁵ Reserves of Lao: 1. Lao citizen whose permanent address. 2. Regularly in Laos. Will not be exempt from the payroll and income tax in the country

³⁶ According to the treaty Laos became a party to organizations such as the International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture, Transport Organization, UNESCO, World Bank, Global Fund, the World Health Organization., the Universal Postal Telecommunications Organization, the International Meteorological Organization and the International Maritime Organization and cooperation with international financial organizations.

³⁷ Under section 9 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, States Parties are obligated (duties) made a report on the fulfillment of its obligations under the treaty. Laos has appointed a national committee responsible for the report includes chapters under this Treaty with the Minister of Justice, presiding.

3. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), New York. 16 December 1966. (S, 7 December 2000) (R,13 May 2007)70F³⁸.

4. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, New York 16 December 1966, (S 7 December 2000), (R, 25 September 2009), with Reservations and Declarations.

5. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), New York, 18 December 1979. (S, 17 July 1981) (R,14 August 1981)71F³⁹.

6. Convention on the Rights of the Child. (CRC) New York, 20 November 1989. (A, 8 May 1991)72F⁴⁰

7. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Right of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, New York, 25 May 2000, (A, 20 October 2006), (with Reservation).

8. Protocol Additional to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. New York, 25 May 2000, (A, with Declaration 20 October 2006).

9. Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity, New York, 26 November 1968. (A,with Declaration 28 December 1984).

10. International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, New York, 30 November 1973. (A, 5 October 1981).

11. Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, Geneva, 7 September 1956 (A, 9 September 1957).

12. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, New York, 13 December 2006, (S, 15 January 2008), (R, 25 October 2009).

13. International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, New York, 20 December 2006. (S 29 September 2008).

³⁸ The treaty entered into force for Laos from the date of May 13, 2007 onwards, and claims under Section 16 of the Lao PDR is bonded (duty) to submit a report on compliance with its obligations under the treaty, said the Secretary General, Head of the United Nations, in May 2009.

³⁹ International Court of Justice appointed Arbitrator

⁴⁰ The Convention on the Rights of the Child entered into force for Laos from the date of October 20, 2006 onwards, which Laos is a bond (duties) to submit a report on compliance with its obligations under the Convention, the second edition in October 2008.

14. Convention Against Torture and other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment as Punishment, New York, 10 December 1984. (S, 23 September 2010), (R, 10 September 2012)

iii) Environment

1. Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. Vienna, 22 September 1988 (A, 21 November 1998).

2. Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Montreal, 1 January 1989. (A, 21 November 1998).

3. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. New York, 9 May 1992. (A, 4 April 1995).

4. Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Kyoto, 11 December 1997 (A, 6 February 2003).

5. Convention on Biological Diversity. Rio de Janeiro, 5 June 1992. (A, 19 December 1996).

6. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa. Paris, 14 October 1994. (A, 26 December 1996).

7. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Stockholm, 22 May 2001 (R, 28 June 2006).

8. Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Ramsar, on 2 February 1971, (A, 28 May 2010), Entry into force for Lao PDR on 28 September 2010.

9. Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, Basel, on 22 March 1989, (A, 21 September 2010).

10. Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, Rotterdam, on 10 September 1998, (A, 21 September 2010).

11. Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Nagoya, 29 September 1979, (A, 07 December 2011).

v) United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and Human Trafficking

1. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, New York, 15 Nov 2000, (A, with Reservation and Declaration 26 September 2003).

2. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, New York, 15 November 2000, (A, with Reservation 26 September 2003).

3. Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, New York, 15 November 2000,(A, with Reservation 26 September 2003).

4. Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition Against Transnational Organized Crime, New York, On 31 May 2001, (A, with Reservation 26 September 2003).

5. Convention on the Suppression of the Trafficking in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, 1950 (A, 14 April 1978), (with Reservation).

vi) Counter Terrorism Conventions

1. Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, 1963. (A, 4 October 1969).

2. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, 1970. (A, 10 October 1971).

3. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, 1971, (A, 6 April 1989).

4. International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, New York, 17 December 1979, (A, with Reservation 22 August 2002).

5. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, Including Diplomatic Agents, New York, 14 December 1973,(A, with Reservation 22 August 2002).

6. International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, New York, 12 November 1997, (A, with Reservation 22 August 2002).

7. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, New York, 12 November 2002, (A, 22 August 2002).

8. International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism was adopted at New York on 9 December 1999, (A, 29 September 2008).

9. Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, signed at New York on 9 December 1994. (A, with Reservation 22 August 2002).

10. Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, Montreal, on 1st March 1991 (A, with Reservation on 2010).

11. Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, Vienna, on 26 October 1979. (A, with Reservation and Declaration on 29 September 2010).

12 Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the continental Shelf, Rome, 10 March 1988, (A, 09 January 2012).

13. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, Rome, 10 March 1988, Entered into force: 01 March 1992, (A, 26 December 2012).

vii) United Nations Convention against Corruption

1. UN Convention Against Corruption, Mexico, 30 October 2003 (S, 10 December 2003) (R, 25 September 2009), (With Reservation and Declaration).

Viii) Health

1. Convention on Tobacco Control. New York, 21 May 2003, (S, 29 June 2004); (R, 5 September 2006).

ix) Commodities

1. Agreement establishing the Common Fund for Commodities, Geneva, 27 June 1980, (A 17 December 2002).

x) Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

1. Agreement concerning the Suppression of the Manufacture of, Internal Trade in, and Use of, Prepared Opium. Geneva, 11 February 1925 and Lake Success, New York, 11 December 1946. (D, 7 October 1950).

2. International Opium Convention. Geneva, 19 February 1925 and Lake Success, New York, 11 December 1946. (D, 7 October 1950).

3. Convention for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulation of the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs. Geneva, 13 July 1931 and Lake Success, New York, 11 December 1946. (D, 7 October 1950).

4. Agreement concerning the Suppression of Opium Smoking, Bangkok, 27 November 1931 and Lake Success, New York 11 December 1946. (D, 7 October 1950).

5. Convention for the Suppression of the Illicit Trafficking in Dangerous Drugs, Geneva, 26 June 1936 and Lake Success, New York, 11 December 1946. (A, 13 July 1951).

6. Protocol Bringing under International Control Drugs Outside the Scope of the Convention of 13 July 1931 for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulation of the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the Protocol signed at Lake Success, New York, on 11 December 1946. Paris, 19 November 1948. (D, 7 October 1950).

7. Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1953, New York, 30 March 1953, (A, 22 June 1973).

8. Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Vienna, 21 February 1971. (A, 22 September 1997).

9. UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances concluded at Vienna on 20 December 1988, (A, 11 October 2004).

10. Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1953. Geneva 25 March 1972, (A, 2 January 2009).

xi) Transport and Communications (Road Traffic)

1. Convention on Road Traffic. Geneva, 19 September 1949 (A, 6 June 1959)73F⁴¹.

⁴¹ Under this treaty, it classifies vehicles in international traffic as vehicles of Laos.

xii) Education and Cultural Matters

1. Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 1945.
2. Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials. Lake Success, New York, 22 November 1950. (A, 28 February 1952).
3. Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, Paris, 16 November 1972 (R, 20 March 1987).
4. Regional Convention on the recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific (with Final Act), 1983, (R, 27 November 2002).
5. Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (R 25 October 2007).
6. Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, Paris 17 October 2003, (R, 26 November 2009).
7. Berne Convention for the protection of literary and Artistic works, Berne, 28 September 1979, (A, 07 December 2011).

xv) Status of Women

1. Convention on the Political Rights of Women, New York, 31 March 1953. (A, 28 January 1969).

xiii) Law of Treaties

1. Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. Vienna, 24 May 1969. (A, 31 March 1998).

xiv) Outer Space

1. Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies, Moscow, Washington and London , on 27 January 1967 (S, 27 January 1967).
2. Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, Washington, London, Moscow on 22 April 1968 (S,22 April 1968).

3. Convention on the International Liability for Damage caused by Space Objects, London, Washington and Moscow , on 29 March 1972 (R, 20 March 1973).

xv) Telecommunications

1. Constitution of the Asia- Pacific Telecommunity. Bangkok, 27 March 1976, (A, 20 October 1989).

2. Amendment to articles 3(5) and 9(8) of the Constitution of the Asia CE Pacific Telecommunity. Bangkok, Colombo, 29 November 1991, (AP, 3 January 2000).

3. Agreement establishing the Asia- CE Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development. Kuala Lumpur, 21 August 1977 (A, 12 September 1986).

xvi) League of Nations Treaties

1. International Convention concerning the Use of Broadcasting in the Cause of Peace. Geneva, 23 September 1936, (A, 23 March 1966).

2. Convention and Statute on Freedom of Transit. Barcelona, 20 April 1921, (d, 24 November 1956).

xvii) Agriculture

1. International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, on 5 June 1992, (A, 14 March 2006).

United Nations Agencies Agreements

International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling, Washington 1946, (Establishing the International Whaling Commission in 1949), (A, 22 May 2007).

i) International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

1. Agreement between the LAO PDR and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and Protocol, signed at Vienna on 22 November 1991 (R, 5 April 2001).

2. Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident concluded at Vienna, on 26 September 1986, (R, 21 December 2012).

3. Convention on Assistance in the case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency concluded at Vienna, on 26 September 1986, (R, 21 December 2012).

ii) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

1. Agreement Establishing the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Rome, on 13 June 1976 (A, 13 December 1978).

iii) International Labour Organisation (ILO)

1. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the ILO (S, 21 January 2000).

2. Constitution of the International Labour Organization (ILO), 1919.

3. Convention concerning the Employment of Women during the Night, Washington on 28 October 1919 (R, 23 January 1964).

4. Convention concerning the Night Work of Young Persons Employed in Industry, Washington 28 November 1919 (R, 23 January 1964).

5. Convention concerning the Use of White Lead in Painting, Geneva, 25 October 1921, (R, 23 January 1964).

6. Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, Geneva 25 October 1921 (R, 23 January 1964).

7. ILO Convention 138 on Minimum Age, Geneva, 6 June 1973, (A, 13 May 2005, in force since 2006).

8. ILO Convention 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour, Geneva, 17 June 1999, (A, 13 May 2005).

9. Instrument for the Amendment of the Constitution of the International Labour Organization, (Article 19), Geneva, on 19 June 1997, (A, 6 April 2007).

10. ILO Convention 100 on Equal Remuneration, Geneva, 29 June 1951, (A, 13 June 2008).

11. ILO Convention 100 on Discrimination (Employment and Discrimination), Geneva, 25 June 1958, (A, 13 June 2008).

12. International Labour Organization Convention No. 144 Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards), Geneva, 2 June 1976, (A, 14 September 2010).

iv) International Telecommunications Union (ITU)

1. Constitution of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), 1973

v) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

1. Agreement concerning Assistance by the United Nations Development Programme to the Government of the Lao PDR (with exchange of letters). Signed at New York on 10 October 1988.

vi) United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

1. Standard Basic Cooperation Agreement between UNICEF and the Government of the Lao PDR, signed in Vientiane on 23 August 1995.

vii) United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

1. Constitution of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Vienna, on 8 April 1979 (S, 5 March 1980) (R, 3 June 1980) (N, 3 September 1985).

viii) Universal Postal Union (UPU)

1. Constitution of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), Vienna, 10 July 1964, (R, 7 September 1987).

2. The Postal payment services Agreement, Geneva, 12 August 2011, (A, 25 May 2011).

3. Universal Postal Union, Geneva, 12 August 2008, (A, 25 May 2011).

4. First Additional Protocol to the General regulations of the Universal Postal Union, Geneva, 12 August 2008, (A, 25 May 2011).

5. The Eighth Additional Protocol to the constitution of the Universal Postal Union, Geneva, 12 August 2008, (A, 25 May 2011).

ix) World Health Organization (WHO)

1. Constitution of the World Health Organization (WHO), New York, 22 July 1946, (Ap, 17 May 1950).
2. Amendment to articles 24 and 25 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization. Geneva, 28 May 1959. (Ap, 4 May 1960).
3. Amendment to Articles 24 and 25 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization. Geneva, 23 May 1967. (Ap, 29 July 1968).
4. Amendment to Article 34 and 35 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization. Geneva, 22 May 1973. (Ap, 28 September 1976).
5. Amendment to Articles 24 and 25 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization, Geneva, 17 May 1976. (Ap, 23 January 1978).
6. Amendment to Articles 24 and 25 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization. Geneva, 12 May 1986. (Ap, 5 April 1988).
7. International Health Regulations, 1969.
8. WHO regulations regarding nomenclature (including the Compilation and Publication of Statistics) with respect to Diseases and Causes of Death, 1967.

x) World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

1. Convention of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) (1947).

xi) World Tourism Organization

1. Statute of the World Tourism Organization (with annex) 1970.

III. Other International Organizations Agreements**i) Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

Agreement establishing the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila 4 December 1965.

ii) Bureau of International Exhibitions (BIE)

1. Convention relating to International Exhibitions, Paris 22 November, 1928, (A, 9 May 1997).

iii) International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Humanitarian Law - Geneva

Conventions (The Swiss Government is the Depository of the Geneva Conventions which are registered with the United Nation's Office).

1. Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, 12 August 1949, (A, 29 October 1956).

2. Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of the Armed Forces at Sea, 12 August 1949, (A, 29 October 1956).

3. Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, 12 August 1949, (A, 29 October 1956).

4. Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, 12 August 1949, (A, 29 October 1956).

5. Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts, 8 June 1977, (R, 18 November 1980) (D, 30 January 1998).

6. Protocol II Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts, 8 June 1977, (R, 18 November 1980).

iv) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) 1945.

v) International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation (ITSO)

Agreement relating to the International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation "Intelsat" 1949.

vi) World Bank Group International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

Articles of Agreement of the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), (1945), (A, 5 July 1961).

vii) International Development Association (IDA)

Articles of Agreement of the International Development Association (IDA), (1960), (A, 28 October 1963).

viii) International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Articles of Agreement of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), (1955), (A, 29 January 1992).

ix) Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)

Convention on the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), (1988), (S, 13 January 1999), (R, 17 June 1999).

x) UNESCAP.

1. Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, at Shanghai (S, 26 April 2004), (R 29 February 2008).

2. International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Control of Goods at Geneva. On 21 October 1982, (R, 29 December 2008).

Table of the Overview of Lao PDR's Participation in Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nation

Country	Name of treaties	Context
United Nations Multilateral Instruments		
i) Charter of the United Nations and Statute of the International Court of Justice	1. Charter of the United Nations, 26 June 1945. 2. Declaration of Acceptance by Laos of the Charter of the UN (Admitted under GA resolution 995(X) of 14 December 1955)	To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought

	<p>(s, 30 June 1952)</p> <p>3. Statute of the International Court of Justice (annexed to the UN Charter), 1945 In force for all members of the UN.</p> <p>4. Amendment to Article 23, 27, and 61 of the Charter of the UN. 17 December 1963 (R, 20 April 1965).</p> <p>5. Amendment to Article 109 of the Charter of the UN, 20 December 1965, (R, 21 October 1966).</p> <p>6. Amendment to Article 61 of the Charter of the UN. 20 December 1971 (In force for all UN members).</p> <p>7. Declaration of Laos Accepting the Jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice in Respect of Disputes which may be referred to the Court under the terms of article 22 of the Treaty of Peace with Japan. Vientiane 24 October 1952</p>	<p>untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom</p>
<p>ii) Privileges and Immunities, Diplomatic Relations, Consular Relations</p>	<p>1. Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations 13 February 1946 (A, with Reservation 24 November 1956)</p> <p>2. Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies. New York, 21 November 1947. (A, 9 August 1960)</p>	<p>WHEREAS Article 104 of the Charter of the United Nations provides that the Organization shall enjoy in the territory of each of its Members such legal capacity as may be</p>

	<p>3. Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Vienna, 18 April 1961. (A, 3 December 1962).</p> <p>4. Optional Protocol to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, concerning Acquisition of Nationality. Vienna, on 18 April 1961. (A, on 3 December 1962).</p> <p>5. Optional Protocol to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, concerning the Compulsory Settlement of Disputes. Vienna, 18 April 1961.(A, 3 December 1962).</p> <p>6.Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. Vienna, 24 April 1963. (A, 9 August 1973</p> <p>7.Optional Protocol to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations concerning Acquisition of Nationality. Vienna, 24 April 1963. (A, 9 August 1973).</p> <p>8.Optional Protocol to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations concerning the Compulsory Settlement of Disputes. Vienna, on 24 April 1963.</p>	<p>necessary for the exercise of its functions and the fulfillment of its purposes and</p> <p>WHEREAS Article 105 of the Charter of the United Nations provides that the Organization shall enjoy in the territory of each of its Members such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the fulfillment of its purposes and that representatives of the Members of the United Nations and officials of the Organization shall similarly enjoy such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the independent exercise of their functions in connection with the Organization.</p> <p>CONSEQUENTLY the General Assembly by a Resolution adopted on</p>
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	(A, 9 August 1973)	the 13 February 1946, approved the following Convention and proposed it for accession by each Member of the United Nations.
iii) Human Rights	<p>1. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. New York, 9 December 1948. (A, 8 December 1950)</p> <p>2. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, New York, 7 March 1966. (A, 22 February 1974)</p> <p>3. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), New York. 16 December 1966. (S, 7 December 2000) (R, 13 May 2007)</p> <p>4. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, New York 16 December 1966, (S 7 December 2000), (R, 25 September 2009), with Reservations and Declarations.</p> <p>5. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), New York, 18 December 1979. (S, 17 July 1981) (R, 14 August 1981)</p>	

	<p>6. Convention on the Rights of the Child. (CRC) New York, 20 November 1989. (A, 8 May 1991)</p> <p>7. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Right of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, New York, 25 May 2000, (A, 20 October 2006), (with Reservation).</p> <p>8. Protocol Additional to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. New York, 25 May 2000, (A, with Declaration 20 October 2006).</p> <p>9. Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity, New York, 26 November 1968. (A, with declaration 28 December 1984).</p> <p>10. International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, New York, 30 November 1973. (A, 5 October 1981).</p> <p>11. Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery,</p>	
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	<p>Geneva, 7 September 1956 (A, 9 September 1957).</p> <p>12. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, New York, 13 December 2006, (S, 15 January 2008), (R, 25 October 2009).</p> <p>13. International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, New York, 20 December 2006. (S 29 September 2008).</p> <p>14. Convention Against Torture and other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of Punishment, New York, 10 December 1984. (S.23 September 2010), (R, 10 September 2012).</p>	
iii) Environment	<p>1. Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. Vienna, 22 September 1988 (A, 21 November 1998).</p> <p>2. Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Montreal, 1 January 1989. (A, 21 November 1998).</p> <p>3. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. New York, 9 May 1992. (A, 4 April 1995).</p>	<p>Aware of the potentially harmful impact on human health and the environment through modification of the ozone layer, Recalling the pertinent provisions of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, and in particular</p>

	<p>4. Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Kyoto, 11 December 1997 (A, 6 February 2003).</p> <p>5. Convention on Biological Diversity. Rio de Janeiro, 5 June 1992. (A, 19 December 1996).</p> <p>6. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa. Paris, 14 October 1994. (A, 26 December 1996).</p> <p>7. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Stockholm, 22 May 2001 (R, 28 June 2006).</p> <p>8. Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Ramsar, on 2 February 1971, (A, 28 May 2010), Entry into force for Lao PDR on 28 September 2010.</p> <p>9. Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, Basel, on 22 March 1989, (A, 21 September 2010).</p> <p>10. Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, Rotterdam, on 10</p>	<p>principle 21, which provides that "States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction", Taking into account the circumstances and particular requirements of developing countries, Mindful of the work and studies proceeding within both international and national organizations and, in particular, of the World</p>
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	<p>September 1998, (A, 21 September 2010).</p> <p>11.Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Nagoya, 29 September 1979, (A, 07 December 2011).</p>	<p>Plan of Action on the Ozone Layer of the United Nations Environment Programme, Mindful also of the precautionary measures for the protection of the ozone layer which have already been taken at the national and international levels, Aware that measures to protect the ozone layer from modifications due to human activities require international co-operation and action, and should be based on relevant scientific and technical considerations, Aware also of the need for further research and systematic observations to further develop scientific knowledge of the ozone layer and possible adverse effects resulting from its modification,</p>
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		Determined to protect human health and the environment against adverse effects resulting from modifications of the ozone layer,
v) United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and Human Trafficking	<p>1. United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, New York, 15 Nov 2000, (A, with Reservation and Declaration 26 September 2003)</p> <p>2. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, New York, 15 November 2000, (A, with Reservation 26 September 2003).</p> <p>3. Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, New York, 15 November 2000,(A, with Reservation 26 September 2003).</p> <p>4. Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition Against Transnational Organized Crime, New York,</p>	<p>Declaring that effective action to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children, requires a comprehensive international approach in the countries of origin, transit and destination that includes measures to prevent such trafficking, to punish the traffickers and to protect the victims of such trafficking, including by protecting their internationally recognized human rights,</p> <p>Taking into account the fact that, despite the existence of a variety of</p>

	<p>On 31 May 2001, (A, with Reservation 26 September 2003).</p> <p>5. Convention on the Suppression of the Trafficking in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, 1950 (A, 14 April 1978), (with Reservation).</p>	<p>international instruments containing rules and practical measures to combat the exploitation of persons, especially women and children, there is no universal instrument that addresses all aspects of trafficking in persons,</p> <p>Concerned that, in the absence of such an instrument, persons who are vulnerable to trafficking will not be sufficiently protected</p> <p>Recalling General Assembly resolution 53/111 of 9 December 1998, in which the Assembly decided to establish an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc committee for the purpose of elaborating a comprehensive international convention against transnational</p>
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		<p>organized crime and of discussing the elaboration of, inter alia, an international instrument addressing trafficking in women and children, onvined that supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime with an international instrument for the prevention, suppression and punishment of trafficking in</p>
<p>vi) Counter Terrorism Conventions</p>	<p>1. Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, 1963. (A, 4 October 1969).</p> <p>2. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, 1970. (A, 10 October 1971).</p> <p>3. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, 1971, (A, 6 April 1989).</p> <p>4. International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, New York, 17 December</p>	<p>This convention shall apply in respect of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) offences against penal law b) acts which, whether or not they are offences, may or do jeopardize the safety of the aircraft or of persons or property therein

	<p>1979, (A, with Reservation 22 August 2002).</p> <p>5. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, Including Diplomatic Agents, New York, 14 December 1973,(A, with Reservation 22 August 2002).</p> <p>6. International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, New York, 12 November 1997, (A, with Reservation 22 August 2002).</p> <p>7. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, New York, 12 November 2002, (A, 22 August 2002).</p> <p>8. International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism was adopted at New York on 9 December 1999, (A, 29 September 2008).</p> <p>9. Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, signed at New York on 9 December 1994. (A, with Reservation 22 August 2002).</p> <p>10. Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, Montreal, on 1st March 1991 (A, with</p>	<p>or which jeopardize good order and discipline on board.</p>
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	<p>Reservation on 2010).</p> <p>11. Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, Vienna, on 26 October 1979. (A, with Reservation and Declaration on 29 September 2010).</p> <p>12. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the continental Shelf, Rome, 10 March 1988, (A, 09 January 2012)</p> <p>13. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, Rome, 10 March 1988, Entered into force: 01 March 1992, (A, 26 December 2012)</p>	
<p>vii) United Nations Convention Against Corruption</p>	<p>UN Convention Against Corruption, Mexico, 30 October 2003 (S,10 December 2003) (R, 25 September 2009), (With Reservation and Declaration).</p>	<p>The purposes of this Convention are:</p> <p>(a) To promote and strengthen measures to prevent and combat corruption more efficiently and effectively;</p> <p>(b) To promote, facilitate and support international cooperation and</p>

		<p>technical assistance in the prevention of and fight against corruption, including asset recovery;</p> <p>(C) To promote integrity, accountability and proper management of public affairs and public property.</p>
<p>viii) Health</p>	<p>Convention on Tobacco Control. New York, 21 May 2003, (S, 29 June 2004); (R, 5 September 2006).</p>	<p>The Parties to this Convention, Determined to give priority to their right to protect public health, Recognizing that the spread of the tobacco epidemic is a global problem with serious consequences for public health that calls for the widest possible international cooperation and the participation of all countries in an effective, appropriate and comprehensive international response, Reflecting the concern of the international community about the</p>

		<p>devastating worldwide health, social, economic and environmental consequences of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke, Seriously concerned about the increase in the worldwide consumption and production of cigarettes and other tobacco products, particularly in developing countries, as well as about the burden this places on families, on the poor, and on national health systems, Recognizing that scientific evidence has unequivocally established that tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke cause death, disease and disability, and that there is a time lag between the</p>
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		<p>exposure to smoking and the other uses of tobacco products and the onset of tobacco-related diseases, Recognizing also that cigarettes and some other products containing tobacco are highly engineered so as to create and maintain dependence, and that many of the compounds they contain and the smoke they produce are pharmacologically active, toxic, mutagenic and carcinogenic, and that tobacco dependence is separately classified as a disorder in major international classifications of diseases, Acknowledging that there is clear scientific evidence that prenatal exposure to tobacco smoke causes adverse health and</p>
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		<p>developmental conditions for children, Deeply concerned about the escalation in smoking and other forms of tobacco consumption by children and adolescents worldwide, particularly smoking at increasingly early ages, Alarmed by the increase in smoking and other forms of tobacco consumption by women and young girls worldwide and keeping in mind the need for full participation of women at all levels of policy-making and implementation and the need for gender-specific tobacco control strategies, Deeply concerned about the high levels of smoking and other forms of tobacco consumption by indigenous peoples,</p>
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		<p>Seriously concerned about the impact of all promotion and sponsorship aimed at encouraging the use of tobacco products.</p>
<p>ix) Commodities</p>	<p>Agreement establishing the Common Fund for Commodities, Geneva, 27 June 1980 (A 17 December 2002).</p>	<p>Determined to promote economic co-operation and understanding among all States, particularly between developed and developing countries, based on the principles of equity and sovereign equality and thereby to contribute to the establishment of a new International Economic Order,</p> <p>Recognizing the need for improved forms of international Co-operation in the field of commodities, as an essential condition. For the establishment of a new International Economic order, aimed</p>

		<p>at promoting economic and Social development, particularly of developing countries, Recalling resolution 93(iv) on the Integrated programme for Commodities adopted at the fourth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (herein after referred to as UNCTAD),</p> <p>Have agreed to establish hereby the Common Fund for Commodities, which shall operate in accordance with the following provisions.</p>
<p>x) Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances</p>	<p>1. Agreement concerning the Suppression of the Manufacture of, Internal Trade in, and Use of, Prepared Opium. Geneva, 11 February 1925 and Lake Success, New York, 11 December 1946. (D, 7 October 1950).</p> <p>2. International Opium Convention. Geneva, 19 February 1925 and Lake Success, New York, 11 December 1946. (D, 7 October 1950).</p>	<p>To establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising under treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained</p>

	<p>3. Convention for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulation of the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs. Geneva, 13 July 1931 and Lake Success, New York, 11 December 1946. (D, 7 October 1950).</p> <p>4. Agreement concerning the Suppression of Opium Smoking, Bangkok, 27 November 1931 and Lake Success, New York 11 December 1946. (D, 7 October 1950)</p> <p>5. Convention for the Suppression of the Illicit Trafficking in Dangerous Drugs, Geneva, 26 June 1936 and Lake Success, New York, 11 December 1946. (A, 13 July 1951).</p> <p>6. Protocol Bringing under International Control Drugs Outside the Scope of the Convention of 13 July 1931 for Limiting the Manufacture and Regulation of the Distribution of Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the Protocol signed at Lake Success, New York, on 11 December 1946. Paris, 19 November 1948. (D, 7 October 1950).</p> <p>7. Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, New York, 30 March 1961, (A, 22 June 1973).</p>	
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	<p>8. Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Vienna, 21 February 1971. (A, 22 September 1997).</p> <p>9. UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances concluded at Vienna on 20 December 1988, (A, 11 October 2004).</p> <p>10. Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961. Geneva 25 March 1972, (A, 2 January 2009).</p>	
xi) Transport and Communications (Road Traffic)	Convention on Road Traffic. Geneva, 19 September 1949 (A, 6 June 1959)	
Xii) Education and Cultural Matters	<p>1. Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 1945.</p> <p>2. Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials. Lake Success, New York, 22 November 1950. (A, 28 February 1952).</p> <p>3. Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, Paris, 16 November 1972 (R, 20 March 1987).</p>	

	<p>4. Regional Convention on the recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific (with Final Act), 1983, (R, 27 November 2002).</p> <p>5. Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (R 25 October 2007).</p> <p>6. Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, Paris 17 October 2003, (R, 26 November 2009).</p> <p>7. Berne Convention for the protection of literary and Artistic works, Berne, 28 September 1979, (A, 07 December 2011)</p>	
<p>xvii) Status of Women Convention on the Political Rights of Women, New York, 31 March 1953. (A, 28 January 1969).</p>		<p>The Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO declares that "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed". In order that a unanimous, lasting and genuine peace may be secured, the Preamble declares that the States Party to</p>

		<p>the Constitution believed "in full and equal opportunities for education for all, in the unrestricted pursuit of objective truth and in the free exchange of ideas and knowledge". As defined by the Constitution, the purpose of the Organization is: "to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world,</p>
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		without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations"
xviii) Law of Treaties	1. Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. Vienna, 24 May 1969. (A, 31 March 1998).	Treaties in modern international relations: VCLT Preamble, first indent " <i>Considering the fundamental role of treaties in the history of international relations</i> "
xix) Outer Space	1. Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies, Moscow, Washington and London , on 27 January 1967 (S, 27 January 1967) .2. Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, Washington, London, Moscow on 22 April 1968 (S, 22 April 1968). 3. Convention on the International Liability for Damage caused by Space Objects, London, Washington and Moscow, on 29 March 1972 (R, 20 March 1973).	The Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including The Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

<p>xx) Telecommunication</p>	<p>1. Constitution of the Asia- Pacific Telecomm unity. Bangkok, 27 March 1976, (A, 20 October 1989).</p> <p>2. Amendment to articles 3(5) and 9(8) of the Constitution of the Asia Pacific Telecomm unity. Bangkok, Colombo, 29 November 1991, (A, 3 January 2000).</p> <p>3. Agreement establishing the Asia- Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development. Kuala Lumpur, 21 August 1977 (A, 12 September 1986).</p>	
<p>xxi) League of Nations Treaties</p>	<p>1. International Convention concerning the Use of Broadcasting in the Cause of Peace. Geneva, 23 September 1936, (A, 23 March 1966).</p> <p>2. Convention and Statute on Freedom of Transit. Barcelona, 20 April 1921 (d, 24 November 1956).</p>	<p>This online publication consolidates all information on treaty actions (i.e. Signatures, ratifications, accessions, denunciations, miscellaneous notifications, reservations, declarations and objections) undertaken in relation to the multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General up to date. A. Treaties covered by this</p>

		<p>publication</p> <p>2. This publication contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- All multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary-General (presently over 550 treaties);- The Charter of the United Nations, in respect of which certain depositary functions have been conferred upon the Secretary-General (although the Charter itself is deposited with the Government of the United States of America);- Multilateral treaties formerly deposited with the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, to the extent that formalities or decisions affecting them have been taken within the framework of the United Nations and certain pre-
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		<p>United Nations treaties, other than those formerly deposited with the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, which were amended by Protocols adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations.</p>
<p>Xxii) Agriculture</p>	<p>International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, on 5 June 1992, (A, 14 March 2006).</p>	<p>The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, referred to as the Plant Treaty, was approved on 3 November 2001 by Members of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), headquartered in Rome, Italy. The FAO is an agency of the United Nations, headquartered in New York City, New York. The Plant Treaty established international standards for the conservation and exchange of plant genetic material</p>

		<p>between participating countries. Plant genetic material is a term for plant germplasm, the physical material used by plants to reproduce themselves, and the term connotes seeds, vegetative propagations, and DNA. Plant genetic resources are the collective genetic diversity of plant species in the laboratory, farm, and field. They are described as resources because of their value for food and agricultural purposes.</p>
<p>United Nations Agencies Agreements</p>		
<p>i) International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)</p>	<p>1. Agreement between the LAO PDR and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and Protocol, signed at Vienna on 22 November 1991 (R, 5 April</p>	

<p>ii) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)</p> <p>iii) International Labour Organization (ILO)</p>	<p>2001).</p> <p>2. Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident concluded at Vienna, on 26 September 1986, (R, 21 December 2012).</p> <p>3. Convention on Assistance in the case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency concluded at Vienna, on 26 September 1986, (R, 21 December 2012).</p> <p>1. Agreement Establishing the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Rome, on 13 June 1976 (A, 13 December 1978).</p> <p>1. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the ILO (S, 21 January 2000).</p> <p>2. Constitution of the International Labour Organization (ILO), 1919.</p> <p>3. Convention concerning the Employment of Women during the Night, Washington on 28 October 1919 (R, 23 January 1964).</p> <p>4. Convention concerning the Night Work of Young Persons Employed in Industry, Washington 28 November 1919 (R, 23 January 1964).</p> <p>5. Convention concerning the Use of</p>	
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	<p>White Lead in Painting, Geneva, 25 October 1921, (R, 23 January 1964).</p> <p>6. Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, Geneva 25 October 1921 (R, 23 January 1964).</p> <p>7. ILO Convention 138 on Minimum Age, Geneva, 6 June 1973, (A, 13 May 2005, in force since 2006).</p> <p>8. ILO Convention 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour, Geneva, 17 June 1999, (A 13 May 2005).</p> <p>9. Instrument for the Amendment of the Constitution of the International Labour Organization, (Article 19), Geneva, on 19 June 1997, (A, 6 April 2007).</p> <p>10. ILO Convention 100 on Equal Remuneration, Geneva, 29 June 1951, (A, 13 June 2008).</p> <p>11. ILO Convention 100 on Discrimination (Employment and Discrimination), Geneva, 25 June 1958, (A, 13 June 2008).</p> <p>12. International Labour Organization Convention No. 144 Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards), Geneva, 2 June 1976, (A, 14 September 2010).</p>	
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iv)International Telecommunications Union (ITU)	Constitution of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), 1973 Agreement concerning Assistance by the	
v)United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	United Nations Development Programme to the Government of the Lao PDR (with exchange of letters). Signed at New York on 10 October 1988.	
vi) (UNICEF)United Nation International Children's Emergency Fund	Standard Basic Cooperation Agreement Between UNICEF and the Government of the Lao PDR, signed in Vientiane on 23 August 1995.	
vii)United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	Constitution of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Vienna, on 8 April 1979 (S, 5 March 1980) (R, 3 June 1980) (N, 3 September 1985)	
viii)Universal Postal Union (UPU)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Constitution of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), Vienna, 10 July 1964, (R, 7 September 1987). 2. The Postal payment services Agreement, Geneva, 12 August 2011, (A, 25 May 2011). 3. Universal Postal Union, Geneva, 12 August 2008, (A, 25 May 2011). 4. First Additional Protocol to the General regulations of the Universal Postal Union, 	

<p>ix)World Health Organization (WHO)</p>	<p>Geneva, 12 August 2008, (A, 25 May 2011).</p> <p>5. The Eighth Additional Protocol to the constitution of the Universal Postal Union, Geneva, 12 August 2008, (A, 25 May 2011).</p> <p>1. Constitution of the World Health Organization (WHO), New York, 22 July 1946, (A, 17 May 1950).</p> <p>2. Amendment to articles 24 and 25 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization. Geneva, 28 May 1959. (A, 4 May 1960).</p> <p>3. Amendment to Articles 24 and 25 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization. Geneva, 23 May 1967. (A, 29 July 1968).</p> <p>4. Amendment to Article 34 and 35 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization. Geneva, 22 May 1973. (A, 28 September 1976).</p> <p>5. Amendment to Articles 24 and 25 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization, Geneva, 17 May 1976. (A, 23 January 1978).</p> <p>6. Amendment to Articles 24 and 25 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization. Geneva, 12 May 1986. (A, 5 April 1988).</p> <p>7. International Health Regulations, 1969.</p> <p>8. WHO regulations regarding nomenclature</p>	
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<p>x)World Meteorological Organization (WMO)</p> <p>xi) World Tourism Organization (WTO)</p>	<p>(including the Compilation and Publication of Statistics) with respect to Diseases and Causes of Death, 1967.</p> <p>Convention of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) (1947).</p> <p>Statute of the World Tourism Organization (with annex) 1970.</p>	
<p>III.Other International Organizations Agreements</p> <p>i) Asian Development Bank (ADB)</p> <p>ii) Bureau of International Exhibitions (BIE)</p> <p>iii) International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Humanitarian Law - Geneva Conventions</p>	<p>1. Agreement establishing the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila 4 December 1965.</p> <p>2. Agreement establishing the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila 4 December 1965.</p> <p>Convention relating to International Exhibitions, Paris 22 November, 1928, (A, 9 May 1997).</p> <p>1. Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, 12 August 1949, (A, 29 October 1956).</p> <p>2. Geneva Convention for the Amelioration</p>	

<p>(The Swiss Government is the Depository of the Geneva Conventions which are registered with the United Nation's Office).</p>	<p>of the Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of the Armed Forces at Sea, 12 August 1949, (A, 29 October 1956).</p> <p>3. Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, 12 August 1949, (A, 29 October 1956).</p> <p>4. Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, 12 August 1949, (A, 29 October 1956).</p> <p>5. Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts, 8 June 1977, (R, 18 November 1980) (D, 30 January 1998).</p> <p>6. Protocol II Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts, 8 June 1977, (R, 18 November 1980).</p>	
<p>iv) International Monetary Fund (IMF)</p>	<p>Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) 1945.</p>	
<p>v) International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO)</p>	<p>Agreement relating to the International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation "Intelsat" 1949.</p>	
<p>vi) World Bank Group</p>	<p>Articles of Agreement of the International</p>	

International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)	Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), (1945), (A, 5 July 1961).	
vii) International Development Association (IDA)	Articles of Agreement of the International Development Association (IDA), (1960), (A, 28 October 1963).	
viii) International Finance Corporation (IFC)	Articles of Agreement of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), (1955), (A, 29 January 1992).	
ix) Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)	Convention on the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), (1988), (S, 13 January 1999), (R, 17 June 1999).	
x)UNESCAP	1. Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, at Shanghai (S, 26 April 2004), (R 29 February 2008). 2. International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Control of Goodsat Geneva. On 21 October 1982, (R, 29 December 2008).	

2. An overview of political stability of the Lao People’s Democratic Revolution

Lao PDR is the focus of many countries because Lao is moving to the period of “Modernization”, which means that various aspects are developing continuously and simultaneously. Lao PDR has made the 5 years plan (the 7th edition) on national economic – social development (2011-2015). The outstanding changes are reforming the law on the

establishment of a Lao stock exchange, human resource development and solving the poverty problem within 2012.

The political stability context is interesting after the People Revolution won victory led by the Lao People's Revolution Party in 1975. This party brings people into the new era which brings about national development and the people's democratic extension in order to prepare the fundamentals of socialism⁴².

Lao PDR has already planned to move to socialism and at the same time they try to avoid the development of capitalism, so there are two strategies; 1.National Protection 2.National Development. National Protection refers to independence, sovereignty, territorial waters, territorial sky and realm. National Development is based on socialism including economic-social-cultural development because of the endurance and advancement of the country. It means people have a good living; the country is civilizing and modernizing. Therefore, socialism has been used as the ideology in the political and administrative realm since the 1st – 9th (present) meeting of the Lao People's Revolution Party.

2.1. Political and National Stability's Policy

The Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) established On 22nd March, 1995 LPRP is the authority and leader in the political realm. The political parties system in Lao PDR is a "single political party", which is the Lao People's Revolutionary Party; LPRP. This party has the right to form the government through National Conference Committees. The party has set the policy and strategies for developing and civilizing of the country in various aspects. Moreover, Lao has a single parliament which is the National Assembly; the duties of this organization entail legislation, judgment, and budget approval, enactment of law and law reformation and conducting the government's operation. The head of the LPRP is the President of the country;

⁴² Lao people from multiethnic communities have the right to choose their own administrative systems. Then, they have chosen socialism as the main system in the country. The resolution from the thirds congress was summarized as "the main achievement of the country is moving to socialism without the expansion of capitalism, socialism can lead people to peace, independence, exuberance, democracy and people's happiness. This concept was linked to the first goal of the party which was independence with socialism"

the president has authority to control all administrations and policy setting. The Prime Minister is the head of the government committees. Those statuses can be held for 5 years. The members/committees of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party are chosen by each level ranking upwards from the basic, the capital, the provincial, and the central sector. And then, after they have got the name list of party's members, those lists will be elected to be the National Assembly Committee. At the present time, the majority of the government's administrative members are elected from Lao People's Revolutionary Party Members; the administration of the country is based on the resolutions and rules of this party (this power is used through the ninth congress of LPRP), present situations, reality and world environment.

The main policy of Lao People's Revolutionary Party focusing on political context and national security which have been set by the 1st – 9th congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party are as follows:

1. The 1st Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party ⁴³

1. The major population of the country is working class, so the representatives of the country are laboring people to maintain the people's benefits.

2. The main ideology of the party is Marxism-Leninism.

3. The final goal of the revolution is creating socialism.

4. The political enemies are America (Invader) and the colonial exploiter (France), and their allies.

5. Labor leaders are the representatives of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party.

6. The power of the revolutionary council is Lao people such as farmers, gardeners, laborers, and other tribes.

7. The companions of the Lao revolutionaries are pupils, students, scholars, merchants, private capitalists, monks, savants and leaders of each city.

8. The duties are to promote national harmony, national development, democracy

⁴³ The first congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party was held on 22nd March – 6th April, 1955 at Huapun District. There were 20 representatives from 44 party members. In the past, it was called the Lao People Party (Lao People's Revolutionary Party: LPRP). So, the Lao People's Revolutionary Party: LPRP has established since 22nd March, 1955, there were five central committees of the party, and the numbers were increased to over 17 committees led by Mr.Kaysone Promviharn (General Secretary of LPRP).

against invaders and other alliances of invaders and ensure the independence of the country.

9. The determinations/ideologies are based on peace, independence, democracy, unity and permanent development.

Furthermore, development projects and basic policies are summarized into 12 points as following;

1. to fight against America (the Invader), the colonial exploiters (France) and their allies.
2. To help the Lao government fight against colonialism and to set free and fair elections for peace, independence, democracy, unity and permanent development.
3. To promote the harmony of the Lao people and to establish the unity front widely following the Farmer's Union.
4. To prepare army, weapons, national guards for National Protection and to support political conflict's elimination.
5. To develop the livelihood of Lao people without social status classification:
 - i. Working class people are to be treated properly and guaranteed that they will get good jobs.
 - ii. Farmers have to be able to own land and helped to achieve agricultural development and good life.
 - iii. Laborers are helped to gain more new knowledge and skills.
 - iv. Industrial capitalist are encouraged to plan for industry development by savants and city leaders.
6. People's democracy refers to the freedom of speech, liberty of writing, freedom of movement, freedom of communication and so on.
7. Equality between male and female is promoted, and the congregation of many tribes together. The disharmony of each tribe that has been exploited under colonization must be solved.
8. The reverence for local traditions and beliefs should be respected and then people are able to read in order to learn their own culture and its preservation.
9. In term of immigrants, they are able to get life insurance, to own property, to settle down and run businesses in Lao relying on the sovereignty and independence of the Lao PDR.
10. The Lao PDR will have good relations with other countries that respect our

democracy. And Lao also expands its international relations following the concepts of equality and mutual benefits.

11. Human resource development and training is the great tool for national advancement particularly for laborers, farmers, and tribes.

12. The Lao People's Revolutionary Party must be developed and strengthened as the party has supported the working class leading to the success of its main goals.

2. The 2nd Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party ⁴⁴

The political policy has been realized in accordance with the revolution for 26 years. It is accepted that the Lao People's Revolutionary Party can improve the country by using Marxism – Leninism effectively because the results have shown that the Lao people are in harmony to develop and to protect the unity of the country. Moreover, the support from socialist states and world revolution committees are important factors to maintain victory over American invaders and to protect the independence of the country. The congress has specified the policy in many aspects such as national alliances, nationality, administrative power, liberty and rights, democracy and the women's rights ⁴⁵ and so on.

3. The 3rd Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party ⁴⁶

The highlight of this meeting was the victory of the democratic revolution in the country by summarizing the outstanding points of the new period into three points: The Lao People's Democratic Revolution, The Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and The Kingdom of Cambodia are the fortresses of the socialist systems in Southeast Asia.

⁴⁴ On January 3rd-6th, 1972 at Viangchai, Huapun district, a total of 125 delegates represented the party's 20,000 card-carrying members. There was an election of the board of the party and committees; 7 general committees were appointed and MR.Kaysone Promviharn was the secretary general of the LPRP. In this meeting, they changed the name of the party from the Lao People Party to "The Lao People's Revolutionary Party"

⁴⁵ The issue of women's liberation has been raised in the constitution of 1967 since Jao Srisawangvong specified that Lao women have the right to elect parliament assembly committees.

⁴⁶ It was the first formal congress open to domestic interest and international countries. Two hundred twenty eight attendants were the representative from all organizations (105 Lao committees, 11 international guests, 55 administrative committees, and 6 supporters). Mr.Kaysone Promviharn was the Secretary General of LPRP. There was an election of 7 central committees of the party and 9 secretariats of the central section.

- The Lao PDR works to improve the political system, which means that Lao people from every tribe are the owners of the national resources; however, the economy and culture are still undeveloped and uncivilized.

- The Lao PDR is moving to the new revolution of the 3rd stage of scientific – technology global development.

-The establishment of strategies for moving towards a socialist community

-The main achievement of The Lao People’s Revolutionary Party’s missions is political strength and stability, harmony, and unity of administration.

- Promotion on the development of cultivation, agriculture and the forest industry.

- Pointing to industrial policy

-Increasing the defensive measure of peace, unity, socialism of the country by cooperation with the socialist countries including Vietnam and Cambodia. The meeting of the Lao People’s Revolutionary Party also mentioned about the fundamental aspects of socialism as follows:

1. Addition and integration with the concepts of proletarian dictatorships together referring to the human rights of laborers from each tribe.

2. The forest industry development is affected by the fundamental characteristics of socialist systems.

3. Integration between economic development and socialism

4. Training and teaching the laborers and the people are the effective ways to create productive human resources for national development.

5. The harmony of Lao people and human equality has to be sustained; it will produce the best results for people and their lives.

6. The congress points to the international relation’s processes based on peace, independence, friendship, special harmony, partnership countries (cooperation of socialist states).

7. Lao People’s Revolutionary Party has been established in order to develop the country in various aspects such as the economy, the politics, culture, traditions, harmony of multiethnic, human rights and laborers. So, the establishment of the party relies on the following methods;

- The foundation of the party has to rely on people' revolutionary support
- The development of the party has to be based on the administrative section of the government and private organizations (The Women Union, The Lao Youth People's Revolutionary, and Labor Unions etc.).
- The foundation of the party has to rely on admiration of the high-quality officers and committees.
- The committees of the party have to be chosen thoroughly in order to ensure that the party will get productive human resource and the low-quality officers/committees have to be removed.

4. The 4th Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party⁴⁷

The conclusion of this meeting can be summarized as follows:

- Increasing all of the significant aspects for the development and unity of the party
- The two main duties are National Defense and National Development.
- The economic progress relies on external and internal factors such as economic – social assessment.
- The association with socialist states, the Soviet Union and the special relations with Vietnam and Cambodia are mentioned again.
- Social – Economic achievement is specified for moving towards a socialist country.

5. The 5th Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party⁴⁸

The main focus in this meeting is continuing from previous aspects particularly on People's democracy. Creating the factors for socialist state is based on the changing of the political system.⁴⁹

⁴⁷ On November 13th – 15th, 1986, there were 303 attendants (chosen from 45,000 members of party), 200 Lao guests, 60 administrative committees, 51 complete committees, and 9 supporters. The number of the LPRP had expanded to fifty-one members and nine alternates. Mr.Kaysone Promviharn was the Secretary General of LPRP.

⁴⁸ On March 27th – 29th, 1991 at Viangjan, A total of 367 delegates represented the party's 60,000 card-carrying members. Fifty nine attendants were chosen to be the central committees of the party. Mr Choummaly Sayasone was the chairman of the party. There were 11 politburos and 4 secretariats.

⁴⁹ The committees in the congress had signed on to the policy "5 strategies, 3 ways for reforming the party," this idea was based on Marxism – Leninism. Moreover, they also received scientific knowledge and important

- The changing and adaptation of the political system of the Lao PDR: it is not the totally changing but the party adapts the concepts of People's democracy, People's roles and duties together.

- The direction of political system also relies on the former political system and rejects the Feudal system.

- All processes have to be done carefully and efficiently without destroying the social and spirit, and national stability.

- Admiration and development of laborers, officers, and organizations

6. The 6th Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party⁵⁰

The political policy of the 6th Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party has set the goals of the present to 2020 about getting beyond undeveloped country status which is the big task of the party. Socio – Economic development changes:

- The modernization of agriculture and industry is increasing continuously.

- The standard of living of the population is better than in the past.

- People are able to access education and medical care equally.

- The valuable culture and traditions are strengthened and preserved.

- Basic social welfare is guaranteed.

- Human resources of the country have qualifications and education for advancement, peace, civilization and political justice. The main leader of the country is the Lao People's Revolutionary Party which is strong and has good relations with neighboring countries.

The five-year plans (1996-2000) for the development of the national economy of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party mentioned about the guarantee that economic development had to be increased by about 8 – 8.5% per year until 2000, the income per 1person must be

lessons from internationals adapted to the Lao environment. The policy also covered on patriotism, harmony, democracy, disciplines of administrative officers, the power and capability of humans, and the development of the party (politics, ideology and establishment).

⁵⁰ On March 18th – 20th, 1996, the 6th Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party was held led by Khamtai Siphandon. a total of 381 delegates represented the party's 78,000 card-carrying members. Furthermore, there were special guests from the LPRP, Vietnam and Cambodia. The board of the party included 9 directors, 49 central committees and 4 women.

500 dollars per year. They intend to support some businesses for industry and modernization. Then, starvation and poverty had to be eliminated especially in the rural areas. And the main purposes of the plan focused on national protection, national improvement, social – economic development, peace, harmony, national stability, modernization, civilization, diplomatic and international relations. Moreover, the party is paying attention to the government, the National Assembly and other unions in Lao PDR.

The Lao People's Revolutionary Party has adopted new disciplines, which are designed to assist the party in promoting national development.

- To improve the training of the committees and members in the party

- To increase the power of the party in terms of government's process and the functions of organizations

- To improve the standards and quality of the party and to choose people who have more knowledge and capability to join the party

The bases of the congress is based on five aspects:

1. To increase harmony and unity of members in the party and people in the country

2. To support the advantages of Lao people

3. To guarantee the stability of politics, peace and discipline in the society

4. To increase the functions of the party in terms of the government processes and regulations

5. To be accepted by the international community

7. The 7th Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party⁵¹

The resolution of this meeting can be summarized into 5 aspects

- To believe in Marxism – Leninism and socialist goals

- To develop the strength of the party by following democracy seriously

- To build the power of authority/leaders for national operation

- To persist in people's ability and rights

- To build the internal and external environment

⁵¹ On March 12th – 14th, 2001, the 7th Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party was held at Viangjan led by Khamtai Siphandon. A total of 452 delegates represented the party's 100,000 card-carrying members. The board included 11 directors, 53 central committees.

Moreover, this party also specifies the political direction from the present to 2020⁵² expecting that it will be finished within the next 5 years (2001-2005)⁵³.

8. The 8th Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party⁵⁴

This meeting divides the main points as follows:

1. The process of change has to conform to the real situation of the socio – economic context in Lao. And it has to rely on the needs of the Lao people in multiethnic status.

2. The factors of national development also highlight using natural resources in the country and for international investment; the development has to increase at least 6.2% for 20 years, and the product can be produced effectively at double the current rate. Then, Lao people will have a good life and happiness.

3. The new changes have to rely on people's democracy⁵⁵ and it is confirmed and

⁵² The change from an undeveloped country to a developing country was the first goal in this congress. Then there were various issues such as peace, environment, agricultural and industrial development, economic – social development, stability of politics, education, the power of human intelligence and subsistence. The 5-year plans (2001-2005/2006-2010) were developed for the modernization and civilization which are mentioned as follows:

- Economic growth had to increase by at least 7% per year
- To stop deforestation and to solve the poverty problem of Lao people
- To make the basic projects for economic- cultural development, scientific- technology development and human resources since these aspects promote industrialism and modernization.

⁵³ The goals of the government focus on various aspects because the development of the country depends on many factors and many problems in the country have to be seriously solved such as economic – social development, political stability, prohibition of drugs and opium, educational system, cultural – traditional preservation, industrial development and justice. Moreover, the strength of the party and its advancement, the committees have to guarantee that their works and operation have to be done perfectly and effectively. And then, they have to expand the relationship with other countries.

⁵⁴ On March 18th – 21st, 2006 at Viangjan, a total of 498 delegates represented the party's 148,590 card-carrying members. Fifty attendees were chosen to be the central committees of the party. Mr. Choummaly Sayasone was the chairman of the party. There were 11 politburos and 7 secretariats, and 3 committees for checking the party's operation.

⁵⁵ Lao People's Revolutionary Party had specified the significant missions for national development and

integrated carefully/correctly. The status of the party is increased because the party can lead the country completely such as creating the harmony of multiethnics in the Lao PDR and sustaining good international relations. This is the party's success.⁵⁶

protection as follows:

1. To continue the concepts of harmony, independence, self-sufficiency, and patriotism
2. To persist in people power and citizens and the government had to destroy the cronyism
3. To insure the peace, disciplines and stability of the society; all of these issues had to be fixed carefully and sincerely
4. To expand the power and rights of the people in the country and to support and receive international help, so the improvement of the country is based on the current situation in terms of social – economic development
5. To adjust and increase the status of administrative organizations, human rights, legal justice organization and all of projects and plans had to be done by the goals of the LPRP

⁵⁶ The expectations of the plan (2006-2010 / 2011-2020) were planned as follows:

The expected plan in 2010

- The stability of the country was one of the important conditions for economic development; it was supposed to increase at least 7.5% per year based on the strength of the forest industry and the productive administration
- The balancing combination of many aspects such as modernization, expanding resources of economy, and international relations
- The natural resources were used effectively and carefully in particular deforestation must be prohibited. People must have appropriate career for supporting their livelihood and families
- Lao PDR must have an organized system of social, cultural, economic, human resources and scientific –technology knowledge.
- People have a better livelihood along with cultural conservation and the income of person has to be increased at least 800 dollars per year.

The expected plan in 2020

- Lao has to overcome the situation of being an undeveloped country and the Lao PDR will have to foster political stability and peace in the society.
- Economic development has to increase continuously and accurately
- The subsistence of Lao people has to develop triply by the advancement of the forest-agricultural industry expanding to regional and international sections.
- The organized market economy is under the government

9. The 9th Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party⁵⁷

The mission and ideology of this congress is mentioned as “Harmony, Unity of the party, Increasing the status of the party following the new changes, rejecting the of undeveloped country status, and Socialism” So, the committees in the meeting have confirmed the following policies:

1. Political stability is based on the integration of people's democracy which is led by the Lao People's Revolutionary Party.

2. National economy is increasing continuously and the GDP of the country is up about 8% every year until 2015, then the individual income will increase to 1,700 dollars per year. Furthermore, national development includes social and cultural development with economic development and environment preservation.

3. In 2015, the number of poor families has to be decreased at least 10% or even lower than this. Lao people must study in primary school, and the majority of the country has to study in secondary school. Medical care is a party concern as people's life expectancy has increased to about 68 years and 3 months.

4. The Lao PDR has good relationships with other countries covering regional alliances and international organizations since the diplomatic relation refers to the cooperation, friendship, peace and development with those countries.

The following table shows the significant political events. (After 1975-present)

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- The political system which is controlled by the Lao People's Democratic Party must be stable and strong, so that the advantages and benefits have to accrue to people in the country honestly.
 - Cultural and traditional conservation should be considered seriously.
 - Good relationships with many countries, Lao PDR will join many world organizations and events.

⁵⁷On March 17th – 21st, 2011 at Viangjan , a total of 576 delegates represented the party's 191,700 card-carrying members. There are 61 politburos. Mr Choummaly Sayasone was the chairman of the party.

Mr.Booyung Vorrajit is the secretary of the central party. The chairman and vice-chairman of the controlling organization were elected. In this meeting, the main aspects have pointed to the working of the government and party in order to guarantee national development and protection.

Significant situations	Establishment of LPRP in 1995	Lao's independence In 1975							
Duration of the congress of LPRP	The 1 st Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party in 1955	The 2 nd Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party in 1972	The 3 rd Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party in 1982	The 4 th Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party in 1986	The 5 th Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party during 1991- 1995	The 6 th Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party during 1996 - 2000	The 7 th Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party during 2001 - 2005	The 8 th Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party during 2001 - 2010	The 9 th Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party during 2011 - 2015
	Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) was established on 22 nd March 1955.	Jao Supanuvong was the first president of the country (1975 - 1991), Mr.Kaysone Promviharn was the prime minister.	Summarized the victory of Lao People' Democracy in the new stage. There was cooperation with Vietnam and Cambodia's parliamentary committees.	Mr.Phoomee Vongvijit was the surrogate of the president (1986-1991).	The collapse of Soviet Union, Mr.Kaysone Promviharn was the president of the country (1991-1992), and Mr. Kamtai Sipandorn was the prime minister.	Mr. Kamtai Sipandorn was the president of the country (1998 - 2006), Mr.Srihawan Koobun was prime minister (1998 - 2001).	Mr. Kamtai Sipandorn was the president of the country (1998 - 2006), Mr.Boonyung Vorragit was prime minister (2001 - 2006).	The new goals of the meeting pointed to social-economic development, and world situations. Mr. Joommalee Chaisorn was the president of the country, Mr.Buasorn Boobpawan was prime minister (2006 - 2010).	Mr. Joommalee Chaisorn was the president of the country again; Mr. Thongsin Tammavongpen is prime minister (2010 - present).

Political and administrative policy	The main focuses were peace, harmony, independence, and democracy following 9 strategies and 12 political and development processes.	Marxism – Leninism was the main focus for national protection and improvement. The congress has specified the policy in many aspects such as national alliances, administrative power, liberty and rights, democracy and women’s right	The congress specified the goals of new revolution in Lao PDR.	There were five important aspects which were harmony, duties and responsibilities, economic operation based on internal and external factors, cooperation with socialist states, and preparing for moving to socialism	It was the period of democratic construction and all of significant factors of socialism must be considered.	Moving Lao from being undeveloped country to be a developed country, and focusing on social – economic development	There were five resolutions from the meeting; belief in Marxism-Leninism and socialism, the strength and development of the party, political strategies, democracy, and the power of people.	International relations were a concern and the status of the party has to be increased in domestic and international events.	The congress’s committees guaranteed the concept of unity which is the main part of national development.
The head of LPRP and the committees	There were 17 administrative committees in the “Lao People Party” led by MR.Kaysone Promviharn (Secretary General of	There was an election the board of the party and committees. 7 general committees were appointed and MR.Kaysone	It was the first formal congress open to domestic and international countries. 228 attendants were the	Important aspects were changed and it was led by MR.Kaysone Promviharn. There were 303 attendants chosen from		Khamtai Siphandon became the leader of the party; a total of 381 delegates represented the party's 78,000 card-	A total of 452 delegates represented the party's 100,000 card-carrying members. Khamtai Siphandon was	A total of 498 delegates represented the party's 148,590 card-carrying members. 55 attendantees were chosen to	A total of 576 delegates represented the party's 191,700 card-carrying members. There are 61 politburos. Mr Choummaly

	LPRP)	Promviharn became secretary general of the LPRP. In this meeting, they changed the name of the party from the Lao People Party to the “Lao People’s Revolutionary Party”	representative from all organizations (105 Lao committees, 11 international guests, 55 administrative committees, and 6 supporters). MR.Kaysone Promviharn was the Secretary General of LPRP.	45,000 committees of party, 200 Lao guests, 60 administrative committees, 51 complete committees and 9 supporters. The number of LPRP had expanded to fifty-one members and nine alternates		carrying members. Furthermore, there were special guests from LPRP, Vietnam, and Cambodia. The board of the party included 9 directors, 49 central committee persons, and 4 women.	the leader of the party. The board of the party included 11 directors 53 central committee persons.	be the central committees of the party. Mr Choummaly Sayasone was the chairman of the party. There were 11 politburos and 7 secretariats, and 3 committees for controlling the party’s operation	Sayasonewas the chairman of the party. Mr.Booyung Vorrajit is the secretary of the central party. The chairman and vice-chairman of controlling organizations were elected.
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2.2 List of Bilateral Treaties between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of Foreign Countries

Australia

Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Lao PDR concerning Mutual Cooperation in Combating Unlawful Migration, Trafficking in Humans and Smuggling of People

Bari(S)30/04/2003(C)30/04/2003

Cambodia

1. Treaty on Extradition

Vientiane(S)21/10/1999(C)07/07/2005

2. Agreement on the Exemption of Visas for Holders of Ordinary Passports

Vientiane(S)10/05/2004(C)01/07/2004

3. Agreement on the Exemption of Visas

Vientiane(S)28/10/1981(C)13/12/1981

4. Treaty between Lao People's Democratic Republic Kingdom of Cambodia and Socialist Republic of Vietnam on tri -junction of the delimitation boundary lines of three countries
Hanoi(S)26/08/2008 Not yet enter into force

5. Treaty between Lao People's Democratic Republic Kingdom of Cambodia and Socialist Republic of Vietnam on tri -junction of the delimitation boundary lines of two countries
Phnom Penh(S)25/11/2009Not yet enter into force

China

1. Memorandum of Understanding on the Cooperation in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals Control

Vientiane(S)15/01/2001(C)15/01/2001

2. Treaty on Extradition

Beijing(S)04/02/2002(C)15/08/2003

3. Agreement on Cooperation on Against Illicit Trafficking and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Vientiane(S)19/11/2006(C)19/11/2006

4. Treaty between Lao People's Democratic Republic, People Republic China and Socialist Republic of Vietnam on tri-junction of the delimitation boundary lines of three countries
Beijing(S)10/10/2006(C)24/01/2008

Cuba

Agreement on Cooperation on Against Illicit Trafficking and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

Havana(S)28/04/1997(C)27/02/2004

India

1. Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Republic of India Concerning Deface Cooperation

Vientiane(S)06/11/2002(C)06/11/2002

2. Agreement on Mutual Cooperation between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Republic of India on Drug Demand Reduction and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and related Matters

Vientiane(S)06/11/2002(C)25/02/2005

Indonesia

Memorandum of Understanding on the Cooperation in the Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals Control

Jakarta(S)22/01/2003(C)22/01/2003

Myanmar

Agreement for Mutual Cooperation for Preventing Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Controlled Precursors

Yangon(S)29/3/1997(C)29/03/1997

Pakistan

Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Combating Terrorism and Certain other Crimes

Vientiane(S)23/04/2004(C)23/04/2004

Russia

Agreement on Cooperation between the Ministry of the Public Security of Lao PDR and the Ministry of the Interior of the Russian Federation

Vientiane (S)19/11/2009 (C)19/11/2009

Thailand

1. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of Thailand on the Cooperation in the Narcotic Drugs, Psyc- hotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals Control

Bangkok(S)17/08/2001(C)17/08/2001

2. Treaty between the Lao PDR and Thailand on the Transfer of sentenced Persons.

Pakxe(S)20/03/2004(C)19/12/2007

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

1. Treaty between the Lao PDR and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Transfer of sentenced Persons.

London(S)07/05/2009(C)25/09/2009

2. Memorandum of Understanding between the Lao PDR and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Concerning the Treaty between the Lao PDR and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Transfer of sentenced Persons.

Vientiane(S)28/08/2009(C)28/08/2009

United States of America

1. Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the United States of America regarding the Surrender of Persons to International Tribunals
Vientiane(S)24/12/2003(C)24/12/2003

Vietnam

1. Agreement on the Exemption of Visas for Holders of Ordinary Passports
Vientiane(S)17/07/1977(C)01/09/1977
2. Treaty on Friendly Relations and Cooperation
Vientiane(S)18/07/1977Not yet enter into force
3. Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the Cooperation in the Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals Control
Hanoi(S)06/07/1998(C)06/07/1998
4. Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the Cooperation in the civil and the criminal justice.
Hanoi(S)06/07/1998(C)19/02/2000
5. Treaty between Lao People's Democratic Republic, People Republic China and Socialist Republic of Vietnam on tri -junction of the delimitation boundary lines of three countries
Beijing(S)10/10/2006(C)24/10/2008
6. Treaty between Lao People's Democratic Republic, Kingdom of Cambodia and Socialist Republic of Vietnam on tri -junction of the delimitation boundary lines of three countries
Hanoi(S)26/08/2008notyet enter into force

Table of Bilateral Treaties between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of Foreign Countries

1. Table of political and security

Country	Name of treaty	Context
Cambodia	<p>1.Treaty on Extradition Vientiane (S)21/10/1999 (C) 07/07/2005</p> <p>2.Agreement on the Exemption of Visas for Holders of Ordinary Passports Vientiane (S)10/05/2004 (C) 01/07/2004</p> <p>3.Agreement on the Exemption of Visas Vientiane(S) 28/10/1981 (C)13/12/1981</p> <p>4.Treaty between Lao People’s Democratic Republic Kingdom of Cambodia and Socialist Republic of Vietnam on tri -junction of the delimitation boundary lines of three countries Hanoi (S)26/08/2008 Not yet enter into force</p> <p>5. Treaty between Lao People’s Democratic Republic Kingdom of Cambodia on the delimitation</p>	<p>Effective extradition procedures are an essential tool of international law enforcement, both in relation to domestic crime and, increasingly, transnational crime. New international legal frameworks are emerging with the objective of enhancing international responses to organised crime, including terrorist crimes and drug trafficking. However, at the same time as the reinforcement of international extradition obligations in instruments such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, less desirable developments can be observed in the erosion, in form and in practice, of principles in extradition law which are intended to safeguard individual rights. The recognition and application of some longstanding legal principles such as the ‘political</p>

	boundary lines of two countries Phnom Penh (S)25/11/2009 Not yet enter into force	offence' exception have been diluted over time, while the efficacy of others, such as the principle of specialty, has been compromised in practice..
China	1.Treaty on Extradition Beijing (S)04/02/2002 (C)15/08/2003 2.Treaty between Lao People's Democratic Republic, People Republic China and Socialist Republic of Vietnam on tri - junction of the delimitation boundary lines of three countries Beijing (S)10/10/2006 (C)24/01/2008	Lao PDR does not have a law on mutual legal assistance so far, but we have bilateral and multilateral agreements with other countries, We are now preparing to draft a law on mutual legal assistance in order to submit it to the national assembly for consideration and approval by the end of this year or in June next year.
India	Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Republic of India Concerning Defense Cooperation Vientiane(S) 06/11/2002 (C) 06/11/2002	
Pakistan	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan	

	<p>on Combating Terrorism and Certain other Crimes</p> <p>Vientiane(S)23/04/2004</p> <p>(C)23/04/2004</p>	
Russia	<p>Agreement on Cooperation between the Ministry of the Public Security of Lao PDR and the Ministry of the Interior of the Russian Federation</p> <p>(S)19/11/2009 (C) 19/11/2009</p>	
Vietnam	<p>1. Agreement on the Exemption of Visas for Holders of Ordinary Passports</p> <p>Vientiane (S)17/07/1977(C)</p> <p>01/09/1977</p> <p>2. Treaty on Friendly Relations and Cooperation</p> <p>Vientiane (S)18/07/1977Not yet enter into force</p> <p>3. Treaty between Lao People's Democratic Republic, People Republic China and Socialist Republic of Vietnam on tri - junction of the delimitation boundary lines of three countries Beijing (S)10/10/2006</p> <p>(C)24/10/2008</p> <p>4. Treaty between Lao People's</p>	<p>List of Countries which have concluded agreements on the exemption of visa requirements for holders of diplomatic or official or service/special passports</p>

	<p>Democratic Republic, Kingdom of Cambodia and Socialist Republic of Vietnam on tri - junction of the delimitation boundary lines of three countries</p> <p>Hanoi (S)26/08/2008 Not yet enter into force</p>	
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2. Table of drug and narcotics and trafficking in persons

Country	Name of treaty	Context
Australia	<p>Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Lao PDR concerning Mutual Cooperation in Combating Unlawful Migration, Trafficking in Humans and Smuggling of People</p> <p>Bari (S)30/04/2003 (C)30/04/2003</p>	<p>This regional project on trafficking in persons aims to empower a comprehensive counter trafficking response through a cooperative and coordinated approach in Southeast Asia and beyond. Activities seek to build the capacities of key anti-trafficking stakeholders, and to facilitate coordination and cooperation among all relevant actors, enabling them to work in a mutually supportive manner to effectively combat trafficking in persons, both at the national and the (sub-) regional level.</p>
China	<p>1.Memorandum of Understanding on the</p>	<p>Recognizing that the illicit trafficking in and abuse of drugs in all its forms</p>

	<p>Cooperation in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals Control Vientiane(S) 15/01/2001 (C)15/01/2001</p> <p>2. Agreement on Cooperation on Against Illicit Trafficking and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Vientiane (S)19/11/2006 (C)19/11/2006</p>	<p>pose a serious threat to the health, security and welfare of human beings and abusely affect the economic , social , cultural and political foundations of societies.</p> <p>Realizing the gravity of the situation caused by the ever expanding scope of illicit drug production, distributing and smuggling worldwide.</p> <p>Guided by the provisions of the international drug control conventions.</p> <p>Recognizing the importance of coordination and cooperation in combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and procurers.</p> <p>Respecting the soverrighty, territorial integrity and domestic law of the parties.</p>
Cuba	<p>Agreement on Cooperation on Against Illicit Trafficking and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Havana (S)28/04/1997 (C)27/02/2004</p>	
India	<p>Agreement on Mutual Cooperation between the Government of the Lao PDR and</p>	

	<p>the Government of the Republic of India on Drug Demand Reduction and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and related Matters</p> <p>Vientiane(S) 06/11/2002</p> <p>(C)25/02/2005</p>	
Indonesia	<p>Memorandum of Understanding on the Cooperation in the Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals Control</p> <p>Jakkata(S) 22/01/2003</p> <p>(C) 22/01/2003</p>	
Myanmar	<p>Agreement for Mutual Cooperation for Preventing Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Controlled Precursors</p> <p>Yangoon (S)29/3/1997</p> <p>(C) 29/03/1997</p>	
Thailand	<p>1. Memorandum of Understanding on the Cooperation in the Narcotic</p>	

	<p>Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals Control</p> <p>Bangkok (S)17/08/2001 (C)17/08/2001</p> <p>Treaty between the Lao PDR and Thailand on the Transfer of sentenced Persons</p> <p>Pakxe (S)20/03/2004 (C)19/12/2007</p>	
<p>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</p>	<p>1. Treaty between the Lao PDR and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Transfer of sentenced Persons.</p> <p>London(S) 07/05/2009 (C)25/09/2009</p> <p>2. Memorandum of Understanding between the Lao PDR and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Concerning the Treaty between the Lao PDR and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Transfer of sentenced Persons.</p> <p>Vientiane(S) 28/08/2009 (C)28/08/2009</p>	<p>Taking into consideration the laws and regulations of the Contracting Parties in force regarding enforcement of penal sentences; Desiring to co-operate in the enforcement of penal sentences; Considering that this co-operation should serve the interest of the administration of justice; Desiring to facilitate the successful reintegration of sentenced persons into society; Considering that these objectives can be best fulfilled by giving foreign sentenced persons the opportunity to serve their sentences within their own society</p>
<p>United States of America</p>	<p>Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the United</p>	<p>Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the United States of</p>

	States of America regarding the Surrender of Persons to International Tribunals Vientiane (S)24/12/2003 (C) 24/12/2003	America regarding the Surrender of Persons to International Tribunals
Vietnam	1. Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the Cooperation in the Narcotic Drugs, Psyc- hotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals Control Hanoi (S)06/07/1998 (C)06/07/1998 2. Agreement between the Government of the Lao PDR and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the Cooperation in civil and criminal justice. Hanoi (S)06/07/1998 (C) 19/02/2000	

2.3 An Overview of Lao PDR's Participation in Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nation

i) Counter Terrorism Conventions

1. Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, 1963. (A, 4 October 1969).

2. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, 1970.(A, 10 October 1971).

3. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, 1971, (A, 6 April 1989).

4. International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, New York, 17 December 1979, (A, with Reservation 22 August 2002).

5. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, Including Diplomatic Agents, New York, 14 December 1973, (A, with Reservation 22 August 2002).

6. International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, New York, 12 November 1997, (A, with Reservation 22 August 2002).

7. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, New York, 12 November 2002, (A, 22 August 2002).

8. International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism was adopted at New York on 9 December 1999, (A, 29 September 2008).

9. Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, signed at New York on 9 December 1994. (A, with Reservation 22 August 2002).

10. Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, Montreal, on 1st March 1991 (A, with Reservation on 2010).

11. Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, Vienna, on 26 October 1979. (A, with Reservation and Declaration on 29 September 2010).

12 Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the continental Shelf, Rome, 10 March 1988, (A, 09 January 2012).

13. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, Rome, 10 March 1988, Entered into force: 01 March 1992, (A, 26 December 2012).

ii) Disarmament⁵⁸

1. Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques. New York, 10 December 1976 (S, 13 April 1978) (R, 5 October 1978).

2. 11 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional

⁵⁸ An Overview of Lao PDR's Participation in Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nation

Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects. Geneva, 10 October 1980.(A, 3 January 1983).

3. Protocol I to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects on Non Detectable Fragments, 10 October 1980; (A, 3 January 1983).

4. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction. Paris,13 January 1993 (S, 13 May 1993) (R, 25 February 1997).

5. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, London, Moscow and Washington, 10 April 1972 (R, 26 March 1975).

6. .Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, Geneva on 17 June 1925 (A, 20 May 1989).

7. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test -Ban Treaty, New York, 10 September 1996, (S, 30 July 1997), (R, 5 October 2000).

8. Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil thereof, London, Moscow and Washington 11 February 1971, (R, 18 May 1972).

9. Treaty on the NonCE-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, London, Moscow and Washington on 1 July 1968 (R, 5 March 1970).

10. Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons Tests in the Atmosphere in Outer Space and Under Water, London, Moscow and Washington, on 8 August 1963 (R, 7 April 1965).

11. Convention on Cluster Munitions, Dublin, on 30 May 2008 (S, 4 December 2008), (R 1 August 2010).

iii) Civil Aviation

1. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, signed at The Hague on 16 December 1970, (A, 6 April 1989).

2. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on 23 December 1971, (A, 6 April 1989).

3. Protocol on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on 24 February 1988, (A, 7 October 2002).

4. Protocol of Amendment Article 50 (a) of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on 26 October 1990 (R, 28 November 2002).

iv) International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)

1. Convention on International Civil Aviation (With Protocols), signed at Chicago, on 7 December 1944 (D, 13 June 1995).

2. Convention on the International Interests in Mobile Equipment, Cape town, Republic of South Africa, 16 November 2001, (A, 15 September 2011).

3. Protocol to the Convention on the International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matter specific to Aircraft Equipment, Republic of South Africa, 16 November 2001, (A, 15 September 2011).

Table of the overview of Lao PDR's Participation in Mutilateral Treaties Depsited with the Secretary –General of the United Nation

Type of agreement	Name	Note
i) Counter Terrorism Conventions	1. Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, 1963. (A, 4 October 1969). 2. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, 1970. (A, 10 October 1971). 3. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, 1971, (A, 6 April 1989).	The Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, 1963. (A, 4 October 1969). shall apply in respect of: a) Offences against penal law: b) Acts which, whether or not they are offences, May or do jeopardize the safety of the aircrafty or of persons or property therein or which

<p>4. International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, New York, 17 December 1979, (A, with Reservation 22 August 2002).</p> <p>5. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, Including Diplomatic Agents, New York, 14 December 1973,(A, with Reservation 22 August 2002).</p> <p>6. International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, New York, 12 November 1997, (A, with Reservation 22 August 2002).</p> <p>7. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, New York, 12 November 2002, (A, 22 August 2002).</p> <p>8. International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism was adopted at New York on 9 December 1999, (A, 29 September 2008).</p> <p>9. Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated</p>	<p>jeopardize good order and discipline on board.</p> <p>Except as provided in Chapter 3 , this convention shall apply in respect of offences committed or acts done by a person on board any aircraft registered in a contracting state, while that aircraft is in flight or on the surface of the high seas or of any other area outside the territory of any State.</p> <p>For the purposes of this Convention, an aircraft is considered to be in flight from the moment when power is applied for the purpose of take-off until the moment when the landing run ends.</p> <p>This convention shall not apply to aircraft used in military, customs or police service.</p>
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	<p>Personnel, signed at New York on 9 December 1994. (A, with Reservation 22 August 2002).</p> <p>10. Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, Montreal, on 1st March 1991 (A, with Reservation on 2010).</p> <p>11. Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, Vienna, on 26 October 1979. (A, with Reservation and Declaration on 29 September 2010).</p> <p>12 Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the continental Shelf, Rome, 10 March 1988, (A, 09 January 2012).</p> <p>13. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, Rome, 10 March 1988, Entered into force: 01 March 1992, (A, 26 December 2012)</p>	
ii) Disarmament	1. Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental	The States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental

	<p>Modification Techniques. New York, 10 December 1976 (S, 13 April 1978) (R, 5 October 1978).</p> <p>2. 11 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects. Geneva, 10 October 1980. (A, 3 January 1983).</p> <p>3. Protocol I to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects on Non Detectable Fragments, 10 October 1980; (A, 3 January 1983).</p> <p>4. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction. Paris, 13 January 1993 (S, 13 May 1993) (R, 25 February 1997).</p> <p>5. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological</p>	<p>Modification Techniques. New York, 10 December 1976 (S, 13 April 1978) (R, 5 October 1978). ,</p> <p>Guided by the interest of consolidating peace, and wishing to contribute to the cause of halting the arms race, and of bringing about general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, and of saving mankind from the danger of using new means of warfare,</p> <p>Determined to continue negotiations with a view to achieving effective progress towards further measures in the field of disarmament,</p> <p>Recognizing that scientific and technical advances may open new possibilities with respect to modification of the environment,</p> <p>Recalling the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, adopted at Stockholm on 16 June 1972,</p> <p>Realizing that the use of environmental modification techniques for peaceful purposes could improve the interrelationship of man and nature and contribute</p>
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	<p>(Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, London, Moscow and Washington, 10 April 1972 (R, 26 March 1975).</p> <p>6. Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, Geneva on 17 June 1925 (A, 20 May 1989).</p> <p>7. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test - Ban Treaty, New York, 10 September 1996, (S, 30 July 1997), (R, 5 October 2000).</p> <p>8. Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil thereof, London, Moscow and Washington 11 February 1971, (R, 18 May 1972).</p> <p>9. Treaty on the Non CE-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, London, Moscow and Washington on 1 July 1968 (R, 5 March 1970).</p> <p>10. Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons Tests in the</p>	<p>to the preservation and improvement of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations,</p> <p>Recognizing, however, that military or any other hostile use of such techniques could have effects extremely harmful to human welfare,</p> <p>Desiring to prohibit effectively military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques in order to eliminate the dangers to mankind from such use, and affirming their willingness to work towards the achievement of this objective,</p> <p>Desiring also to contribute to the strengthening of trust among nations and to the further improvement of the international situation in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.</p>
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	<p>Atmosphere in Outer Space and Under Water, London, Moscow and Washington, on 8 August 1963 (R, 7 April 1965).</p> <p>11. Convention on Cluster Munitions, Dublin, on 30 May 2008 (S, 4 December 2008), (R 1 August 2010).</p>	
<p>iii) Civil Aviation</p>	<p>1. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, signed at The Hague on 16 December 1970, (A, 6 April 1989).</p> <p>2. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on 23 December 1971, (A, 6 April 1989).</p> <p>3. Protocol on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on 24 February 1988, (A, 7 October 2002).</p> <p>4. Protocol of Amendment Article 50 (a) of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on 26 October 1990</p>	<p>The states parties to this convention. Considering that unlawful acts of seizure or exercise of control of aircraft in flight jeopardize the safety of persons and property seriously affects the operation of air services, and undermines the confidence of the peoples of the world in the safety of civil aviation.</p>

	(R, 28 November 2002).	
iv) International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)	<p>1. Convention on International Civil Aviation (With Protocols), signed at Chicago, on 7 December 1944 (D, 13 June 1995).</p> <p>2. Convention on the International Interests in Mobile Equipment, Cape town, Republic of South Africa, 16 November 2001, (A, 15 September 2011).</p> <p>3. Protocol to the Convention on the International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matter specific to Aircraft Equipment, Republic of South Africa, 16 November 2001, (A, 15 September 2011).</p>	

Chapter 2

Law on Social, Culture, Politics and Security

2.1 Education Law

The Lao People's Democratic Republic 's educational policy provides all people with a primary education, aiming to fulfill the National Plan of Action 2003-2015. According to the resolution of the 9th general meeting of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (in force from 1 May 2011 through year 2015), "the Lao Millennium Development Goals on education aims to achieve a universal primary education." Thus, to achieve the education goal, all children will receive the primary education by 2015.

Education policy⁵⁹ in the 2003 Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic provides that:

1. The government focuses mainly on the education as core to human development for being good, moral, living well, good perception of the world, science and being able to make progress by empowering people with knowledge, creativity, professionalism is to promote learning, economics and wisdom.

2. The government expands the program on early childhood education and makes compulsory primary school the goal.

3. The government invests more on the education sector and sets the national educational budget as a priority.

4. The government and civil society jointly develop the quality of the national education for all people, especially those who live in remote areas, women, children and the marginalized groups and facilitates the vocational education and training for people.

5. The government supports the investment of the private sector either domestic or international on national education by implementing the educational policy such as providing tax credits for the education sector, either tax or an exemption or declining tax.

Education law No.04/NA Vientiane Capital, dated 3 July 2007⁶⁰, a main education law set

⁵⁹ Education Law No.04/NA, Vientiane Capital, dated 3 July 2007.

⁶⁰ Two laws on education in Lao PDR - the education law No.03/NA Vientiane Capital, dated 8 April 2000 was repealed by the 2007 education law.

some foundations for the national education as follows:

1. Education follows the direction (of the socialist regime) and reflects the Laotian nation, science and modernity,
2. Formal education relates to vocational education,
3. The general education (schooling) goes with the family and out-of-school education,
4. Education in theory must go along with the practice as well as the reality and the labour market,
5. Education must respond to economic and social development in each period,
6. National education must be in accordance with the national and international education standards,

Education law No.04/NA Vientiane Capital, dated 3 July 2007 provides that the national education consists of the formal education and non-formal education, which are similar in the academic year, educational level, and curriculum content.⁶¹ The national education system is set for the academic year and educational level from early childhood education to the advanced level.

Educational levels in Lao PDR are:

1. Early childhood education.⁶²
2. Formal education⁶³ (primary education⁶⁴ and lower and upper secondary education⁶⁵).

⁶¹ Education law No.04/NA Vientiane Capital, dated 3 July 2007, Article 9.

⁶² Article 14 Early childhood education means caring and teaching children in the child care center with children aged 3 months to 3 years and the nursery school with children aged 3 years to the age of primary school.

⁶³ Article 16 The formal education means education for basic knowledge consisting of primary education and lower and upper secondary education, totaling 12 years.

⁶⁴ Article 17 Primary school means primary education for 5 years which provides the students with basic knowledge of natural sciences, social science and humanities, capability of listening, speaking, observing and questioning, ability to write the Laotian language and others like calculation, hygiene, environmental recognition, morality, Lao culture and foreign languages starting from level 3 of primary education.

Article 17 para 2 - Primary education is compulsory for Laotians aged from 6 years old.

⁶⁵ Article 18

3. Vocational education⁶⁶ (Vocational certificate⁶⁷, Diploma certificate⁶⁸ and Higher Diploma certificate)⁶⁹
4. Higher education⁷⁰ (Diploma, Bachelor's degree, Graduate degree, Master degree and Doctoral degree).⁷¹

Non-formal education consists of two types: firstly, the non-formal education (for the student aged not more than 18 years old) and secondly, informal education (for individuals in need of education). Both are similar to the formal education system in content and academic level but different in teaching method, time and form of education. The informal education is part of non-formal education⁷² which is flexible in term of content, time and place and teaching methods such as the self-study and using various teaching materials.⁷³ Period of study must be in accordance with objectives, content and quality of education set by the government according to the views of the Ministry of Education.⁷⁴

The 1991 and 2003 Constitution⁷⁵ highlight the role of the government in providing

⁶⁶ Article 19

⁶⁷ Article 20 Vocational Certificate (primary vocational training) means vocational training for students who have completed lower secondary school or something similar, taking 6 months to 3 years of education.

⁶⁸ Article 20 Diploma certificate (middle level of vocational training) means vocational training on techniques and professionalism for the students who have completed upper secondary education or something similar, taking 2-3 years in general courses and 1-2 years for professional course according to the continuing or related curriculum.

⁶⁹ Article 20 Higher vocational level means vocational training on techniques and professionalism for those who have completed the middle level of vocational training, upper secondary school or something similar, taking 2-3 years in general courses and 1-2 years for professional courses according to the continuing or related need.

⁷⁰ Article 21

⁷¹ Article 22 Higher educational structure

⁷² Non-formal education consists of two types: firstly, the non-formal education (for the student aged not more than 18 years old) and secondly, informal education (for individuals in need of education).

⁷³ Article 11

⁷⁴ Article 12

⁷⁵ Article 19 set about education, culture, science as knowledge for people including the factor of nationalism and democracy by the people. The focus has been on the compulsory education in private school to follow

for the education of Lao people, focusing on primary education. Laws related to the education can be listed as follows:

1. Prime Ministerial Decree No. 138, 1996 is the first law setting forth compulsory education for all children and free access as an education service both in the public and private sectors. The curriculum has been set by the Ministry of Education as a general education.

2. Prime Ministerial Decree No. 0922, 0923 and 0924 dated 17 July 2001 set the credit system in the higher education, establishing teaching institutes and curriculum structure and others related to the higher vocational education, the bachelor and master's degrees.

3. Education Law No.03/NA dated 8 April 2000 cites the civil right to receive an education, the support of education and the international cooperation (this was a law setting forth compulsory education consisting of formal and non-formal education). The formal education⁷⁶ comprises:

1. Early childhood education and the child care center for children aged 3 months to 3 years and the nursery school with children aged 3 years to the age of primary school,

2. Primary education as a general education in the formal education system for students aged from 6 years old is a compulsory for 5 years and provided free,

3. Secondary education consists of lower secondary for 3 years, upper secondary for 3 years (educational system 5:3:3) and vocational education or primary vocational education in response to the labour market for economic and social development and self-employment. The state has a duty to expand the secondary education so that Laotians will be equipped with knowledge and skills for future careers;

4. In 2007, (the education reform) the education law No.04/NA, dated 3 July 2007

the national education plan. Article 22 of 2003 Lao Constitution provides that the State attends to developing education and implements compulsory primary education in Decree to build good citizens with revolutionary competence, knowledge and abilities. The State and society intend to develop high quality national education, to create opportunities and [favourable] conditions in education for all people throughout the country, especially people in remote areas, ethnic groups, women and disadvantaged children. The State promotes private sector investment in the development of national education in accordance with the laws. Article 38 provides that Lao citizens have the right to receive education and upgrade themselves.

⁷⁶ Education law No. 03/NA, dated 8 April 2000, Article 8

provides two national education systems⁷⁷. Firstly, the formal educational system consist of early childhood education⁷⁸ for children aged 3 months to 3 years with focus on physical and psychological development, basic communication skills in speaking, writing, reading, drawing, knowing their parents, teachers and leaders, learning about nature, hygiene and encouraging individual creativity.

Formal education⁷⁹ involves basic knowledge in primary and secondary education for 12 years in total. Primary education⁸⁰ for 5 years provides the students with basic knowledge about natural sciences, social sciences and humanities, capability of listening, speaking, observing and questioning, ability to write the native language and others like calculation, hygiene, environmental recognition, morality, Laotian culture and foreign languages starting from level 3 of primary education. The central and local governments are jointly responsible for working towards these goals.

Secondary education⁸¹ provides the essential knowledge needed for higher education and careers. Lower secondary is 4 years of study and focuses on the Laotian language, math, natural sciences, social sciences, laws, communication technology, foreign languages and professions. Upper secondary education is 3 years and focuses more on individual development of the learner. The central and local governments, civil society, community, parents and guardians are responsible for the education fees, transportation, and teaching materials. The total years of education in formal education from primary to secondary education is 12 years (educational system 5:4:3) including the compulsory primary education.

Laws concerning Vocational Education

Law on Education No. 03/NA dated 8 April 2000 provides that the vocational education students have completed the lower secondary education and concentrates on professional skills in response to the social and economic development and the labour market. The vocational education

⁷⁷ Education Law No.04/NA, dated 3 July 2007, Article 9

⁷⁸ Article 14

⁷⁹ Article 16

⁸⁰ Article 17

⁸¹ Article 18

gets support from public and private sectors, consisting of 3 levels⁸²: vocational certificate, diploma certificate and higher vocational education. The higher vocational education consists of firstly, advanced academic level in a university or an institution offering (bachelor degrees or higher) and secondly, advanced vocational level in the colleges or professional educational institutions.

In 2000, the Department of Technical and Vocational Education was established according to the Prime Ministerial Decree No. 167/PM regarding the establishing and administrating of the Ministry of Education, divided into 4 divisions: administration, vocational section, advanced educational sector and student affairs under the administration of the Ministry of Education. The National Vocational Training Council was established in 2002 within the office of the Ministry of Education.

In 2007, according to the declaration of the strategic plan on development of technical and vocational education year 2006-2020, the law on education (amendment) No. 04/NA, dated 3 July 2007 affects the reform of vocational education. The vocational education⁸³ therefore changed to primary vocational education for students completing lower secondary school or something similar, taking 6 months to 3 years of education, the middle level of vocational training, taking 2-3 years of education and higher vocational education, taking 2-3 years.

Department of Technical and Vocational Education (under the Ministry of Education) administers the vocational education as higher education in reference to the Prime Minister's Order regarding the establishment and administration of the Ministry of Education No. 62/PM dated 7 April 2008 that set four units under the Department as administration, monitoring and evaluation, research and development and personnel units in response to the demands of modern vocational education according to the Prime Ministerial Decree No. 036/PM dated 22 January 2010. This dealt with the establishment and development of skilled labour and the Memorandum of Understanding of the Ministers on the establishment and administration of the Department of Technical and Vocational Education No. 835/NA dated 19 March 2012. The latter focuses on the teaching methods focusing on the development of worker's skills in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour. Four units have been established as administration, monitoring and evaluation, construction (improved from the previous unit) and vocational education personnel and communication units. There are currently 23 Colleges and Vocational schools under the Department (2 institutions, 5 colleges, 9 technical and professional

⁸² Article 8

⁸³ Article 20

mixed school and 7 technical schools) and 66 private education institutes under the supervision of the Department.

Non-Formal Education

Law on Education No. 03/NA No. 03/NA, dated 8 April 2000 introduced the non-formal education,⁸⁴ which concentrates on education for people and workers regardless of age and time and place of study. The non-formal education provides a similar education to the formal school and expands the education opportunities to larger groups including the ethnic groups (such as Lao Loum and Lao Soung), people who do not have a chance to continue a formal education and workers. The content and level of education are same as the formal one.⁸⁵ The government will supervise the time of study in non-formal and vocational education⁸⁶, higher education and informal education based on the quality and aims of the academic level and field.

In 2000, the Department of Technical and Vocational Education was established according to the Prime Ministerial Decree No. 167/PM regarding establishing and administrating of the Ministry of Education, divided into 4 divisions as administration, vocational section, advanced educational sector and student affairs under the administration of the Ministry of Education. The National Vocational Training council was established in 2002 with in the office of the Ministry of Education.

Later in 2007, Law on Education No. 04/NA dated 3 July 2007 set the definition of non-formal education⁸⁷ as a form of education which is conducted outside of formal education settings to included distance learning regardless of time, place, age, sex and work. This to provide opportunities for all civilians to receive education and develop the life-learning experience and the informal education involving, self-study in various forms including through media regardless of content and place of study.

⁸⁴ Article 9

⁸⁵ Article 7

⁸⁶ Article 10

⁸⁷ Article 3 item 2

Higher Education Level

Law on Education No. 03/NA, dated 8 April 2000 endorses two high levels of education: advanced academic education and advanced vocational education. Firstly, the advanced academic level is divided into the diploma, undergraduate and higher (after the bachelor degree) levels, all are conducted in a university or institution. Secondly, advanced vocational level conducted in the colleges or professional educational institutions. In 2007, there was a Law on Education No. 04/NA dated 3 July 2007 improving the definition of higher education⁸⁸ to be education after the upper secondary school, middle and higher vocational level of education, from the bachelor to the doctorate level.⁸⁹

University Education

The university education in Lao PDR is higher education. There are 5 universities in which four of them are under the supervision of the Ministry of Education, but the other is under the Ministry of Health.

1. Souphanouvong University was established by the Prime Ministerial Decree No. 132/PM dated 15 August 2003 and No.169/PM, dated 4 November 2003 regarding the establishment of Souphanouvong University. The university is located in Laung Prabang and under the supervision of Ministry of Education. Later in 2009, the Prime Ministerial Decree No. 099/PM, dated 3 April 2003 regarding the establishment and administration of Souphanouvong University lays down the role and duty of the university, curriculum and the administration. Under the university development plan proposed to the government, there are seven faculties in the university namely, the Faculty of Education, the Faculty of Economics, the Faculty of Tourism, the Faculty of Agriculture and Forest Reservation, the Faculty of Architecture, the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Languages.
2. The National University of Laos, Luang Prabang Campus was established by the Prime Ministerial Decree No. 132/PM, dated 18 August 2003 regarding the establishment of The

⁸⁸ Article 21

⁸⁹ Article 22 set the higher education system consisting of diploma (2-3 years), bachelor degree (4 years), graduate (after bachelor) (1 year), master degree (2 years) and doctoral degree (3 years).

National University of Laos, Luang Prabang Campus under the supervision of Ministry of Education.

3. University of Health Sciences was established by the Prime Ministerial Decree No. 155/PM, dated 3 September 2008 regarding the establishment and administration of the University of Health Sciences by integrating the Faculty of Medical Science and the Sethathiraj Hospital. The university consists of 8 faculties equal to the department as the University Office, the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Basic Science, the Faculty of Dentistry, the Faculty of Pharmacy, the Faculty of Medical Technology, the Faculty of Nursing and Graduate School (for the courses higher than the bachelor degree).
4. The National University of Laos was established by the Prime Ministerial Decree No. 071/PM, dated 16 March 2009 regarding the establishment and administration of the National University of Laos consisting of 11 faculties namely, the Faculty of Education, the Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Letters, the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, the Faculty of Natural Science, the Faculty of Forestry, the Faculty of Architecture, the Faculty of Environmental Sciences, located at DongDok Campus, the Faculty of Agriculture, located at Nabong campus, the Faculty of Law and Political Science, located at Don Nok Khum and the Faculty of Engineering, located at Sok Pra Luang and Trat Thong Campus.
5. Savannakhet University was established by the Prime Minister Decree No. 091/PM, dated 27 March 2009 regarding the establishment and administration of Savannakhet University under the supervision of Ministry of Education, Savannakhet district.
6. Champassak University was established by the Prime Minister Decree No. 098/PM, dated 3 April 2009 regarding the establishment and administration of Champassak University under the supervision of Ministry of Education. The university is located in Pakse, Chmpasak district and consist of 9 faculties :⁹⁰ the College of Basic Sciences, the Faculty of Education, the Faculty of Engineering, The Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, the Faculty of Law and Political Science, the Faculty of Economics, the Faculty of Natural

⁹⁰ Article 26

Sciences, the Faculty of Science the faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of Letters.

The law on science⁹¹ (amendment) No. 04/NA, dated 3 July 2007 (Law on Education 2007) provides for governmental supervision as the centralizer and unifier, while the Ministry of Education takes responsibility for the direct administration of the education. The educational monitoring units include Ministry of Education, Education sector in District, City, Muang Educational Office, Municipality⁹² which monitors and evaluates the educational performance⁹³ and another unit working to monitor the work of education units⁹⁴ in fulfilling their roles consisting of internal⁹⁵ and external monitoring units.⁹⁶ The results could be complimentary (giving certification)⁹⁷ and the sanctions to the violation of laws⁹⁸ including paying compensation or punishment according to the law and the degree of violation which is different from the law on education No. 03/NA, dated 8 April 2000. In addition, the education investigation has been set in two levels⁹⁹ as the investigator at the Ministry of Education named the general education investigator, who has the power over all the country and the investigator at the education part of the Kwaeng, Nakorn, special zone named the Kwaeng education investigator whose power covers only Kwaeng or the district with the complimentary for good practice¹⁰⁰ and punishment,

⁹¹ Chapter 9, the national supervision on educational sector, the monitoring and evaluation, Title/Chapter 1 Article 62

⁹² Article 63-65

⁹³ Article 68

⁹⁴ Article 69

⁹⁵ Article 69 para 2 Internal education investigation unit is the same education administration unit under Article 62 of this act.

⁹⁶ Article 70-73 External education investigation unit is the investigation unit not under the supervision of the education unit as the duty and right to investigate the education sector.

⁹⁷ Article 74

⁹⁸ Article 75 Punishment for individual or the organizations violating the laws includes training, warning, discipline punishment (for state official according to state order No.82/PM, Vientiane Capital, dated 19 May 2003 Chapter 14)

⁹⁹ Article 30 para 2

¹⁰⁰ Article 49

which include compulsory training, fines or other criminal punishment.

2.2 Law on Protection of Working Conditions and Empowerment of Labour

Labour Law

Protection of workers in Lao PDR occurred after the independence of the nation according to the declaration of the 1991 Constitution, providing that Lao citizens have the right to work legally,¹⁰¹ the right to vacation leave, sick leave and welfare for disabilities and the elderly. The 2003 Constitution additionally provides for the labour development, the workers' disciplines (the responsibility of the worker to the employers), the professional development, the employment provision and the protection of workers.¹⁰² Lao labour law has been promulgated in 1994, providing labour protection, labour contracts, dismissal of labour contracts, working hours, rest hours, protection of woman and child labour, wage, social security, safe working conditions and enforcement measures. Later in 2006, additional labour law on labour development and the welfare has been improved by the Law on Labour (amendment) No. 06/NA, Vientiane Capital, dated 27 December 2006,¹⁰³ including worker compensation for work related injury, the monitoring and supervising of labour and complimenting workers with good performance.¹⁰⁴

In 2013, Lao PDR has amended the labour law by incorporating the Prime Ministerial Decree No. 036/PM, dated 22 January 2010 on the building and developing labour skills and the 2006 labour law in order to increase the effectiveness of labour skills by building the labour development system, which consists of labour development courses, labour provisions and ensuring that safety and health working conditions are in line with the modern industry and protection of workers.

Law on Labour (amendment) No. 43/NA, dated 24 December 2013 is a central law with basic principles as follows:

1. Labour contract is basis of employee and employer relations under the mutual benefits,
2. State guarantees safe working conditions, fair wage payment and social security program for workers,

¹⁰¹ The 1991 Constitution

¹⁰² The new Constitution, Article 27

¹⁰³ The Law on Labour (amendment) No. 06/NA, Vientiane Capital, dated 27 December 2006

¹⁰⁴ Additionally, in 2010, the Prime Minister Decree No. 036/PM, dated 22 January 2010 on building and developing the labour skills to reach the regional and international level

3. State must guarantee the suitable employment of Laotian and foreign workers,
4. State must guarantee the right to be member and form trade unions (worker's representatives),
5. Labour employment must be in accordance with building and developing labour skills according to the national economic and social plan and the labour market,
6. State must balance between the workers and the labour market given the economic structure,
7. Involuntary or forced labour is prohibited,
8. Tripartite principle (means worker's organization, employer's organization and state labour protection unit),¹⁰⁵ international labour standards and international law as a party¹⁰⁶ to the international treaty must be respected.

This law applies to both formal and informal workers either working in the country or abroad, but does not include civil servants, military and police personnel employed in Party or State organisations, the Lao Front for National Construction¹⁰⁷ and mass organisations (such as Lao Women's Union) and domestic workers (working in the houses of others according to the labour contract setting the working hours per day, salary, payment conditions and the living conditions), which are under the specific labour contract and law¹⁰⁸ on labour (amendment) No.43/NA, Vientiane Capital, dated 24 December 2013 with 8 fundamental principles as follows:

1. The employment is based on a labour contract between employer and employee and the mutual benefits regardless of sex and age,
2. State guarantees safe working conditions, fair wage payment and social welfare for workers,
3. State guarantees the use of Lao workers and the employment of foreign workers in an appropriate way,
4. State guarantees the right to form public and civil organization legally and be a member of those organizations,

¹⁰⁵ Law on Labour (amendment) No. 43/NA, dated 24 December 2013, Article 2 (new)

¹⁰⁶ Law on Labour (amendment) No. 43/NA, dated 24 December 2013, Article 5 (amended)

¹⁰⁷ Law on Lao Front for National Construction No. 01/NA, Vientiane Capital, dated 8 July 2009, Article 1 Lao Front for National Construction is is Laotian mass organization aiming to build the national unity and retain national independence. The organization is also a labour organization under the Lao labour law.

¹⁰⁸ Article 6 (Amendment)

5. The use of labour needs to go with the development of labour skills in line with the national economic and social plan.

6. State supports the use of labour with regard to the economic structure.

7. Forced labour is prohibited in all forms.

8. State follow the tripartite principle and obligations under the treaties to which Lao PDR is a party.

This law applies to formal workers, Lao workers either working in the country or abroad, foreign workers in Lao PDR but not civil servants, state officials, military and police personnel employed in Party or State organisations, the Lao Front for National Construction and mass organisations. Domestic workers are under the labour contract with the employer. In addition, there is the labour skill development section¹⁰⁹ which includes labour skill development courses, skill tests, certificate issuance, labour skill competition particularly for marginalized groups such as the poor, the disabled, unskilled workers, unemployed, skilled workers, low and high skilled professional workers and all interested parties. The labour skill development has both central and mobile service with labour development courses¹¹⁰, labour standards, labour competition and labour service providers.¹¹¹

Employment service provider center¹¹² and job opportunities¹¹³ implement: 1. The support to self-employed. 2. The employment of labour in remote areas, day labourers, labour contractors and interns. 3. Preserved professionals for Lao civilians for example, traditional work of the ethnic groups, professions that support Lao culture, local wisdom under specific laws and 4. The service for job-

¹⁰⁹ Article 8 Chapter 1 Labour Development System, Chapter 2 Labour Development Course, Chapter 3 Labour Standard and Labour Skill Competition.

¹¹⁰ Article 22 (new) Labour skill are divided into five levels as 1. Basic skill 2. Semi-skilled 3. Skilled 4. Professional 5. Supervisor

¹¹¹ Article 29 Chapter 1 Employment Placement, Chapter 2 Building the opportunity for labour market, Chapter 3 - 4 Labour placement inside and outside the country, Chapter 5 Foreign workers, Chapter 6 Establishment and repeal of employment agencies

¹¹² Article 30 Center for employment service composes of 1. Local labour or social welfare units, 2. Muang employment labour service unit and municipality, 3. Kwaeng and Nakorn employment labour service unit, 4. Employment agencies and 5. Labour skill development center

¹¹³ Article 32

seekers including employment service in and outside the country¹¹⁴. The hours of work of an employee shall not exceed 6 days per week, 8 hours per day or 48 hours per week with 60 minutes breakperday except some types of work where the working hour shall not exceed 6 hours per day and 36 hours per week. The latter includes the following:

- Direct exposure to radiation
- Direct exposure to vapour or smoke which is dangerous to health
- Direct exposure to dangerous chemicals such as explosives
- Working in pits, or in underground tunnels, under water or in the air
- Working in an abnormally hot or cold place
- Working directly with constantly vibrating equipment

In addition, labour law includes weekly leave, public and traditional holiday, sick leave, annual leave, business leave, working at night, Laotian working abroad, foreign workers in Lao PDR, social security¹¹⁵ and labour contract¹¹⁶ which is the agreement between employee and employer or the representatives of employee or the employer about working conditions, salary, remuneration and other welfare. The labour contract must be in accordance with labour law and could be verbal or written. The party to the contract could be either an individual or a juristic person. In the parity of female employees, the provision of labour law provide the use of female employees, the equality between female and male employee such as the training and development of skill and the wage equality between male and female. A pregnant woman is protected under law including the maternity leave of at least 105 days before and not more than 42 days after giving birth. (if the newborn are twins, 120 days' maternity leave shall be applied) with normal salary or wages payment. An employer may employ children¹¹⁷ who are at least fourteen years of age and less than eighteen years of age and are not employed in sectors involving the performance of heavy work or that are

¹¹⁴ Article 52 (amendment) Chapter 1 Use of labour, Chapter 2 Work at night and work in period, Chapter 3 Internal working regulations, Chapter 4 Laos working abroad, Chapter 5 Foreign workers in Lao PDR and Chapter 6 Social security

¹¹⁵ Article 71 (amendment) Application for social security

¹¹⁶ Chapter 1 Labour contract, Chapter 2 Repeal and end of labour contract

¹¹⁷ Chapter 1 Female employee, Chapter 2 Use of labour

dangerous to their health and education¹¹⁸. Salary or wages¹¹⁹ shall be paid according to the labour contract either monthly, daily, with a minimum wage¹²⁰ at not less than 290,000 kip per month and at least one payment per month.

In addition, overtime pay of 17-22 hours out of the working hours shall receive 150 per cent of normal wage. For safety and health of employee¹²¹, the government and employer have a duty to be responsible for the safe working conditions of workers for example, the place of work, tools and machines related to the work. Working injuries and diseases are specified in a specific law. The movement of workers¹²² has divided into three categories as firstly the internal movement of workers, secondly, the movement of workers to foreign countries and lastly the movement of workers into the country, all have to follow the international labour contract. Workers' fund¹²³ have been established for the purpose of labour skill development, helping Lao workers abroad and foreign workers in Laos with 1 per cent deduction from workers' wage through Ministry of Finance and 1 per cent paid from the employer, but 5 per cent if working abroad. Other contributions are from international organization, mass organizations and for the interest and benefits of the Fund. Public information for workers¹²⁴ is the responsibility of the labour protection unit.

The information for workers is on the rights and benefits of workers, protection of workers, reports and surveys about workers and the registration of workers.

Under the law, the employer is prohibited from violating the labour contract without the permission of labour protection unit, the ban of married woman either directly or indirectly from the recruitment process, discrimination based on sex or HIV disease, all forms of forced labour, sexual harassment to woman (verbal, eye contact, messaging, touch for instance).¹²⁵ The prohibition for

¹¹⁸ Article 10 (amendment)

¹¹⁹ Chapter 1 Salary or wage, Chapter 2 Protection of benefits on salary or wage, Chapter 3 Over time pay and payment of working in holidays

¹²⁰ PM Decree on the minimum working wage in business part No. 64/PM, Vientiane Capital, dated 21 March 2005

¹²¹ Chapter 1 Safety working condition and health, Chapter 2 Working injury and work-affected disease

¹²² Article 130

¹²³ Article 136

¹²⁴ Article 139 (new)

¹²⁵ Article 143

employees include illegal strikes or leaving their duty, the violation of labour contract or internal working regulations of the workplace and violation of others in the workplace. The prohibition for the labour inspector includes for example, the abuse of power, forgery of documents, bribes, concealment of work injuries or labours dispute and disclosure of business confidentiality. The settlement of labour disputes¹²⁶ is based on two types of labour disputes, firstly the dispute on law and regulations on the implication of labour law, the labour contract and other labour related-laws and secondly, the dispute on rights and benefits of workers and the employer. Forms of labour settlement include the reconciliation, change on administration, setting the labour dispute settlement committee, court decision and the international labour mechanism (through the International Labour Organization under the treaties Lao PDR is the party to) and the tripartite committee¹²⁷.

Government, as the main actor in labour protection, assigns the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare as the main responsible unit, which connects with the local governmental units and other sectors. The labour protection unit consists of Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, labour and social welfare division of Kwaeng, Nakorn and Labour office in Muang, Municipality and local labour and social welfare units. National labour committee is set up by the government with the responsibility for setting minimum wages, settling labour disputes, studying the labour-related treaties, monitoring the safety and health of workers, developing the labour skills and setting up labour standards. The committee is composed of the representatives of government, employer and workers with the government's representative as chairman with secretarial assistance.¹²⁸

Employer's organization is responsible for protecting the benefits of the employer.¹²⁹ Worker's organizations¹³⁰ can be established in every labour unit which run business for at least 6 months or encompass the field of work, but agreed upon by the workers such as in the central, Kwaeng, Nakorn, Muang or Municipality part with more than 10 workers. The labour inspection unit¹³¹ is composed of internal and external monitoring units (such as the organization which the Council of State established

¹²⁶ Article 147

¹²⁷ Chapter 1 Labour protection unit, Chapter 2 Employer's Organization, Chapter 3 Employee's Organization, Chapter 4 Reconciliation and labour agreement

¹²⁸ Article 161

¹²⁹ Article 163 (new)

¹³⁰ Article 164 (new)

¹³¹ Article 171

by the law on monitoring and inspecting of the council of state, government monitoring organization and the law on the prohibition of corruption, Lao Front for National Construction, mass organizations, media and the people). The labour inspector could compliment good practice/performance and assert the sanctions on those who have violated the law.¹³² The sanctions include attending the training and warning sessions, disciplinary punishment, fine, temporary closure of the business, withdrawal of operational license or prosecution by law and the compensation in civil cases.¹³³

Law on worker No. 12/NA, Vientiane Capital, dated 25 January 2007

Apart from labour protection law which focuses on the protection of workers' rights, workers' law¹³⁴ provides power to the mass organization (Lao People's Revolutionary Party)¹³⁵ and the representatives of labour protection unit in protecting rights and benefits of the workers and supporting the work of the labour unit in implementing the labour development plan with the representatives of the workers in political and government administration.

Law on Social Security and Workmen's Compensation

According to Labor Law (amendment) No. 43/NA Vientiane dated 24 December 2013¹³⁶, all places of work shall adhere to the social security system by contributing to the national social security fund in order for the employees to get the benefits under the social security law.¹³⁷

Male employee shall retire and get old-age pensions at the age of 60, but 55 for female and having more than 15 years of work. Early retirement for male employee is at the age of 55 but 50 for female. Employees in the work related to toxic or dangerous substances can get old-age pension after more than 15 years of contribution to the fund. Employees with health problems but not at the age of retirement are under the social security and national budget act

¹³² Article 178-179

¹³³ Article 179

¹³⁴ Law on worker No. 12/NA, Vientiane Capital, dated 25 January 2007

¹³⁵ Article 2

¹³⁶ Labor Law (amendment) No. 43/NA Vientiane dated 24 December 2013 Article 5 (amendment), 7 (amendment)

¹³⁷ Article 71 (amendment) paragraph two, in case the employer and the employee do not pay a contribution to the social security fund or pay less than the rate by law, the employer shall be responsible.

and can get old-age lump-sum payments calculated from the average of the last 6 months' payment (based on 1.5 times of salary or wage) multiplied by the years of work.

Law on social security No. 34/NA dated 26 July 2013 (Law on Social Security 2013) has strengthened the social security system to protect the benefits of the employer and the workers as well as the effectiveness of the investment and support to the fund.¹³⁸ In addition, it serves basic needs and supports economic and social development. Social Security Office has been established in 2000 by the Prime Ministerial Decree No. 207/PM in December 1999 as the organization working to protect social benefits for workers. Workers receive benefits from social security law for example the health insurance and the payment for sick leave, compensation for work-related injuries, retired payment¹³⁹, support for the disability and the benefits from the fund as a succession.

Basic principles for social security in Lao PDR are:

1. State shall guarantee the implementation of the policy and the supervision of social security system according to the central regulation and throughout the entire country,
2. State shall guarantee the contribution to the social security fund from the government, employer, employee, business owner and other interested parties at the rate provided by law,¹⁴⁰
3. State shall guarantee the protection of rights and benefits from the contribution to the social security fund for members and the family,
4. State shall guarantee fairness, transparency and accountability.
5. State shall guarantee the accumulation of the fund, reduce the risk, interdependency and sustainability,

¹³⁸ Article 4 State policy on social security

¹³⁹ Labor Law (amendment) No. 43/NA Vientiane dated 24 December 2013 Article 5 (amendment), Article 72 Retirement and old-age pension, for male 60 years of age and for female 55 years of age with 15 years of work.

¹⁴⁰ Article 55 and 56

6. State shall guarantee the calculation of various types of contribution based on the salaries,

7. This law shall be in line with the treaties to which the Lao PDR is a party.

The Social Security Law No.34/NA, dated 26 July 2013 provides the measures on social security system,¹⁴¹ national social security funds and the board,¹⁴² fund accumulation,¹⁴³ prohibitions,¹⁴⁴ dispute settlement,¹⁴⁵ Social Security Affairs' Management and Inspection,¹⁴⁶ the policy towards persons with outstanding achievement and the measures against violators.¹⁴⁷ Any individual or legal entity that violates this law shall be re-educated,¹⁴⁸ disciplined,¹⁴⁹ fined,¹⁵⁰

¹⁴¹ Chapter 1 Type and purpose of social security system, Chapter 2 Benefits of health insurance, Chapter 3 Benefits of giving birth, Chapter 4 Benefits for work-related accident, injuries, disease, Chapter 5 Benefits after sickness, Chapter 6 Benefits for pension, Chapter 7 Benefits for death, Chapter 8 Benefits for family members of the insured person, Chapter 9 Benefits for unemployment, Chapter 10 Contribution, Accumulation and Duration of the benefits.

¹⁴² Chapter 1 Social Security Fund, Chapter 2 Committee of the Social Security Fund

¹⁴³ Chapter 1 Registration for social security, Chapter 2 Consideration for social security benefits

¹⁴⁴ Article 69 Prohibition for social security officials

Article 70 Prohibition for insured persons and their families

Article 71 Prohibition for other persons and organizations

¹⁴⁵ Article 72. Dispute Settlement Forms

Disputes on social security shall follow one of the procedures described below:

1. Arbitration or mediation
2. Administrative settlement
3. Economic settlement organisation
4. Judgement by the Court of Justice

¹⁴⁶ Chapter 1 Supervision of social security system, Chapter 2 Monitoring of the social security system

¹⁴⁷ Article 86

¹⁴⁸ Article 88 Re-education measures

Any juristic person, whether an individual or organisation, violating this Law shall, in minor cases and if the first occurrence, be warned and re-educated.

¹⁴⁹ Article 89 Disciplinary Sanction

Any civil servant or social security officer, who violates social security laws and regulations and causes damages that are not severe and cannot be constituted as a criminal offense, but witness failure to report in good faith, shall be subject to the following disciplinary measures in order to be cleared from the offense:

required to compensate for any civil damage caused¹⁵¹ or penal measures¹⁵² depending on the gravity of their acts as provided for in the laws and regulations.

Law on Safety, Hygiene and Working Conditions

The Labor Law No.43/NA, dated 24 December 2013, Section 8¹⁵³ defines the measures for the protection of labor safety and health. Labor occupational health and safety is a joint activity between the employer and the employee in the assurance of occupational safety and health in the workplace, including risk assessment of the work environment, appropriate measures for reducing hazards and risks, methods for protecting against workplace accidents, protection against injury and occupational diseases and the gradual creation of a culture of safety at the workplace at all times.

The state has obligations to determine the national strategies in relation to labor health and safety, provides the officials and responsible units on the labor health and safety in a labor unit, determines the obligations of the related persons, determines health and safety measures,

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1. Receive a warning or censure for the offense, to be recorded in his/her personal file
 2. Suspension from his ranking of salary grade and step, and other rewards
 3. Removal from his/her position or transferred to another duty of lower position
 4. Laid off without entitlement to severance pay allowance; a person who is punished by disciplinary measures, must return all gains obtained illegally to the concerned organisations

¹⁵⁰ Article 90 Fines

Any juristic person, whether an individual or organisation, violating this Law shall, in cases that cause damage but do not constitute a criminal offense, be fined at the same amount that the damage caused. For second time or serial offenders, fines shall be twice the amount of the damage caused and any property obtained through illegal means shall be confiscated.

¹⁵¹ Article 91 Civil Measures

Any juristic person, whether an individual or an organisation who cause damage to someone's property by violating social security laws and regulations, shall compensate for all damage created.

¹⁵² Article 92 Penal Measures

Any juristic person, whether an individual or an organisation, who violate this Law and commit a penal offence, shall be punished as provided for in the Penal Law depending on the seriousness of the violation.

¹⁵³ Section 8 Labor Occupational Safety and Health

determines the obligations of employers, employees, designers, producers, importers, suppliers and installers.

The employers shall ensure the workplace, machinery, equipment and procedures in the production, provides the regulations in work place, determines the number of the staff who monitor labor safety and health, provides medical staff in labor units, provides for the recording and reporting of workplace accidents. The employer must facilitate medical examinations of employees at least once per year.

Any individual or legal entity that violates this law shall be re-educated, warned, fined, subject to temporary suspension of business, subject to withdrawal of business license or brought to court proceedings based on the nature of the offence, including having to compensate for the civil damage caused, as regulated by the laws and regulations.

Law on the promotion of labor skill development for women, youth, elderly, and the disabled.

Labor Law (amended) No.43/NA, Vientiane Capital, dated 24 December 2013 Section 2 Chapter 1 determines the labor skill development system which include skill courses, evaluation and certification of labor skills, and competitive skills through the participation of labor skills development locations and labor units.

Target groups to receive labor skills development include: 1. Disadvantaged persons, the poor, and the disabled; 2. Persons without qualifications, persons changing careers, and the unemployed; 3. Persons with real experience; 4. Persons with basic qualifications and persons with a level of skill that can be upgraded; 5. Other interested persons.

Labor skills development has two forms as follow: 1. Within a labor skills development location; 2. Outside a labor skills development location or mobile training activity.¹⁵⁴

The level structure of labor skills standards are classified in 5 levels.¹⁵⁵ This law also determines standards of skills developer,¹⁵⁶ skills Evaluation,¹⁵⁷ labor skills competition¹⁵⁸ etc.

¹⁵⁴ Article 10

¹⁵⁵ Article 13 Level Structure of Labor Skills Standards are classified at 5 levels; 1. Basic Level; 2. Semi-skilled level; 3. Expert level; 4. Engineer level; 5. Supervisory level.

¹⁵⁶ Article 21-24

Any individual or legal entity that violates this law shall be re-educated, warned, fined, subject to temporary suspension of business, subject to withdrawal of business license or brought to court proceedings based on the nature of the offence, including having to compensate for the civil damage caused, as regulated by the laws and regulations.

In Section 6 Chapter 1 of this law on the employment of women determines the measure on gender equality in the workplace. Female employees have the right to employment and professions in every sector that do not conflict with the law, including production, business and management, and may participate in training, labor skills improvement and providing expertise. Female employees shall receive a salary or wages equal to that of male employees, excepting some forms of work that have negative effects upon the reproductive health of women, which must be protected in every case. The measures concerning the women with carrying of the unborn,¹⁵⁹ maternity leave,¹⁶⁰ maternity support,¹⁶¹ involve prohibited actions against female employees.

Employers may not take the following actions against female employees: 1. Check for pregnancy before accepting the employee; 2. Create conditions that block or deny female employees who are married or pregnant; 3. Cancel the employment contract due to marriage or pregnancy.

The measures against violators of this law provides that any individual or legal entity that violates this law shall be re-educated, warned, fined, subject to temporary suspension of business, subject to withdrawal of business license or brought to court proceedings based on the nature of the offence, including having to compensate for the civil damage caused, as provided by the laws and regulations.

The measures regarding youth labor are provided in Section 6 Chapter 2. In Article 101 (Revised) provides that the employers may accept employees under the age of eighteen years, but not younger than fourteen years; however, they are prohibited from working overtime.

¹⁵⁷ Article 15-16 (New)

¹⁵⁸ Article 25 (New)

¹⁵⁹ Article 97 (Revised)

¹⁶⁰ Article 98 (Revised)

¹⁶¹ Article 99 (Revised)

When necessary, the employer may accept and use youth employees under the age of fourteen, but not younger than twelve years, and must ensure the work is light work¹⁶² such as work that will not negatively impact the body, psychology or mind and work that will not obstruct attendance at school, professional guidance or vocational training.¹⁶³ This law also provides for the prohibited work for youth,¹⁶⁴ the registration for youth labor which must be supplied to labor inspection officials and other relevant parties.¹⁶⁵ The measures against violators of this law provides that any individual or legal entity that violates this law shall be re-educated, warned, fined, subject to temporary suspension of business, subject to withdrawal of business license or brought to court proceedings based on the nature of the offence, including having to compensate for the civil damage caused, as regulated by the laws and regulations.¹⁶⁶

The 2013 Labor Law promotes the labor skill development of the disadvantaged persons¹⁶⁷ and disabled.¹⁶⁸ The important policies which appear in this law are the promotion of

¹⁶² Article 101 (Revised) When necessary, the employer may accept and use youth employees under the age of fourteen, but not younger than twelve years, and must ensure the work is light work such as: 1. Work that will not negatively impact the body, psychology or mind; 2. Work that will not obstruct attendance at school, professional guidance or vocational training. The list of light work is specified separately.

¹⁶³ Article 101 (Revised) Acceptance of Youth Employees, last paragraph

¹⁶⁴ Article 102 (New) Unauthorized Use of Youth Employees

Cases wherein the use of youth employees is prohibited are as follows:

1. Work in activities, duties and locations that are unsafe, dangerous to the health of the body, psychology or mind
2. Forced labor
3. Work to repay debts
4. Human trafficking
5. Trade or deception into the sex industry or solicitation of prostitution, photography or pornography;
6. Trade or deception into the movement and production, transportation, possession of narcotics or addictive substances

The list of hazardous works is specified separately.

¹⁶⁵ Article 103 (New)

¹⁶⁶ Article 179

¹⁶⁷ Labor Law (amended) No.43/NA, Vientiane Capital, dated 24 December 2013

¹⁶⁸ Article 9 (New) Target Groups of the labor skills development policy

occupational freedom, working from the home, and the hiring of disadvantaged persons, women, disabled persons, or the elderly.¹⁶⁹ The measures against violators of this law provide that any individual or legal entity that violates this law shall be re-educated, warned, fined, subject to temporary suspension of business, subject to withdrawal of business license or brought to court proceedings based on the nature of the offence, including having to compensate for the civil damage caused, as regulated by the laws and regulations.¹⁷⁰

Law on migrant labor

Labor Law (amended) No.43/NA, Vientiane Capital, dated 24 December 2013 determines the measure to protect both migrant labor and Lao labor who will go to work in other countries. In chapter 4 of this law provides the measures on foreign recruitment services in order to prepare Lao labor to work abroad.¹⁷¹ The labor law also provides the measures on importation of foreign labor. Production units, businesses and services have the right to request authorization for the importation and use of foreign labor in accordance with the planned demand of foreign labor after receiving approval for their periodic quota from the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare.

Foreign labor working in the Lao PDR under an employment contract are authorized to remain for a period of not more than twelve months and may request an extension for an interval of not more than twelve months. In total, the total working period may not exceed five years. Management level and specific specialists will be considered specifically.

The measures against violators of this law provides that any individual or legal entity that violates this law shall be re-educated, warned, fined, subject to temporary suspension of business, subject to withdrawal of business license or brought to court proceedings based on the nature of the offence, including having to compensate for the civil damage caused, as provided by the laws and regulations.

2.3) Law on Public Health, Social Security, and Life Quality

¹⁶⁹ Labor Law (amended) No.43/NA, Vientiane Capital, dated 24 December 2013, Section 3, Chapter 2, creation of employment opportunities, Article 33 (1)

¹⁷⁰ Article 179

¹⁷¹ Article 38

Law on Public Health

The 7th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2011-2015) defines the strategy for public health development plan and the policy concerning the strengthening of health together with wisdom. The people shall receive knowledge, facilities on public health from the government. The 7th National Socio-Economic Development Plan is on the basis of the equality of health care service. In order to implement such a national plan, the government enacted the Prime Ministerial Decree No.521/PM, dated 23 March 2006 on the promulgation and the establishment of National Policy on Health Impact Assessment and the Prime Ministerial Decree on the promulgation of Policy on National Communication for Health.

According to the Resolution of Lao PDR National Assembly¹⁷² No.04/NA, dated 10 April 2001,¹⁷³ Lao PDR enacted the Law on Hygiene, Disease Prevention and Health Promotion No.01/NA, dated 10 April 2001 which defines the principles, regulations, and related measures on the establishment and activities of hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion in order to strengthen the health and life expectancy of people.

The law also provides the measures on the rights and the duties of people concerning health promotion, state responsibilities for the health promotion investment and the international cooperation on hygiene.

Law on Hygiene, Disease Prevention and Health Prevention (Amended) No.49/NA, Vientiane Capital, 21 December 2011 determines the principles, rules and measures relating to the organization and activities on hygiene disease prevention and health promotion in order to maintain the good health, quality of life and longevity of the citizens, aiming at reduction of the rates of morbidity and mortality; prevention of diseases of all types; internal, regional and international integrations; and access to networks of hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion for reaching international standards and contributing to the national protection and development.

The government also establish the Health Assurance Funds according to the Decree No.470/GOV, dated 17 October 2012 which defines the principles, regulations, measures for the

¹⁷² This law was proposed by the National Assembly and accepted by the members of the National Assembly.

¹⁷³ The President Decree No.49 Lao PDR on the promulgation of Hygiene, Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, dated 25 April 2001.

protection and the use of Health Assurance Funds in accordance with law and regulations to provide for the health care service for all people. Healthy people can assist national development.

In addition, this law determines the establishment of Community Health Assurance Funds, Government and Private Health Assurance Funds for the Officials, the Health Assurance Funds for the Poor, and other Health Assurance Funds in order to support the health expansion of the people. All funds are under the direction of the National Health Assurance Committee.

The State gives importance and pays attention to the care and promotion of health of the multi-ethnic people, including women, children and disabled persons.

The hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion activities shall be carried out in compliance with the main principles as follows:

1. Strictly comply with the policies, laws and regulations on hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion;

2. Perform activities of hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion in order to develop one's self, families and communities;

3. Consider the health education, technical training and recommendation on hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion as the core activities for health development;

4. Consider the collaboration between various sectors and local administrations on hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion activities as thoroughly social obligations and responsibilities. This law also defines the measures as follow;

- Hygiene (Hygiene of persons, families or communities; Hygiene of drinking and domestic water, food and consumption goods; Hygiene of buildings, hotels, guesthouses and restaurants; Hygiene of schools and other educational institutions; Hygiene of health care facilities; Hygiene of labor and occupation, production, construction and maintenance sites and industries; Hygiene of public places, markets, funerals; Environmental health; Hygiene of detention places.)

- Disease prevention (Disease prevention is comprised of the following activities: 1. Preventive immunization and drop administration; 2. Prevention and control of communicable diseases; 3. Prevention of non-communicable diseases.)

- Health Promotion (Health promotion includes health education, mother and child health promotion, youth and reproductive health promotion, health promotion for elderly,

handicapped and disabled persons, nutrition, sports, gymnastics and arts, arrangement of public parks and green spaces, rest and tourist areas.)

- Encouragement and promotion of hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion
- Prohibition for health officers or staffs

- The inspection of hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion are of three forms as follows: 1. Regular inspection; 2. Inspection with prior notification; 3. Emergency inspection.

- The Policies towards persons with outstanding achievements and the measures against violators. Individual, legal entities or organizations that violated this Law or other regulations on hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion, particularly, the prohibitions as prescribed in Article 47 and Article 48 of this Law, shall be re-educated, disciplined,¹⁷⁴ fined,¹⁷⁵ pay the compensation for damage or criminally punished¹⁷⁶ depending on the gravity of their acts as provided for in the laws and regulations.

In addition, the law on health control also contains the Law on Public Health, Diseases Control, and Healthy Promotion (Amended) No.49/NA, Vientiane Capital, dated 21 December 2011 and the Law on Health care No.09/NA, dated 9 November 2005 determines the principles, regulations and different measures relating to the organisation, activities, management and

¹⁷⁴ Article 59 (Amended) Disciplinary Measures; Any health officers or staffs who have violated the laws and regulations, and prohibitions on hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion by committing an offense that is not a criminal offense or that does not cause serious damage shall be subjected to disciplinary measures as provided for in the relevant regulations.

¹⁷⁵ Article 60 (Amended) Fine Measures

Individuals, legal entities or organizations shall be fined in the following cases:

1. Any persons who have already been re-educated two times or warned as specified in Article 58 of this Law, but there are not any changes in their behavior;
2. Any persons who have thrown or released wastes, animal corpses or chemical substance into water canals, rivers and streams, public parks, streets and roads or public places;
3. Any violators of the provisions of Article 11 to Articles 27 of this Law.

The rates in details of the fine are determined in a specific regulation.

¹⁷⁶ Article 62 Penal Measures

Any individuals who violate this law and other regulations on hygiene, disease prevention and health promotion, by which an act has been committed and caused harmful effects to the health and life of human beings and such act constitutes a criminal offence, shall be punished accordingly to the Penal Law.

control of health care activities, in order to ensure that all citizens, families and communities have access to equal, full, equitable and quality health care services, and to protect the rights and interests of health care professional workers, with the aim of increasingly developing modern health care services to enable all citizens to have good health and to be able to effectively contribute to the protection and development of the nation. Health-care establishments consist of public and private health care establishments.

The State pays attention to improve the quality of health care to ensure that the whole population, and in particular women and children, poor citizens and those who live in remote or isolated areas receive care.

Health care shall be conducted in accordance with the following principles; 1. Respect for the right to life of humans; 2. Provision of equal, equitable and quality care in accordance with the condition of the disease; 3. Health care shall be humanitarian; in particular, health-care providers shall respect medical ethics, and have a high consciousness of responsibility in providing health-care services; 4. Health-care providers shall have evidence of consent from the patients, or their relatives in cases of necessity.

This law provides the measures on the operation of the health-care profession, rights, duties and ethics of health-care professionals, prohibitions, health care financing, administration of health care services,¹⁷⁷ Inspection of health care services,¹⁷⁸ policies towards persons who have performed well and measures against violators. Individuals or organizations which violate this Law on Health Care shall be re-educated, fined or subject to civil liability or criminal punishment, as determined on a case by case basis.

Law on Epidemic Control

Lao PDR has the Prime Ministerial Decree No.473/PM, dated 18 November 2010 on the establishment and activities of the National Committee on the Epidemic Prevention and Control

¹⁷⁷ Chapter 6, article 54 the public health sectors which is a monitoring body shall consist of the Ministry of Public Health at central level, Public Health Division at the district level, and Office of the Public Health in the city level and the nurses' professional council.

¹⁷⁸ Chapter 7 Inspection body on public health is the organization under Article 54.

which defines the structure of the National Committee on the Epidemic Prevention and Control shall consist of the high committee, middle committee, and district committee.

The epidemic control is defined for 6 diseases as follows: SARS (Severe acute respiratory distress syndrome), H5N1 (Influenza A), /H1N1 (Influenza A H1N1), Dengue fever, cholera, other diseases which the government declares under this law.

The Law on HIV/AIDS Control and Prevention No.01/NA, dated 29 June 2010 defines effective principles, regulations, measures, management and monitoring of HIV/AIDS control and prevention in order to reduce HIV infection, and AIDS with the aim of promoting good health and a HIV free environment among all Lao people, so that they can contribute to the development and the protection of the country.

HIV/AIDS control and prevention should be carried out with the following core principles:

1. Prevention through education and treatment, as well as care and psychological support;
2. Increase responsibilities of organizations, societies, communities, families and individuals;
3. Ensuring that equality, justice, compassion, and non-discrimination and non-stigmatization principles are respected;
4. Voluntary counselling and Testing unless otherwise stated by law;
5. Ensuring the principles of confidentiality and privacy for people living with HIV/AIDS.

In addition, this law defines measures on the harmful effects of HIV/AIDS, HIV/AIDS Control, HIV/AIDS Prevention, treatment and care, medical and social policy, responsibilities about HIV/AIDS Control and Prevention, responsibilities of Committees for the Control of AIDS, responsibilities of the Government, societies, communities, families and individuals, HIV/AIDS Control and Prevention Fund, prohibitions, management and supervision of HIV/AIDS Control and Prevention, supervision body, National AIDS day and symbol, the policies toward towards persons with outstanding achievement, measures against violators such as re-education,¹⁷⁹ disciplines,¹⁸⁰ fines,¹⁸¹ civil compensation,¹⁸² criminal

¹⁷⁹ Article 65 Education measures

Individuals, families or organizations who fail to comply with this law mainly on the instructions of medical personnel, discrimination, stigmatization, looking down on people living with HIV and AIDS or affected people, and failure to comply on HIV/AIDS control and prevention efforts should be educated and warned.

¹⁸⁰ Article 66 Disciplinary measures

punishment depending on the seriousness of the proven facts.¹⁸³

Law on beverage and tobacco control

Laos has the Law on Tobacco Control No 07/National Assembly which was issued on 26 November 2009. This law determines principles, rules, and measures for tobacco products to influence their control, management, monitoring, inspection of production, importation, distribution, and advertisement so as to protect the health of the population against detrimental effects of tobacco, through reducing its use and unnecessary expenditures, protecting the environment and contributing to the protection and development of the country. The tobacco control management authority is composed of the Ministry of Health, Provincial and City Health Departments, and District and Municipal Health Bureaus.

Any official, civil servant or health provider who fail to comply with the law on HIV/AIDS control and prevention mainly in the area of prohibitions, not considered as a criminal offense should be subject to the following disciplinary actions apart from being re-educated,

1. Giving feedback, a warning and recording his or her profile;
2. Suspending from any promotion, pay raise and rewards;
3. Degrading, or reassigning to another duty with lower position;
4. Expelling from the civil service without any benefits.

¹⁸¹ Article 67 Fining measures

Any individual, family or organization have been educated, warned, or received disciplinary actions but still fail to comply this law mainly in the area of prohibitions, not considered as a criminal offense should be subject to a fine on a case by case, based on an identified regulation.

¹⁸² Article 68 Civil measures. Any individual, family or organization failing to comply with this law and cause damages to others should be liable for compensation payment mainly in the area of treatment, psychological damage compensations and work absence, according to relevant laws and regulations.

¹⁸³ Article 69 Criminal measures

Any individual who fails to comply with this law regarding prohibitions, is considered as a criminal offender and should be punished according to the penal law.

People living with HIV and AIDS or individuals who intentionally transmit HIV infection to others, such action shall be regarded as a criminal offense and those found guilty shall be imprisoned from five to ten years and fined from LAK 10,000,000 to 50,000,000.

In case an offender transmits HIV infection to others by habits or by organized group, an imprisonment sentence shall be from five to fifteen years and fine shall be from LAK 50,000,000 to 70,000,000.

Tobacco control consists in the utilization of different measures to manage, monitor and inspect the production, importation, distribution and sale-purchase of tobacco products and smoking areas, all of which aim at reducing the demand and the dangers from the use of tobacco products and exposure to tobacco smoke. The State controls tobacco by formulating policies and measures such as increasing taxes, determining non-smoking areas and distribution places, the sale-purchase of tobacco and encouraging promoting farmers to grow alternative crops.

The state's policies on tobacco control shall comply with the 4 principles;

1. To centrally ensure management, monitoring and inspection throughout the country of tobacco products and encourage the wide participation of individuals and organizations in doing so;
2. To ensure that all citizens live in a smoke free environment and can access rehabilitation after quitting and treatment when they are affected by the detrimental effects of tobacco;
3. Efforts to combat the detrimental effects of tobacco shall be started with individuals and families with the participation of organizations and society;
4. To strictly implement the designated smoking areas for the use of tobacco products, e.g. smoking.

This law classified the 2 types of tobacco product: the industrially made products, and the manually made product. In addition, this law has the provision concerning the detrimental effects of tobacco. For example, the detriment to the health of smokers and to the health of those who are exposed to tobacco smoke, especially women and children who face the risk of getting severe diseases such as lung cancer, vascular and coronary diseases, chronic diseases of the respiratory, digestive and nervous systems and other diseases which cause death. The use of tobacco also spoils the health of workers and manufacturers, and increases their unnecessary expenditures, which combined have a negative impact on national socioeconomic development and causes damage to the environment. Besides, tobacco use is harmful to the health of family members.

The control of tobacco product shall be under strict control, management, monitoring and inspection and in compliance with the regulations of the Tobacco Management and Inspection Authority, e.g. technical standards, printing of labels and warnings.

The distribution of tobacco in the Lao PDR shall be authorized according to specific regulations and monitored by related State sectors. Distribution or sale-purchase of tobacco products

shall not be authorized in the following places: 1. Health service facilities 2. Educational facilities 3. State offices and agencies 4. Entertainment venues such as cinemas, theatres, gymnasiums, cultural halls, museums, stadiums and physical exercise places and 5. Public transport. Places intended for retailing cigarettes shall be suitable for the purpose and authorized by the Public Transport Department. Tobacco products shall not be distributed or purchased-sold by or to people under eighteen years of age.

The packets of cigarettes shall contain not less than twenty sticks, and tins not less than fifty sticks. Packets, cartons, parcels, tins, cases of cigarettes shall bear printed labels and warnings determined by the Government.

This law also provides the obligation for Manufacturers, importers, and distributors of tobacco products which shall have to strictly comply with the Tobacco Control Law, contribute a sum of money into the Tobacco Control Fund, and run their business transparently and in an accountable manner.

In section 4 of this law, there are the provision on the responsibilities for tobacco control. For example, the State is responsible for the control, management, monitoring and inspection of tobacco by formulating policies, laws and regulations related to such work including rehabilitation of smokers that have quit smoking, treatment of people addicted to tobacco and those affected by the detrimental effects of tobacco; provision of budgets, means, equipment and staff for the accomplishment of tobacco control tasks, e.g. propaganda and education on the detrimental effects of tobacco.

Related sectors, society, and community are responsible for the dissemination and mobilization of all classes of people to persuade them of the detrimental effects of tobacco, to make non-smoking the model or norm for the next generation in society, and together be involved in tobacco control, e.g. reduce tobacco use, smoke in authorized places and rehabilitation of smokers who have quit, treat tobacco dependence and those being affected by the detrimental effects of tobacco. The family plays an important role in restricting the use of tobacco products and is responsible for the education and advocacy among its members about the detrimental effects of tobacco; it is an important role model for others to keep away from tobacco; participates in the movement for the control, management, monitoring and inspection of tobacco; and provides

rehabilitation and treatment to any family member when quitting smoking and to those affected by the detrimental effects of tobacco, including following up smokers who have quit to ensure they do not relapse. The responsibilities of individuals have determined that all Lao citizens, but especially teenagers, youth, pupils and students shall be restricted from tobacco and protected from attempts that encourage them to smoke.

These are the measures on health protection from the detrimental effect of tobacco. For example, the propaganda for health education are acts giving knowledge on the detrimental effects of tobacco that result in the mobilization of people to abstain from the use of tobacco, supported with scientific data-information on tobacco smoking, exposure to tobacco smoke and detrimental effects caused by smoking using various forms and methods, e.g. the mass media. etc.

The rehabilitation or treatment under this law has determined that tobacco addicts and victims of the detrimental effects of tobacco shall voluntarily accept rehabilitation and treatment through the attention and assistance from family, community, society and hospitals. The counselling and Assistance Unit have the role of giving advice and running the rehabilitation campaign. Furthermore, the State established the Tobacco Control Fund to perform tobacco control work, mainly through propaganda, health education and the rehabilitation of people who have quit smoking and those who have been affected by tobacco smoke. The Tobacco Control Fund shall be used in various activities related to health promotion. The Tobacco Control Fund is obtained from the main sources such as 1. State budget, 2. Profit taxes from tobacco business operators, as mentioned in the Tax Law, 3. Donations from domestic and international individuals and organizations, and 4. Income from activities for tobacco control, such as: sports and athletic competitions; artistic and cultural performances and similar activities.

The Tobacco Control Fund shall be managed and used by the National Committee for Tobacco Control in accordance with periodic work plans. The said Fund shall be used for the activities mentioned in Article 45 of this Law and in compliance with laws and regulations on the state budget.

The prohibition on tobacco control mentions that the tobacco business operators are prohibited to: 1) advertise in any form the promotion of tobacco smoking, and the distribution, purchase and sale of tobacco products, 2) produce, import, purchase and sell tobacco products that are smuggled, counterfeited, expired, imitated, unlabelled without health warnings, and without stamps as prescribed by laws and regulations 3) sell or distribute tobacco products in a disorderly

manner, e.g. at unauthorized places 4) sell cigarettes from all kinds of automatic vending machines 5) allow children under eighteen years of age to buy or sell tobacco, etc.

The same as the business operators, civil servants and officials, individuals and organizations are prohibited for supporting advertisement for tobacco product promotion.

The Government centrally and unanimously manages tobacco control work throughout the country by assigning the Ministry of Health to be the focal point for coordinating with other concerned sectors such as the Provincial and City Health Departments, and District and Municipal Health Bureaus. To effectively perform the tobacco control work, The National Committee for Tobacco Control is officially established.

The tobacco control inspection authority is composed of:

1. An internal control authority, which is a part of the tobacco control management authority mentioned in Article 51 of this Law; and

2. External control authorities, which are the National Assembly, State Inspection Authority; State Audit Authority and people's monitoring and inspection. Inspection may be carried out according to the regular systematic plan, out of the plan with advance notice or surprise inspections. Individuals or organizations having good achievements in implementing this Law, in particular those who have been a role model and have been actively involved in the implementation of tobacco control work, shall be appropriately rewarded or granted other appropriate benefits depending on each case. Individuals or organizations violating this Law, especially regulations on production, importation, distribution, sale-purchase, prohibited smoking areas, other prohibitions, shall be re-educated, warned, face disciplinary measures, fined, pay compensation for civil damages or face criminal punishment depending on the gravity of the violation. Individuals or organizations committing non-serious violations of laws and regulations on tobacco control, especially sale of tobacco to children under eighteen years of age, sale at unauthorized places, smoking in prohibited areas for first time, shall be educated and warned.

Civil servants and officials violating laws and regulations on tobacco control shall be subject to disciplinary measures in the following cases:

1. Retaining or delaying tobacco-related documents that do not cause substantial losses;
2. Lacking responsibility on assigned tobacco control work that causes minor losses and does not constitute a criminal offence;

3. Violations of other prohibitions mentioned in this Law that cause minor losses and are not elements of criminal offences.

The implementation of disciplinary measures towards civil servants and officials is stipulated in specific regulations.

Individuals or organizations violating laws and regulations on tobacco control, e.g. production, importation, distribution, sale-purchase of tobacco products without labels, health warning on packaging materials, sale of tobacco in prohibited places, repeated sale of tobacco to children under eighteen years of age, sale of cigarettes in packs containing less than twenty sticks per pack, shall be fined. (The rates of fines are separately stipulated in a specific regulation.)

In terms of civil compensation, individuals or organizations violating laws and regulations on tobacco control that cause damage to others shall compensate them for such damages. In terms of criminal punishment, individuals violating laws and regulations on tobacco control, such as violations of prohibiting provisions, that constitute a criminal offence, shall be punished according to the Criminal Law.

Decree No. 369/PMO [Prime Minister's Office] Ban on Advertising and Promotes the Consumption of Tobacco Products, date 23 August 2010

This Decree establishes principles, procedures, and measures relating to the prohibition of all actions that constitute advertising for the use of tobacco products, with the objective of reducing tobacco use among the people, improving people's health, and creating the understanding that smoking is hazardous to health and that smoking has negative impacts upon the economy and society. This prohibition shall apply to all means of advertising by natural or juristic persons to induce the people to use tobacco products. The Government of the LPDR establishes 31 May of every year as National No Smoking Day. This Decree prohibits advertising that promotes the use of tobacco products within the LPDR.

Decree No. 370/PMO [Prime Minister's Office], on Printing of Health Warnings on Packaging Materials for Tobacco Products, dated 23 August 2010

This Decree sets out principles, regulations, and measures for control, monitoring, and inspection of health warning labels to be printed on packaging for tobacco products. The wording of

these warnings shall show the dangers to health posed by tobacco products, encourage persons to stop smoking or not to begin smoking, protect and improve the health of all sectors of the population, reduce the excessive expense of treating [tobacco related] disease, and incorporate this effort into our work of nation-building. Principles for printing health warnings on packaging materials for tobacco products are:

1. Tobacco products sold in the LPDR must bear health warnings printed in both the Lao and English languages;
2. Health warnings printed on packaging materials for tobacco products must conform to specifications determined by the Ministry of Public Health; and
3. Health warnings must convey information relating to the health hazards posed by habitual tobacco use and by secondary inhalation of tobacco smoke by the population at large.

Printing of health warnings must be carried out as follows:

1. The text of health warning statements must conform to specifications set out by the Ministry of Public Health.
2. The health warnings, as follows;
 - 2.1 Tobacco smoke causes lung cancer/
 - 2.2 Smoking causes blockage of blood vessels that feed the heart/
 - 2.3 Smoking causes blood vessels in the brain to break/
 - 2.4 Smoking causes cancer of the mouth/
 - 2.5 Tobacco smoke kills those around you/
 - 2.6 Smoking causes blackened teeth – bad breath.

The health warnings must cover 30% of the [apparently: upper portion of the front and back of the tobacco packaging material.

The tobacco industry that is established in compliance with the laws of the LPDR must fulfill their obligations to print the prescribed health warnings on packaging materials for tobacco products.

Control and inspection organizations for the printing of health warnings shall consist of:

1. Central Government Level - Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and Ministry of Finance.
2. Local Government Level - Provincial and Municipal Departments of Public Health, District and City Level Public Health Offices, Provincial and Municipal Departments of Industry and

Commerce, District and City Level Industry and Commerce Offices, Provincial and Municipal Finance Departments, District and City Level Finance Offices.

Any person, juristic person, or element of the tobacco industry who complies with the provisions of this Decree and other applicable policy shall be recognized appropriately. But any person, juristic person, or element of the tobacco industry, who violates the prohibitions set out in Article 12 of this Decree shall be subject to warning, remedial training, written citation on first offense. In a second offense, criminal penalties and fines equal to the value of the tobacco products sold on the market and computed by the actual number of items observed or by the number of items for which officially recognized invoices exist. In a third offense, criminal penalties and fines equal to 3 times the value of the merchandise, computed as for the second offense, above. In a fourth offense, criminal penalties and fines equal to 5 times the value of the merchandise, computed as for the second offense above, as well as proposing that the concerned authorities revoke authorization to operate the business, either temporarily or permanently, according to the severity of the offense.

Law on Food, Drugs, and Medical Products

Laos PDR has national food safety policy according to the decree No. 028/PM, dated 3 February 2009 on National Food Safety Policy, decree No. 248/PM, dated 1 December 2008 on the National Nutrition Policy, and the National Nutrition Policy, signed by Minister of Health, No. 744/MH, dated 27 November 2008.

To protect the health of Laos people, the government enacted the Law on Food No.04/NA, dated 15 May 2004.

The Law on Food defines principles, rules, methods and measures on the administration and inspection of activities relating to food, with the aims: to control the quality and standard, in particular the safety of food; to ensure the consumers' nutrition and health; to promote production and business relating to food; and to guide the citizens to be aware, to understand and to adapt to the consumption of food that is safe, hygienic and that contains nutrients for physical strength, including to make them understand the usefulness and danger of food and to know how to care for their health, in order to contribute to national protection and development.

This law defines quality and standard of food, safe food, food activities and operation of food business, prohibitions in the production and preparation of food, prohibitions on advertisement of

food, administration and inspection of food, rights and duties of the Ministry of Health, rights and duties of consumers, inspection of food, policies towards persons with outstanding achievement, measures against violators such as re-education, fines or subject to criminal punishment and civil compensation.

The State has a policy to promote domestic and foreign individuals and organizations to invest in food businesses relating to cultivation, animal husbandry and the preparation, serving, industrial and handicraft production, storage, distribution, and transport of food that has national, ethnic and international character, to move towards modern industrial production in order to supply domestic consumption demands and for export, by providing citizens with information and with safe, [good] quality and nutritious [food], including necessary and appropriate imports.

Law on Water Supply, No. 04/NA, dated 9 July 2009.

The government determines the policy on water supply, provides the water supply structure and network, human development, preservation, the support of water supply business in urban and local areas, providing information and technology.

This law also provides for the principles of the water supply operation, the standard of infrastructure concerning water supply, the reservation of water resource and environment, renovation and development of water supply structure, the control of water price, the prohibition of water supplier, the dispute solution, monitoring and inspection of water supply activities.

Besides, this law determines the award for implementing excellent achievement and the punishment for the violator. Individuals or organizations breaching this Law shall be re-educated, disciplined, fined, compensated for damages or punished according to minor or severe cases.

Resolution No. 01/NA, dated 8 April 2000, of the National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the adoption of the Law on Drugs and Medical Products

Law on Drugs and Medical Products No. 01/NA, dated 8 April 2000 defines principles, rules and measures relating to the management of the cultivation, growing, preservation, exploitation, production, export, import, distribution, possession and use of drugs and medical products with the aim of ensuring the supply of drugs and medical products that are of good quality, safe and

appropriately priced, in order to prevent disease and provide treatment, ensuring the good health of the population.

The State has obligations to promote the wide and increasing production and use of modern medicines in combination with traditional medicines in the prevention of disease and the treatment of the multi-ethnic people, listing and classification of drugs and medical products, management of businesses relating to drugs and medical products, advertisement of drugs and medical products, price control, clinical research testing, toxicology information centre and the adverse effects of drugs, administration and inspection of drugs and medical products, import and export of drugs. The drugs and medical products administration and inspection authority comprises: the administrative committee for food and drugs, the Ministry of Health, provincial, prefecture and special zone health divisions, and district health offices.

Individuals or organizations with outstanding achievement in the implementation of this law will receive rewards and various policies as defined by the government. But any person who violates this law will be re-educated fined or punished depending on the gravity of their acts.

In additions, there is a decree on natural resource for medicines (Pharmaceutical Natural resource) No. 155/PM. This decree aims to set out requirements, principles, measures on the promotion, control, delve, production, plantation, nurture and the use of pharmaceutical natural resources in order to protect pharmaceutical natural resources, prosperity of nature and to ensure the sustainability of pharmaceutical natural resources.

Basic principles to promote, manage, and protect pharmaceutical natural resources are as follows:

1. Regard management and protection of pharmaceutical natural resources as main function and take the plantation and husbandry to supplement the use as an important work,
2. The exploitation of medicinal natural resources shall be correlated with research work; the production of traditional and modern medicines shall have an administrative and protective plan,
3. Individuals and organizations in Lao PDR and benefiting from the use of pharmaceutical natural resources have a duty to protect national medicinal natural resources;
4. Any individual or organization who causes damage to medicinal natural resources and pharmaceutical resources shall be accountable to the law;

5. The medicinal natural resources shall be used effectively and according to the plan for a sustainable development of biodiversity.

Individuals or organizations that violate this Degree shall be educated, fined or prosecuted based on the law depending on whether the case is serious or not including a compensation for damages occurred from such infringement.

Law on Drugs and Law on the Protection, and Suppression of Drugs

Law on Drugs No.10/NA, dated 25 December 2007 defines principles, regulations and measures on the drug control, prevention and combating with the aim to keep Lao society free from prohibited drugs; and multiethnic Lao people to have good health and to be able to contribute as a main force in the national protection and construction.

The measures against offenders was provided in article 73 and 75. This law also determines the measure of consuming drugs or possessing the cannabis hashish and various derivatives of cannabis hashish and the criminal measures. In addition, Decree No. 076/PM, dated 20 March 2009 on the Implementation of the Law on Drugs¹⁸⁴ This decree is issued to further the Law on Drugs by adding certain necessary contents for more comprehensiveness, precision and including an explanation of some contents of the law for accurate and uniform understanding throughout the country and for easy implementation. Taking criminal measures against drug offenders shall be in conformity with Article 146 of Penal Law and Article 75 of the Law on Drugs. (Concerning this Article 75, it shall be applied especially to hashish resin and its various derivatives which are not specified in Article 146 of Penal Law.)

This law also provides the policy to propagate and re-educate on prohibited drug prevention and combating in order to create social consciousness. The government has an obligation to encourage private, family and all sectors to coordinate with the government. The Ministry of Finance has duties and responsibilities to guide the work related to drugs according to its role by providing budget for drug control, inspection, prevention and combating. Those who provide effective cooperation in drug control shall be offered confidentiality, protection and security management from concerned officers. This law defines the duties and responsibilities of society and community, families

¹⁸⁴ Article 1 This decree is issued to explain certain necessary content of the Law on Drugs 2007.

and individuals to protect against drugs. Drug addicted persons must receive treatment and rehabilitation.

According to this law, drugs are nervous stimulants or suppression substances derived from narcotic-containing plants or from chemical synthesis; which when consumed, will cause a serious effect to the physical and mental systems of the consumers who will want more.

Drugs are divided into two types as the prohibited drugs (such as heroin, amphetamines, cocaine, ecstasy, and others as stipulated in a specific document.), and the use-controlled drugs and chemical substances (such as: Morphine, Opium, Codeine, Methadone, Phentermine, Midazolam, Amobarbital, Acetic Anhydride, Acetil Chloride and others, as stipulated in a specific document. This type of drugs and chemical substances is used for medical, industrial science, or agricultural and other purposes under strict control).

The prohibited drugs cause detrimental effects endangering the bodies and lives of the abusers, powering social status, honour and future, damaging their brain leading to madness and insanity, use of violence, the destruction of their own lives and others.

This law stipulates the detrimental effects of drugs. For example, persons producing, processing, buying, selling, distributing, possessing, storing, importing, exporting, transporting and transiting through the Lao PDR the prohibited drugs, shall lose their social status, honour, future life and shall be prosecuted and punished according to the law. Drug addicts cause trouble, discord and loss of family and lineage reputation, destruction of health, lives and property in the family. Drug addicts cause short-comings, crimes, destruction and threat to the social security and public order. Prohibited drugs are dangerous to the national stability and people especially to the youths and pioneers, who are the future of the nation. The drug addicts are not able to discharge their duty of national and security protection, and unable to be as a main force for national construction.

The drug control, prevention and combating is comprised of the following: 1. The control of drug production and processing; 2. The control of drug buying, selling, distributing, possessing, storing, importing, exporting, transporting and transiting; 3. The control of drug use.

Methods of prevention of prohibited drugs are as follows: 1. Propaganda; 2. Re-education; 3. Prohibitions on drug planting, producing and processing; 4. Prohibitions on drug buying, selling, distributing, possessing, storing, importing, exporting, transporting, transiting through the Lao PDR; 5. Prohibitions on use; 6. Family and society participation; and 7. International relations and cooperation.

The targets in combating the prohibited drugs are: 1. The drug dealers; 2. The drug cultivators, producers, processors; 3. The drug buyers, sellers, distributors, possessors, transporters, importers, exporters and transmitters through the Lao PDR; 4. Drug service providers; 5. Drug abusers; 6. Persons participating in the processing of prohibited drugs.

The drug prosecution case is especially important, difficult, complicated and dangerous, it shall be carried out against the right target, skillfully, rapidly, in time, accurately, strictly and legally. The special attention shall be paid to the issues prescribed in this law such as: accuracy, right target, evidences, implication, rapidity, transparency, fines and release from custody.

Before searching any premises, a search warrant shall be obtained from the Public Prosecutor or People's Court, except in necessary and urgent cases but the Public Prosecutor shall be informed within twenty-four hours after the completion of the search.

The search shall be conducted in the presence of the premises' owners, village administrative authority with at least two witnesses.

Treatment of drug addicts is supported in the family, community, hospitals and drug treatment and rehabilitation centre including the treatment in the detention and reformatory centre. The centre has also the duty to look for jobs for the ex-addicts in the society as actual conditions permit. After having been treated and rehabilitated and provided with primary vocational training, the ex-addicts shall be followed up, counselled and helped to find jobs to enable them to normalize their livelihood. Those relapsing shall be punished.

To certify that any materials are drugs, classified under which category and type and what drug concentration quantity is and that shall be used as reference in the control, prevention and combating against drugs including the use of measures to punish the offenders correctly and justly based on facts. It is required to establish Forensic Laboratories in the Public Health Sector and in other sectors as necessary such as in Public Security and in the Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision.

The State promotes the establishment of the Drug Control, Prevention and Combating Fund at central, provincial and Vientiane Capital levels. The government has duties and responsibilities to formulate the policies, regulations and measures on the management, control, prevention and combating drugs.

The prohibitions for individuals and families are: 1. To illegally plant, produce, process, trade, distribute, possess, transport, import, export, or transit through the Lao PDR territory the drugs; 2. To illegally consume or provide drug services, promote, deceive and force others to consume drugs; 3. To conceal, protect or hide family members or other persons addicted to drugs; 4. To obstruct, threaten, take vengeance on people participating in the prevention and combating of drugs and in the treatment of drug addicts; 5. To illegally advertise to attract people to consume drugs through any forms including through the internet.

The prohibitions on law enforcement officials and officers are: 1. To perform duty without transparency such as: receiving bribes, fining and then releasing a suspect, substituting drugs evidence, producing false records or abuse authority and position for personal or relative benefits; 2. To conceal, protect or hide a suspect involved in drugs; 3. To use evidence related to drug case such as: vehicles, communication equipment, money, gold and other properties; 4. To use violence, coercion and threat towards the suspect to obtain a confession; 5. To interfere and protect with the prosecution of drug cases of concerned competent officers; 6. To be involved illegally with the production, trading, and transporting of drugs.

The prohibitions for officers of drug related organizations are: 1. Forensic Laboratory Centre officers are prohibited from informing the results of the analysis incorrectly to the fact or replacing drug substances; 2. Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre officers are prohibited from neglecting and causing a bodily harm to those undergoing treatment and to claim benefits from the family of/or the drug addict; 3. Detention and Reformatory Centre officers are prohibited from bodily harming the suspect or drug offender; 4. Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre officers are prohibited from issuing incorrect health certificates.

In legal and justice cooperation with other countries, the concerned competent agencies of the Lao PDR shall provide information regarding drugs and execute the measures on investigation-interrogation, control, prevention and combating; prosecution and adjudication concerning drug cases on the request of party countries. The matters of extradition shall be performed in accordance with conventions and treaties to which the Lao PDR is a party.

The drug control organizations are comprised of: The Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision (LCDC), the Provincial and Vientiane Capital Committee for Drug Control and

Supervision (PCDC), the District Committee for Drug Control and Supervision (DCDC), the Drug Control and Supervision Unit (DCU).

The LCDC is a governmental organization comprised of different participating sectors. It has a role as a staff function line of the government of the Lao PDR to centrally and unanimously control and supervise drugs throughout the country. It has a permanent secretariat office with equal status as a department.

Staff, officers and agencies who have gained achievements in executing the law on drugs especially on the control, prevention and combating of drugs shall be given a letter of appreciation, bonuses or other incentives as stipulated in a specific regulation.

Any individuals consuming drugs or possessing cannabis hashish and various derivatives of cannabis hashish of 0.3 grams and lower are considered as victims, risky to drug addiction, and as drug addicts, they shall be re-educated and treated in the Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre.

Officials, Governmental staff or competent officers having committed a slight violation of laws and regulations and prohibitions on drugs, which are not criminal offences, but are not willing to report and escape from their offences, shall be subject to disciplinary measures depending on the cases as follows: 1. Offenders shall be criticized, warned of offences and recorded in their biographical files; 2. Offender's upgrade of salary grade and step and letters of appreciation shall be cancelled; 3. Offenders shall be demoted or moved to a lower position; 4. Offender shall be dismissed from being the governmental official without receiving any incentives. Offender to be disciplined shall return all properties taken illegally from the State.

The criminal measures for tetrahydrocannabinol, hashish and its derivatives: cannabis hashish:

- of gross weight from over 0.3 grams to 50 grams shall be punished with deprivation of liberty from two to four years and shall be fined from 5,000,000 to 9,000,000 Kip;
- of gross weight from over 50 grams to 100 grams shall be punished with deprivation of liberty from five to seven years and shall be fined from 10,000,000 to 29,000,000 Kip and the property shall be confiscated as stated in article 34 of the Penal Law;
- of gross weight from over 100 grams to 200 grams shall be punished with deprivation of liberty from eight to fourteen years and shall be fined from 30,000,000 to 59,000,000 Kip and the property in question shall be confiscated as stated in article 34 of the Penal Law;

- of gross weight from over 200 grams to 500 grams shall be punished with deprivation of liberty from fifteen to twenty years and shall be fined from 60,000,000 to 99,000,000 Kip and the property in question shall be confiscated as stated in article 34 of the Penal Law;
- of gross weight in excess of 500 grams shall be punished with deprivation of liberty for life and shall be fined from 100,000,000 to 200,000,000 Kip and property in question shall be confiscated as stated in article 34 of the Penal Law.

In addition to the punishments prescribed in article 75 of this law, the offenders shall pay compensation for damages such as: the cost for treatment, moral support, losing time, travelling, boarding and lodging and other losses in accordance with laws and regulations.

Law on Cosmetics

Law on Consumer Protection No.02/NA, dated 30 June 2010 defines the principles, regulations and measures to organize, administer, inspect and monitor the activities of consumer protection in order to strengthen these activities ensuring the legitimate interests, and the safety of the consumers from the negative impacts as a result of the consumptions of goods and services; to promote the domestic production, import and distribution of goods and services to produce quality goods and services, to meet the standards, and to conduct properly in accordance with regulations and laws; aiming at maintaining justice, peace and public order of society to improve the standard of living of the people and contributing to national socio-economic development.

Consumer protection means the application of the measures to protect the health, assets, legitimate rights and ethic interests of consumers that results from the impact of the consumption of goods and services such as foods, medicines, cosmetics, health treatments, including the settlement of disputes occurring between consumers and suppliers as provided for in the regulations and laws.

The State encourages the consumer protection by creating the conditions supporting the organization to perform its activities effectively, ensuring the safety of the life, health, property, legal rights and benefits of the consumers.

Consumer protection shall ensure the quality, and the standards of the production, importation and distribution of goods and services, the measures to control advertising of goods and services, the equality, transparency and the fairness between the consumers and suppliers in

performance of the contracts, the measures concerning the solution of disputes between consumers and suppliers. This law also determines the prohibitions, inspection on consumer protection, policies towards persons with outstanding achievement, measures against violators. Person, juristic person or organizations violating this law or regulations on consumer protection shall be re-educated, disciplined, fined, civil or penal according to the nature of the violation.

2.4 Law on Social Security

Law on Child and Women Protection

Under the Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic 2003, Chapter 2 The Socio-Economic Regime, Article 29 (New) provides that “The State, society and families attend to implementing development policies and supporting the progress of women and to protect the legitimate rights and benefits of women and children.”¹⁸⁵ There is the Decree No.26/PM, dated 6 February 2006 on the implementation of the Law on Development and Protection of Women which aims to make its implementation strict, unanimous, extensive and more effective throughout the country.¹⁸⁶ And the Law on the Development and Protection of Women No.08/NA, dated 22 October 2004 which appoints the Lao Women’s Union to represent the legitimate rights and interests of women and children.¹⁸⁷

Law on Development and Protection of Woman No.08/NA, dated 22 October 2004 was issued to guarantee and promote the roles of women, to define the fundamental contents of, and measures for developing and protecting, the legitimate rights and interests of women, and to define the responsibility of the State, society and family towards women with the following aims: promoting the knowledge, capability and revolutionary ethic of women and gender equality; eliminating all forms of discrimination against women; and preventing and combating trafficking in women and children and domestic violence against women and children, in order

¹⁸⁵ This article amends the former article 20 of the 1991 Constitution which provided that the state shall pursue a policy which favors mothers and children.

¹⁸⁶ The Decree No.26/PM, dated 6 February 2006 on the Implementation of the Law on Development and Protection of Women. This law aims to make its implementation strict, unanimous, extensive and more effective throughout the country.

¹⁸⁷ Prime Minister Decree, No.349/PM, dated 2 October 2007 on the restructuring of national bodies to protect rights and promote the advancement of women.

to create conditions conducive to women to participate and to be a force in national defense and development.

The Decree No.26/PM, dated 6 February 2006 implements the measure concerning the protection and development of women.¹⁸⁸ This law enables women to have progression, rights, healthy physical growth, strong health, intelligence, good quality of life and long life expectation, equal rights the same as men without discrimination on their political, economic, socio-cultural opinion and status. The society has an obligation to implement the government's policy on women.

The Decree No.561/PM, dated 29 December 2011 on the establishing and operation of the Lao National Commission for the Advancement of Women establishes the Lao Women's Union.¹⁸⁹ The Lao Women's Union is a public organization under the people's revolution party. Its main function is to develop women's rights and provide protection, promote gender equality, protect women and children from human trafficking and domestic violence. The Lao Women's Union has the authority to inspect women's protection measures. The decree No.561/PM also provides the policies towards persons with outstanding achievement and the measures for violators. The persons or organization who violate this law shall be re-educated or receive criminal punishment depending on the gravity of the violation.¹⁹⁰ This law also provides for the criminal measures for women and children trafficking and domestic violence,¹⁹¹ criminal measures against those who do not assist victims¹⁹² and the measure on civil compensation.¹⁹³

¹⁸⁸ Decree No.26/PM, dated 6 February 2006 on the Implementation of the Law on Development and Protection of Women cancels some articles and implements some articles of Law on Development and Protection of Woman No.08/NA, dated 22 October 2004.

¹⁸⁹ Article 4 The Lao Women's Union is a mass organization that represents the legitimate rights and interests of women and children and is a center for solidarity, that encourages women to participate and be a force in national defense and development, that promotes the rights of ownership for multi-ethnic women, [and] that protects the legitimate rights and interests of women and children, especially those who are members of the Lao Women's Union.

¹⁹⁰ Article 49 Penal Measures against Trafficking in Women and Children

Any person committing the offence of trafficking in women and children shall be punished by five to fifteen years of imprisonment and shall be fined from 10,000,000 to 100,000,000 Kip, and shall be subject to confiscation of property as provided under Article 32 of the Penal Law. In cases where offenders organize

This law also determines the establishing and operation of the Lao National Commission for the Advancement of Women¹⁹⁴

Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Children No.05/NA, dated 27 December 2006 defines principles, rules and measures relating to the administration, monitoring and inspection of the implementation of the protection of the rights and interests of multi-ethnic children, including measures against those committing offences towards children, in order to ensure that children are whole in body, mind and spirit, so that children have good attitude,

themselves, the victims are children, the victims are more than two persons, the victims are close relatives of the offenders, or the victims suffer severe injury or mental insanity, the offender in trafficking in women and children shall be punished by fifteen to twenty years of imprisonment and shall be fined from 100,000,000 to 500,000,000 Kip, and shall be subject to confiscation of property as provided under Article 32 of the Penal Law. In cases where offenders cause the victim lifetime incapacity, or cause the victim to be infected with HIV/AIDS, or cause death, the trafficking offender of women and children shall be punished with life imprisonment and shall be fined from 500,000,000 to 1,000,000,000 Kip, and shall be subject to confiscation of property as provided under Article 32 of the Penal Law, or shall be subject to capital punishment. Preparation and attempts shall be subject to punishment. Any person who has been an accomplice in the trafficking of women and children, as stipulated in paragraph 3 of Article 24 of this law, shall be punished by four to ten years of imprisonment and shall be fined from 5,000,000 to 50,000,000 Kip, and shall be subject to confiscation of property as provided under Article 32 of the Penal Law.

¹⁹¹ Article 50 Measures against Domestic Violence Against Women and Children

Any individual committing domestic violence against women and children, as provided in Articles 30, 31 and 32 of this law, shall be re-educated and receive an official warning. In a case where the domestic violence constitutes an offence, the offender shall be punished according to the Penal Law.

¹⁹² Criminal measures against those who do not assist victims

Any person who does not assist the victims of trafficking in women and children or of domestic violence in severe cases, where he or she is capable of giving such assistance, is punishable in accordance with Article 86 of the Penal Law.

¹⁹³ Article 52 Civil measures

In addition to the penalties referred to in Articles 49, 50 and 51 of this law, the offenders shall also make compensation for damages, such as: costs of medical treatment and mental rehabilitation, loss of income, travel costs, costs of board and lodging, and other losses.

¹⁹⁴ The Decree No.561/PM, dated 29 December 2011 on the establishing and operation of the Lao National Commission for the Advancement of Women.

knowledge and ability and are able to have good lives in the society and become good citizens of the nation. This law provides the fundamental principles on the rights of the children, health care, family registration and raising of children, child development, promotion of child education, child participation policies, protection and assistance to children, interviewing children who are victims and witnesses, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of substance-addicted children, etc. This law provides the measures on solutions relating to problem children such as child offenders, the solving of juvenile cases without referring to the court, mediation of juvenile cases, investigation of juvenile cases, use of preventative measures against children, proceedings conducted by public prosecutors in juvenile cases, child offender vocational training centers, administration and inspection on the protection of the rights and interests of children.

Policies Towards Persons with Outstanding Achievements and Measures Against Violators still be the measure in this law. Individuals or organizations that violate this law will be re-educated when acting as follows: Obstructing children from receiving medical treatment, immunization or education; obstructing children from participating in various activities for their physical, moral and mental development and for the development of their knowledge and ability; Behaving as bad examples for children; Using children to buy or advertise narcotic or intoxicating substances; Putting up signs to advertise alcohol, beer, cigarettes and other intoxicating substances near schools or in children's community areas; Negligence in the performance of duties by staff responsible for the protection of the rights and interests of children; Employing a child under 14 years of age; Other violations that are not as serious in nature as prescribed by this law.

The administrative measures also provides that individuals or organizations that violate this law will be fined or subject to disciplinary sanctions when acting as follows: Violations referred to in Article 83, that continue after re-education; Allowing children to enter a restaurant serving alcohol, beer or intoxicating drinks; Allowing children to take part in pornographic and obscene activities; Employing children over the limit of hours or to perform heavy work as prescribed by the Labour Law; Other violations stated in this law, which are administrative violations.

Besides the above-mentioned measures, the violators may be subject to suspension or withdrawal of business license. Fines are determined in specific regulations. Any person who reveals the identity or personal information of a child who is a victim, disseminating child pornography, using child labour, sexual relations with children, trafficking in children shall be punished by criminal and civil measures.

Law on social security of aging persons and the person with disability

According to the 2003 Constitution of Laos, state and society have obligations to provide social security for the veteran, soldier, retired persons, person with disability, the family of soldiers who died in the war, and the nationally honored persons. The government has an obligation to determine the national policy for old age persons. The Decree No.153/PM, dated 25 July 2001 on establishing the National Committee on Aging aims at applying the direction of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and government. The committee shall collect the data on the operation concerning aging people and promote the family and society to take care of aging persons, support the public and private organization to engage with the assistance of aging persons in all aspects (such as the community welfare, exercise and recreation place, publish information which benefits the lives of aging persons. This law determines that an aging person is a Laos person with not less than 60 years of age and loves the nation. They have participated in a national protection and creation activity. The National Committee for Aging is comprised of the Minister of Labor and Social Security as a chairperson, the representative of related organization such as the Committee of Center for the Creation of Laos Nation, the Women's Union, Ministry of Health, the Deputy of Policy on Retirement and Aging. The national policy on aging is under the Decree No.156/PM, dated 14 October 2004 on the promulgation and announcement of the national policy on aging.

The Decree No.057/PM, dated 26 February 2009 on the established National Committee for Aging increases the power and duties of the committee to coordinate with the government, prime minister, related ministry, and local administrative organization in order to protect, assist, rehabilitate, restore, retreat, and enhance the quality of life for the all the country's aging. The structure of the National Committee on Aging is classified in 2 levels: the central level and the

local level. The central level is comprised of the Deputy of Pensions, the disability part of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security. The Local level is comprised of 3 partnerships: 1) Labor and social security part in district and city is the cooperation office for the committee; 2) The Vientiane capital has the municipality office of labor and social security; 3) The village administration is the cooperation partner at the village level. The budget comes from the state budget and the budget from many partnerships both domestic and foreign.

In addition, the Law on Social Security No.34/NA, dated 26 July 2013¹⁹⁵ defines an aged person as one who has reached 60 years old for male with 55 years old for female and 25 years worked. For those, who have joined the National Revolution Movement before the year 1975, invalidity category 1 to 4 and those, who have worked continuously for 5 years and more in the hazardous conditions with 55 years of age for male and 50 years for female and at least 20 working years. Persons who have paid social security contributions for a full 20 or 25 years and more for civil servants; state employees, soldiers and police.

The Law on Pensions which was issued from the Decree No.241/PM, dated 29 August 2007 on the revision of pension returning defines the principles, regulations, and the operations under the policy of Lao People's Revolutionary Party and government. This law aims to revise the pension returning to officials, civil servants, soldiers, and police who participated in the revolution of Laos to receive the pension at the same standard according to the law.

The Decree No.061/NA, dated 6 March 2009 on National Committee on Disabled People defines the missions, structures, and the operation form of the National Committee on Disabled People. This law establishes the National Committee on Disabled People as a body of government. The committee has the role of assisting the government and the prime minister, in coordinating with the related ministry, and coordinating with local administrations in order to prevent, protect, assist, rehabilitate, restore, and develop all disabled persons in Laos. The committee is under the Ministry of Labor and Social Security. The committee has 2 levels of operation: the central and the local level. The central level is comprised of the Pension Division and the Ministry of Labor and Social Security. The local level is comprised of the district

¹⁹⁵ Law on Social Security No.34/NA, dated 26 July 2013 chapter 6 on old-age pension benefits for those who reached 60 years old for male and 55 years old for female and 25 working years and the person who joined the National Revolution Movement before the year 1975.

division of labor and social security as the district level of national cooperation for disabled people and the city office of labor and social security as the city level of national cooperation for disabled people. The government and other organizations both internal international are the supporters of the national committee on disabled people's budget. In addition, the committee also creates the fund raising activities which are not prohibited by law.

Law on Disaster Prevention and Mitigation

Laos PDR defines the policy on disaster prevention and mitigation through the Environmental Protection Law No.02-99/NA, dated 3 April 1999. In chapter 3 of this law on the preventing and countering disasters provides the general principles and the definition of disaster as a natural phenomenon or events caused by nature or humans that affect the health, life, and property of the people and the environment. Disasters include floods, droughts, fires, landslides and erosion, insect infestations, epidemics, earthquakes, oil spills or others.

All persons and organizations have an obligation to prevent and counter disasters. In the event that [they] witness the foreboding or start of a disaster, they shall immediately inform the local administration or the nearest organization. These local administrations or organizations shall cooperate with other State and social organizations in order to determine methods to prevent and counter such disasters, and shall mobilize the population and various organizations to contribute initiatives, labour, funds, vehicles and equipment necessary to prevent and counter such events in a timely manner.

The government establishes a National Disaster Prevention Committee. The National Disaster Prevention Committee shall cooperate with agencies and concerned local administrations in areas where disasters will occur are occurring or have occurred, in order to develop plans and determine measures to prevent and counter disasters, and to restore the area suffering from such disasters. At the same time, they shall regularly monitor vulnerable areas or locations in anticipation of future disasters.

Besides, Laos also has the specific law on disaster prevention and mitigation as the Prime Ministerial Decree No.167/PM, dated 26 November 2004 on the organization and the operation of the National Search and Rescue Committee (NSRC) which has the objective of defining the missions of the National Search and Rescue Committee. NSRC's role is to

coordinate search and rescue of victims of air, land and sea disasters in Lao PDR and to cooperate with ASEAN countries in search and rescue missions pursuant to international agreements.¹⁹⁶ The committee is under the Ministry of National Defense and the Ministry of Communication, Transport, Postal, and Construction. The central cooperation for rescue is under the Division of Aviation, Department of Civil Aviation in Vientiane.

Law on the Protection and Against Fire No.09/NA, dated 24 December 2007 defines the principles, regulations, and measures on the establishment, operation, protection and monitoring of fire hazards. This law aims to create the strength, specific skill, active and organized plan, participation of all people to prevent and protect from fire hazards in order to maintain the peace of the society. The government shall define the proper policy on the protection and against fire hazards. The government shall provide the training and campaign in order to educate the peoples concerning the management of fire knowledge. This law also defines the method in preventing fire hazards, vehicles, and equipment to prevent and against fire hazards, the Prevention and Against Fire Group, the prevention and against fire fund, the prohibitions for person or organizations for the making of fire hazards, the protection measures, monitoring, and the policies towards persons with outstanding achievement, measures against violators. Persons, juristic persons or organizations violating this law or regulations on fire hazards shall be re-educated, disciplined, fined (civil or penal) according to the nature of the violation.

The Decree No. 54/GOV, dated 3 February 2012 on the measures concerning the reconstruction after floods and the production in drought season year 2011-2012 has the objectives of defining reconstruction plans after floods in 2010-2011 and the production in drought season year 2011-2012. In order to maintain the infrastructure which is important for the production sector, the government shall recover the damages from natural disaster as soon as possible. The effective measure will encourage the constant expanding of the economy, the stability of government and the peace and order of society.

Consumer Protection Law

Law on Consumer Protection No.02/NA, dated 30 June 2010 defines the principles, regulations

¹⁹⁶ Prime Minister Decree No.167/PM, dated 26 November 2004 on the organization and the operation of the National Search and Rescue Committee, article 3

and measures to organize, administer, inspect and monitor the activities of consumer protection in order to strengthen these activities ensuring the legitimate interests, and the safety of the consumers from the negative impacts as result of the consumption of goods and services; to promote the domestic production, importation and distribution of goods and services to produce quality goods and services, to meet the standards and conduct in accordance with regulations and laws; aiming at maintaining justice, peace and public orders of society to improve the standard of living of the people, contributing to the national socio-economic development.

The consumer protection means the application of the measures to protect the health, assets, legitimate rights and ethic interests of consumer as result from the impact of consumption of goods and services such as foods, medicines, cosmetics, health treatments, including the settlement of disputes occurred between the consumers and supplier as provided for in regulations and laws.

Consumer Protection is categorized into two types as the protection of consumption of goods and the protection of consumption of services.

The governmental implementation organizations for consumer protection from the central to the local levels are comprised of the following key sectors: 1. The Ministry of Industry and Commerce; 2. The Ministry of Public Health; 3. The Ministry of Forestry and Agriculture; 4. The Science and Technology Administration. In addition, this law defines the obligations of other sectors and consumer protection officials.

The consumer shall have the right to choose and make decisions to buy goods and services at their own will, receive clear information and directions about the quality, price, location of manufacture, name of producer, mode of usage and manual, special features, content, manufactured and expiration dates, certification of products, post-sale service and other necessary information, etc.

The disputes regarding the protection of consumer can be solved through the following process: 1. Compromise; 2. Mediation; 3. Administrative intervention organizations for consumer protection; 4. Solution of disputes by the Organization of Economic Dispute Arbitration, or People's Courts.

When there is a dispute between the consumers and suppliers, the disputant parties have the right to request the implementation organizations for consumer protection or relevant

sectors to consider the solution of the dispute through the administrative means in accordance with regulations.

The timelines to address the requests of consumers are as follows: 1. within ten official working days from the date of receiving the requests from the consumers, the implementation organization for consumer protection must invite the suppliers to respond to the consumers' requests; 2. The suppliers must respond to such requests not later than seven days from the date of receiving an invitation from the implementation organization for consumer protection; 3. Within no later than thirty days from the date of response from the suppliers the implementation organization for consumer protection must issue an agreement to consider such requests; 4. If it is deemed necessary the implementation organization for consumer protection may invite the parties to the dispute to provide further explanations or invite the relevant sectors or experts to participate in the solving of the dispute.

The implementation organizations for consumer protection have the power to consider the following requests: 1. the implementer organization for consumer protection at the district level has the power to consider the requests on the goods and services with total values below one hundred million LAK; 2. the organization for consumer protection at provincial level have the power to consider the requests on the goods and services with total values above one hundred million LAK.

When there is a dispute between the consumers and suppliers, the disputing party has the right to bring the legal action to the People's Court for consideration and adjudication by law. The disputes on the consumer protection that have international laws' implications shall be settled in accordance with the laws of the Lao PDR or the agreements or the conventions to which the Lao PDR is a Party.

The consumer protection officials or personnel are prohibited to act as follows: 1. To perform their duties for the consumers unfairly, biasedly, and illegally with either the consumer or the supplier; 2. To abuse their position, powers and function for individual interests and take bribes related to the consumer protection activities; 3. To falsify or use falsified documents, disclose confidential information, delay or destroy the documents related to the goods and services; 4. Any other prohibited act as defined in the laws related to consumer protections.

The consumers are prohibited to act as follows: 1. To promote the unqualified and non-standardized goods or services; 2. To discredit the reputations of suppliers of the goods and services, or omit any act causing damage to the suppliers; 3. To perform the contracts improperly and not fully; 4. To ignore violations of laws by the officials, personnel or suppliers; 5. To utilize goods and services that are harmful to the environment; violate the laws and regulations; impact the fine traditions and customs; that are harmful to the life, health, and property of others and society; 6. To use foreign currencies to pay for goods and services without permission; 7. Any other prohibited act as defined in the laws regarding consumer protection.

The individuals and other organizations are prohibited from acting as follows: 1. To create obstacles and intervene in consumer protection activities by the suppliers; 2. To propagandize incorrect information about the quality, standard of the goods and services causing misunderstanding or discrediting the suppliers; 3. To assist, protect the suppliers who violate the laws and regulations; 4. To abuse, frighten, create obstacles impairing the consumer protection officers' duties; 5. To be the intermediaries for offering and receiving of bribes related to the consumer protections; 6. Any other prohibited act as defined in the laws regarding consumer protection.

The State encourages consumer protection by creating the conditions supporting the organization to perform its activities effectively, ensuring the safety of the life, health, property, legal rights and benefits of the consumers.

The consumer protection shall ensure the quality, the standards of the production, importation, distribution of goods and services, the measures to control advertising of goods and services, the equality, transparency, fairness between the consumers and suppliers in performance of the contracts, the measures concerning the solution of disputes between consumer and suppliers. This law also determines the prohibitions, inspection on consumer protection, policies towards persons with outstanding achievement, measures against violators. Persons, juristic persons or organizations violating this law or regulations on consumer protection shall be re-educated, disciplined, fined, (civil or penal) according to the nature of the violation.

Law on the prevention and suppression of human trafficking and sexual exploitation

Law on the Development and Protection of Women No.08/NA, dated 22 October 2004 and the Law on the Protection of Rights and Benefit of Children No.05/NA, dated 27 December 2006 provide for the mission of the National Committee Against Human Trafficking. This committee was established by the Prime Ministerial Decree No. 156/PM, dated 2008 on the establishment and operation of the National Guideline Committee Against Human Trafficking. This committee has a headquarters in the Ministry of Public Security. The committee has the mission of assisting the government to advise, follow up, monitor, promote the public organizations, social organizations, related ministries, and related sectors. This committee also has the mission to educate, define the policy and strategic plans, recommend laws concerning human trafficking, advertise, fund raise, search for technology from other sectors both at the internal and international level and cooperate with all related sectors.

The government defines the national plan concerning child trafficking and sexual exploitation by the Prime Minister on the promulgation of a national plan against child trafficking and sexual exploitation No.160/PM, dated 15 September 2008. This law defines the National Commission for Mother and Children as the cooperation official to follow the strategic plan and plan against human trafficking. (According to the promulgation on National Plan Against Child Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation for the period 2007-2011)

This law also defines the obligation of many organizations to engage with the policy against human trafficking.

The structure of National Guideline Committee comprises the Police Division as a secretariat, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security and the head of other related divisions. The Central Women Union is the vice-secretariat with other related organizations as the vice-secretariat in support. The chairman of the National Guideline Committee shall define in detail the missions, roles, duties, and structure of the secretariat.

2.5 Law on the Promoting of Sciences, Technology and Communication

Law on the Promoting of Sciences and Technology

In Chapter 2 of the 2003 Constitution of Laos PDR, article 24 states that “The State attends to promote knowledge and invention in scientific and technological research and

application, and to protect intellectual property while building up a community of scientists to promote industrialization and modernization.”

The law on the promoting of sciences and technology is the Law No.30/NA, dated 19 July 2013 on sciences and technology. This law defines the principles, regulations, and standards on the protection, monitoring, operation concerning sciences and technology works in order to foster systematic development. This law also promotes and supports the research and technology transfer, creation, invention, and technology service in order to integrate with modern industries, socio-economic development and connect with the global system.

The state has obligations to carry out the policy on sciences and technology, plan the strategy in accordance with the socio-economic development plan, guide Lao to be a modern industrial nation with the safety, health, life, property, environmental rights and benefit of the people.

The people shall be encouraged to participate in science, technological research and development. It's important to abide by the international treaties and agreements which Laos PDR has adopted.

This law also determines investment in science and technology, the establishment of technological organizations and enterprises, the marketing of science and technology, the national and local council of science and technology, the rights and duties of the persons who operate science and technology facilities, the science and technology development fund, the prohibitions for persons, organizations, state officials, dispute solutions, policies towards persons with outstanding achievement, measures against violators. Persons, juristic persons or organizations violating this law shall be re-educated, disciplined, fined, (civil or penal) according to the nature of the violation.

The Prime Ministerial Decree No.01/PM, dated 17 January 2002 on the Protection of Patents, Petty Patents and Industrial Design provide protection to patents, petty patents and industrial designs in the Lao People's Democratic Republic; to encourage invention, technology transfer, scientific and technological research and development; to stimulate and promote internal and external commerce and investment, and to combat the infringement of industrial property rights and illegal business practices.

Any patent, petty patent and industrial design can be protected in cases in which they have been registered in the Lao People's Democratic Republic or with international registry to which the Lao People's Democratic Republic is bound.

The infringer of rights shall be warned or be subjected to legal sanction in such a cases according to the laws of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The Standards Law No.13/NA, dated 26 December 2007 defines the principles, regulations, measures for the protection, inspection of standards for goods and services, the measures for environmental protection in goods production and services, consumer safeguards, etc.

This law has an ordinance law as the Decree on the Implementation of Standards Law No.234/GOV, dated 6 June 2012 which aims to explain the details of the Standards Law No.13/NA in order to make a precise, correct understanding.

The government shall apply the law in accordance with international treaties and agreements which Laos has entered. Besides, this law also defines the rights and duties of the Lao National Accreditation Bureau, LNAB to certify the technical capability standards of process, laboratory and the issuing of testing licenses under ISO/IEC 17011.

The Standards Law No.13/NA, dated 26 December 2007 defines 3 classes of standards as follows; 1. Goods and Products standards (the qualification of goods and products specifications in response to the demand and supply) the products shall have the national and local standards which comprise the technical term, sign, Bio-Chemical characteristic and other characteristic, process, testing, packaging, logo, label; 2. Services standards (the regulations concerning the installation, guarantee of product, services such as hospitality, hotel, restaurant, transportation, telecommunication, education, public health and others; 3. Environmental standards refer to the rule or limitation of permission to release emissions or pollution which affects the health and the life of humans, animals, plants and the environment.

The persons or organizations who produce, business, trade, or service shall apply the standards and regulations concerning the environment. The environmental standards comprise; 1. Quantity of emission such as contaminated oil, smoke, remnant of oil, remnant of chemical substances, and other remnants; 2. Level of emission such as vibration, noise, light, color, radiation, smell and others.

The standards of Laos PDR has 2 levels: The National Standards and the Local Standards. The National Standards comprise the international and regional standards, research on science and technology, modern technology, specific identification documents, the result of the assessment of inspection, testing, quality certification and works effectiveness. The Science and Technology Organization of Laos provides and announces the National Standards. The Local Standards are under the auspices of the District and City Division of Sciences and Technology.

There are 3 organizations which determine the standards; 1. National Standards Council composed of the representatives of related ministries, organizations, academics, professional councils, national council of commerce and industry, producers and consumers; 2. Central Technical Committee (which is appointed by the National Standards council from scholars of the ministries, organization, academics, professional councils, national council of commerce and industry, producers and consumers); 3. Local Technical Committee (which is appointed by the head of the District and City Division of Sciences and Technology from scholars of the ministries, organizations, academics, professional councils, national council of commerce and industry, producers and consumers in local area).

The certification of goods standards shall classify products certification and certification of the protection system (post production inspection as a safeguard on food quality, environment and others). They also have the authority to cancel licenses both temporary and permanent. The Sciences and Technology Organization is the inspector for the national standards. This law also has a policy towards persons with outstanding achievement and measures against violators. Persons, juristic persons or organizations violating this law or regulations derived from this law shall be re-educated, disciplined, fined, (civil or penal) according to the nature of the violation.

Law on Electronics Business No.20/NA, dated 7 December 2012 defines the principles, regulations, and measures on the creation, use, recognition, protection, and inspection of electronic business in order to make believable and trustable businesses and protect the rights and benefits of electronic entrepreneurs, promote the modern electronic businesses which are connected to the global system and encourage sustainable socio-economic development, social peace and order.

The state shall promote trading, servicing, state managing, and other business to develop economic and social services. It's important to create the basis for technology, communication and information, the certification of security, personal development, transparency of transactions in electronics, the prohibition of the supplier measures, dispute solutions, the protection and inspection of standards, the policy towards persons with outstanding achievement and measures against violators. Persons, juristic persons or organizations violating this law or regulations under this law shall be re-educated, disciplined, fined, (civil or penal) according to the nature of the violation.

Law on Communication

Law on Telecommunications No.02/NA, dated 10 April 2001 and the Prime Ministerial Decree No.041/PM, dated 16 February 2009 on the promulgation of National Policy concerning Telecommunication and Information and the Prime Ministerial Decree No.37/PM, dated 14 February 2011 on the Protection and Development Telecommunication Transferring System and the National Center for Information Technology Security defines the objectives, principles, regulations, and measures on the Protection and Development Telecommunication Transferring System and the National Center for Information Technology Security.

Law on Telecommunications No.02/NA, dated 10 April 2001 determines the principles and regulations governing the following matters: the establishment and operation of telecommunication activities; the management of the radio frequency spectrum, which includes communication frequencies, radio and television broadcast frequencies, and other frequencies; the administration of telecommunication codes and infrastructure; the management and use of satellite positioning, and the highest internet code of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the management of different telecommunication services; including domestic and international internet services for the purpose of ensuring services to the society in terms of communication requiring the transmission to be widespread, of high quality, proper, accurate, convenient, rapid, safe and equitable. The receipt of information, which should contribute to national defense and development, including international relations and information exchange.

The government manages telecommunication resources and the registration of telecommunication equipment use within the country.

The government promotes competitive and joint investments by domestic and foreign investors in the construction, development, and extension of telecommunication networks, and telecommunication services in the forms, types and scopes determined by the government.

The telecommunication systems under which services are provided in the Lao People's Democratic Republic include three systems as follows: 1. Wired telecommunication systems; 2. Wireless telecommunication systems; 3. Telecommunication system integrating wired and wireless components. These telecommunication systems may be used for different types of communication, such as telex, telephone, telegraph, facsimile, personal radio, electronic mail, internet and others.

For the purpose of developing, advancing and modernising the telecommunication sector, the government authorizes the establishment of a Telecommunication Development Fund; contributions to such fund are from grants from domestic and foreign sources, from international organizations and partially from telecommunication fees and telecommunication service charges.

The scope of telecommunication services in the Lao People's Democratic Republic covers domestic telecommunication and international telecommunication services.

The application for the establishment of a telecommunication service enterprise must comply with the Business Law, the Law on Promotion of Domestic Investment and other relevant laws of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Foreign investments must comply with the Business Law, [and] the Law on the Promotion and Management of Foreign Investment in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Persons or organizations which have violated the provisions of this law shall be re-educated, fined or subject to penal measures depending on the gravity of the violation and shall pay compensation for the damage caused. In addition to the sanctions described in articles 28 and 29 of this law, offenders may also be subject to additional measures and sanctions, such as suspension of business operations, withdrawal of license, seizure of equipment and means used in committing the offence.

Decree No.104/GOV, dated 21 March 2012 on the protection and the use of internet and internet code defines the principles, regulations, and measures for the protection, monitoring,

and usage of the internet and internet code in order to create order, security, quality, and guarantee the internet service for public communication.

Law on Communication and Postal Service No. 06/NA, dated 17 May 2004 determines the principles, regulations, and measures on the protection, monitoring, establishing and assisting of postal affairs both on the internal and international level. The state shall provide the high quality, rapid and safe postal service for society in order to protect and develop the country. The state shall promote investment of postal affairs to the private sector or organizations on both the internal and international level. Postal services in the Lao PDR comprise the following four main categories: 1. Services for the acceptance, dispatch and delivery of letter post items and postal parcels; 2. Services for transmitting information by telegram, facsimile and electronic means; 3. Postal financial services; 4. Sale of postage stamps and postal products.

The fee for postal services is provided in this law besides there are many measures concerning the postal affair such as establishing of enterprise for postal services, the rights and duties of the postal service officials and the customers, the restricted prohibition measures for the postal affairs, the policy towards persons with outstanding achievement, measures against violators. Persons, juristic persons or organizations violating this law or regulations on this law shall be re-educated and/or disciplined. There are measures which the officer shall not violate such as the officer did not facilitate the customer and/or unreasonable delay of service.

The customer who reuse old postage stamps or use postage stamps less than the law defines will be fined. Postal service providers that provide services beyond the scope of their authorization; or that give their business license to another person to use or lease, or to transfer to another person will be fined. In addition to being fined, [such persons] may be subject to suspension of service or withdrawal of license. Postal service users who send illegal items that violate regulations on postal services; or who illegally send valuable items in boxes, packets, letter post items or postal parcels as provided in articles 17 and 22 of this law.

A person or an organization that has violated any provision of this law shall be re-educated, fined or subject to criminal sanction depending on the degree of the violation, including being required to pay compensation for damage caused.

A person who has violated provisions of this law shall be subject to criminal sanction, such as: to obstruct a postman or vehicle that transports mailbags or to prevent such transport; to illegally confiscate, seize, inspect or open mailbags during the course of transport; to falsify or counterfeit postage stamps, postal products, or franks; to produce, or distribute postage stamps or other products without authorization; to damage or cause loss to vehicles, equipment or other postal service facilities; to send prohibited or illegal items; to illegally open letters, boxes, small packets or postal parcels or to steal items sent through the post; to accept, dispatch or deliver prohibited or illegal items; other offences involving postal services.

2.6 Law on Environmental and Natural Resources

Lao PDR is well known as the country with plentiful natural resources: forest, biodiversity, water, and others. Laos' forest area is more than 40.5% of the country. In recent years, the natural resources have been rapidly decreased by the growth of population and a number of natural disasters. In order to resolve the problem, the state needed to enact many laws. The law concerning environmental protection encourages the participation of the people to protect and preserve the environment and natural resources. Such principles also appear in the 1991 Constitution and 2003 Constitution of Lao PDR.

Environmental Protection Law (environmental protection and pollution control)

Environmental Protection Law No.02/99/NA, dated 3 April 1999 determines the principles, regulations and measures for managing, monitoring, restoring and protecting the environment in order to protect human health, including the protection of natural resources and the richness of nature.

The basic principles of environmental protection are: 1. Environmental protection shall be a priority consideration, and environmental remediation and restoration are considered to be less preferable, but also important activities; 2. The national socio-economic development plan shall include a programmer to protect the environment and natural resources; 3. All persons and organizations residing in the Lao PDR shall have an obligation to protect the environment; 4. Whoever causes damage to the environment is liable under the laws for such damage;

5. Natural resources, raw materials and energy shall be used in an economical manner, which minimizes pollution, waste and supports sustainable development.

The Decree on the establishing and operation of the National Environmental Committee No.09/PM, dated 2 December 2002 defines the unification of the protections and problem resolutions of environment. The National Environmental Committee has missions to be the council of the state concerning environmental issues and the cooperation of the plan making, protection, monitoring of the environmental protection. The committee is comprised of the Deputy of the Prime Minister as the chairperson, the Sciences and Technology Organization is as the secretariat.

In order to protect the environment, Laos PDR also created the organization on social and environmental impact assessment according to the Prime Ministerial Decree No.149/PM, dated 21 August 2008 on the establishment of social and environmental impact assessment division.

Environmental Protection Law No.02/99/NA, dated 3 April 1999 defines the basic principles of environmental protection are: 1. Environmental protection shall be the priority consideration, and environmental remediation and restoration are considered to be less preferable, but also important activities; 2. The national socio-economic development plan shall include a programmer to protect the environment and natural resources; 3. All persons and organizations residing in the Lao PDR shall have an obligation to protect the environment; 4. Whoever causes damage to the environment is liable under the laws for such damage; 5. Natural resources, raw materials and energy shall be used in an economical manner, which minimizes pollution, waste and supports sustainable development.

Besides, this law defines the prevention of environmental degradation, pollution control, environmental remediation and restoration, environmental protection funds, international relations and cooperation relating to the environment, environmental management and monitoring, policies towards persons with high achievement and measures against violators.

Persons or organizations that violate this law or other regulations on environmental protection shall be re-educated, fined, or subject to civil liability or criminal punishment depending on the severity of the case.

Persons or organizations shall be fined if they: 1. Have been warned and re-educated, but do not change their behavior; 2. Litter or discharge waste causing dirtiness and affecting public order and beauty of the country; 3. Cause the quality of water, soil, or air to deteriorate below the prescribed quality standards; 4. Use or discharge excessive amounts of vibrations, noise, radiation, colours, odour, toxic chemicals or radioactive substances, thus violating established standards or other regulations and being hazardous to the health of people, animals, plants and the environment; 5. Do not comply with the provisions in their respective statements of environmental assessment; 6. Deny or refuse to cooperate with the concerned environmental inspection officers. Detailed regulations on fines will be established separately.

Persons or organizations that violate this law or other regulations on environmental protection, and in so doing cause damage to the property of the State, collectives, or individuals, shall be subject to civil liability for such losses.

Persons who commit violations of this law or other regulations on environmental protection that constitute offences such as: falsifying or forging environmental licenses or environmental certificates, violating environmental standards, or other acts relating to the environment that damage the health of other persons, or that cause other persons to become invalids or to lose their lives, will be punished according to the Penal Law.

In addition to the principal penalties applicable for violations, as mentioned in Articles 45, 46, 47, and 48, persons or organizations that violate this law may be subject to additional measures such as: suspension of activities, withdrawal of licenses, termination of operations and confiscation of equipment and vehicles that were used in the violation.

In addition, there is the Prime Ministerial Decree No. 146/PM, dated 6 June 2005 on the Environmental Protection Funds which provides for the financing of eligible activities that will strengthen environmental protection, sustainable natural resources management and specifically biodiversity conservation and community development in Lao PDR. The operations of EPF are provided in sector 5 and this law will apply in accordance with the Forest Law Article 47 and Decree on the promulgation of Law on Waters and Water Resources Article 15.

The budget management of the activities are provided under this law. Besides, this law also provides the policies, laws, regulations, and the national environmental plan to promote the protection plan, capability building, human resources development, monitoring of the

activities which have impact on the environment and society, the sustainable protection of biodiversity, the emission reduction policy, the transparency and efficiency finance, coordination of the related sector concerning environment protection, community development, research of state investment plan, the strategic plan for the investment of the Environmental Protection Funds to increase income.

The structure of EPF comprises an executive council (the chairperson is Deputy Prime Minister and the committee) which are the representative from other related organization. Most of the income is from the assistant and loan from the financial institutions both domestic and foreign organizations, state budget, campaign and activities for development, business sectors, individuals, interest or profit from the investment of the funds.

All of the EPF's income is exempt form revenue. The EPF promotes the budget for those who propose the project to the committee. Individuals and organizations have the right to propose the project proposal to the committee. EPF will not assist the budget for the activities which damage and have ill effects on nature.

Law on Waste and Trans-Border Hazard Waste Control

Lao PDR has the environmental Protection Law No.02/99/NA, dated 3 April 1999, Decree of Ministry of Public Health on Waste Management from Health Care Facilities No.1706/MOH, dated 2 July 2004 and, Decree of Ministry of Public Health on Sanitation of Public Area No.1705/MOH, dated 20 July 2004 as the waste management law.

The government has obligations to control pollution. Pollution refers to the state of any environment that has suffered physical, biological or chemical change because of substances or other contaminants in water, soil, or air exceeding the ambient standards as defined in the regulations, or that cause the environment to be polluted or cause adverse impact to the health and life of people, animals, plants and the environment.

Types of pollution include: water pollution, soil pollution, air pollution, chemical pollution, radioactive pollution and pollution from waste, vibrations, noise, radiation, colors and odors.

All persons and organizations have an obligation to engage in pollution control. Persons engaging in production [or] business, such as industries, services, agriculture and forestry,

handicrafts, and other operations that cause pollution shall utilize technologies and install the necessary pollution control facilities to meet the prescribed environmental quality standards.

Environmental management and monitoring agencies at all levels shall issue regulations and determine environmental quality standards for environmental protection and pollution control according to their roles and duties in coordination with the concerned sectors.

Persons or organizations engaged in all kinds of operations must strictly prevent and control water pollution, soil pollution, air pollution, waste, chemical pollution, radioactive pollution, pollution from vibrations, noise, radiation, colors and odors.

It is forbidden to discharge waste water, or water that exceeds the prescribed standards into canals, natural bodies of water or other places without proper treatment.

It is forbidden to release hazardous smoke, gases, odors, chemicals, or dust in excess of the prescribed air quality standards.

The production, importation, use, transport, storage and disposal of hazardous chemicals and radioactive substances shall be done in strict compliance with the prescribed regulations and standards.

It is forbidden to emit vibrations, noise, radiation, colors and odors in excess of the prescribed limits.

All kinds of littering are forbidden. It is required to allocate waste disposal sites, and to separate waste before its disposal, incineration, burial or disposal by any other methods. Technologies for waste treatment, recycling of waste into the production process and re-use must be supported.

It is forbidden to import or transport all kinds of hazardous waste through the land, the water and the airspace of the Lao PDR.

Persons or organizations that violate this law or other regulations on environmental protection shall be re-educated, fined, or subject to civil liability or criminal punishment depending on the severity of the case.

Persons or organizations shall be fined if they: 1. Have been warned and re-educated, but do not change their behavior; 2. Litter or discharge waste causing dirtiness and affecting public order and beauty of the city; 3. Cause the quality of water, soil, [or] air to deteriorate below the prescribed quality standards; 4. Use or discharge excessive amounts of vibrations, noise, radiation, colors, odor,

toxic chemicals or radioactive substances, thus violating established standards or other regulations and being hazardous to the health of people, animals, plants and the environment; 5. Do not comply with the provisions in their respective statements of environmental assessment; 6. Deny or refuse to cooperate with the concerned environmental inspection officers. Detailed regulations on fines will be established separately.

Persons or organizations that violate this law or other regulations on environmental protection, and in so doing cause damage to the property of the State, collectives, or individuals, shall be subject to civil liability for such losses.

Persons who commit violations of this law or other regulations on environmental protection that constitute offences such as: falsifying or forging environmental licenses or environmental certificates, violating environmental standards, or other acts relating to the environment that damage the health of other persons, or that cause other persons to become invalids or to lose their lives, will be punished according to the Penal Law.

In addition to the principal penalties applicable for violations, as mentioned in Articles 45, 46, 47, and 48, persons or organizations that violate this law may be subject to additional measures such as: suspension of activities, withdrawal of licenses, termination of operations and confiscation of equipment and vehicles that were used in the violation.

Law on Climate Change

The law concerning climate change is comprised of the environmental Protection Law No.02/99/NA, dated 3 April 1999, the Prime Minister Decree No.137/PM, dated 12 March 2010 on the promulgation and enactment of the climate change strategy of Lao PDR, and the Prime Minister Decree No.162/PM, dated 13 October 2003 on the Control of the Importation, Export and Use of Ozone Depleting Substances.

The Prime Minister Decree No.162/PM, dated 13 October 2003 on the Control of the Importation, Export and Use of Ozone Depleting Substances specifies necessary principles, rules and measures for the control of the import, export and use of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), in order to protect the environment and prevent the depletion of the ozone layer in accordance with the Country Program on the phase-out of ODS under the Montreal Protocol, ensuring that any development is in compliance with the government's socio-economic plan.

Persons or organizations that violate this law or other regulations on environmental protection shall be re-educated, fined, or subject to civil liability or criminal punishment depending on the severity of the case.

Persons or organizations shall be fined if they: 1. Have been warned and re-educated, but do not change their behavior; 2. Litter or discharge waste causing dirtiness and affecting public order and beauty of the country; 3. Cause the quality of water, soil, or air to deteriorate below the prescribed quality standards; 4. Use or discharge excessive amounts of vibrations, noise, radiation, colours, odour, toxic chemicals or radioactive substances, thus violating established standards or other regulations and being hazardous to the health of people, animals, plants and the environment; 5. Do not comply with the provisions in their respective statements of environmental assessment; 6. Deny or refuse to cooperate with the concerned environmental inspection officers. Detailed regulations on fines will be established separately.

Persons or organizations that violate this law or other regulations on environmental protection, and in so doing cause damage to the property of the State, collectives, or individuals, shall be subject to civil liability for such losses.

Persons who commit violations of this law or other regulations on environmental protection that constitute offences such as: falsifying or forging environmental licenses or environmental certificates, violating environmental standards, or other acts relating to the environment that damage the health of other persons, or that cause other persons to become invalids or to lose their lives, will be punished according to the Penal Law.

In addition to the principal penalties applicable for violations, as mentioned in Articles 45, 46, 47, and 48, persons or organizations that violate this law may be subject to additional measures such as: suspension of activities, withdrawal of licenses, termination of operations and confiscation of equipment and vehicles that were used in the violation.

Law on Natural Resources (forest, animals, aquatic animals, waters and soil)

Lao PDR has 5 laws on forestry: 1. Forestry Law No.169/PM, dated 6 November 1993; 2. The Prime Ministerial Decree No.186/PM, dated 12 October 1994; 3. Forestry Law 1996; 4. Forestry Law (amended) No.13/NA, dated 9 November 2005; and 5. Forestry Law No.06/NA, dated 24 December 2007.

Forestry Law NO.6/NA, Vientiane Capital, dated 24 Dec.2007 determines the basic principles, regulations and measures on sustainable management, preservation, development, utilization and inspection of forest resources and forest land, promotion of regeneration and tree planting, and increase of forest resources in the Lao People's Democratic Republic aiming at maintaining a balance of nature, making forest and forest land stable sources of living and use for the people, ensuring a sustainable condition and protection of the environment, water resources, protection from soil erosion and maintenance of soil quality, protecting plants, tree species, wildlife and aquatic life, as well as contributing gradually to national socio-economic development.

Forests in Lao PDR are classified into three categories for the purpose of preservation and development as follows: 1. Protection Forests; 2. Conservation Forests; 3. Production Forests.

Protection Forests are forests classified for the function of protecting water resources, river banks, road sides, preventing soil erosion, protecting soil quality, strategic areas for national defense, protection from natural disasters, environmental protection and so on.

Conservation forests are forests classified for the purposes of conserving nature, preserving plant and animal species, forest ecosystems and other valuable sites of natural, historical, cultural, tourism, environmental, educational and scientific research experiments. Conservation Forest consists of National Conservation Forest areas and Conservation Forest areas at the Provincial, District and Village levels which are described in the specific regulations.

Production Forests are natural forests and planted forests classified for the utilization purposes of areas for production, and wood and forest product businesses to satisfy the requirements of national socio-economic development and people's living.

Forest areas means a protection forest, conservation forest and production forest areas and include dense forest, degraded forest, bare forest land and village use forest according to the designed zone plan.

Forestry activities are classified as; 1. Forest Management (Forest management consists of various activities including survey, classification planning, research, logging and forest product harvesting surveys.) 2. Forest Preservation separated in to 2 zones include; 1. Total protection zone are the forest areas of which the slope is above 35 degrees, containing areas of water resources, forests

along the rivers, roads and other areas with a high risk of environmental degradation. These areas must be strictly protected and it is absolutely prohibited to conduct activities such as shifting cultivation, cutting, destruction, burning, removing trees, collecting firewood, feeding animals, constructing houses or any other construction activities, including extraction of soil, stones, mining ore and harvesting of NTFP with exceptional cases stated in Articles 44 and 70 of this Law; and 2. Controlled use zone is the forest area without high risk of environment impacts. These areas must be protected similar to the total protection zone, but people are allowed to use wood and forest products according to the management plan.

Preservation of Conservation Forests is to maintain abundance in the forest as well as the preservation of plants and wildlife species, biodiversity, ecosystems of natural, historical and cultural values for existence and development together with preservation of beautiful scenery or landscapes for development of national park which are suitable for tourism as well as areas for scientific research experiment.

Conservation Forests are divided into total protection zones, controlled use zones, corridor zones and buffer zones.

1. Total Protection Zone is the forest area that is the main habitat, feeding and breeding place for various wild animals and it is the place of diverse and dense vegetation. In this zone, it is strictly prohibited to conduct any forestry activity, to harvest any forest products, including unauthorized entry in this zone. Transportation of plant and animal species is also prohibited with exception to the cases stated in Articles 44 and 70 of this Law.

2. Controlled use Zone is the forest area adjacent or close to the total protection zone. These areas must be protected similar to the Total Protection Zone, but people are allowed to use wood and forest products according to the management plan.

3. Corridor Zones are managed areas for preserving tracts of forest to provide passages for animals between two Conservation Forests or between a Conservation Forest and another category of forest to preserve existing biodiversity and to increase the general wildlife population. In this zone, it is prohibited to cut trees, conduct forestry activities or any other activity that may obstruct or destroy the passage for the animals.

4. Buffer zones are managed areas for preventing any encroachment and destruction of the

Conservation Forest.¹⁹⁷

Preservation of Production Forests is to maintain the abundance of forest for satisfying the requirement of the national socio-economic development and poverty eradication of the multi-ethnic people.

Preservation of water resources in forest zones is to protect the forest area where rivers, streams and creeks originate and flow. The government assigns the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to demarcate water resource protection areas, to formulate plans and measures for protecting them, and collaborating with other concerned sectors and local administration authorities.

Preservation of tree and NTFP species, mainly prohibition and rare species are at risk of extinction in natural forests such as May Dou Lai (*Pterocarpus macrocarpus* sp.), May Kha Nhoung (*Dalbergia cochinchinensis*), May Khamphi (*Dalbergia bariensis*), May Long Leng (*Cunninghamia sinensis*), Fang daeng, Sapan, and other species defined by the State is encouraged to increase and enrich the species.

Prevention and eradication of pests and tree diseases is for the purpose of preventing the outbreak and spreading of pests and diseases, and to implement eradication measures in time and effectively.

Prevention and control of forest fires is to protect forests and forest resources from destruction by fire. Prevention and control of forest fires contains the following measures: Taking any regulations and necessary measures on forest fire prevention and control; Conducting dissemination, education of people to raise awareness about the danger and causes of forest fires and to avoid any activities leading to forest fires, such as the burning of grassland, burning for shifting cultivation, making fire camps in the forest and throwing cigarettes in the forest, etc.

Forest regeneration and forest plantations are designed to preserve and to develop the national forest resources aiming to supply the demand for timber and other forest products in a sustainable manner to preserve water resources, soil, aquatic life, wildlife and keep the environment in a balanced condition, which is an important source of revenue for the State, organizations and individuals.

¹⁹⁷ Buffer zones refer to forest and land around the conservation forest in a range of 100-500 metres.

Management of tree plantations and NTFP activities in the Protection Forest, Conservation Forest and Production Forest areas shall be carried out in accordance with regulations such as the selection of planting areas, site preparation, selection of tree and NTFP species, including the importation of seeds, collection of seeds, production of seeds, planting, maintenance, prevention of fires, pests and diseases and registration of the planted forest.

To ensure the preservation and development of forest and forest resources effectively, the State establishes the Forest and Forest Resource Development Fund. Sources of the Fund come from the State budget allocation, natural resource utilization projects, contributions from individuals, organizations, collectives, social organizations of local and international agencies and so on.

Utilization of forest and forest products is classified into 4 categories as follows: utilization for village public benefits, utilization for households, customary utilization and utilization for business operations.

Forestland in Lao PDR is classified into 3 categories for the purpose of management as Protected Forest Land, Conservation Forest Land, and Production Forest Land.

Preservation of forest land is to delineate each category of forest land, to study and take regulations and measures for preservation and development of forest land as described in the Land Law and other related laws.

Preservation of Protected Forest Land is to demarcate Protected Forest Land into total protected zones and controlled use zones. Preservation of Conservation Forest Land is to demarcate Conservation Forest Land into total protected zones, controlled-use zones, corridors and buffer zones. Preservation of Production Forest Land is to formulate zoning plans of management areas for sustainable use in accordance with the management plans of Production Forests.

Individuals, organizations or enterprises that show outstanding performance in implementation of this law, especially in preservation and development of forest and forest land areas, planting, forest regeneration and protection against the destruction of forest and forest resources, shall be commended with other rewards according to the regulations.

Individuals or organizations violating this law shall be subject to re-education, disciplinary measures, fine or punishment in accordance with the law according to the seriousness of the cases.

Any civil servant or state employee violating forestry related laws and regulations and prohibitions with minor significance that is not considered criminal, and with damages worth less than 1,000,000Kip, and do not cooperate with the investigative authorities, shall be subject to the disciplinary measures in the following manners: 1. To be reprimanded and warned of such offense and recorded in his or her personal profile; 2. To suspend the promotion, salary increase and commendations; 3. To be removed from one's post and transferred to a lower one; 4. To be dismissed from the public service without any incentive remuneration. In addition, the person shall return all of the assets acquired illegally.

Individuals, organizations, or enterprises who violate forestry related laws and regulations and the prohibitions as provided in this law, which is not considered criminal and caused damage worth more than 1,000,000 Kip, shall be fined the equivalent of the value of damaged timber, timber products, including forest resources based on the actual market price. In the case of a second or habitual violation, the offender shall be fined double the value of damaged timber, timber products, including forest resources based on the actual market price. Individuals, who violated this law and committed a crime such as: cutting trees or cleared forest not in compliance with the forestry regulations, burned or destroyed forest by any methods, harvesting NTFP not in compliance with laws and regulations, gave the log stamp hammer to someone who does not have authority/responsibility, unauthorized cut, traded or transport natural timber of protected and special species, which are close to extinction without permission, suppressing justice procedures on forestry cases, granting an approval of natural forest conversion or issued the permission of unlawful logging shall be subject to criminal sanctions and shall be punished in prison as described in Articles 139 and 143 of the Penal Law, and shall be fined double the value of damaged timber, timber products, including forest resources based on the actual market price.

In addition to the main punishments described in Articles 123,124,125, 126 and 127 above, offenders shall be subjected to additional punishments such as confiscation of assets, vehicles and equipment related to the offences, the State shall suspend or revoke the permits or revoke rights to use the forest, forest land and forest resources.

The Prime Ministerial Decree No.333/PM, dated 19 July 2010 on the Protection Forests defines the principles, the procedures, and the measures on the management, the protection and conservation, the development, and the sustainable use of the protected forest, with the

aim of bringing the richness to the protected forests and the protected forestry lands, ensuring the protection of the environment, the water sources, the soil erosion, and safeguarding the soil quality, the strategic national defense and public security forests, including the restoration, the encouragement, the monitoring and assessment of the laws in order to contribute to the improvement of the living standards of the people and the national socio-economic development.

The Protected Forests are the forests and the forestry lands which are located in the areas of the water sources, watershed areas, wet land forest, and river bank's forest, road side forest, including the forest in and around towns, Municipalities or outskirts of cities, village's sacred forests and cemeteries. The protected forests have the total area of 8,200,000 hectares (eight millions and two hundred thousands), which are determined for the purpose of protection of the watershed areas, the natural environments, the soil erosion, natural disasters, strategic points for the national defense-public security and other types of forests as determinates by the appropriate authorities.

The protected forests and the protected forestry lands are classified into two areas namely: the absolutely prohibited zone and the utilization zone under management (according to the Law on the Forestry, No. 06/NA, dated 24 December 2007)

The protected forests in the Lao PDR are divided into four levels: 1. The protected forests at the national level; 2. The protected forests at the provincial or city levels; 3. The protected forests at the district or Municipality levels; 4. The protected forests at the village level.

The protected forest funds are from the government's Forestry and Forest Resource Development Fund in accordance with the Prime Ministerial Decree, No.38/PM dated 21 February 2005 and various sources of funds from the road restoration and maintenance foundation, the environment conservation fund and other national and international funds.

Law on water and water resources No.02-96, dated 11 October 1996 determines the necessary principles, regulations, and measures relating to the administration, exploitation, use and development of water and water resources in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, in order to preserve the sustainability of water and water resources, to ensure that water is available in the volume and quality necessary for the people's living requirements, to promote agriculture, forestry,

and industry, to develop the national economy and to ensure that no damage is caused to the environment.

Water and water resources must be managed and used according to centralized, comprehensive and integrated management principles, according to the allocation plan and must comply with socio-economic and environmental development plans, the master plan, periodic development plans of each sector and the construction plan for each approved project. In order to successfully protect and use water and water resources, individuals, legal entities or organizations are obligated to strictly comply with water and water resources management regulations.

Individuals, legal entities, or organizations have the obligations to preserve water and water resources, to not cause water to become shallower, to be depleted, to be polluted or to become noxious and to not cause damage to water, water resources, public property and the property of other individuals.

Water and water resources must be used economically and there must be measures to protect against adverse impact on the environment and natural beauty. In addition, there are obligations to preserve, restore and rehabilitate forest and land resources in water catchment areas, in accordance with plans relating to water source allocation, forests, land, seasons and specifically plans relating to headwaters or water sources.

The government determines areas of protected water and water resources in order to supply sufficient volume and quality of water to the population in urban and rural areas. Such protected areas may be demarcated or fenced in. Within the protected areas, there shall be no construction, agricultural production or industry, raising of livestock, quarrying, excavation of stones, minerals, soil, or sand, dumping of trash, waste, waste water, poisonous substances, or chemical substances, setting off of explosives, burial of human or animal cadavers and other activities which cause damage.

Individuals, legal entities or organizations that violate this law shall be re-educated, fined or punished according to the laws and regulations of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on a case by case basis according to the seriousness of the violation.

The Prime Ministerial Decree No.204/PM, dated 9 October 2001 on the implement of the Law on Water and Water Resources. The objective of this Decree is to implement the Law on

Water and Water Resources and to establish the responsibilities of different ministries, agencies and local authorities with regard to the management, exploitation, development and use of water and water resources. The Decree shall also ensure efficient development and use, in conformity with the socio-economic development plan, an increase in production, an improvement of the living conditions of the people and sustainable use of water resources.

Ministries and agencies responsible for the management, exploitation, development and use of water resources are 1. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), 2. Ministry of Communication, Transportation, Post and Construction (MCTPC), 3. Ministry of Industry and Handicraft (MIH), 4. Ministry of Public Health (MPH), 5. Ministry of Trade and Tourism (MTT), 6. Science, Technology and Environment Agency (STEA), 7. Lao National Mekong Committee (LNMC), 8. Water Resource Coordinating committee (WECC), 9. The above ministries and agencies shall coordinate with the local authorities in the detailed determination of responsibilities and scope of activities within their sectors.

The Prime Ministerial Decree No.149/PM, dated 10 May 2007 on the establishment and operation of the Water Resources and Environment Agency (WREA) defines the missions, the structure, work plan of the WREA. In order to protect and manage the sustainable utilization of water and natural resources the WREA's mission concerns the water resources, environment, meteorological and hydrographical matters.

The Prime Ministerial Decree No.161/PM, dated 15 September 2008 on the establishment and operation of the Committee on the Protection and Prevention of Ecology and Environmental Impact in Mekong and Lueng Rivers determines the missions, roles, duties, limitations, structure and work plan of the Committee in order to control the construction in rivers area, the activities concerning the exploitation of mines, sand and soil near the river including the facilitation of water traffic.

The Prime Ministerial Decree No.072/PM, dated 16 March 2009 on the establishment and activities of the Lao National Mekong Committee (LNMC) designates the LNMC as the ad hoc committee. The LNMC is the national water resources management agency. The LNMC has missions to protect, develop, reserve, restore water resources. The Deputy Prime Minister is the chairperson of the committee. The LNMC has their own budget from the government, the same

as the budget which the government provides for the Water Resources and Environment Agency (WREA).

The Prime Ministerial Decree No.293/PM, dated 15 June 2010 on Establishment and Activities of River Basin Committee (RBC) defines the location, mandate, duties, jurisdictions, organizational structure and working methodology of the River Basin Committee. The River Basin Committee (abbreviated as RBC) is a non-permanent organization. It has a mandate to act as a water resource executive in river basins under the direction of the Lao National Mekong Committee (LNMC) for management, development, conservation, rehabilitation and utilization of water resources (which will be called “water resources management”) in river basin areas.

The River Basin Committee consists of a government Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and some committee members which are representatives from government, private and other involved sectors at the central and local level. The chairmanship of the river basin committee has a five years’ rotation policy based on the agreement of the provinces within the river basin.

The River Basin Committee has a fund for river basin management and development from the government budget, grant assistance from international organizations and other countries, royalties, service charges, fines and contributions from water resources development in the river basin based on the principle of polluter payment.

Law on Wildlife and Aquatic

Lao PDR has a Wildlife and Aquatic Law as the Decree No.07/NA, dated 24 December 2007 determines principles, regulations and measures on wildlife and aquatic life redundant to promote the sustainable regeneration and utilization of wildlife and aquatic life, without any harmful impact on natural resources or habitats and to restrict anthropogenic pressure on decreasing species and the extinction of wildlife and aquatic life, by encouraging people as a whole to understand and recognize the significance, while enhancing the consciousness love, care and treatment of animals. To engage in managing, monitoring, conserving, protecting, developing and utilizing wildlife and aquatic life in sustainable manners. To guarantee the abundance and richness of the ecology of natural equilibrium systems, to contribute to the upgrading of the condition and livelihoods of multi-ethnic people, which has the potential to develop and realize the national social-economic goals.

Aquatic animals are species of any living creature which live in the water all or most of the time relying on aquatic ecosystems for regeneration and can be taken from the nature for breeding such as: Dolphins, Giant catfish, Catfish etc.

Wildlife are all species of wild animals that generate in nature, or are taken in captivity such as: Elephant, Tiger, Bear, Deer, Barking Deer, Monkey, Snake, Bird, etc.

Amphibians are animals which are cold-blooded animals that metamorphose from a juvenile, water-breathing form to an adult, air-breathing form and can live in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, lay eggs in water such as: frogs, toads and the others.

Wildlife and aquatic life in the Lao People's Democratic Republic is comprised of Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians, and Insects.

The Wildlife and Aquatic life regulations are divided into three categories:

1. Prohibition category: wildlife and aquatic life
2. Management category: wildlife and aquatic life
3. Common or general category: wildlife and aquatic life

The protection goal is to preserve the prohibited, managed and common general categories of wildlife and aquatic life in sustainable abundance, it is the protection of the animals' habitats, preservation of reservoirs, animals' species conservation zone without deterioration. Simultaneously to take any measures in protecting, preventing any deterioration from man made and natural disasters.

The development of breeding or generating the prohibited, managed and common or general wildlife and aquatic life categories in nature for increasing the number of animals' species by applying technology and science; it is also the rehabilitation of habitats' feeding resources and generating zones to ensure such animals are living in the appropriate ranges. The local people are encouraged to participate in the development of wildlife and aquatic life.

Funds for preservation and protection of wildlife and aquatic life is the same thing as the funds for developing forestry and forestry resources, which is contributed from the national budget, from individuals, collectives, enterprises, organizations and from international organizations etc.

The use of wildlife and aquatic life is divided into four types as follows:

1. Use for public benefit (The use of wildlife and aquatic life for public benefit is to take the wildlife and aquatic life to utilize, for example: tourism purposes, zoos, sports, circuses, and museums,

etc, but shall follow the laws and regulations to guarantee sustainable use without any adverse impact on the natural environment and society)

2. Use for household family purposes (The use of animals for household purposes is to use wildlife and aquatic life for medicinal purposes for healing illness, trophy items and ornamental features, etc.)

3. Use for customary purposes (The customary use of wildlife and aquatic is to use animals for necessary cultural beliefs such as: Bird releasing, Turtle releasing, Fish releasing etc.)

4. Use for business (The government allows to wildlife and aquatic life for business purpose such as: zoos, farming, import, export, re-export, transshipment, and tourism in the conservation areas and in accordance with the regulations.)

This law provides the measures on the establishment of Wildlife and Aquatic Management and Conservation Organizations. The government manages the wildlife and aquatic activities according to the principles of centralization and unity throughout the country by assigned the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to be as the central agency in collaborating and coordinating with other concerned agencies and local authorities to study policies, formulation, strategies, regulations and other measures for protecting and developing wildlife and aquatic life in a sustainable manner.

The Organization of Wildlife and Aquatic Management is the same thing with the Forest and Forest Resource Conservation which is comprised of:

1. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Department of Forestry is authorized as the secretariat,
2. The Division of Agriculture and Forestry of the Provinces and Vientiane the Capital city,
3. The Office of Agriculture and Forestry of the Districts and Municipalities,
4. Village Forest Units.

This law also provides polices towards persons with high achievement and measures against violators. Individuals, organizations or enterprises that violate this law shall be re-educated, disciplined, fined or shall be punished in accordance with the law depending on the degree of the offence - minor or major.

Civil servants and authorities violating the law on wildlife and aquatic life and its prohibitions with minor offences, which are not constituted as criminal offences, damages the worth less than 200.000 Kip, but not liable to report their offences, shall be punished as

following: 1. Reproach, warn the guilty and inform them of the offences by recording such offences in their personal profile; 2. Suspension from promotions, suspension of salary increases, incentives or rewards; 3. Removal from the position, resignation of the post or demotion. 4. Resign without any compromises; A person who is disciplined shall return unlawfully earned property completely to the organization.

Individuals, organizations or enterprises violating the law on wildlife and aquatic life and its prohibitions, with damages worth 200.000 Kip and over, and shall be fined double for the damages committed against wildlife and aquatic life.

In the case that the violation is a second time or many times, of the perpetrator shall be fined triple of the caused damage to the wildlife and aquatic life in the prohibition category; double fines for the wildlife and aquatic life in the management category, and single time fine for wildlife and aquatic life in the common or general category, unlawful earning properties shall be seized by the State.

Committed criminal offences on aquatic life and wildlife are the following: 1. To catch aquatic life and to hunt natural wildlife of the prohibition category, which includes rare and near extinct animals such as the dolphin, elephant, tiger, rhinoceros, pseudoryx nghetinhensis, bear, gaur and kouprey; 2. To use tools or methods of fishing and hunting animals which cause depletion of aquatic and wildlife; 3. To encroach the habitats and feeding zones of aquatic and wildlife; 4. To steal aquatic life and wildlife of the prohibited category, carcasses or parts and organs of such animals for trade or to have in possession. 5. To import, export, re-export, tranship and transit aquatic and wildlife unlawfully; 6. To bribe, falsify or forge documents and stamps. The offenders will be prosecuted and shall be punished by deprivation of liberty for three months to five years of imprisonment it depends on the characteristic of the criminal offences, major or minor, shall be fined according to the article 70 of this law including damages compensation.

Fisheries Law

Fisheries Law No.03/NA, dated 9 July 2009 identified principles, regulations and measures governing organizations, implementation, management, fisheries inspection of aquaculture to promote conservation, protection, development and sustainable utilization of

aquatic resources and to ensure food security for Lao people. It is part of environment protection for national economic development.

Government promotes aquaculture, conservation, protection, development, aquatic species expansion and aquatic organism management based on local potential by issuing policies, regulations, fund supply, technical extension, research, technology, information and measures to increase numbers of aquatic organism to supply all Lao people demands.

Fish and other aquatic organisms are divided into three types as followed: 1. Protected type; 2. Management type; 3. General type.

Protected fish and other aquatic organisms have to be conserved, protected, developed and not allowed to use these types, except in cases approved by the government. The government will agree on changing the list of protected aquatic organisms at any time according to proposals from Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Management type of fish and other aquatic organisms have to be conserved, protected, developed, controlled and inspected on the use of these types according to the regulations. Local authority issues the agreement on not allowed aquatic organisms to use the management types, if these types are endangered species in the management water resources area and inform the concerned Agriculture and Forestry sector. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry issues the agreement not allowed to use some of management types which informed by local authority if these types are endangered species in the water resources that covered at least over the boundaries of more than one province.

General types of fish and other aquatic organisms have to be protected, developed, and allowed to be used according to the regulations and with assurances they will not become extinct and have no impact on environment and ecosystem.

Government is a centralized management of fisheries activities and unity all over the country and has assigned Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry as core management by coordination with other sections and concerned local authorities.

Fisheries management organization consisted of: 1. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; 2. Provincial, Capital Agriculture and Forestry Department; 3. District Agriculture and Forestry Office; 4. Fisheries Management Committee.

Individuals or organizations adhering to this law such as conservation, protection of aquatic organisms and fisheries development will be rewarded felicitation and others incentives in accordance with this law.

Individuals or organizations offending this law will be re-educated, penalized, fined, or be placed under criminal punishment according to the seriousness of the cases.

Law on Agriculture No.01-98/NA 10 October 1998 has the function of determining principles, rules, and measures regarding the organisation and activities of agricultural production which is the basis of the country's economy, including management and preservation of agricultural activities and production with the following aims: to encourage, promote, and expand agricultural production to guarantee the food supply and to guarantee commodity production; to create favourable conditions for building and expanding agro-industrial processing; to contribute to national economic growth; to make people wealthy; to strengthen the nation; and to avoid damaging and endangering the environment.

The State encourages and promotes the multi-ethnic people and all economic parties, both domestic and foreign, to progressively make broad and modern investments in agricultural production that produces food, commodities, and raw materials for supply to domestic processing factories and for export.

This law also provides the necessary measures such as agricultural activities, investment in agricultural activities, promoting agricultural production, environmental protection, inspection of agricultural activities and the policies towards persons who are productive and sanctions against violators.

Mining Law

The mining law and policy in Lao PDR comprise the Strategic Plan on the Development of the Energy Resources and Mining year 2006-2020, the Prime Ministerial Decree on the promulgation of the Development of the Energy Resources and Mining year 2006-2020 No.153/PM, dated 28 August 2008, the Mining Law No.04-97/NA, dated 12 April 1997 and the Mining Law No.04/NA, dated 8 December 2008.

The Mining Law No.04/NA, dated 8 December 2008 determined the principles, regulations and measures related to the management, inspection of explored mines, the

production of mining products and export of all types of mining products; aiming at adding value to the commodity prior to export and building the technical foundation for the mining industry aligning it with the direction toward industrialization and modernization in order to contribute to the industrialization process and to improve the peoples' living conditions.

The Government of Lao PDR shall promote individuals or legal entities who have been granted a concession right or holding a license for purchasing raw minerals to process the raw minerals into semi-processed or finished mining products in order to sell them in the domestic market or export them in accordance with the Government's policy issued in each period of time.

The State protects the rights and the interests of persons conducting mining business and the interests of the local people in compliance with the laws and regulations of the Lao PDR.

The State has policies to promote the efficient preservation and development of mineral resources by persons and organizations, both domestic and foreign. To promote the development of the mining industry, the government has classified minerals into 4 categories as follows: 1. Metallic minerals; 2. Non-metallic minerals; 3. Combustible minerals; 4. Liquid minerals.

Metallic minerals include gold, silver, copper, zinc, iron, lead, tin and others. Non-metallic minerals include diamonds, rubies, emeralds, limestone, gravel, sand, gypsum, construction soil, construction stones and others. Combustible minerals include coal, natural gas and natural oil. Liquid minerals include mineral water, and water from natural warm and hot springs.

For efficient and sustainable use, the government will issue a periodic list of minerals that are protected or restricted from export and import, or export of which in the form of raw materials is limited. The government assigns the Ministry of Industry and Handicrafts to preserve sources of mineral resources nationwide in coordination with the concerned agencies by stipulating specific regulations.

Mineral resource areas refer to areas where basic geological reconnaissance surveys have been conducted and where commercial mineral deposits have been identified for further detailed investigation. There are four [kinds of] mineral resource areas: 1. Areas licensed for mining business; 2. Reserved areas; 3. Prohibited areas; 4. Poisonous areas.

Article 10 provides that individuals or legal entities that have been granted [permission to operate] mining business activities shall make a plan for exploration, processing or production, distribution and export of mining products. Such plans shall be approved by the Ministry of Energy and Mines before implementation. Individuals or legal entities operating mining business activities shall report the quantity and quality of each type of mining product produced to the Ministry of Energy and Mines monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, annually and five-yearly.

Forms of mechanized mining business operations are divided into three scales, as follows: 1. Large-scale mining business operations; 2. Medium-scale mining business operations; 3. Small-scale mining business operations. Each scale of mining operations shall be determined in detail by the government based on the capital involved, the type of minerals, and the area and volume of mineral reserves.

Investment in mining operations in the Lao PDR shall take the following forms: 1. Sole investment by the State; 2. Joint investment between the State and domestic or foreign parties; 3. Collective or private investment from domestic parties.

Mineral exploration refers to geological and geophysical studies within a determined area to acquire further detailed data on the geology and geological structures [in that area] through testing, trenching, exploration, drilling, analysis of the physical and chemical features of the minerals and assessment of their economic potential. Mineral exploration shall require approval from the government. The period of mineral exploration shall not exceed three years, but may be extended two times, each time for no more than two years as approved by the government.

Processes in mining business operations include the stages of prospecting, exploration, exploitation, processing and trading in minerals. Prospecting, exploration and exploitation shall be authorized specifically in areas where no other person has conducted mining activities for the same minerals.

Persons or organizations intending to conduct mining operations shall apply for licenses to conduct mineral prospecting and data gathering. When information is sufficient, exploration shall be authorized. At the completion of exploration, if there is an intention to conduct exploitation, feasibility studies shall be required, economic cost-effectiveness computed, and environmental, ecological and

social impacts assessed, to apply for the grant of a concession from the government. Simultaneously with the grant of an exploitation concession, the government will jointly invest in the mining operations. Mining operations licensees shall establish and register their enterprise in compliance with the laws of the Lao PDR.

When disputes occur between mining contract parties, an amicable settlement shall be sought. Otherwise, the contract parties may submit the matter in dispute to the Office of Economic Dispute Resolution or the people's courts of the Lao PDR for further proceedings.

This law also provides the policies towards persons with high achievement and the measures against violators. Persons or organizations breaching this law shall be subject to measures such as re-education, fines or criminal penalties depending on the nature of the offence. Furthermore, an additional penalty may be imposed.

Persons or organizations breaching this Mining Law by committing any of the following acts: 1. Conducting mining business without a license or with an expired license; 2. Illegally trading in minerals; 3. Leasing, transferring or allowing the use by another person of one's mining license, in contravention of regulations; 4. Making untruthful reports; 5. Breaching mining exploitation principles; 6. Failing to apply environmental impact mitigation measures, discharging waste water and water containing poisonous substances affecting the population's health; 7. Failing to apply technical and labour safety measures; 8. Causing damage to mineral sources due to their own fault; 9. Failing to extend cooperation to administration and inspection officers; Shall be fined from five hundred thousand to three million Kip in the case of a first offence; From three million one hundred thousand to five million Kip in the case of a second offence; From five million and one hundred thousand to ten million Kip in the case of a third offence. If any of the offences mentioned in Article 58 above is committed three times or more, the offender shall be fined from fifty thousand to two hundred thousand Kip. In the case of mining activities using manual tools, whether as a profession or not, fines from ten thousand to twenty thousand Kip shall be imposed.

Additional sanctions may be imposed on the offender such as: suspension of mining business operations, withdrawal of license, and confiscation of the offender's vehicles and equipment.

Decree on the establishment and activities of the Steering Committee for Renewable Energy Development of Lao PDR No.395/PM, Vientiane Capital, dated 7 September 2012 determines the site, missions, rights and duties, structure, work plan of the committee in order

to increase work efficiency and promote the renewable energy development policy. The important policy shall include the policy to promote the electricity from small power plants in the country, outsource electricity, heat power from industrial activities. The policy of searching for the site which is suitable for electric plant, energy corps, the process to develop fuel which are unified standard.

The Steering Committee for Renewable Energy Development: SCRED is the temporary governmental organization which has missions as a secretariat of the government, give advice concerning the renewable energy development and the bio-fuel development process. The committee is the planning coordinator on land use and other related missions such as the promotion policy on investment and dispute settlement which supports the socio-economy development plan.

The Minister of Mining and Energy is the chairperson of the committee. The budget of the committee comes from the annual budget of government, public sector, private sector, donations from international organizations and other income which is not in conflict this law.

Law on land, land expropriation, land reform, land allocation, urban planning and agriculture

Lao PDR has many land laws which were enacted and canceled. Now Lao PDR has the Land Law¹⁹⁸ No.04/NA, dated 21 October 2003 and the Decree on the promulgation of Land Law No.88/PM, Vientiane Capital, dated 3 June 2008.

The objectives of the Land Law are to determine the regime on the management, protection and use of land in order to ensure efficiency and conformity with land-use objectives and with laws and regulations, and to contribute to national socio-economic development as well as to the protection of the environment and national borders of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

This law defines the measures on land protection, land registration, rights and duties of

¹⁹⁸ The old law such as 1. Decree No.22/Lao PDR, dated 21 March 1989 on the protection and the utilization of agricultural land in Lao PDR, 2. The Prime Ministerial Decree No.129/PM, dated 18 November 1979 on land and houses of the revolutionary people which are judged by court, 3. The Prime Ministerial Decree No.99/PM, dated 19 December 1992, 4. Land Law No.01/97, dated 12 April 1997, 5. Law on Land No.04/NA, dated 21 October 2003, 6. Decree on the establishment and activities of land law No.101/PM, dated 20 April 2005, and 6. Decree on the promulgation of the Land Law No.88/PM, Vientiane Capital, dated 3 June 2008.

land user, the inspection of land use, dispute solution on land, the policies towards persons with outstanding performance and measures against violators.

An individual or organization that violates the laws and regulations relating to land and causes damage to the public, the environment, property, or health or life of others shall be fined or punished depending on the gravity of the case, including having to pay compensation for the losses caused.

An individual who has, while performing work concerning the land, violated the laws and regulations, such as: opportunistic use of position, abuse of power, taking bribes, and falsifying documents for personal benefit, and has thereby caused losses to the interests of the State, collectives or other individuals, shall be subject to criminal penalties including compensation of the losses caused. In addition to the above-mentioned main punishments, the offender may receive additional punishment such as: withdrawal of land certificate, land title, or other certificate concerning land use or land use rights.

Land Law No.04/NA, dated 21 October 2003 determine the regime on the management, protection and use of land in order to ensure efficiency and conformity with land-use objectives and with laws and regulations, and to contribute to national socio-economic development as well as to the protection of the environment and national borders of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Land of the Lao People's Democratic Republic is the land area which lies within the borders of the Lao PDR and includes the surface of the land, the ground under the surface, mountains, islands, as well as submerged land, water and air space. Land of the Lao PDR is the main national resource, which is where the Lao people live and work, and is an important means of production, socio-economic development, national defense and security.

Land of the Lao PDR is under the ownership of the national community as prescribed in Article 17 of the Constitution in which the State is charged with the centralized and uniform management of land throughout the country and with the allocation of land to individuals, families and economic organizations for use, lease or concession, the allocation to army units, State organizations, political organizations, the Lao Front for National Construction, and mass organizations for use, and the allocation to aliens, apatrids, foreign individuals and organizations of such persons for lease or concession.

The land management organization in the Lao PDR consists of: National land management authority;¹⁹⁹ Provincial and city land management authorities; District and municipal land management authorities; Village land units.

Land in the whole country is divided into the following regions and categories: 1. Classification of regions: plain regions, plateau regions and mountainous regions consisting of: Urban regions, Rural regions, Specific economic regions, Special economic regions; and 2. Classification of land categories: Agricultural Land, Forest land, Water area land, Industrial land, Communication land, Cultural land, Land for national defense and security, Construction land. Land registration is the certification, in accordance with the laws, of the land use rights of an individual or organization in order to avoid the falsification of land use rights, and to facilitate the management and protection of land in a uniform manner throughout the whole country.

The period of land lease or grant of concession from the State to aliens, apatrids or their organizations shall be based on the characteristics, size, and conditions of the intended operations on the land. The maximum period shall not exceed thirty years, but may be extended on a case by case basis in accordance with the approval of the government.

An individual or organization will acquire land use rights on any one of the following bases: 1. Allocation by the State; 2. Transfer; 3. Inheritance.

The holder of land use rights shall have the following rights: Right to protect land; Right to use land; Right of usufruct; Right to transfer the land use right; Right relating to inheritance of the land use right.

Aliens, apatrids, foreign individuals and their organizations living, investing, and conducting lawful activities in the Lao PDR may lease or receive concessions of land from the State.

Aliens, apatrids and their organizations wishing to lease developed land from Lao citizens must get prior approval from the provincial or city administrations where the land is located.

The period of land lease or grant of concession from the State to aliens, apatrids or their organizations shall be based on the characteristics, size, and conditions of the intended

¹⁹⁹ The Prime Ministerial Decree No.67/PM, Vientiane Capital, dated 18 May 2004 on the establishment and the operation of National Land Management Organization

operations on the land. The maximum period shall not exceed thirty years, but may be extended on a case by case basis in accordance with the approval of the government.

The maximum period for the lease of developed land by Lao citizens to aliens, apatrids and their organizations shall not exceed twenty years. This period may be extended on a case by case basis as agreed between the contracting parties with the approval of the provincial or city administration where the land is located.

The period of land lease or concession by the State to foreign individuals who come to invest in the Lao PDR shall be based on the characteristics, size, and conditions of the intended operations and project. The maximum period shall not exceed fifty years, but may be extended on a case by case basis as decided by the government.

The period of land lease by Lao citizens to foreign investors in the Lao PDR shall be based on the characteristics, size, and conditions of the intended operations and project, and shall not exceed thirty years, but may be extended on a case by case basis as agreed between the contracting parties with the approval of the national land management authority, based on the proposal of the provincial or city administration.

In specific economic zones and special economic zones, the maximum period for land lease shall not exceed seventy-five years, but may be extended on a case by case basis with the approval of the National Assembly.

For the lease or concession of land having an area exceeding ten thousand hectares, approval is required from the National Assembly.

The determination of the lease or concession period shall be based on the characteristics, size and conditions of each intended operation.

Embassies or international organizations wishing to use land in the Lao PDR may lease, exchange, or transfer land based on a contract between the government of the Lao PDR and the government of the concerned country. The lease term for this purpose shall not exceed ninety-nine years.

This law also provides for the measures on compensation for losses, policies towards persons with outstanding performance and measures against violators.

Decree on the Implementation of Land Law No.88/PM, Vientiane Capital, dated 3 June 2008 was issued for the purpose of implementing the Land Law relating to the management,

protection, use and development of land in an efficient, peaceful, and fair manner as well as ensuring the compliance with the set-targets and the uniformity of practice throughout the country.²⁰⁰ This law has a session on the promotion of land development.

The National Land Management Authority is charged with coordinating with line sectors and local administrative authorities to create conditions for the promotion of land development through: 1. Collecting data and formulating plans; 2. conducting a study on policies and regulations; 3. Making use of labour, land, material, capital, technique and technology contributed by the state, individuals, or organizations into land development to build infrastructure. The Government establishes the Land Development and Service State Enterprise to carry out the function of land development and land services based on the approval of the state. The organization and activities of the enterprise are laid out in a specific regulation.

From the date of promulgation of the Land Law, any individual or organization willing to use the land, shall submit an application to the land unit at village level which shall forward it to the Land Management Authority of district/municipality for scrutiny and, thereafter, submit to the district/municipality administrative authority for consideration within the scope of its jurisdiction. Those persons who, during the past period, had retained the land, which is not covered by the above mentioned paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 6 of this Decree, and who have developed the land, but have not yet received use rights, shall make the declaration to the concerned authorities requesting the land use rights.

All illegal land occupations shall be cancelled, and the court prosecution following the justice process shall be applied for any damages that occurred. Illegal land occupations are defined as follows:

1. Occupation of land in the area of conservation forest, unexploited forest, watershed forest, mining area land, cultural and archaeological sites, natural tourism site, historical sites and state preserved area.

2. Occupation of land without authorization in the forms of digging the land to form canals, planting trees, placing of religious marks, building fences, building houses or stalls to mark the boundaries or putting the demarcations along natural river and streams, then using the power to

²⁰⁰ This law reference to the Land Law No.04/NA, dated 21 October 2003

reserve the area for own use or abusing of authority, function and position to encroach the land within the state preserved area and the land which has not yet been allocated by the state.

Local administrative authorities and concerned authorities who possess mandates are not allowed to issue any certificate for granting the land use rights or land utilization rights to individuals or organizations for the following categories of land: 1. Protected forest, preserved forest and un-exploited forest land; 2. land in an area of natural water reservoirs; 3. land in the upstream area, land in a river source area, land along the pond, natural marsh and land preserved by the state; 4. state and collective land in a prohibited area; 5. land in a mining area; 6. land in a cultural area, archaeological site, historical site, and natural tourism places; 7. land for national defense and security; 8. communication land preserved for building roads or other public infrastructures; 9. land preserved for setting up electricity transmission lines; 10. land banned by the provision of the law.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Energy and Mining, Ministry Information and Culture, Ministry of National Defense, and Ministry of Security shall, in coordination with the National Land Management Authority, undertake the research on policies and regulations relating to the management of land use which is under each ministry's responsibilities, in order to submit to the government for approval.

Land Management Authority at local level is comprised of: 1. Land Management Authority of province/city; 2. Land Management Authority of district/municipality; 3. Village Land Unit. Land Management Authority at local level has its own specific regulations concerning the organization and activities set in different levels.

The land valuation at the central level, the National Land Management Authority, in coordination with concerned ministries and authorities, is in charge of conducting the valuation of land in each point, each region and each category, and to submit their findings to the government for approval. The purpose of land valuation is to serve in land registration, land acquisition, land lease or concession and the transfer of land use rights. The inspection and re-valuation shall be undertaken within a period of 2 years. At the local level, the Land Management Authority at provincial/city and district/municipality level shall be assigned to coordinate with concerned sectors to undertake the research and to make the proposals for

seeking comments from the administrative authority at the concerned level, and thereafter, submit the proposals to the National Land Management Authority for consideration and decision.

Land Management Authority of district/municipality and village land unit are charged with providing data and may be invited to take part in land valuation work at provincial/city level. Documents certifying the land use rights consist of: Land Title (Land Title is the highest legal document certifying the land use rights. Only the rightful persons whose names are included in the land title shall be considered as owners of the Land Title who shall have the right to use it as collateral, share; for selling, exchanging, leasing out, giving as inheritance. For applying the above-mentioned rights, the holder of the land title has the right to assign another person to act as his/her representative. However, the assignment of right shall be made in written form and shall be duly attested by the notary office or the chief of the village) Documents certifying the land utilization rights consist of: Land Survey Certificate, Land Certificate, Certificate of Land Ownership History, and Land Development Certificate.

Land Survey Certificate is a document certifying the land utilization rights assigned by the state to individuals or state organizations, political organizations, Lao Front for National Construction, mass organizations, and state economic organizations with a view to use it for various purposes based on each land category specified in the law. Organizations being granted a Land Survey Certificate, shall have no right to transfer, lease out, grant concessions, put in share or collateral. Individuals being granted Land Survey Certificate shall have only the right to manage, protect, use, usufruct, and inherit. In case that a holder of land survey certificate has already leased out or used the land as collateral with the bank or financial institution, such person shall request a Land Title to be used as a legal document certifying the land use rights.

Land Certificate is a document certifying the provisional land use issued by the district/municipal administrative authority, based on the land and forest allocation plan. After the period of 3 years of developing land, the holder of the Land Development Certificate shall have the right to apply for the Land Title which is the legal document certifying the land use rights.

Land Development Certificate is an official document issued by the concerned land use management sector, based on the development plan, in order to prove that the concerned

land parcel has been developed. This certificate is required for forming the land file for applying for land registration, as stipulate in Article 18 and 43 of the Land Law.

Certificate of Land Ownership History is the document certifying the acquisition of land which shows the historical evolution of the protection and use of land.

Law on Urban Plans No.03-99/NA, dated 3 April 1999 determines principles, regulations and measures regarding the management, land use, construction and building of structures at national and local levels to ensure conformity with policies and laws, aiming at urban development to meet the direction of the national socioeconomic development plan, ensuring that all social activities in the city maintain order, safety, discipline, hygiene, [and] civilization, as well as preserving ancient places, and the architectural work of cultural structures, meanwhile protecting the environment and natural scenery.

Work relating to urban plans refers to the arrangement and development of a city, together with the issuing of regulations and administrative measures relating to technical standards, the socio-economy and the preservation of the environment, in a manner that is harmonious, rational and consistent with socio-economic development in each period.

Urban planning shall be consistent with the level of socio-economic development at each area, and shall ensure the security, safety, social order, hygiene, comfort, cleanliness, aesthetics, ethnic cultural heritage and protection of the nation and the environment.

Urban Planning in the Lao PDR [is concerned with plans at] 4 four levels: 1. Urban plans at the national level; 2. Urban plans at the regional level; 3. Urban plans at the provincial level; 4. Urban plans at the district level.

The Ministry of Communication, Transport, Post and Construction shall have the right to determine strategic plans and design urban plans at national, regional and provincial levels for submission to the government. Individuals or organizations which have displayed outstanding performance in the implementation of regulations on urban plans will receive awards or other appropriate policies. Individuals or organizations that violate this law will be re-educated, made to pay compensation, fined or subject to criminal punishment, depending on the case.

Law on Building Control No.05/NA, dated 26 2009 determines the principles, regulations and measures on management, permission, controlling, monitoring, and inspection of all kinds of

construction to ensure building's quality, security, and convenience. All measures shall be transparent and harmonized with the urban planning and socio-economic plan, legalized and support the modern technology of construction in accordance with the standards and materials of the nation and other countries.

The building shall preserve the nation's identity, be landscape friendly and maintain the beauty of the city.

The construction shall apply the principles as follow; 1. The construction shall harmonize with the national socio-economic plan, master development plan of the planning authorities, urban planning, construction planning, technical principles and standards, and the cost estimate; 2. The ensuring of the quality, safety, and the negative impact which will not more than the standard of the law concerning the livelihood of the people, infrastructure, natural landscape, environment, and unlimited annoying making of the nearby residence; 3. The promotion of the development in accordance with the preservation and the protection of the cultural, historical and natural heritage of the nations; 4. The ensuring of construction standards and facilitating the disabled and old aged people; 5. The architect and the engineer shall seek the participation of the important foreign business investors; 6. The providing of environmental impact assessment and the public health. This law shall not apply to the specific construction businesses which operate under specific law.

The public infrastructure construction is defined in 3 categories as follows:

1. The public works and transportation sector such as transportation system, road, railway, port, tunnel, canal, and airport. The residential system such as house, building, hospital, temple, plant, filling station, gasoline pipeline, natural gas pipeline, stadium, public park, public transportation place. The water supply system such as water supply station, water supply pipeline, waste water tunnel. The telecommunication system such as satellite station, radio station;

2. Forest and agricultural sectors such as irrigation systems, irrigation ditches, wiers, reservoirs, etc.;

3. Energy and mining sectors such as power plant, power station, transfer system and the construction system for mine exploration, etc.

The scale of construction can be classified in 3 categories: large scale, medium scale and

small scale.

The construction process shall be composed of;

1. The probability of construction plan;
2. The surveying and designing of construction and materials;
3. The permission of construction; (Individuals or organizations that have construction objectives such as to construct, build, install, fix, extend, reform, modify, or change a building shall seek permission from the government authorities. The government authorities shall consider the request under the related law and regulations. The conditions of consideration shall consist of a request for the construction permission, the Land Survey Certificate or Land Certificate in accordance with Land Laws and other related laws, surveying and designing document which was accepted by the related government authorities according to this law, the soil excavation and filling permission in the construction site)
4. The management of construction site;
5. The operation of construction;
6. Construction control;
7. The management and utilization of constructions. (This law defines the obligation of the government to make the policy concerning construction, and urban planning in keeping with law and technical standards, safety, esthetic, the national identity and the use of environmental friendly construction material.)

This law provides the principles on construction business, construction contract, construction professional council, the prohibitions, dispute solution, management and inspection of construction the government shall centralize the construction control to make a unity of standards. The government assigned the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation to be a main body to cooperate with other related organizations such as energy and mining sectors, forest and agricultural sectors, trading and industrial sectors, sciences and technology organizations, and local administration in order to manage and take responsibility for construction works.

This law also provides the policies towards persons with outstanding achievements and the measures against violators. Individuals or organisations who violate this law will be subject to various sanctions, such as: re-education, administrative or penal measures, based on the

nature of the violation, including compensation of civil damages.

2.7 Law on the Promotion and Preservation of National Culture and Livelihood

The 2003 Constitution of Laos PDR, Chapter 1 The Political Regime, Article 8 provides that “The State pursues the policy of promoting unity and equality among all ethnic groups. All ethnic groups have the right to protect, preserve and promote the fine customs and cultures of their own tribes and of the nation. All acts creating division and discrimination among ethnic groups are prohibited.”²⁰¹ The resolution of the National Assembly No.213/NA, dated 24 November 2008 on the promulgation of the name and the number of ethnic groups determines that Laos has 49 ethnic groups, classified to 4 language groups; 8 ethnic groups of Lao-Tai, 32 ethnic groups of Mon- Kmer, 2 ethnic groups of Mong-Hue Panyan and 7 ethnic groups of Chinese-Tibetan. They can be classified in 3 major groups; Lao Lum, Lao Teng, and Lao Sung.

According to the Constitution, the state provides the Law on Culture and Livelihood which appear in Law on Family No.07/90/NA, dated 29 November 1990. This law was revised in 2008 by Family Law No.05/NA, dated 26 July 2008.

The Family Law No.05/NA, dated 26 July 2008 defines the regulations, principles, and the measures on proposals, marriage, causes of divorce, adoption of children, the matrimonial relationship, property of the married couple, rights and obligations of parents and children, the protection and creation of strong families to develop the nation, the creation of cultural family under the principle of voluntary and equality of marriage, promote the productivity of human

²⁰¹ The State pursues the policy of promoting unity and equality among all ethnic groups. In Chapter 2 of the 2003 Constitution defines the obligation of the state to promotes preservation of the national culture which is representative of the fine tradition of the country and its ethnic people while accepting selected progressive cultures from around the world. The State shall promote cultural activities, fine arts and invention, manages and protects the cultural, historical and natural heritage and maintains antiques and historical places. The State attends to improving and expanding mass media activities for the purpose of national protection and development. All cultural and mass media activities which are detrimental to national interests or the fine traditional culture and dignity of Lao people are prohibited. Article 30 (new) provides that: “The State and society promote, develop and open up the country to cultural and historical tourism and eco-tourism. Tourism which is detrimental to the fine culture of the nation or which contravenes the laws and regulations of the Lao People's Democratic Republic is prohibited.”

and the fine culture of nation. This law aims at fostering a society with peace and order, ensures national economic strength.

The basic principles of the Family Law also appear in this law such as the gender equality, the freedom of marriage, the age of the married couple which should not be less than 18 years old, the consent to marry, the prohibition for the forced or obstructed marriage, monogamy policy, the obligations of the state to protect the rights of mothers and children, the development of family, the compensation for the sexual relationship before marriage, etc.

The condition of marriage, the registration of marriage which shall be proposed to the local official of the couple and the officer shall consider within 1 month and the marriage registration shall be performed in front of 3 witnesses. The marriage ceremony is not required under the legal conditions. Wives shall have the right to select her husband's family name or maintain her family name. The termination of marriages is from: 1. Court decision as a void marriage: 2. Divorce: 3. Divorced by the decision of court: 4. the death of husband or wife: 5. The death by court decision when a spouse disappears without informing them or without sending news or goods for the family's [needs] for more than three years.

The husband or wife may ask for a divorce based on any of the following reasons: 1. Adultery: 2. Use of violence or gross insults against each other or against parents or relatives, or behavior evidencing a seriously inappropriate attitude making co-habitation impossible (such as regular drinking or gambling): 3. Abandoning the family without informing them or without sending news or goods for the family's needs for more than three years: 4. The husband is definitely a monk or novice or the wife becomes a white nun: 5. The spouse has been convicted of a criminal offence and the penalty imposed is imprisonment of more than five years: 6. Dangerous serious disease making co-habitation impossible: 7. Mental illness making co-habitation impossible: 8. Incapacity of sexual act: 9. Incompatibility of spouses making co-habitation impossible.

This law also provides the policies towards persons with outstanding achievements, the measures against violators concerning the conditions of marriage, the acts against the marriage, the forgery of marriage certificates or child adopting registration. Individuals or organizations that violate this law will be subject to various sanctions, such as: re-education, administrative or penal measures, based on the nature of the violation, including compensation of civil damages.

Law on Heritage and Basis of Inheritance No.02/PSA, dated 8 December 2008 determines the obligations of the state to enact the policy on the protection of the right and benefit of persons to convey their heritage to an organization or foundation. Inheritance is the devolution of properties, rights and obligations of the deceased to an entitled heir according to the law or to the will.

Rights of inheritance by law shall be as follow; 1. Children, 2. Surviving spouse. 3. Relatives of Direct Lineage, 4. Relatives of Horizontal Lineage, 5, State or juristic person determined by this law.

In the event that a person dies leaving a spouse and children behind, the children have the right to inherit the initial assets of the deceased person. The matrimonial property shall be divided into two equal parts, the first half to be given to the surviving spouse and the other half to be divided into equal portions among the children. The surviving spouse has the right to administer the assets devolved upon children who have not reached the age of maturity.

In the event that a person dies without offspring leaving behind only a spouse and relatives of direct lineage, the distribution of heritage shall be executed as follows:

1. Relatives of direct lineage will receive the part of heritage composed of all the initial assets of the deceased person in the order of closeness with the deceased by dividing it into equal portions;

2. The surviving spouse will receive only all of the matrimonial property belonging to the deceased person.

If the deceased person has neither offspring nor relatives of direct lineage, but leaves a spouse behind, the relatives of horizontal lineage will only receive half of the initial assets of the deceased person, and the other half and all matrimonial property will devolve upon the surviving spouse.

The distribution of heritage among the children of the deceased person shall be executed as follows:

1. If the deceased person only has offspring, the heritage devolved upon them shall be shared in equal portions;

2. If the deceased has offspring, adopted children and stepchildren, the adopted and

stepchildren will receive equal portions as the offspring;

In all cases, the stepchildren will only receive the part of heritage composed of the matrimonial property of the deceased;

3. Adopted children will have no right to inherit from their original parents;

4. If the above-mentioned children have behaved unfairly to their parents, have refused to be maintained under their parents, or have failed to take care of their parents during old age or illness although they have the capacity to do so, [they] will be considered as forfeiting their right of inheritance and will be treated in the same manner as described in paragraph 2 of Article 9 of this law.

Right to inheritance by will is classified in 2 types as the written will and the verbal will. This law also has the policies towards persons with outstanding achievements and the measures against violators. Individuals or organizations that violate this law will be subject to various sanctions, such as: re-education, administrative or penal measures, based on the nature of the violation, including compensation of civil damages.

Law on Cultural Heritage

Decree of the President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the preservation of cultural, historical and natural heritage No.03/SPP, dated 20 June 1997 determines the principles, regulations, and measures on the protection and preservation of national heritage. The law aims to preserve the value of national cultural, historical and natural heritage including movable and immovable properties. This law also aims to encourage a conscious love of citizens for their nation and fine national traditions.

In 2005, Laos's government enacted the Law on National Heritage No.08/NA 9 November 2005.

Law on National Heritage No.08/NA 9 November 2005 provides the terminology and makes a precise identification of national heritage. Socio-economic development shall proceed side by side with protection and conservation of the national heritage. This law also has many measures such as the level of cultural and historical national heritage; administrative regulations on the administration, use, protection, conservation and restoration of national cultural and historical heritage; regulations on the administration, use, protection, conservation, restoration

and rehabilitation of natural, national heritage, museums, national heritage fund, administrative and inspection agencies, the policies towards persons with outstanding achievements, the measures against violators. Individuals or organizations that violate this law will be subject to various sanctions, such as: re-education, administrative or penal measures, based on the nature of the violation, including compensation of civil damages.

Law on Archaeological Site, Antiquities, and Fossil

There are four laws concerning the protection of archaeological sites, antiquities, and fossils; the Decree No.158/PM, dated 24 August 1996 on the promulgation of regulations on planning on Luang Pra Bang, Decree No.175/PM, dated 6 November 2003 on the promulgation of the preservation and value of Luang Prabang as the world heritage, Decree No.31/PM, dated 1 February 2012 on the promulgation of the planning of Luang Prabang the world heritage site (which determines the world heritage planning for 2012-2017), and the Decree No.278/PM, dated 29 September 2009 on the promulgation of the master plan on strengthening Viengxai preservation planning 2006-2026.

Law on Handicraft and Local Wisdom

Decree No.194/PM, dated 17 December 2004 on the National Artists defines the regulations, standards, conditions, and other measures to award the National Artist. In order to protect, promote, and pay honor to all Laos artists, these rewards shall elevate the status of the National Artists in both the nation and internationally. This law classifies arts in 6 categories; literature, performance, fine arts, sculpture, architecture, and handicraft.

Law on Handicraft No.02/NA, dated 25 July 2008 defines the principles, regulations, and standards on the protection, the promotion, and the development of handicraft works in order to make a high quality of handicraft works and make income for people. The preservation of the ancient cultural traditions and techniques is the important concept of this law. The government has determined that every November 1, is the national handicraft day.

Law on Tourism No.10/NA, 9 November 2005, determines the principles, regulations, and measures on the establishment, tourists' protection, and tourism promotions. This law promotes the sustainability of cultural, historical, and environmental tourism. The important

measures which appear in this law such as the encouraging of an understanding between the people; unity making; the cooperation with international organizations; the tourism protections by the state; measures on departure and arrival of tourists; development of tourism and tourism business; the prohibition on tourism; the protections and inspections of tourism; the policies towards persons with outstanding achievements and the measures against violators. Individuals or organizations that violate this law will be subject to various sanctions, such as: re-education, administrative or penal measures, based on the nature of the violation, including compensation of civil damages.

Chapter 3

Law on Politics and Security

Laos became a one-party socialist state in 1975 and the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) was proclaimed on 2 December 1975, with the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) the only legal political party. Prince Souphanouvong became the first president, leader of the country (1975-1991), and Prime Minister Kaysone Phomvihane was the head of government at that time. The Lao political system and government policies have been firmly influenced by Marxist – Leninist ideology and the one legal political party in control is the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) [formerly the Lao People's Party (LPP)]. Various government policies were established, such as the Lao Front for National Construction (Neo Lao Xang Sat), races, power, government, freedom and rights, democracy, and the Female's Liberation policy

The Lao constitution was promulgated by the Supreme People's Assembly (now the National Assembly) on 14 August 1991. Since then the nation has been governed by the democratic socialist government from the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, exercising power according to the principle of democratic centralism. However, the local administration and local organizations are set in the constitution. Thus, there are two levels of governance according to the Lao constitution: 1) central government administration and 2) local government administration.

1. National Government Administration

The state government is governed by the President, the head of state, who is elected by National Assembly for a 5-year term.²⁰² According to the Constitution of the Lao PDR and the Amended Law on the Government of the Lao PDR, the institutional structure of the state government consists of four institutions:

- 1) Prime Minister's Office
- 2) Ministries and Ministry - Equivalent Organizations
- 3) Departments and other organizations attached to the government
- 4) Departments

²⁰² The term occupied is the same length as the National Assembly of the Lao PDR.

There are 18 ministries as follows: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Energy and Mines, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Post, Telecom and Communication, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ministry of Public Work and Transportation, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism, Ministry of Planning and Investment and Ministry of Science and Technology. And there are 3 Ministry - equivalent organizations, including Government's Office, Bank of Lao PDR, and Government Inspection Authority. Each ministry contains departments and department-equivalent organizations.

2. Local Government Administration

As stated in the Constitution of the Lao PDR and the Law on Local Administration, the Lao local administration is divided into three levels: provinces, districts and villages²⁰³.

- 1) The provincial levels consist of provinces and cities;
- 2) The district levels consist of districts and municipalities;
- 3) The village levels consist of villages²⁰⁴.

There are 17 Laotian provinces: Attapue, Bokeo, Bolikhamxai, Champasak, Huaphan, Khammuan, Luang Namtha, Luangphabang, Oudomxai, Phongsali, Salavan, Savannakhet, Vientiane Province, Xaiyabuli, Xaisomboun, Sekong, Xiangkhuang, and Vientiane Capital⁵.

Besides government organizations, Lao's administration has only one political party which is the Lao People's Revolutionary Party: LPRP. The LPRP is the main political party and this party is the supreme organization that holds conventions twice a year annually. The administration of Lao is based on the rules and policies of the LPRP including the central committee (Politburo); the central committee members are elected from the members of the party so that their duties are about all of the processes in the party's administrative operation⁶. Lao has a unicameral system which is the National Assembly of the Lao PDR covering administration, legislation, judiciary, budget, enactment and legislative amendment, and the

²⁰³ The Constitution of the Lao PDR 2003, Article 75.

²⁰³ The Law on Local Administration of Lao PDR, Number 03/ສພຊ Vientiane on 21 October 2003.

operations of the governments. The President of the country is the head of the LPRP, and the Prime Minister becomes the head of the government; each position occupant shall retain their office for a term of 5 years. The election of the House of Representatives⁷ is based on the unicameral system, the Lao PDRP shall propose the members of the party to join the House of the Representative by direct nomination and sequence⁸, most of them will become the National Assembly Committee, and the President⁹. Then, the President will appoint the Prime Minister and the government officers,¹⁰ which are affirmed by the National Assembly.

The politburo is elected from the members of the LPRP¹¹, each stage of election will be considered by the LPRP's committees (from general to the central section) following the required qualifications¹². This operation is based on People's Democratic Principle¹³ which decentralizes the administrative power for choosing their own representatives in each area in the main congresses. The operation of political party has followed the LPRP's principles through the main congress (The 9th congress is the most recent which was held from the 17th to the 21st March, 2011, the conclusions and rules of the 9th congress have been enforced since 1st May, 2011).

Table of the 1st – 9th Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party

Significant situations	Establishment of LPRP in 1955	Lao's independence In 1975							
Duration of the congress of LPRP	The 1 st Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party in 1955	The 2 nd Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party in 1972	The 3 rd Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party in 1982	The 4 th Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party in 1986	The 5 th Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party during 1991- 1995	The 6 th Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party during 1996 - 2000	The 7 th Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party during 2001 - 2005	The 8 th Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party during 2001 - 2010	The 9 th Congress of Lao People's Revolutionary Party during 2011 - 2015
	Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) was established on 22 nd March 1955.	Jao Supanuvong was the first president of the country (1975 - 1991), Mr.Kaysone Promviharn was the prime minister.	Summarized the victory of Lao People' Democracy in the new stage. There was cooperation with Vietnam and Cambodia's parliamentary committees.	Mr.Phoomee Vongvijit was the surrogate of the president (1986-1991).	The collapse of Soviet Union, Mr.Kaysone Promviharn was the president of the country (1991-1992), and Mr. Kamtai Sipandorn was the prime minister.	Mr. Kamtai Sipandorn was the president of the country (1998 - 2006), Mr.Srihawan Koobun was prime minister (1998 - 2001).	Mr. Kamtai Sipandorn was the president of the country (1998 - 2006), Mr.Boonyung Vorragit was prime minister (2001 - 2006).	The new goals of the meeting pointed to social-economic development, and world situations. Mr. Joommalee Chaisorn was the president of the country, Mr.Buasorn Boobpawan was prime minister (2006 - 2010).	Mr. Joommalee Chaisorn was the president of the country again, Mr. Thongsin Tammavongpen is prime minister (2010 - present).

Political and administrative policy	The main focuses were peace, harmony, independence, and democracy following 9 strategies and 12 political and development processes.	Marxism – Leninism was the main focus for national protection and improvement. The congress has specified the policy in many aspects such as national alliances, administrative power, liberty and rights, democracy and women’s right	The congress specified the goals of new revolution in Lao PDR.	There were five important aspects which were harmony, duties and responsibilities, economic operation based on internal and external factors, cooperation with socialist states, and preparing for moving to socialism	It was the period of democratic construction and all of significant factors of socialism must be considered.	Moving Lao from being undeveloped country to be a developed country, and focusing on social – economic development	There were five resolutions from the meeting; belief in Marxism-Leninism and socialism, the strength and development of the party, political strategies, democracy, and the power of people.	International relations were a concern and the status of the party has to be increased in domestic and international events.	The congress’s committees guaranteed the concept of unity which is the main part of national development.
The head of LPRP and the committees	There were 17 administrative committees in	There was an election the board of the	It was the first formal congress open	Important aspects were changed and		Khamtai Siphandon became the	A total of 452 delegates represented the	A total of 498 delegates represented the	A total of 576 delegates represented the

	<p>the “Lao People Party” led by MR.Kaysone Promviharn (Secretary General of LPRP)</p>	<p>party and committees. 7 general committees were appointed and MR.Kaysone Promviharn became secretary general of the LPRP. In this meeting, they changed the name of the party from the Lao People Party to the “Lao People’s Revolutionary Party”</p>	<p>to domestic and international countries. 228 attendants were the representative from all organizations (105 Lao committees, 11 international guests, 55 administrative committees, and 6 supporters). MR.Kaysone Promviharn was the Secretary General of LPRP.</p>	<p>it was led by MR.Kaysone Promviharn. There were 303 attendants chosen from 45,000 committees of party, 200 Lao guests, 60 administrative committees, 51 complete committees and 9 supporters. The number of LPRP had expanded to fifty-one members and nine alternates</p>		<p>leader of the party; a total of 381 delegates represented the party’s 78,000 card-carrying members. Furthermore, there were special guests from LPRP, Vietnam, and Cambodia.</p> <p>The board of the party included 9 directors, 49 central committee persons, and 4 women.</p>	<p>party’s 100,000 card-carrying members. Khamtai Siphandon was the leader of the party. The board of the party included 11 directors 53 central committee persons.</p>	<p>party’s 148,590 card-carrying members. 55 attendantes were chosen to be the central committees of the party. Mr <u>Choummaly Sayasone</u> was the chairman of the party. There were 11 politburos and 7 secretariats, and 3 committees for controlling the party’s operation</p>	<p>party’s 191,700 card-carrying members. There are 61 politburos. Mr <u>Choummaly Sayasone</u> was the chairman of the party. Mr.Booyung Vorrajit is the secretary of the central party. The chairman and vice-chairman of controlling organizations were elected.</p>
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3.1 The Law on the Developmental Potentiality of the Bureaucracy

The Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR) has been reforming the administrative system of the country since 1997. The main goal is to overwhelm the status of being Undeveloped Country before 2020. Furthermore, Lao points to the bureaucracy's projects which are supported by The United Nations and the developmental potentiality of Lao's Bureaucracy has been reformed in the developmental plan of Nation Administration during 2011-2015; this plan has specified the policy and budget in terms of the enhancement of the bureaucratic system and modernization. There are various supporting organizations such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), Social Development Capital (SDC), and Capacity Development and Modernization Fund (GPAR). This government's developed plan is designed by the Ministry of Home Affairs¹⁴; the Ministry of Home Affairs' responsibilities are coordination and managements following three main objectives: 1. Increasing the productive system of assessment and administration 2. Developing the government services which are verifiable and efficient, 3. Supporting the productive public services. The operation is based on the resolution of Politburos¹⁵ of the Lao People's Revolution Party, No.03/PRP which is categorized in the session of building the strengths of district (strategic sector), town (power sector) and home (developed sector).

This resolution is regarded as the supporting policies of the government in terms of central unit, district unit, and local unit. In 2009, there are 9 projects of government service's development; the early process is "one stop service" that has been used for the first time at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, the Supreme People Court, and the Lao Front for National Construction (LFNC). The district section is set at Bokeo, Xaignabouli, Kammouan, and Attapu. Then, the town section is also developed including operations, establishment of the office, the information of government officers, specification of the government officer's vacancies, and the evaluation of the government officers' work.

3.1.1 Law on Bureaucracy

(1) Law and Government

The Lao government specifies six articles (69th – 74th article) in the 7th chapter of the constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; it stated what the government of the State's duties are in all areas including political, economic, cultural, social, national defense and security, and foreign affairs.

The government consists of the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister[s], ministers and chairmen of the ministry-equivalent organizations. The term of officers of the governments is five years. According to the Law on the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on 6th May 2003, the government has the obligation to respect the Constitution, Law, Resolutions of the National Assembly, presidential edicts and decrees. This Constitution has stated the right and duties of the government completely as follows:

1. To present the draft laws and presidential edicts to the National Assembly and then the government will submit the draft presidential decrees to the President of the State.
2. To specify the strategic plans on socio-economic development and annual State budgets and then the government submits their works to the National Assembly for consideration and approval.
3. To report on its performance to the National Assembly, or to the National Assembly Standing Committee and to report to the President of the State.
4. To issue decrees and resolutions on State administration, socio-economic management, [and] management in the fields of science and technology¹², national resources, environment, national defense and security and foreign affairs
5. To organize and oversee the activities of the sectored organizations, local administrations, the national defense and security forces.
7. To sign treaties and agreements with foreign countries and guide their implementation.
8. To suspend the implementation of or cancel decisions [or] instructions of the ministries, ministry-equivalent organizations, organizations under the government's management and local administrations if they contradict the laws.

9. To exercise such other rights and performs such other duties as provided by the laws.

The government structure consists of 18 Ministries, which are the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Ministry of Energy and Mines, the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Planning and Investment, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Post, Telecom and Communication, the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment and the Ministry of Home Affairs. Furthermore, there are three organizations which are the Equivalent including the Government's Office, the Bank of Lao PDR and the ministries Government Inspection Authority.

The Prime Minister is appointed by the President of the State and approved by the National Assembly. The Prime Minister is the head of the government; the roles and the duties of the Prime Minister are to direct and facilitate operations and work of the government to control and submit resolutions of the National Assembly and resolutions of the meeting of the government, and to monitor the activities of ministries, ministry-equivalent organizations, provinces, cities and other organizations that are directly under the government.

The meeting of the government will be held once every month. The Prime Minister will convene and preside at the meeting, if it is urgent and deemed necessary, an extraordinary session may be convened upon the decision of the Prime Minister or upon the request of at least one-third of the total members of the government. In the meeting of the government, the government has to invite the mayors to attend its meetings twice a year, in order to operate and direct the operations of local administrations. The issues for the meeting of the government shall be discussed and considered in significant topics for making the agreement including the strategy plan, the socio-economic development plan, the annual State budgets and budget adjustments, the drafts of laws, presidential edicts and decrees, and Prime Minister's decrees, the creation, dissolution, merger or division of ministries, ministry-equivalent organizations, provinces, cities or special zones and the defining of borderlines between provinces, cities or special zones before their proposal to the National Assembly for consideration and approval, the creation, dissolution, merger or division of organizations that are

directly under the government, the creation, dissolution, merger, division or definition of the border between districts and municipalities, the summary of activities of the government, the National defense and security, and foreign affairs, the contents of negotiations, conventions, and agreements with foreign countries, and the reports to the National Assembly and the President of the State.

The working method of the government; the government carries out its affairs based on the principle of democratic centralism by integrating collective responsibility with personal accountability. The meeting of the government is the main form by which the government conducts its activities. The members of the government have an obligation to respect each others' duties and roles. In case of disagreement and some conflicts among the members, they have to submit this issues to the Prime Minister for the consideration and solution. Furthermore, the operations of Foreign Affairs and National Relations have to be approved by the Prime Minister.

The government has the obligation to report on the implementation of its annual operations to the National Assembly and to propose strategic plans for socio-economic development, state budgets and amendments to the State budget to the National Assembly for consideration and approval, and to clarify or explain, or to respond to questions from members [of the National Assembly] regarding the performance of the duties of the government or of any member of the government.

The government coordinates with the People's Supreme Court and the Office of the Supreme Public Prosecutor to monitor the application of the laws and to prevent negative occurrences in society. When it is deemed necessary, the government may invite the President of the People's Supreme Court and the Supreme Public Prosecutor to attend government meetings.

The government must coordinate with the Lao Front for National Construction, the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union, Trade Union, the Lao Women's Union and other social organizations for consultation and exchange of views, to encourage these organizations to participate in public administration, and socio-economic management, to inform these organizations on the direction and resolutions of the government, and other important matters, and to respond to their concerns and develop conditions to enable the Lao Front for National

Construction, mass organizations and social organizations to perform their roles. If deemed necessary, the government may also invite the Lao Front for National Construction, mass organizations and social organizations to attend government meetings.

(2) The Law of Local Administration

The Constitution of Lao PDR has described the local administration of Lao in chapter 8, there are 4 articles including 75th -78th articles. The levels of local administration are divided into three levels which are 1. The provincial level consists of 17 provinces and 1 capital (Attapu, Bokeo, Bolikhamxai, Champasak, Houaphan, Khammouan, Luang Namtha, Phongsali, Louangphabang, Oudoxai, Savannakhet, Xaignabouli, Xekong, Xaisomboun, Xiangkhouang, and Vientiane which is the capital of Lao PDR), 2. The district level consists of districts and municipalities, 3. The village level consists of villages. If it deems it necessary, the National Assembly may decide to establish a Special Zone. The Special Zone is equivalent to a province such as Xaisomboun province.

The Law on local administration No.01/NA was issued on October, 25th 2003, it set forth the duties of the organizations of the local administration; the local organizations must be the representative of the government concerning their responsibilities of political administration, economic, socio-cultural development, fundamental structures, human resource improvement, natural and environmental preservation, national security, local peace, and the activities of foreign affairs which are established by the government.

Provinces are governed by governors, cities are governed by governors of cities, districts are governed by mayors, municipalities are governed by chiefs of municipalities and villages are administered by village chiefs. They have their own duties in roles respecting Law and the Constitution of Lao PDR and they must follow the decisions and orders of the higher authorities. Furthermore, they have to guide and oversee the activities of all organizations and all levels of authorities under their jurisdiction, to suspend or cancel the decisions of sectors at their own or lower levels, which contradict the laws and regulations, to manage citizens within the scope of their rights and powers under the laws, to consider and resolve the complaints and proposals of the people and to exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as provided by the law.

The chiefs of municipalities have the rights and duties to plan, implement and administer urban development and public services throughout the municipality, to ensure order and cleanliness in accordance with urban planning, and to exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as provided by the laws and regulations. The village chiefs have the responsibility to organize the implementation of the laws, decisions and orders of the State, to maintain the peace and public order of the village, and to develop the villages in all fields¹⁶. Hence, the levels of local administrations which are the provincial level, the district level, and the village level¹⁷ mentioned previously are as follows:

1. The Provincial Level : Provinces and Cities

- The Components of Provinces and Cities

Provincial level is a part of local administration that consists of provinces and cities; the municipality is the central area of the cities, economy, social and culture, and service leading to the development of society and economy. For instance, Vientiane province consists of many cities and municipalities.

The administrative structure and human resource management of the provinces and cities includes related sectors¹⁸ as follows;

- The provincial or city cabinet
 - The local divisions of the line ministries and ministry equivalent organizations
- Human resource management of the provinces and cities will be categorized as follows:

- The Governor/Mayor
- The Vice-Governor/Vice Mayor
- The Chief and Deputy Chief of the Provincial/City Cabinet
- Director and Deputy Director of the departments
- Personnel appointed in provincial and city administrations

At the present time, there is just one city which is Vientiane. The roles and duties of the governors of the provinces or city are being the head of administrative offices following the policies and all works which are established by the government. The governors are appointed, removed or dismissed by the President of the state based on the report of the Prime Minister. The term of the office for governors is five years and one governor cannot hold the office for more than two terms.

The Vice Governor, Vice Mayor are appointed, transferred or demoted by the Prime Minister based on a proposal by the Governor/Mayor and shall have a five-year office term and may be reappointed.

2. The District Level²⁰

1) The components of district

A district is a level of local administration under the supervision of a Province or Capital city. The organization structure of the district administration is comprised of the following:

- The District Cabinet
- The field offices of the line ministries and equivalent offices in the district

The personnel of district administration are comprised of:

- Chief of district
- Vice Chief of district
- Chief and Deputy Chief of the District Cabinet
- Director and Deputy Director of line offices in the district
- Permanent staff of the district administration

2) Creation of the District

The creation, abolition, division, merger of land area of a district is defined and proposed by the governor and mayor and approved by the government. The District Chief is appointed, transferred or demoted by the Prime Minister based on the proposal of the Governor/Mayor. The District Chief shall have a five - year term of office and can be reappointed for one more term in the same position. The Vice District Chief is appointed, transferred or demoted by the Governor/Mayor based on a proposal by the District Chief and shall have a five- year office term and may be reappointed.

3. Municipal Administration

Municipality is the local administration which is located in the provinces, cities or special zones. The municipality consists of dense villages which are developing the significant issues such as economic, politic, socio-cultural section, and local administration.

The component of municipal administration is “Home” which is as same as the district level.

The provincial administrations must establish the municipalities. In case of all conditions the approval based on Law is necessary; other cities can set up the municipalities. The mayor of the municipality is the mayor of the administration and representative of the municipality. She/he is responsible to the provincial/city to fulfill their role, authority and duties. The organization structure of the municipal administration is comprised of the following:

- The municipal administration Cabinet
- Field offices of the line ministries and equivalent organizations
- Technical and service units.

The municipality consists of the municipality mayor, the vice municipality, the chief, the vice chief, the head of office and other officers. The Municipality Mayor is appointed, transferred or demoted by the Prime Minister based on the proposal of the Governor/ City Mayor. The Municipality Mayor shall have a five - year term of office and can be reappointed for one more term in the same position. The Vice Municipality Mayor is appointed, transferred or demoted by the Governor/ City Mayor based on a proposal of the Municipality Mayor and shall have a five- year office term and may be reappointed.

4. The Village Administration

The village is a unit of local administration at the grassroots level. It is under the supervision of the district or municipality. A village is comprised of several households. A village is headed by a Village Chief and assisted by a Deputy Chief and some functional units. The Village Chief is elected by eligible voters in the village and acknowledged by the Chief of District or Mayor of Municipality. In special circumstances, the Village Chief may be appointed or removed by the Chief of District or Mayor of Municipality. The Deputy Village Chief can be appointed or removed by the Chief of District/ Mayor of Municipality in accordance with the proposal of the Village Chief. The term of office of the Village Chief and Deputy Village Chief is three years. They can be re-elected or re-appointed.

A village is created, merged, divided, abolished or its land area defined by the governor/mayor in accordance with the proposals of the district chief or mayor of municipality. The village chief, who is the chief executive of the village administration, represents the village and is responsible to the district, or municipality administration and all villagers, in the

implement of his/her role, authority and duties.

Local administration finance has two levels of budget: provincial budget unit and district budget unit. The village is a basic unit for revenue collection and it incurs expenditures following rules and laws provided by the district level budget unit. Local administration finance must operate in line with the principles of centralized state budget; also the local budget shall be managed according to rules and laws and implement socio-economic development plans and annual plans which are approved by government for local administration. The person who has the highest financial decision making function is the Governor/Mayor or a person assigned by the Governor/Mayor of the province/city. At the district administration level, it is the Chief of District/Mayor or a person who is assigned to this role.

(3) Decree on Law Commission

Law on Bureaucracy of Lao PDR is based on the Decree on Law commission No. 82/PM on May 19th 2003; this decree consists of roles, duties, principles and responsibilities of the government officers of Lao PDR.

The government officers of Lao PDR are Lao people who are appointed and assigned in the organizations of Lao's People Revolution Party, government, the central public organization, local administration, Lao representative office and foreign offices which get salaries and a supportive budget from the government budget. However, this decree does not include the higher government officers (Prime Minister, Deputy Minister, and equivalent positions). Furthermore, soldiers, police, state enterprise officers, and temporary employees are discussed in the specific Law.

The supervision of the government officers must follow the concept of the democratic centralism by distributing the supervision into various sections; the cooperation between the central office with other sectors (trade, agriculture, and forest) and local offices. The government officers have to pass an exam before assignment to each position based on equality, accountability, knowledge, competence and rate of vacancy.

In addition, the Decree on Law commission No. 82/PM on May 19th 2003 also specifies the position of the commissioners of the Lao PDR which consists of 5 levels. Each level is composed of 3 positions and each position will have different salaries, amount of officers and duties. The description will be specified properly following economic expansion. The first and

second level of the commissioners are called administrative assistant, the third, the fourth and the fifth level are called technical officers. In each level includes three positions; the third position is the highest position which is rated as a senior level. In addition, the position of administrators and commissioners are specified which refers to the rights, duties and responsibilities for suggestions and management of the operation of the government officers (the structure of the organization is divided into central and local section). The commissioners must be faithful and honest to the country, obey the order of the director or chief, be responsible for their own duties, be honest and sincere with Lao people, respect the law and the principles for government officers, join in political and socio-economic events, and listen to the opinions and requests of Lao people. The new government officers who are appointed have to work for local/municipal/village administration for at least 2 years. The international and domestic scholarships for government officers is one of the benefits that after they have graduated, they have to come back to work in the country for at least double the years of spent studying. If they do not follow the rules of the scholarship, they have to pay double indemnity. Beside, the benefits of the officers include salary, pension, retirement and subsidy of treasury and government welfare. The officers who work in the rural areas or dangerous zones will get incidental payment, vacation, official holiday, sick leave, maternity leave in individual cases. The prohibition of the officers are specified in various terms; the government officers cannot be the owner or the director/manager of a public business (exceptional case will be considered), the government officers cannot be the consultants of the public organizations or business works which are related to the country's secrets, the government officers cannot take a leave without the permission of the leaders in their department, they cannot use the power illegitimately, the government officers cannot appoint or promote their relatives or partisans in to important positions and tasks such as administration, audit, secretary, finance, material store or purchasing officers.

The appointment of the commissioners is stipulated so that the ministry, organizations, and local administrations can grant permission for the designation of new officers in each administrative department. The internship of the new government officers has been stated so that the training is divided based on duration of training including the first stage (3 months), the intermediate stage (6 months), the advanced stage (bachelor degree), and the highest level

which is master degree and doctorate (12 months). Next section is the status of the commissioners; the transference of the officers is categorized into three conditions which depend on the permission of the leader or head of the department, the requirement of the government officers that are approved by the chief, and the disciplinary punishment. Furthermore, the performance appraisal is categorized into five standards following excellent, very good, good, fair, and poor. The criteria of the assessment will be set up by the central department of the government officers which is going to lead to the promotion of each position. The promotion of the government officers depends on four conditions including the certificate/education level, the rotation, the test score, and administrative position (this position is established for the person who are the part of revolution of Lao PDR). The reward and emolument can be granted in various ways such as salary increase, decorations for goodness and the commemorative certificate. In addition, the disciplinary action of the commissioners can be separated into three levels; 1. warning by recoding their faults 2. abeyance in terms of salary increases, promotion, rewards, and the degradation 3. dismissal from office. The roles and duties of the committees in the disciplinary process of the government officers are grouped into 3 groups; 1. the committees from the ministries and equivalent organizations which are led by the cabinet minister and the chief of the equivalent administrative organization 2. the committees from district and provincial administrations led by the mayors or the chief/the representatives, the committees must attend the meeting of at least two-thirds of all of the committees members and then the officers who are inspected will defend themselves by showing convincing evidence and explanations. The next section is training and development of the officers that are divided into three parts including foundational training, annual training, and training for new government officers. The last part is the termination of the government officers, the officers will be terminated from the government departments in cases of death, retirement, resignation, be punishment. The retirement of the male and female officers are different; male officers can work until they are 60 years old, but female officers retire at 55. The regulation and monitoring for the government offices can be divided into four sections covering central department, ministry or equivalent organization, provincial organization and the district organization.

3.1.2 Principles of Administrative Law

The effectiveness of the administration in the Lao PDR focuses on checking the work of the government in many important aspects as follows:

(1) Law on State Inspection

Law on state inspection of the Lao People's Democratic Revolution No.02/PDR on July 2nd 2007, this law specifies the process, rules, and the performance standards of inspection of the government. This law is promulgated for the strength of the government's work, the capability, investigation of the weak points (legal infringement, corruption, weak administration and management). Then, those problems will be resolved and the work and management of the government will improve. The strength of the government is for the benefit of Lao people and the development of the country's socio-economic development.

Government surveillance involves inspection and collection all of the evidence about the operation and management of the government officers and organizations since the information is used for evaluation. Then the officers and each organization will receive the recommendation and measures for amendment based on the law. The principles of government inspection will be mentioned as follows:

1. Manipulations have to be based strictly on the law.
2. The processes have to be democratic and checkable.
3. The inspection have to be precious, fair, modern, and it has to rely on the law and principles of the government inspection.
4. The aim has to focus on the harmony of people in the country, and Lao people have the right to access the information.
5. The inspection has to avoid turbulence and it should not build the obstacles for the government surveillance.

The committees in the inspection include the Prime Minister, the Cabinet Ministers, the Chiefs of the organizations, the Mayors/the Governors, the district chief and the head of the municipality, and the heads of the related organizations; their duties are to conduct and facilitate the government's inspections particularly on their permissions about the projects that they are responsible for.

The head of the government inspection in each level have to follow the principles and

the regulations in the law on inspection strictly. This law is promulgated for organizations, technical officers, supporting staffs, state enterprise employees, government officers and those who are working in the government offices and related organizations of the government including central and administrative offices. In term of the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Lao Front for National Construction (LFNC), the public organizations and other organizations of the government, these organizations have their own inspection department. However, they have to stick to the law on inspection's principles. contrarily, the inspection system of the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Public Security have to be promulgated separately and divided 2 ways: 1. the inspection of the administrative levels (government, provincial administration, district administration, and village administration) 2. the inspection of each department (the ministries, the equivalent ministries, different departments of the local administration). Then, there are three forms of the inspection; 1. The general plan of the inspection (this inspection follows the planned form of the administrative organization and the committees at each level) 2. the inspection of the order or proposal (those orders come from the heads and committees, and the proposals come from the Lao people) 3. the urgent inspection which are in emergency case without any appointment or reformation.

The government inspection's significant sections are policies, disciplines, processes of working, rights, roles, responsibilities, special rules, regulation for each section, and the objectives, these parts are based on the structure of the organization of government inspection. The organization of the government inspection is the organization that is established to check and inspect the central and local works, and it is governed by the heads or leaders of each department and the suggestion of the higher organizations. The structure of organization of the government inspection consists of two section including 1. the section of local administration consists of a government section, a provincial section, district section and a municipal section 2. the section of different parts consist of the equivalent ministries, and the related organizations. The government inspection is a ministry-level agency that regulates the functions of state administration of inspection, citizen reception, complaint and denunciation settlement and anti-corruption throughout Laos; conducts inspection, settles complaints and denunciations and combats corruption in accordance with the law. The government inspection can be divided into

two parts which are internal inspection (regulated by orders and it has to be held at least twice a year) and external inspection (regulated by the National Assembly).

(2) Law on Audit

Law on Audit No.05/ສພຊ of Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Revolution on 3rd July, 2007 has been promulgated; it consists of principles, regulations, and measures of the inspections and management of the state budget, business organizations, and non-profit organizations. Those actions have to rely on the law that will lead them to avoid crises with the finance and state budget. Furthermore, the government also supervises socio-economic development in order to make sure that the economic activities (supporting the domestic and international investment) are expanding and stable. The Law on Audit is different from the Law on Inspection of the government because the Law on Audit is aim to audit the finance and state budget which has the specific methods and principles for financial institutions of the state.

The audit refers to the procedures of collecting the credible evidence for checking on the financial transactions of the institutions based on the truth and principles. This law is aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the state audit, business organizations and non-profit organizations. The audit can be divided into two sections: 1. the internal audit is the organization of the state that is established to check internal finance based on the consensus, credible evidence, reliance, neutrality, and justice 2. the external audit²¹ is by the auditors who are chosen from external organizations to check the finance and budget of the state organizations, these auditors have to be professional and approved. The external auditors have the permission to audit independently, and then they have to report the their findings. The target organizations cover state organizations, the Lao Front for National Construction, the unions (the Lao Federation, the Lao People's Revolution Youth Union, the Lao Women's Union and the unions that are supported by the state budget), the political-social organizations, the general armament department, the Loan Funds, the state enterprises (the state invests in those business more than 50 %.), the mixed enterprises (the investment of the state and private organizations are equal.), and the private enterprises (the investment of the state is lower than 50%).

There are various advantages of the financial auditing; 1. the National Assembly 2. Administrative Organizations 3. People's Court, the Public Prosecutor, and the Department of

Investigation 4. the Organizational Governance 5. Those under suspicion.

The report of the external audit can be beneficial for many sections which are mentioned as follows:

1. The shareholders will consider and use the report of the audit for the next plan.
2. The administrators will use the conclusion of the audit to learn their strengths and weaknesses for the enhancement.
3. The investors will use the conclusion of the audit to evaluate the organizations that have been checked before investing.
4. The lenders, financiers, and the owners of the project will use the conclusion of the audit to check the effectiveness and debt management.
5. The other auditors will use the conclusion of the audit as the fundamental information for guidance.
6. The administrative organizations and the related organizations will use the conclusion of the audit to evaluate the reliability of the financial transactions and taxes.
7. The People's Court and the People's Prosecutor will use the conclusion of the audit as the reasons for the investigations.

Furthermore, the Law on Audit is also used for these following persons and departments:

1. Those that are investigated.(Concerned person)
2. The State Audit Organization (SAO) of Lao PDR
3. The Ministry of Finance
4. The external Audit Organization
5. Another organizations that are relevant to the financial records.

There are three sections of the investigation including the audit on the document of the financial statement, the reliability and truth (based on the law), and the result of the operations. Therefore, the system of the state inspection consists of the central investigation organizations and the local investigation organizations. And the Law on Audit also specifies the legal punishment for the offenders.

(3) Law on Oversight by the National Assembly

The law on Oversight by the National Assembly No. 09/NA at Vientiane dated 22nd October, 2004. The Law on Oversight by the National Assembly determines the principles, regulations, and measures relating to the oversight by the National Assembly of the activities of the executive organs, the people's courts and the Office of the Public Prosecutor to ensure that the Constitution, laws, resolutions of the session of the National Assembly, the socio-economic development plan and State budget plan are strictly implemented and implemented in a transparent and uniform manner throughout the country and to ensure political stability, peace in the country, socio-economic development, and a civilized and fair society. Oversight by the National Assembly refers to monitoring, examining and evaluating the activities of organizations and individuals stipulated in Article 7 of this law. The Article specifies the organizations and individuals subject to oversight as follows:

1. The section of the National Assembly includes the President of the State, the President of the National Assembly, the National Assembly Standing Committee, the government, the Prime Minister, the ministers and chairmen of ministry-equivalent organizations, the President of the People's Supreme Court and the Supreme Public Prosecutor.

2. The National Assembly Standing Committee includes the government, the Prime Minister, the ministers and chairmen of ministry-equivalent organizations, the President of the People's Supreme Court, the Supreme Public Prosecutor, Governors, mayors and chiefs of special zones.

3. The committees of the National Assembly includes the ministers and chairmen of ministry-equivalent organizations, the President of the Appellate Court, the President of the Supreme Military Court and the President of the regional military court, Public prosecutors at the appellate level, the Supreme Military Prosecutor and the regional military prosecutors.

4. The member's caucus of the National Assembly includes the Provincial administrations, the Directors of provincial divisions of the ministries, the chiefs of districts, chiefs of municipalities and heads of villages, the Presidents of people's provincial courts, Presidents of people's district courts Public prosecutors at the provincial level and public prosecutors at the district level.

During the sessions of the National Assembly, there are questions, interpellations and answers to the questions or interpellations. For instance, the members of the National Assembly raise detailed questions or interpellations to the concerned person through the Chairman of the session of the National Assembly such as the ministers and chairmen of ministry-equivalent organizations, the President of the People's Supreme Court, the Supreme Public Prosecutor. Furthermore, there is cooperation by the Lao Front of National Construction, the Enterprise, the social organization and People with the National Assembly Committees for the in consideration. In the event that an individual or the chief of an organization subject to the oversight does not perform their duties and responsibilities as mentioned above or objects to the oversight by the National Assembly, such act will be considered a violation of the laws and regulations and such individual or organization will be warned, subject to disciplinary measures or other measures in accordance with the laws and regulations.

3.2 Lao on administration, order, administrative contract, and administrative dispute resolution.

The law on administration or the law on administrative procedures of Lao People's Democratic Revolution has not been promulgated particularly, but this law is regulated in some part of other laws such as the constitution in 2003, the law on government No.02/NA at Vientiane dated 6th May 2003, the law on local administration No.03/NA at Vientiane dated 21st October 2003, the law on the state budget, the law on the government investment No.08/NA at Vientiane dated 26th November 2009, the law on the handling of petitions No.07/NA at Vientiane dated 9th November 2005, the law on resolution of economic disputes No.06/NA at Vientiane dated 17th December 2010, and the government disciplines of the Lao PDR No.82/NA at Vientiane dated 19th May 2003.

In accordance with the administration of Lao PDR which is based on the central session following the unity of the country; there is the law on investment of the government in the term of the economic session. This law on the investment of the government No.08/NA Vientiane, dated 26th November 2009, also regulates the administration, the government

administration and, the administrative contract of the state. And the law on promotion of investment No.02/NA Vientiane, dated 8th July 2009 is promulgated for the promotion of private investment.

The following part mentions about the investments that are supported by the state budget; this law specifies the rules, specific acts, and the procedures for dispute resolution of the administrative contract of Lao PDR.

1. The law on investment of the government N0.08/NA Vientiane, dated 26th November 2009 defines the principles, regulations and measures for the promotion, protection and management of investment in order to encourage all economic sectors, and to make efficient use of investment sources, resources, labor and intellectual resources within the country to increase the effectiveness of production forces, to support gradual industrialization and modernization, to contribute to the improvement of the livelihood of the public and to develop the country to be strong and wealthy.

The investment of the government refers to the expenditures of the state budget, natural resources, property and the state copyright. The investment project of the state that is approved by the National Assembly following the procedures of the National Economic and Social Development will be successful by the following rules of the government's investment:

1. It must be based on the policy, vision, strategy, the purpose of the national economic and social development's plan and support from the budget.
2. It must cooperate with other organizations seeking balance and justice.
3. The process must be based on the state investment plan. In the necessary case, the project can be considered except impossible projects.
4. The directing of the investment of the government should categorize the works clearly and follow the law.
5. The people have to be a part of the operation and supervision.
6. Other organizations can inspect and evaluate the investment of the government for its efficiency, effect and honesty.

The extent of the application of law; individual and organizations those are relevant to the investment of the government (the construction, the approval, the procedure and the

inspection). However, this law has not mentioned private investment. In addition, there are two types of the investment of the government as follow:

1. The investment of the fundamental construction consists of new construction and big restoration projects such as in transportation, public utilities, irrigation, schools, hospitals and the basis factors and technology (the equipment, machines, vehicles, and property).

2. Investment in academic promotion consists of the investment on the basic operations such as the development of human resources, training, research on scientific-technology, the promotion of production, the handling of poverty, information management, investigation on the possibilities of the project, observation on the project design, design of the economic and social development's plan and the effectiveness of the academic equipment.

There are two types of governmental investment plans: the five year plan (the national section, the organizational section, and the local section) and the annual plan (the national section, the organizational section, and the local section). The structure of governmental investment can be divided into three projects which are described as follows:

1. The first projects is the investment by the government of at least 50,000 million Kip Lao and the period of the construction is no longer than 7 years.

2. The second project is the investment of the government that is more than 5,000 million Kip but it is less than 50,000 Kip and the period of the construction is 5 years.

3. The third project is the investment of the government that is lower than 5,000 Kip and the period of the construction is less than 3 years.

The methods of the investment of the government will be mentioned as follows:

1. The plan and approval of the investment; The government, the Ministry of Planning and Investment, the relevant organizations, the provincial organization, the district organizations and the municipal organizations take responsibilities on the construction of the plan of the state investment. The approval of the plans is based on the National Assembly's consideration. The National Assembly will approve the national social and economic plan, the annual plan, the five year plan, the state investment that is more than 500,000 million Kip which are proposed by the government. The document must be sent to the National Assembly within 15 days before the meeting of the committee.

2. The operations which are based on the plan of the project; the procedures of the project have to distribute the tasks to each section.

- The appointment of the responsible committees for state investment; after the government gets the approved project, the person who is in charge of the project has to appoint the committees for the operations and be responsible for following the objectives, plans and the period of work.

- The bidding on the investment project has to be managed strictly and the appropriate organizations have to receive equality and justice. The first and second projects have to be bidden openly through the mass media. The person who is responsible for the project has to set the location for bidding and the corporation with the relevant organizations. A bid that doesn't follow the rules and disciplines of the law will be voided.

- The management of the state investment has to be cooperate with the affected people and economic sessions. The law specifies that the capital of the state investment must be higher than 30%. If the state investment in the project is lower than 30%, the operation will be based on the funds of the project's owner of the project. In the case of supporting budget and loans, all of practices have to rely on the law on the investment of the government or the contract of the loan agreement.

3. There must be an inspection and a report on the successfulness of the investment, when the project has been finished. The process of inspection begins at the first step of the construction and it usually continues based on the objectives and plans. Furthermore, the inspection points to the capability and successfulness of the projects and investments. It also focuses on the effects on the economy, society and environment. If the inspectors find problems, those issues have to be fixed immediately. There are five groups of people who supervise the projects of the investment; those will be described as follows:

1. The ownership of the project

The responsibilities of the owners are to manage the plan, to appoint the committees of the projects, to be responsible for the assessment, to manage the bidding (plan, document, result), to organize the budget of the project, and to solve the problems of the projects in many ways. Especially, all processes have to be based on the objectives and conditions of the contract.

2. The responsible committees

The duties of the committees who are responsible for the project in a timely fashion are to make the contract for the contractor. If the contractor does not follow the conditions and rights in the contract, the committees can cancel the contract pursuant to the legal regulations.

3. The supervisor and users of the project

The roles and rights of the supervisor/users are to manage, supervise, use and organize the projects which are approved by the ownership.

4. The consultant of the project

The rights and duties of the consultant are to propose the name of the committees, to offer the relevant information/document/disciplines, to refuse the actions that do not follow the conditions in the contract, to give suggestions including technical information, to inspect the procedures, to report their conclusions on the successfulness of the project and to organize other tasks that are appropriate.

5. The contractor of the project

The rights and duties of the contractor are to manage the project successfully based on the standards, techniques and period of time allotted in the contract. The contractor will receive money when the project has been done and the contractor can refuse the suggestions of the ownership if they are improper. If the project cannot be finished or it doesn't meet with the standards; the consultant has to pay at least 10%.

4. The submission and the usability

In the final stage of the project, after the report is approved and guaranteed by the inspectors and the project will be ready for official use. However, this step is concerned about the quality of the construction. There are methods and ways for handling the disagreements of the state investment which are categorized into four types

1. The mediation; the litigant and the government have to talk and mediate the conflicts beneficial to both sides.

2. The administrative adjustment; there might be something wrong in this step of administration such as illegal, corporate investment. The relevant organizations and local administration have to cooperate and solve any problems.

3. The committees for handling the economic problems; in cases that the litigants do not agree on the mediation or in the period of mediation, the litigants can complain to the committee the handling the economic problem based on the law and the agreement.

4. The accusation; if both sides cannot agree with the judgment, they can file with the People's Court for the judiciary consideration. During this period, the relevant organizations and persons have to follow their roles and duties awaiting the determination from many state investment departments.

The organizations that supervise and manage all of the procedures for state investment are the government and the local administration for the unity of the country. The relevant organizations for state investment consist of the Ministry of Planning and Investment, the Department of Planning and the Provincial Investment/City Investment, the office of Planning and Finance (city, municipality, and village administration). Furthermore, there are two sections of the state investment's inspection which are explained as follows;

1. The organization of internal inspection consists of the department of planning and investment, finance, and technical sessions.

2. The organization of external inspection consists of the National Assembly, the State Inspectorate organization, the local administrative organizations, the Lao front for national Construction, the public organizations, the social organizations, and Lao people.

The virtuous will receive compliments and rewards, in contrast, those who make the mistake illegally will be punished. There are regulations about the training, penalization, probation, and criminal penalties. Furthermore, the Lao PDR specifies the specific law on public-private concessions such as in special economic zones. The conflict of concession will be resolved based on the conditions in the contract such as the Hongsa-Lignite concession. In term of economic conflicts of the state concession will be resolved based on the People's Court decisions such as mine concession (Law on Mine). The resolving conflict between the state and private organization focusing on environment is regulated in the law on environment, article 74 (new) and article 76 or international treaties.

(2) The Law on the State Budget

The law on the state budget was promulgated on No.02/NA Vientiane, dated 26th December 2006. This Law on the State Budget defines principles, regulations and measures in

planning, implementing, evaluating, and auditing the State budget with the objectives of managing the accurate and full collection of budget revenues, performing budget expenditures in a transparent, economical, efficient and unified manner throughout the country, increasing accountability of State agencies at all levels, developing the revenue base, gradually enhancing financial ownership, financial self-strengthening, and the achievement of a stable national financial system integrated with international financial systems with the aim of constructively contributing to the continuous and sustainable progress of national socio-economic development.

Article 57 mentions that budget expenditures shall be executed in line with the following principles and procedures for expenditure management:

- Be provided for in the annual budget plan
- Approval must be obtained
- Be in line with expenditure targets
- Be accurately calculated in accordance with the spending norms
- Be authorized by the or donators or persons assigned

3.3 The law on news information of the governmental in Lao PDR

The law on the official news information of Lao PDR has not been regulated specifically, but it is mentioned in some parts of other laws such as the National Protection, the Peace of country, and the governmental principles and disciplines act of Lao PDR No.82/NA, dated 19th May 2003.

(1) The speech of the Prime Minister on the governmental principles and disciplines of Lao PDR No.82/NA Vientiane, dated 19th May 2003, in term of the news information of the governmental mentions the rules and principles for the government officers in many aspect such as 1. the government officers have to protect the secret of the country, i.e. official secrets, the professional secrets and their ethics 2. the government officers have the right to get welfare, pension, and retirement 3.the government officers have to follow the principles and law strictly 4. The government officers have to respect the leaders and follow the instruction of the leaders. In case of unreal reports which leads to the destruction of state/ public/person, the reporter has to be charged for the fault based on the principles and disciplines of the

government officers. Furthermore, the commissioners have to clarify their biography, property and debt (including the family members) accurately. And the officers have the right to access the information and news (except secret information). In addition, the officers have to know their rights, duties and responsibilities, they have the right to check their own documents that relates to their position (excepting secret information), they cannot be the consultant of the private operations (including domestic and international operation) with links to the national secrets and their own authorities. The government officers who are dismissed, cannot work or take part in governmental responsibilities for 5 year.

(2) The speech on the control of the news and information via Internet No.327 Vientiane, dated 16th September 2014, this speech defines principles, regulations, policies and measures concerning the control of news and information on the internet in accordance with the national security, peace, social tidiness and the protection of national dignity and advantages (people, society, and the state). Likewise in the National Protection and Construction that defines the policy of the state about using the information on the internet in terms of economic-social aspect, education, public health, scientific research, and technology for increasing the efficiency, dissemination of the information and the quality of life of the Lao people.

This speech also clarifies the security of using information via the internet for personal security and avoiding the tort of using information. It specifies the limitation of dissemination the information on the internet including national secrets, military secrets, and other secrets (that is mentioned in the law of Lao PDR). In some parts of the law on national defense obligations concerns about the responsibilities of all post sessions, telecommunications, announcement sessions, cultural and travelling sessions, the department of peace educational and sport sessions, and other sessions.

(3) The law on the national peace No.40/NA Vientiane, dated 19th December 2013, the article 5 number 6 defines the works of national peace based on the secrets of national protection and peace (all documents).

(4) The law on People's security No.03/NA Vientiane, dated 2 July 2007, article 10 number 8 defines the duties of the troops who protect the people's security and national secrets.

(5) The law on anti-corruption N0.03/SCNA Vientiane, dated 20th May 2005, number 9 defines the criminal and civil liability and the disclosure of the state secrets (governmental secrets which cannot be disclosed to the public) for the benefit of individuals.

3.4 The law on liability of the government officers and the law on administrative practice.

(1) The law on Handling of Petitions No.07/SCNA Vientiane, dated 9th November 2005 defines principles, regulations and measures relating to petitions and to dealing with the petitions of citizens or organizations in accordance with the laws and regulations, with the aims of strengthening the people's democracy and justice in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, of protecting the interests of the State [and] collectives, and the rights and legitimate benefits of citizens in order to ensure public order, justice and prosperity. A petition is a document of a citizen or organization that is presented to the relevant authority for it to consider and to deal with an action or decision of an organization or individual that is believed to infringe the laws and regulations and to affect the interests of the State [and] collectives, or the rights and legitimate benefits of the petitioner. There are three types of petitions: 1. A petition that is presented to a State administrative authority is called a request. 2. A petition that is presented to an investigation organization. 4. A petition to the Office of the Public Prosecutor 5 or the People's Courts 6 is called a claim. 3. A petition that is presented to the National Assembly is called a petition for justice. The policy of the petition mentions that the State facilitates citizens and organizations to exercise the right to petition, with the aim of protecting the interests of the State [and] collectives, or such citizen's or organization's own rights and legitimate benefits, in order to ensure transparency and effectiveness of the State administrative mechanism and government officials in the implementation of their duties, thereby eliminating and preventing negative occurrences in society. An individual or organization shall comprehensively examine and consider its actions in implementing its rights and duties, and if it finds that such action infringes laws and regulations affecting the interests of the State [and] collectives, or other persons, the concerned individual or organization shall immediately rectify that action to avoid being subject to a petition. Furthermore, the principles for dealing with petitions; Petitions shall be dealt with in accordance with the following principles: 1. Petitions shall be [dealt with in accordance] with the procedures prescribed in the laws and regulations.

2. The organization that has the right and duty shall warmly welcome petitioners in an appropriate manner and deal with petitions in a timely manner. 3. Petitions shall be dealt with comprehensively, completely and objectively, and in accordance with laws and regulations. 4. The organization that is responsible for dealing with a petition shall inform the petitioner in writing of the results of its consideration. 5. Petitioners and concerned persons shall cooperate with the organization and facilitate the process of dealing with petitions. 6. Petitions relating to administrative matters shall be dealt with in two stages, meaning that if the petitioner is not satisfied he may make a claim in court or present a petition for justice to the National Assembly.

The petitioner has the rights which are mentioned as follows;

- present the petition in person or by a legal representative
- receive a written response to the petition from the concerned organization
- be protected from threats and suppression, and, at his request, to be protected from the disclosure of his name, family name, address, or pseudonym
- have the infringed rights restored, to receive compensation from the person who has violated the laws and regulations and to revoke his petition at any stage

A person subject to a petition has the following rights

- To be informed of the contents of the petition
- To defend himself by presenting data, information and evidence
- To have his dignity and other interests restored if the petition is not supported by facts and evidence in accordance with laws and regulations
- To request the organization which has the right and duty to apply measures against a petitioner, who does not have facts and evidence, in accordance with the laws and regulations.

A person subject to a petition has the following obligations; to provide explanations regarding the issues raised in the petition and to provide data, information and evidence to the relevant organization and to strictly comply with the decision concerning the petition that already has legal effect.

There are three authorities dealing with petitions including 1. administrative organizations (editing the present) 2. court, the office of attorney general, investigative organization (admit and

consider the edition of accusation) 3. The national assembly (admits and considers the accusation for judgment)

Petitions for justice shall be dealt with in accordance with the following stages: 1. Review and consideration of the petition for justice, and collection of additional data, information or evidence, as necessary 2. Issuance of a decision which is related to the handling of the petition for justice 3. Pontificate the petitioner for justice and concerned parties for implementation 4. Follow up on the implementation of the decision on the petition for justice. If the petitioner or the person subject cannot agree with the judgment or the agreement, they can present the petition to a higher administrative organization. And in the final stage, they can present those issues to the court or the national assembly. The period for presenting a request to a public administrative authority is within 3 years after the date of the infringement. The request shall be dealt with within 20 days after receiving the request. When a request is not dealt with within the specified period, the requesting person has the right to present such request to a higher authority. If the request is still not dealt with, such person shall have the right to bring a claim in court or to present a petition for justice to the National Assembly. Decisions on requests that have legal effect are mentioned as follows:

1. The decision of a public administrative authority that has the right and duty to deal with the request at the first instance 14, which the requesting person and the person subject to the request agree to comply with.

2. The decision of a public administrative authority that has the right and duty to deal with the request at the second step, which is the final step, and where the requesting person or person subject to the request does not bring a claim in court or present a petition for justice to the National Assembly.

Once a decision has legal effect, responsible officers shall implement the decision in a timely and correct manner, and concerned individuals and organizations shall comply strictly with such decision.

A petition for justice means a document that a citizen or organization presents to the National Assembly to reconsider the results of the handling of a request by a public administrative authority, or the handling of a claim by an office of the public prosecutor 15 or by a people's court 16 which has legal effect, and which the citizen or organization believes

does not provide him justice. Authorities dealing with petitions for justice are the National Assembly Standing Committee, the Committees of the members of the National Assembly in the constituencies. The detailed rights and duties of the authorities dealing with petitions for justice will be defined in specific regulations.

Petitions for justice shall be dealt with in accordance with the following stages:

1. Review and consideration of the petition for justice, and collection of additional data, information or evidence, as necessary.

2. Issuance of a decision relating to the handling of the petition for justice.

3. Notification of the petitioner for justice and concerned parties for implementation.

4. Follow up on the implementation of the decision on the petition for justice.

In the event that the petitioner for justice is not satisfied with the decision of the committee of members of the National Assembly in the constituencies, he/she has the right to bring a petition for justice to the National Assembly Standing Committee as a final step. The period for presenting a petition for justice to the National Assembly is within 60 days from the date the concerned person is informed of the final decision of the public administrative authority, or the final decision of the court. Petitions for justice shall be dealt with within 30 days after they are received. Petitions for justice shall first be presented to the committee of members of the National Assembly in the constituencies, and in the event that the committee of members of the National Assembly in the constituencies does not deal with the matter within the period defined in paragraph 2 of this article, the petitioner for justice has the right to present the petition for justice to the National Assembly Standing Committee for consideration.

The decision of the committee of members of the National Assembly in the constituencies that has the right and duty to deal with the petition for justice at the first instance, which the petitioner for justice and the person subject to the petition for justice agree to comply with the decision of the National Assembly Standing Committee on the petition for justice. Once a decision on a petition for justice has legal effect, responsible officers shall implement the decision in a timely and correct manner, and concerned individuals and organizations shall strictly comply with such decision.

Party organizations, State organizations, the Lao Front for National Construction, mass organizations, the Union of Former Army Officers, and other social organizations shall make

arrangements to receive any petitioner who brings a petition, makes a statement or reports on issues affecting the interests of the State and collectives, or his own rights and legitimate benefits. The concerned sectors shall organize their personnel to receive petitioners. The heads of concerned sectors also have to allocate time to meet petitioners in person as appropriate.

A petitioner is prohibited from presenting a petition without actual facts, misusing a petition to defame another person, or to cause public disorder, giving bribes, making threats against, or suppressing the person who has the right and duty to deal with the petition. A person subject to a petition is prohibited from giving bribes to, making threats against, using force against, or suppressing the person who has the right and duty to deal with the petition or the petitioner, concealing, hiding, or destroying information and evidence relating to the petition. A person, who has the right and duty to deal with a petition, is prohibited from having the intention to not deal with the matter, taking bribes, delaying or dealing with the matter in a manner that is not in accordance with the laws, concealing or hiding information and evidence relating to the petition, disclosing confidential information relating to the petitioner such as his name, family name, address, or pseudonym when it is necessary to keep them confidential. Other individuals and organizations are prohibited from inciting, convincing, or giving bribes to other persons to present petitions without actual fact, interfering with or threatening the person who has the right and duty to deal with the petition, concealing, hiding, or destroying data and evidence relating to the petition, making threats to, using force against, or suppressing the petitioner or the person who is subject to the petition, and hiding or giving shelter to the person who is subject to the petition. There are three authorities that administer the handling of petitions.

1. The National Assembly administers the handling of petitions for justice in the whole country, with the offices of the National Assembly in the constituencies acting as the secretariat to the committee of members of the National Assembly in the constituencies, and the cabinet of the National Assembly acting as the secretariat to the National Assembly Standing Committee in dealing with petitions for justice.

2. Public Administrative Authorities

- The government centrally and uniformly administers the handling of requests throughout the whole country.

- The State Inspection Authority at the central level acts as the secretariat and is responsible to the government for administering the handling of requests within the scope of the rights and duties of the government.
- Ministries, ministry-equivalent organizations, and local administrative authorities administer the handling of requests within the scope of their responsibility.
- The State Inspection Authority at the ministerial and local levels acts as the secretariat to the State authority at such level in administering the handling of requests.

3. The Courts and the Office of the Public Prosecutor

- The People's Supreme Court and the Office of the Supreme Public Prosecutor administer the handling of claims throughout the whole country within the scope of their roles, rights and duties.
- The courts and offices of the public prosecutors administer the handling of claims within the scope of their roles, rights and duties.

(2) The speech on the principles of Lao PDR's government service No.82/NA Vientiane, 19th May 2003 specified that in case of an attempt to reach the successfulness of their responsibilities; the government officers are protected by their organizations if they are complained against or accused. However, their work might have an effect on other persons or organizations without any malice. According to the law on the handling of petition No.07/SCNA Vientiane, dated 9th November 2005 states that the officers who manage their responsibilities beyond their duties that might be the cause of involvement with other people, if the officers do the involvement for the purpose of the benefits for the organization; the organizations will help them with explanations and assistance and the officers have to pay only the damages.

3.5 The law on the maintaining the peace and the state situation

After Lao got freedom, people have two duties which are protection and construction of the country. Especially, there are various aspects including new missions, education, harmony, democracy and socialism. The constitution is based on the democracy that refers to the harmony of people in the country for the strength of political system, economic-social development, and peace. Furthermore, the system of the state organizations specifies about the rights and roles of people under the constitution.

The constitution of Lao is the product of intelligence which is agreed to the Lao people and the national community because they have the same goals, including a country of peace, independence, democracy, unity and prosperity. The constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, 2003 consists of 11 chapters and 98 articles: Chapter 1 The Political Regime; Chapter 2. The Socio-Economic Regime; Chapter 3. National Defense and security; Chapter 4. Fundamental Rights and Obligations of Citizens; Chapter 5. The National Assembly; Chapter 6. The President of the State; Chapter 7. Government, Chapter 8 The Local Administration, Chapter 9 People's Courts and Public Prosecutor; Chapter 10. Language, Script, National Emblem, National Flag, National Anthem, National Day, Currency and Capital City and Chapter 11. Final Provisions.

Chapter 3. of the constitution is about the National Defense and Security that mentions all the organizations and Lao citizens who must protect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation, protecting lives and people's property and ensuring a stable and sustainable people's democracy. The national defense and security forces must improve and strengthen themselves, enhance their loyalty to the nation, serve as the people's military force with real revolutionary spirit, [observe] strict rules and modern plans having high military competence and be the main forces to ensure national stability, peace and social order. The State's responsibility is to supply materials, techniques, technology, means and equipment to and upgrade the knowledge, ability, professional skills, strategy and tactics of the national defense and security forces.

The State and society attend to implementing policies to ensure that the physical and mental condition of the national defense and security forces is well maintained and to providing incentives to rear echelons of the national defense and security forces to increase their capacity to protect the nation and maintain peace in the society. The national defense and security forces must endeavor to become self reliant and build up a strong military department in order to ensure implementation of their tasks and contribute to national development. The laws that pertain to maintaining the national peace of the Lao PDR are regulated in many law such as the law on national security No.02/90 Vientiane on 8th March 1995, the law on the military of Lao people No.07/PDR Vientiane on 22nd October 2004, the law on the national peace No.40/PDR Vientiane on 19th December 2013.

3.5.1 The law on the National Defense Obligation No.02/90 Vientiane, dated 8th March 1995, defines principles, regulations, policies and measures concerning national defense obligations, aiming to mobilize the people of all ethnic groups to contribute to the maintenance of national defense and security, to strengthen and develop the armed forces in all aspects to be capable of safeguarding the nation, and to create conditions favorable for national development and construction (according to the article 36 in the Lao PDR constitution). There are organizations that have the duties to protect the state security based on the suggestions of the Lao People's Revolution Party. Those organizations will be divided into the following sessions:

1. The conscripts specify the condition; all male Lao citizens who of 18 to 28 years of age and in good health must join the army as conscripts. Women of 18 to 23 years of age may also be conscripted into the army in the event of necessity.

2. The reserve forces; a reserve force is a force that performs the duty of supporting the armed forces troops when necessary. At the same time, it is the main force which is a model for the maintenance of national defense and security in its area or location. The reserve forces consist of those who have undergone national defense training as conscripts, those who have resigned as regular soldiers and persons who have not served as conscripts or regular soldiers and who are of 18 to 50 years of age and have good health.

3. A militia force is a force of partially-armed people who are engaged in production, that carries out the maintenance of national defense and security at the grass-roots level and that is attached to a village administration and its higher authorities vertically.

4. The security corps is partially-armed forces which are formed at offices, agencies, factories and plants, and have the duty to ensure security, peace and order within their respective establishments. The security corps in offices and agencies at the central level is attached to the Ministry of the Interior; while those of local offices, agencies, factories and plants are attached to the provincial or district security command.

3.5.2 The law on office of the Lao People's Defense Force No.07/PDR Vientiane on 22nd October 2004 regulates the roles, rights, duties, responsibilities, international cooperation, standards, level, position, state management, policies, prohibition, admiration and principles of

the Lao military. It is the benefits that the military will be steady in terms of politics, concept, the strength of organizations, disciplines, modernization, and prestige. The military of Lao people refers to the party members and the state member that are appointed from second lieutenant to general.

3.5.3 The law on the national defense and security forces

Lao citizen have the rights and duties to protect the country and to maintain the peace of the country in terms of politic and society's situation, the stability of the state, the cooperation with other countries, economic development and social-cultural development. So, the national defense and security relates to the political stability, the orderliness of the society, safety, justice and economic expansion and strength. The procedures of the national defense and security include the operations, suggestions, conduction, inspection and using the strategies for organizing people forces.

This law defines the state of emergency which provides for emergency zone, duties of the ministry of peace, and the ministry of national security. Those organizations have the rights and duties to specify the state of society, the dangerous zones, unsafe zone and then they have to report to the Prime Minister of the state President for the consideration of considering a state of emergency and the protection of peace. These are mentioned as follows;

1. The cabinet minister of the Ministry of Peace reports the emergency to the prime minister or the state president for suggestions on resolving the problems.

2. The chief of the peace and order maintaining department, the mayors and the head of district have to mobilize the forces for controlling the situation and then they have to report the operations to their own leaders and the minister of the Ministry of Peace.

3. The security forces have to mobilize the army forces to protect and solve the emergency; using the strategies for controlling the emergency situations.

4. Ministries, state organizations, private sectors, and families have the obligation to cooperate, facilitate and assure national protection.

5. The removing of citizen and necessary property form the danger zone is important for of their own safety.

In case of emergency that might effect state stability, the Ministry of Peace has to

specify the measures for encountering the emergency cases which are based on the constitution and disciplines in the law. These are mentioned as follows:

1. To announce the order about the national security and peace quickly
2. To seize the danger zone and to mobilize the forces for controlling the area
3. To manage the shift of the forces to control the zone at all times and to set the vehicles for entry and closure of the emergency zone.
4. To set up extra inspection including transportation
5. To cancel or limit the transportation of flammable substances, dangerous chemicals and explosives.
6. To inspect all of vehicles strictly
7. To limit or stop the operations that might be the causes of the disorder in terms of business, service, public health and society.
8. To limit and stop the congregating of people or some organizations which are illegal
9. To discontinue telecommunication in necessary cases
10. To stop and control the head of the congregation and lead them out of the controlled zone
11. To mobilize the people, weapons and some property for the protection of peace
12. To cooperate with the forces of national security, ministry, related organizations for performing the works of national defense and security.

The utilization of weapons will be permitted in case of emergency situations such if a person or persons is using dangerous weapons and bombs in the controlled zones:

1. It is illegal if the people use the dangerous weapons or bombs for intimidation of people's life and staff.
2. It is illegal if the people attack and explode the bombs in the controlled zone, which is the cause of disorder and death.
3. It is illegal if the people use weapons which are the cause of insurrection and huge damage.
4. It is illegal if the people grab a hostage or take prisoners.
5. It is illegal if the people use transportation to attack/treat the staff and people in the controlled zone that is of dangerous and confusing.

3.6 The law on the prevention and suppression of the corruption

3.6.1 The law on anti-corruption No.03 Vientiane, dated 20th May 2015 defines principles, rules, and measures for the prevention and countering of corruption in order to ensure that the property of the State and society and the rights and interests of citizens are not damaged, embezzled, or swindled; to subject offenders to legal proceedings and to protect those who are innocent, with the aims of strengthening State organizations increasing transparency, strengthening the ability to inspect at all times, and achieving political stability, a stable and progressive economy, public security, public order, and justice. Corruption is the act of an official who opportunistically uses his position, powers, and duties to embezzle, swindle or receive bribes or any other act provided for in Article 10 of this law, which act is committed to benefit himself or his family, relatives, friends, clan or group and causes damage to the interests of the State and society or to the rights and interests of citizens. The official stipulated in this law means leaders at all levels, administrative staff, technical staff, the staff of State enterprises, civilservants, soldiers, police officers, including chiefs of villages and persons who are officially authorized and assigned to exercise any right or duty.

Furthermore, the prevention of corruption refers to guarding against corruption in the state organizations, politics and society. This prevention is announced by advertisement, education, training, information, property declaration, inspection and administrative operation. And then the countering of corruption refers to eliminating, repressing and suppressing all wrong acts constituting inspection by inspection, education, training and punishment as provided by the law. The principles for prevention of corruptions are based on preventing corruption, countering corruption, inspection, justice and modernization. The cooperating organizations have to follow the conditions and facilitate the inspector. The state has to create the conditions for citizens and society. The organizations of the anti-corruption have to work honestly and respect law and justice.

The state organizations, the party organization, the mass organization, the Lao Front for National Construction and citizens have the obligation to participate in the prevention and countering, to facilitate the inspectors by giving them additional information. The law on the anti-corruption is promulgated for the government officers at all levels including the state

organizations and the equivalent organizations of the administration. This law is linked to international cooperation with other countries for preventing and countering the corruption following the law of Lao PDR and the treaties.

The acts that are grouped as corruption will be described as follows:

1. The embezzlement of State property or collective property is the abuse of confidence in order to take in whole, take in part, or substitute other assets for any State property or collective property which has been assigned to such person to keep, transport, use in construction, repair or for any other purpose.

2. Swindling of State property or collective property is engaging in trickery, deceit or fraud by any means to cause a person in charge of any State property or collective property to hand over such property to the perpetrator.

3. Taking bribes is receiving, claiming, requesting, or agreeing to accept material items or benefit from someone else by using one's position, power and duties to provide direct or indirect benefit to the person giving the bribe.

4. Abuse of position, power and duty to take State property, collective property or individual property is the use of one's position, power, and duty in order to benefit oneself, or one's family, relatives, or clan that causes damage to the interests of the State and collectives or the rights and interests of citizens.

5. Abuse of State property or collective property is the use of State property or collective property for personal benefit that causes severe damage to the interests of the State or collective.

6. Excessive use of position, power, and duty is the intentional use of position, power, and duty beyond the scope of the authority provided by the laws and regulations in order to benefit oneself, or one's family, relatives, or clan that causes damage to the interests of the State and collectives or the rights and interests of citizens.

7. Cheating or falsification relating to technical construction standards is cheating or falsification relating to technical standards that occurs in the process of survey, design, calculation, and others between project owners and contractors and other persons concerned[,] regarding any activity such as: construction, repair, decoration, installation and other activities, for personal benefit that causes damage to the interests of the State and society or the rights

and interests of citizens.

8. Deception in bidding or concessions is an agreement between State officials and the contracting company and other concerned persons to create conditions to win the bid or concession for a certain State activity, for personal benefit and that causes damage to the interests of the State and society or the rights and interests of citizens.

9. Forging documents is the falsification of any signature or seal, or the deletion or addition of any word to the contents of documents. The use of forged documents is the use of any document that one knows is forged, but that one uses for personal benefit, and that causes damage to the interests of the State and society or the rights and interests of citizens.

10. Disclosure of State secrets for personal benefit is the disclosure for personal benefit of any document or secret information, or any government or official decision that is not allowed to be disclosed.

11. Holding back or delaying documents is the keeping, holding back, or delaying in dealing with any official document by one who has the position, power or duty, which causes damage to the interests of the State and society or the rights and interests of citizens.

The measures for prevention of corruption refer to the role model of leaders and duties of the state. The government staff at all levels, especially the leaders, shall act as role models in the strict implementation of the laws and regulations and shall lead in having transparent lifestyles and shall engage in no corruption. In the prevention of corruption, the State has the following duties:

1. To educate the public to respect and strictly comply with the laws and regulations.
2. To improve governance mechanisms to ensure [that they are] good, effective and transparent.
3. To define and implement policies towards government staff at each level clearly and to ensure proper living conditions.
4. To strictly and immediately impose discipline and punishment on offenders charged with corruption.
5. To promote the public, mass media, and social organizations to participate in the prevention and countering of corruption according to regulations.

In addition, the party organizations, the state organizations, the Lao Front for National

Construction, mass organizations, and social organizations, at all levels from central to local level, including State-owned enterprises, shall implement their assigned roles, rights, and duties completely, strictly, and immediately, shall provide evaluation and feedback to each other on the performance of functions by their government staff, shall conduct regular education campaigns, and shall coordinate with concerned sectors to prevent, counter and deal with corruption within the scope of their responsibilities. It is prohibited for a person with position, power and duty to commit any of the following acts:

1. To receive money, material items, or other benefits from any individual or organization that relates to his functions which causes damage to the interests of the State and society, or the rights and interests of citizens.

2. To cause difficulty, hold back, delay, or interfere in dealing with any activity.

3. To open bank accounts outside the Lao PDR without informing the concerned authority.

4. To act as a consultant to private enterprises in relation to his/her decision making power for personal benefit.

5. To act as a broker to individuals or organizations for personal benefit; for instance, by lobbying in legal proceedings, or for projects or quotas.

6. To use his/her position to borrow money of any collective that is under his/her responsibility for other persons, or to provide any guarantee to other persons to borrow money from the banks.

7. To recruit, post, or appoint one's own wife, husband, children or close relatives in leading positions in those functions under his responsibility that would create conditions for corruption such as positions in organizational and control activities, finance and accounting, treasury functions, warehouse keeping, procurement and contracting.

8. To incorrectly possess or use any house or land belonging to the State or collectives in order to benefit himself or his family, relatives, group or clan:

9. To disclose any State or administrative secret.

10. To use money or property of the State or the collectives to organize parties, to use as gifts or to allocate to staff or other persons in contravention of laws and regulations.

11. To suppress, threaten, or obstruct any person who brings a claim, or provides

feedback, including a person who provides negative information to concerned persons.

12. To refer to the reputation, position, power, and duty of a higher authority or other person for personal benefit.

If the officers have done wrongs acts, they will be punished by as provided by law. Those who have authority, the articles 8 regulate that before and after appointment they have to clarify the property including that of family members and their relatives. The procedures of inspection begin with collecting the data and information, requesting, presenting, and petition. The step after the inspection will be mentioned as follows:

1. According to article 32/33, light punishment will be purposed to the organizations that have duties for controlling those wrong acts.

2. According to article 34, the heavy punishment will be investigated strictly before sending the conclusions to the court.

The duties of the organization for the prevention of corruption are specified in the article 29; the organizations have to work within 30 days after they get the requests. If they do not follow the standards of the organization for prevention of corruption, those organizations will be reported to the leaders.

The measures for prevention and countering the corruption of the officers can be divided into the light and heavy punishment. The operating system of the organizations of the anti-corruption consists of the central system and the district system. The central system refers to the ministries, chief and equivalent organizations. And the district system refers to the district organizations for anti-corruption which are appointed by the central organizations for anti-corruption. Furthermore, there are measures to praise valuable persons and measures to punish the culprits (criminal and civil punishment).

3.6.2 The law on the Anti-Corruption (especially regarding state purchasing)

(1) The speech on the principles of the service of the Lao PDR No.82/NA Vientiane dated 19th May 2003, the article 36 regulates that the positions of the authorities in the administrative organizations cannot appoint their relatives, parents, wife, son, or daughter into the financial positions.

(2) The Law on the State Budget

This Law on the State Budget defines principles, regulations and measures in planning, implementing, evaluating and auditing the State budget with the objectives of managing the accurate and full collection of budget revenues; performing budget expenditures in a transparent, economical, efficient and unified manner throughout the country; increasing accountability of State agencies at all levels; developing the revenue base; gradually enhancing financial ownership, financial self-strengthening and the achievement of a stable national financial system integrated with international financial systems with the aim of constructively contributing to the continuous and sustainable growth of national socio-economic development. In article 57; the budget expenditures shall be executed in line with the following principles and procedures for expenditure management: 1. be provided for in the annual budget plan 2. approval must be obtained 3. be in line with expenditure targets 4. be accurately calculated in accordance with the spending norms and 5. be authorized by the or donators or persons assigned by them.

(3) Law on Anti- Corruption No.03/SCNA Vientiane dated 19th May 2005. In accordance with the law on state budget No.02/SCNA Vientiane on 26th December 2006 and the law on the state investment No.08/SCNA Vientiane on 26th November 2009 it is mentioned about state purchasing and bidding corruption. The penalty of the anti-corruption article 48 specifies that any government staff who cheats in relation to or falsifies any technical standards on construction, survey, design, or calculation shall be punished by one to five years' imprisonment and shall be fined one percent of the value of the damage. Furthermore, the law on Anti- Corruption No.03/SCNA Vientiane dated 20th May 2005 specifies about before or after receiving position, power, or duty, the person who has position, power, and duty as provided in Article 8 of this law must declare his or her own property and debts, and that of [the person's] own husband or wife and children who are under his or her charge accurately, faithfully, and honestly and must be accountable under the law for the contents of the declaration.

Chapter 4

Government Sectors: Sociality, Cultures, Politics and Security

Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR) officially consists of Chief of State (the president), Head of Government (the prime minister) and the regional governments. The government policy concentrates on the people's security of life and property, education, public health and other sectors. The government structure is determined by the constitution and the structure and duties are determined by law²⁰⁵. The Lao government has the structure of centralization and the regional governments which concentrates on management and decision-making power at the top of an al organizational hierarchy and the regional administrations. The Lao government, which has been determined by the Lao constitution, can be divided into two main parts as follows:

1. Central Administration
2. Local Administration

The two kinds of administrations can be determined by the governmental sectors as follows:

Central Administration

The structure of the central administration consists of the government and it can last 5 years (2011-2015)²⁰⁶. The constitution has determined the structure of the central administration and its departments as follows:

1. Office of the Prime Minister
2. Ministry or equivalent department
3. Organization (which depends on the Ministry or the Office of the Prime Minister)
4. Department

Central Administration currently consists of 18 ministries and 3 organizations which are the equivalent of a ministry and it is comprised of 1.) Ministry of Justice, 2.) Ministry of Home Affairs, 3.) Ministry of National Defense, 4.) Ministry of Finance, 5.) Ministry of Health, 6.) Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry, 7.) Ministry of Education and Sports, 8.) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 9.)

²⁰⁵ Law on the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic No.02/ May 6th, 2003

²⁰⁶ The governments working period based on the National Legislative Assembly

Ministry of Public Security, 10.) Ministry of Energy and Mines, 11.) Ministry of Natural Resource and the Environment, 12.) Ministry of Post, Telecom and Communication, 13.) Ministry of Industry and Commerce, 14.) Ministry of Public Works and Transportation, 15.) Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, 16.) Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, 17.) Ministry of Planning and Investment, 18.) Ministry of Science and Technology, and 3 organizations: 1.) Office of the Prime Minister, 2.) Bank of Lao PDR, 3.) Government Inspection Authority

Each ministry includes departments and organization or equivalent departments or governmental organization which are equivalent to a department. According to Law on the Government of the Lao PDR, the Lao People's Democratic Republic consists of the Prime Minister's Office,²⁰⁷ ministries and ministry-equivalent organizations, approved by the National Assembly. The duties of the ministries in the government organization include:

1. Department or ministry-equivalent department such as departments, divisions, institutes and technical units, which are defined by the Decrees of the Prime Minister.
2. Organization
3. The Role of Ministry, Official Organization and Department

Ministries and Ministry-equivalent organizations consist of Ministers or Heads of Ministry-equivalent organizations, Vice-Ministers or Deputy-Heads, Heads of the Minister's Office, Deputy-Heads of the Minister's Office, Heads of Departments and Deputy-Heads of Department, Heads of division and Deputy Heads of division, Heads of Institutes and Deputy-Heads of Institutes, Heads and Deputy-Heads of technical units and technical staff.

Local Government

Local administration is the state administration at the local level. There are three levels of local administration in the Lao PDR: Province, District and Village.²⁰⁸

1. Province
2. District

²⁰⁷ Lao Language: Kong Chak Rat

²⁰⁸ Constitution 2003 code section 75

3. Village²⁰⁹

The local government can be decentralized as follows:

1. Provinces and Cities (Khoueng)

1.1 Organization of Provinces and Cities

The province is a local administration comprised of several districts and municipalities. The city is a local administration comprised of larger urban communities and several municipalities. It is the center of economic, political, cultural and social services and activities that influence the socio- economic development of the country. Vientiane Capital City consists of several districts and municipalities.

The Structure and (Personnel) of the province are comprised of:²¹⁰

- The provincial or city cabinet
- The local divisions of the line ministries and ministry- equivalent organizations

The personnel of provincial and city administrations is comprised of:

- The Governor/Mayor;
- The Vice-Governor/Vice Mayor;
- The Chief and Deputy Chief of the Provincial/City Cabinet;
- Director and Deputy Director of the departments; and
- Personnel appointed in provincial and city administrations.

Nowadays Vientiane Capital City is governed by using the provincial administration

²⁰⁹ Law on Local Administration of Lao PDR No. 03 Vientiane Capital City, dated: October 21st, 2003 code section 5: Basic principles of the operation of the Local Administration

Local administration is the state administration at the local level. There are three levels of local administration in the Lao PDR: Province, District and Village. The Village level depends on the district level and the district level depends on the provincial level. Moreover, the provincial level depends on the center government respectively. The government delegates responsibility to the local administration authorities to manage the territory, natural resources and population in order to preserve and develop into a modern, civil and prosperous society.

²¹⁰ Law on Local Administration of Lao PDR No. 03 Vientiane Capital City, dated: October 21st, 2003 code section 8

system and the head of the provincial administration is the Governor.²¹¹

The Governor/ Mayor is appointed, transferred or demoted by the President of the State based on the proposal of the Prime Minister. Moreover, the Governor/Mayor shall have a five-year term of office and can be reappointed for one more term in the same place. The Governor/Mayor is the chief of administration and representative of the province/city. She or he is responsible to the government to fulfill their role²¹², authority and duties and she or he can be the head of the ministry or the ministry- equivalent organizations. In case the Governor/ Mayor is unable to implement his/her duties for any reason, the Vice Governor/Vice Mayor takes over as well as the Vice Governor, Vice Mayor are appointed, transferred or demoted by the Prime Minister based on a proposal by the Governor/Mayor and shall have a five-year office term and may be reappointed.²¹³

Laos is divided into 17 provinces (khoueng) (Oudomxay, Hua Phan, Vientiane Prov., Khammouane, Sekong, Phongsali, Bokeo, Sayabouly, Saysomboon, Savannakhet, Champasak, Luang Namtha, Luang Prabang, Xieng Khouang, Bolikhamsai, Salavan, Attapeu) and one prefecture (kampheng nakhon) which includes the capital city Vientiane (Nakhon Louang Viangchan). Provinces are further divided into districts (muang) and then villages (baan). An 'urban' village is essentially a town.²¹⁴

2. District (Muang)²¹⁵

1) The components of the district

A district is a level of local administration under the supervision of a Province or Capital City. A district is composed of several villages.

²¹¹ Law on Local Administration of Lao PDR No. 03 Vientiane Capital City, dated: October 21st, 2003 code section 13

²¹² Law on Local Administration of Lao PDR No. 03 Vientiane Capital City, dated: October 21st, 2003 code section 14

²¹³ Law on Local Administration of Lao PDR No. 03 Vientiane Capital City, dated: October 21st, 2003 code section 15

²¹⁴ Information Source: Lao News Agency: KPL: <http://kpl.gov.la/political/VII.aspx>

²¹⁵ Law on Local Administration of Lao PDR No. 03 Vientiane Capital City, dated: October 21st, 2003 code section 19

The organization structure of the district administration is comprised of the following:²¹⁶

- The District Cabinet; and
- The field offices of the line ministries and equivalent offices in the district.

The personnel of district administration is comprised of:

- Chief of district;
- Vice Chief of district;
- Chief and Deputy Chief of the District Cabinet;
- Director and Deputy Director of line offices in the district; and
- Permanent staff of the district administration

2) Creation of the District²¹⁷

The creation, abolition, division, merger or definition of land area of a district is defined and proposed by the Governor or Mayor and approved by the Government. The District Chief is the chief of administration and a representative of the district²¹⁸. She, or he is responsible to the provincial and Capital city to fulfill their role, authority and duties. The District Chief is appointed, transferred or demoted by the Prime Minister based on the proposal of the Governor/Mayor. In the case District Chief is unable to implement her/his duties for any reason, the Vice District Chief takes over. In addition, the District Chief shall have a five - year term of office and can be reappointed for one more term in the same place. The Vice District Chief is appointed, transferred or demoted by the Governor/Mayor based on a proposal of the District Chief and shall have a five- year office term and may be reappointed as well.²¹⁹

3. Municipality

A municipality is a level of local administration which is in an urban area. It is the

²¹⁶ Law on Local Administration of Lao PDR No. 03 Vientiane Capital City, dated: October 21st, 2003 code section 21

²¹⁷ Law on Local Administration of Lao PDR No. 03 Vientiane Capital City, dated: October 21st, 2003 code section 25

²¹⁸ Law on Local Administration of Lao PDR No. 03 Vientiane Capital City, dated: October 21st, 2003 code section 26

²¹⁹ Law on Local Administration of Lao PDR No. 03 Vientiane Capital City, dated: October 21st, 2003 code section 28

provincial capital where the Provincial/City Administration Offices are located. The urban centers of other districts can be upgraded to a municipality if they meet all of the criteria defined by law such as high population density; and socio-economic, political, cultural and public service development.

A municipality is comprised of several villages.

The municipal administration is local administration at the district level under the supervision of the Chief of Municipality²²⁰. The role and functions of a municipal administration are to manage political, economic, socio-cultural affairs and human resources;²²¹ protect/preserve and utilize natural resources, the environment and other resources; to plan and implement urban development and public

services; to ensure peace and security, and cleanliness of the municipality; to engage in international relation al activities assigned by the Province/City.

The organization structure of the municipal administration is comprised of the following:²²²

1. The municipal administration Cabinet;
2. Field offices of the line ministries, equivalent organizations, technical and service units.
3. The technical and service units

The personnel of the municipal administration include the Mayor and Vice Mayor of the municipality; Chief and Deputy Chief of the municipal cabinet; Head and Deputy Head of field offices; and staff of the municipal administration. The Municipality Mayor is appointed, transferred or demoted by the Prime Minister based on the proposal of the Governor/ City Mayor. The Municipality Mayor shall have a five - year term of office and can be reappointed for one more term in the same place. Moreover, the Vice Municipality Mayor is appointed, transferred or demoted by the Governor/ City Mayor based on a proposal of the Municipality

²²⁰ Law on Local Administration of Lao PDR No. 03 Vientiane Capital City, dated: October 21st, 2003 code section 32

²²¹ Law on Local Administration of Lao PDR No. 03 Vientiane Capital City, dated: October 21st, 2003 code section 33

²²² Law on Local Administration of Lao PDR No. 03 Vientiane Capital City, dated: October 21st, 2003 code section 34

Mayor and shall have a five- year office term and may be reappointed.²²³

4. The Village (Baan)²²⁴

The village is a unit of local administration at the grassroots level. It is under the supervision of the district or municipality. A village is comprised of several households.

A village is headed by a Village Chief and assisted by a Deputy Chief and some functional units.²²⁵ The Village Chief is elected by eligible voters in the village and acknowledged by the Chief of District or Mayor of Municipality. In special circumstances, the Village Chief may be appointed or removed by the Chief of District or Mayor of Municipality. The Deputy Village Chief can be appointed or removed by the Chief of District/ Mayor of Municipality in accordance with the proposal of the Village Chief.

The term of office of the Village Chief and Deputy Village Chief is three years. They can be re-elected or re-appointed²²⁶.

A village is created, merged, divided, abolished or its land area defined by the Governor/Mayor in accordance with the proposal of the District Chief or Mayor of Municipality. The Village Chief, who is the chief executive of the Village administration, represents the Village and is responsible to the District, or Municipality administration and all villagers, in the implementation of his/her role,²²⁷ authority and duties.

Local administration finance²²⁸ has two levels of budget: provincial budget unit and district budget unit. The village is a basic unit for revenue collection and it incurs expenditures

²²³ Law on Local Administration of Lao PDR No. 03 Vientiane Capital City, dated: October 21st, 2003 code section 42

²²⁴ Law on Local Administration of Lao PDR No. 03 Vientiane Capital City, dated: October 21st, 2003 code section 46

²²⁵ Law on Local Administration of Lao PDR No. 03 Vientiane Capital City, dated: October 21st, 2003 code section 48

²²⁶ Law on Local Administration of Lao PDR No. 03 Vientiane Capital City, dated: October 21st, 2003 code section 49

²²⁷ Law on Local Administration of Lao PDR No. 03 Vientiane Capital City, dated: October 21st, 2003 code section 53

²²⁸ Law on Local Administration of Lao PDR No. 03 Vientiane Capital City, dated: October 21st, 2003 code section 59

following rules and laws provided by the district level budget unit. Local administration finance must operate in line with the principles of the centralized state budget; also the local budget shall be managed according to the rules and laws and implement socio-economic development plans and annual plans which are approved by government for local administration.

The person who has the highest financial decision making function is the Governor/Mayor or a person assigned by the Governor/Mayor of the province/city. At the district administration level, it is the Chief of District/Mayor or a person who is assigned to this role.

4.1 Government Sectors: Sociality and Cultures (Structure and Responsibility Decree)

1. Ministry of Education and Sports²²⁹

Ministry of Education and Sports is a basically centered organization which is under the main structure of the government sector. Its responsibility decree is taking a role as Chief of Staff with extended responsibility to cover both education and sports sector.

This ministry is the main sector to improve the skills of Lao human resources by the 5 principles of national education organization chart of the Ministry of education²³⁰: civility,

²²⁹ Decree on Establishment, Roles and Functions of Ministry of Education and Sports No. 28 Vientiane Capital City, dated: September 7th, 2011

²³⁰ Code section 3 Responsibilities of the Ministry of Education and Sports as follows: 1) To study and develop strategies for education and sports development and propose plans 2) To create and ensure the effective implementation of the laws and rules for education and sports development 3) To promote the plans for education and sports development and put them into practice 4) To study and develop strategies for education and sports development plans in order to be in accord with the national socio-economic development and budget plans 5) To appoint, transfer, and create the education and sports development plans according to the policy of the ministry 6) To manage the performance of organizations and personnel in accordance with international and continental standard of education and sports 7) To coordinate with other ministries, equivalent ministries, departments and local administration of Education and Sports; Provincial and District level 8) To facilitate and manage the organizations concerned to ensure the timely and accurate accounting of education and sports development plans 9) To evaluate and examine the management and the performance of administration of Education and Sports plans 10) To create the opportunity, relationship and coordination with international and continental organizations related to education and sports 11) Other

qualification, ethics and morality, knowledge and good health. The structure of management units is defined as a central sector and a local sector as follows.

The governmental structure is constituted by the Prime Minister's Office, line ministries, ministry-equivalent organs, provinces forming the government of Laos at the central level;²³¹ and provincial authorities and the local level. Each ministry is supported by its subordinate hierarchical departments,²³² which are formed as ministerial structures.²³³

A Central Sector

1. Cabinet of Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES)
2. Department of Organization and Personnel
3. Department of External Relations
4. Department of Planning
5. Department of Finance
6. Department of Inspection

duties and authorities assigned by the government

²³¹ Decree on Establishment, Roles and Functions of Ministry of Education and Sports No. 28 Vientiane Capital City, date: September 7th, 2011 Code section 8: The 5 principles of the Ministry of Education and Sports as follow: 1) The responsibilities of each department to manage the performance of the organization and personnel in accordance with their authorities and duties 2) Follow the plans, projects and the strategies that has been appointed 3) To manage and cooperate with other departments in both central and local administration 4) To examine and evaluate the performance of the organization and deal with the problems and obstacles found during that period 5) To supervise and report on the working performance of the organization and finally to propose policies to the government

²³² Decree on Establishment, Roles and Functions of Ministry of Education and Sports No. 28 Vientiane Capital City, dated: September 7th, 2011 Reference: Law on Government of Lao PDR No. 02, dated: May 6th, 2003 Reference: Law on Education (Edited version) No. 04, dated: July 3rd, 2007 and Law on Sports-Gymnastics No. 11 dated: December 25th, 2007

Reference: The proposal of Ministry of Education and Sports No. 733 dated: August 17th, 2011

Reference: The proposal of Ministry of Interior No. 29 dated: September 1st, 2011

²³³ Decree on Establishment, Roles and Functions of Ministry of Education and Sports No. 28 Vientiane Capital City, dated: September 7th, 2011 Code section 5

7. Department of Preschool and Primary Education Pre-school²³⁴
8. Department of Secondary Education
9. Department of Teacher Training
10. Department of Technical and Vocational Education²³⁵
11. Department of Higher Education²³⁶
12. Department of Non-Formal Education²³⁷

²³⁴ Constitution 1991 Code section 19 Appointing the law on fundamental education and Constitution (Edited version) 2003 Code section 22 and 38 Law on Education No. 03 dated: April 8, 2000 code section 8 and Law on Education (Edited version) No. 04 dated: July 3rd, 2007 Code section 9

²³⁵ Law on the Department of Technical and Vocational Education
Law on Education No. 03 dated: April 8, 2000/ Prime Minister's Speech on No. 167 Establishment, Roles and Functions of the Ministry of Education and Sports No. 62 dated: April 7th, 2008

²³⁶ Law on Department of Higher Education
Law on Education No.03 dated: April 8th, 2000 and Law on Education (Edited Version) No. 04 dated: July 3rd, 2007 Code section 21

Higher Education (Universities)

1. Souphanouvong University, prime minister's speech No.132 dated: August 15th, 2003 and dated: November 4th, 2003, the speech on the foundation of Souphanouvong University.
2. National University of Laos, Luang Prabang Campus, prime minister's speech No.132 dated: August 18th, 2003, the speech on the foundation of National University of Laos, Luang Prabang Campus.
3. University of Health Sciences (administered by Ministry of Public Health) prime minister's speech No.155 dated: September 3rd, 2008, the speech on the foundation of the university.
4. National University of Laos prime minister's speech No.132 dated: August 15th, 2003 prime minister's speech No.071 dated: March 16th, 2009, the speech on the foundation of the university.
5. University of Savannakhet prime minister's speech No.132 dated: August 15th, 2003 prime minister's speech No.091 dated: March 27th, 2009, the speech on the foundation of the university.
6. University of Champasak prime minister's speech No.132 dated: August 15th, 2003 prime minister's speech No.098 dated: April 3rd, 2009, the speech on the foundation of the university

²³⁷ Department of Non-Formal Education

Law on Education No. 03 dated: April 8, 2000.

Law on Education (Edited Version) No. 04 dated: July 3rd, 2007.

13. Department of Physical and Art Education
14. Department of Students Affairs
15. Department of Elite Sports
16. Department of Sports for All
17. Lao National Commission for UNESCO
18. Internal Olympic Commission Relations Department
19. Research Institute of Education Sciences
20. Institute for Education Management Development

A Local Sector

1. Provincial Education and Sports Service
2. District Education and Sports Bureau

2. Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare²³⁸

Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare is one of the administration organization²³⁹

²³⁸ Decree on the foundation and operation of Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare No. 138 Vientiane Capital City, dated: May 4th, 2007.

²³⁹ Decree on the foundation and operation of Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare No. 138 Vientiane Capital City, dated: May 4th, 2007 Code section 3: appointing the duties and authorities of Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare as follows: 1) follow the plan and policy of the ministry 2) to perform duties in accordance with the laws on labor protection, labor relations, state enterprise labor relations and on others concerned 3) to manage and examine the Lao labor and foreign labor employment in accordance with the Law on Labor and Social Welfare 4) To coordinate with other organizations both in the country and in the foreign countries 5) To protect and administer both formal and informal labor to be accessible to the benefits prescribed by the law and living with better quality of life 6) To prevent and resolve labor conflict, labor dispute and any outbreak on labor 7) To promote and perform for labor welfare provision and develop information technology system on labor protection and welfare, generate an action plan 8) To promote and develop occupational safety, health and environment system and to establish and develop labor standard, as well as promote and supervise for certifying establishment applying Lao Labor Standard in consistent with the international labor standards. 9) to proceed legal affairs and regulations of the Department and other laws concerned, lawsuit proceedings, juristic act and contract, seize/garnish and sale by auction, affairs concerning criminally/civil liable, affairs on administration case, labor case and others under Department's authority as well as provision of assistance in the case procedure to employees 10) to give a recommendation regarding the appeal of orders or decisions on labor protection, labor relations and state enterprise labor relations 11)

authorized by the Lao National Congress according to the prime minister's proposal. Its responsibility decree is taking a role as Chief of Staff with extended responsibility to cover both labour sector and national social welfare sector. The structure of the organization is comprised of a central sector²⁴⁰, a local sector and 8 departments as follows:

A Central Sector

1. Bureau of Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare
2. Department of Organization and Personnel
3. Department of Inspection
4. Department of Labor Protection^{241 242}
5. Department of Labor Standard Development^{243 244}

to collaborate with or support the activities involved of other agencies under the Department or others assigned 12) to develop systems of labor relations and state enterprise labor relations 13) to perform the duties in accordance with the laws on labor relations, state enterprise labor relations except in the part concerning occupational safety, health and environment 14) to formulate guidelines, measures and the practice of labor relations and state enterprise labor relations 15) to collaborate with or support the activities involved of other agencies under the Department or others assigned 16) to perform the duties assigned by the government and other ministries.

²⁴⁰ Decree on the foundation and operation of Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare No. 138 Vientiane Capital City, dated: May 4th, 2007.

Reference: Law on Government of Lao PDR No. 02, dated: May 6th, 2003.

Reference: Letter of Proposal of Minister of Labor and Social Welfare No. 1154, dated: March 26th, 2007.

Reference: Letter of proposal of Minister of Ministry Office, the Head of the administration department No. 29 dated: April 2nd, 2007.

²⁴¹ Law on Labor (First Version) 1994 and 2006 the law on labor was edited in accordance with the skills and labor development as well as the social welfare for those who become sick during work. Labor protection and labor inspection are required to appoint the policy and rules for those who work hard and effectively.

²⁴² Law on transnational Labor Inspection (Within the law on labor)

²⁴³ 39 Decree of Prime Minister on Skills and Labor Development No. 036 dated: January 22nd, 2010.

Decree of Prime Minister on Skills and Labor Development 2006 No. 036 dated: January 22nd, 2010.

Law on Skills and Labor Development in accordance with Women, Children, Elderly, and Disabled.

Law on Labor No. 43 dated: December 24th, 2013 Charter: Skills and Labor Development for Women and Children.

²⁴⁴ Law on Labor 2013 Charter 4: Disable and Elderly Labors Code section 33.

6. Department of Labor Welfare Division ²⁴⁵
7. Department of Disablement Pension ²⁴⁶
8. Social Security Department ²⁴⁷

A Local Sector

1. Provincial Labor and Social Welfare Department
2. District Labor and Social Welfare Bureau

3. Ministry of Health ²⁴⁸

Ministry of Health is basically a centered organization which is under the main structure of government sector. ²⁴⁹ Its responsibility is taking a role as Chief of Staff and remains the main

²⁴⁵ Law on Social Welfare in accordance with Constitution 1991 and Constitution 2003 Charter 2: Economy and Sociality code section 20 and 29.

Law on Labor Protection and Social Welfare of Children, Women, Elderly and Disabled.

Law on Labor Development and Women Protection No. 08 dated: October 22nd, 2004 and speech for women Prime Minister related to Labor Development and Women Protection No. 26 dated: February 6th, 2006.

Decree of Prime Minister involving foundation and operation of the Committee for Women's Skills Development No. 561 dated: December 29th, 2011.

Law on Rights and Benefits for Children No. 05 dated: December 27th, 2006.

Law on Elderly Social Welfare and Disabled's Life Quality.

Decree of Prime Minister in accordance with certifying and declaring the national policy for the elderly in Lao PDR No. 156 dated: October 14th, 2004 and Speech of Prime Minister on establishment of the National Committee for the Elderly No. 153 dated: July 25th, 2001.

Decree of Prime Minister on establishment of the National Committee for the Elderly No. 057 dated: February 26th, 2009.

Decree of Prime Minister on Establishment and Operation of National Committee for the Elderly No. 061 dated: March 6th, 2009.

²⁴⁶ Law concerning occupational safety, health and environment and Law on Labor No. 43 dated: December 24th, 2013.

²⁴⁷ Law on Social Security No. 34 Vientiane Capital City, dated: July 26th, 2013.

²⁴⁸ Decree concerning establishment and operation of Ministry of Health No. 178 Vientiane Capital City, dated: April 5th, 2012.

²⁴⁹ Decree concerning establishment and operation of Ministry of Health No. 178 Vientiane Capital City, dated: April 5th, 2012 code section 3: appointing the responsibilities of the minister of the Ministry of Health as

provider of health services to the country.

In recent years, the Ministry has made significant progress in terms of health policy development and decentralization of health services to provincial,²⁵⁰ district and health center levels. The structure of the organization²⁵¹ consists of 10 departments as follows:²⁵²

follows: 1) To determine national and international health policy and strategy in accordance with the law of Lao PRD and , concordantly with ongoing changes 2) To study and develop the policy and strategies related to public health and to propose For governmental Appnoul 3) To develop efficient and equitable integrated health service system for both normal and emergency situations with emphasis on basic rights, specialized service and emergency medicine, surveillance system, disease prevention and control and health threats. 4) To develop a health management system and mechanism to meet quality standards 5) To manage the performance of the organization and personnel in accordance with their authority, including the supervision and reporting on performance of civil servants of line ministries 6) To motivate, promote and facilitate the participation of the Lao People and coordinate with other ministries both in the country and in the foreign countries. 7) To promote participation of all sectors to raise health consciousness, promote health and improve healthy behaviors 8) To facilitate and manage the organizations concerned to support the public health, disease prevention, first aid management, recovery stage of the people in the urban, especially in the rural areas 9) To examine and manage the performance of the organization and personnel in accordance with their authority, including the supervision and reporting on performance of civil servants of line ministries 10) To support and improve the skills of human resources in the organization and propose the government related to the public health curriculum, universities, institutes, and health care center in order to promote and ensure that the human resources are the main key to develop the community in accordance with education and public health 11) To appoint, train, study, transfer or demote the public health officials according to the policy of the government 12) To ensure the effective implementation of the constitution, laws and rules of the Ministry of Public Health 13) To collaborate with or support the activities involved of other agencies under the Department or others assigned 14) To perform the duties assigned by the head of the organization and the government.

²⁵⁰ Decree of Prime Minister concerning to National Policy Declaration and Health Evaluation No.521 dated: March 23th, 2006.

²⁵¹ Decree on Establishment and Operation of Ministry of Health No.178 Vientiane Capital City, dated: April 5th, 2012.

Reference: Law on Government of Lao PDR No. 02 dated: May 6th, 2003.

Reference: Letter of Proposal of Minister of Health No. 187 dated: February 17th, 2012.

Reference: Letter of Proposal of Minister of Interior No. 70 dated: February 29th, 2012.

²⁵² Decree on Establishment and Operation of Ministry of Health No.178 Vientiane Capital City, dated: April

A Central Sector

1. Bureau of Ministry of Health
2. Department of Organization and Personnel
3. Department of Planning
4. Department of Medical Services and Disease Prevention²⁵³
5. Department of Health Service Support²⁵⁴
6. Food and Drug Department²⁵⁵
7. Bureau of Food and Drug Inspection (BFDI)²⁵⁶
8. Department of Medical Sciences and Research
9. Department of Finance
10. Department of Disease Control²⁵⁷

Apart from these departments mentioned above, there are universities, hospitals, institutes, health care centers, and enterprises undertaking the missions with the Ministry of Health.

5th, 2012 code section 5.

²⁵³ Law on Medical Services and Disease Prevention No 01 dated: April 10th, 2001 and Speech of Government No. 470 dated: October 17th, 2012.

²⁵⁴ Law on Medical Services No. 09 dated: November 9th, 2005.

²⁵⁵ Law on Alcohol and Tobacco Control: Law on Tobacco Control No. 07 dated: November 26th.

Decree of Prime Minister on Prohibition of Tobacco Smoking No. 369 dated: August 23rd, 2010.

and Decree of Prime Minister on Printed Warning of Tobacco Smoking No. 37 dated: August 23rd, 2010.

Law on Food and Drug and Medical Products: Speech of Prime Minister on National Policy Declaration in accordance with Safety of Food No. 028 dated: February 3rd, 2009 and Law on Food No. 04 dated: May 15th, 2004.

Law on Water Supply No. 04 dated: July 9th, 2009, Law on drugs and medical products No.01 dated: April 8th, 2000 and Decree of Prime Minister on Herbs as Drugs.

Law on Narcotics and Drugs Suppression No. 10 Vientiane Capital City, dated: December 25th, 2007 and Decree of Prime Minister in accordance with law on Narcotics No. 076 dated: March 20th, 2009.

²⁵⁶ Law on Consumer Protection No. 02 Vientiane Capital City, dated: June 30th, 2010.

²⁵⁷ Law on Disease and the National Committee of Disease Control and Protection No. 473 dated: November 18th, 2010 and Law on HIV Virus Protection No. 01 Vientiane Capital City, dated: June 29th, 2010.

A Local Sector

1. Provincial Health Care Department
2. District Health Care Bureau

4. Ministry of Science and Technology²⁵⁸

Ministry of science and Technology²⁵⁹ is a basically centered organization which is under the main structure of the government sector.²⁶⁰ Its responsibility decree is taking a role as Chief²⁶¹ of Staff and is presently tasked with forwarding the policy and strategic plan for science,

²⁵⁸ Decree of Government on Establishment and Operation of Ministry of Science and Technology No. 309 Vientiane Capital City, dated: September 28th, 2011.

²⁵⁹ Decree on Establishment and Operation of Ministry of Science and Technology No. 309 Vientiane Capital City, dated: September 28th, 2011.

Reference: Law on Government of Lao PDR No. 02 dated: May 6th, 2003.

Reference: Law on Government of Lao PDR No. 107 dated: June 30th, 2011 in accordance with the administration structure of Prime Minister, Vice Prime Minister and Committee of Lao PDR Government.

Reference: Minister of Science and Technology's Letter of Proposal No. 257 dated: September 8th, 2011.

Reference: Minister of Interior's Letter of Proposal No. 45 dated: September 13th, 2011.

²⁶⁰ Constitution of Lao PDR (Edited version 2003) Charter 2 on Economy and Sociality code section 24.

²⁶¹ Decree on Establishment and Operation of Ministry of Science and Technology No. 309 Vientiane Capital City, dated: September 28th, 2011 code section 3: appointing the duties and authority of Minister of Science and Technology as follows: 1) To study the plans and the policy of the ministry and determine the plan about science, technology, innovation, intellectual property, standard and quality, and industry in the world of globalization 2) To investigate and develop the plans and the strategies in order to propose the law on rights and duties to the government 3) To plan the income and outcome of the budget of the ministry and control the budget of the government 4) To build and develop the structure and the method to learn about Science and Technology all over the country 5) To investigate, research, and examine the method to use for learning about Science, Technology, Innovation, Biotechnology and Ecology 6) To compile and conduct the research for discovery in the field of Science and Technology in order to improve labors' skills in the country and find out the ways to protect the environment 7) To support and encourage those who can invent something new and practical to develop the human resources of the country 8) To promote and support people to use the new technology more and more 9) To study and develop the standard system, service system and quality to reach the international goals For which it was set up 10) To investigate, develop, and determine or propose the rules to the government and decree the laws on intellectual property in order to

technology, innovation, intellectual property and seeing to its effective and substantive implementation, both in terms of research and development as well as in terms of creating cooperative mechanisms between all sectors of society, with a view to promoting economic benefits and enhancing quality of life. The structure of the organization is as follows:²⁶²

A Central Sector

1. Office of the Ministry
2. Department of Organization and Personnel
3. Department of Inspection
4. Department of Planning and Coordinating
5. Department of Science Service²⁶³
6. Department of Technology and Innovation²⁶⁴
7. Department of Intellectual Property²⁶⁵
8. Department of International Organization for Standardization²⁶⁶
9. Department of Information Technology²⁶⁷

be fair for those who create some products and inventions 11) Collect data and scientific documents and documents related to technology and innovation 12) Coordinate with other sectors in the central administration and local administration to determine the title to study in the field of science 13) To examine and give advice to those who work in the scientific and technology organization 14) To collect data and build up the team to study and collect the data on science and technology of the country 15) To examine and follow the plan of the study 16) To train the government officers and determine the rules to let them follow the regulations of the government 17) To announce the policy, rule and measures to operate the plans effectively 18) To make a good relationship and cooperate with other international organizations and universal organizations to help one another and support in the field of science and technology 19) To realize the importance of responsibilities in the organization 20) To aware of other duties of the organization

²⁶² Decree of Prime Minister on cooperation of Ministry of Science and Technology No. 309 Vientiane: dated on September 28th, 2011 Code 5.

²⁶³ Law on science and Technology No. 30 dated July 19th, 2013.

²⁶⁴ Law on science and Technology No 30 dated: July 19th, 2013.

²⁶⁵ Decree of Prime Minister in accordance with Patents and Petty Patents related to industry No. 01 dated: January 17th, 2002 and Law on Intellectual Property No. 08 dated: December 24th, 2007 and Law on Standards No. 13 dated: December 26th, 2007.

²⁶⁶ Decree of Prime Minister in accordance with Standard No. 234 dated: June 6th, 2012

10. Institute of Ecology and Biotechnology
11. Institute of Energy and Materials
12. Institute of Computer Technology and Electronics²⁶⁸
13. Bureau of National Science

A Local Sector

1. Provincial Science and Technology Department
2. District Science and Technology Bureau

5. Ministry of Post, Telecom and Communication²⁶⁹

Ministry of Post, Telecom and Communication (MPT)²⁷⁰ is one of the administration organization authorized by Lao National Congress.²⁷¹

²⁶⁷ Decree of Prime Minister on National Policy Declaration for Technology Communication and Information No. 041 dated: February 16th, 2009.

Decree of Prime Minister on Telecommunication System Development and Security of National Information and Technology No.37 dated: February 14th, 2011.

Decree on Internet Using Inspection of Lao PDR No. 104 dated: March 21st, 2012.

²⁶⁸ Law on Electronic Banking No. 20 dated: December 7th, 2012.

²⁶⁹ Decree on Establishment and Operation of Ministry of Post, Telecom and Communication No 303 Vientiane Capital City, dated: September 26th, 2011.

²⁷⁰ Decree on Establishment and Operation of Ministry of Post, Telecom and Communication No 303 Vientiane Capital City, dated: September 26th, 2011 and Decree on Establishment and Operation of Ministry of Post, Telecom and Communication No. 375 dated: October 22, 2001.

Reference: Law on Government of Lao PDR No.02 dated: May 6th, 2003.

Reference: Speech of the President of Lao PDR in accordance with the government structure and administration No.107 dated: June 30th 2011.

Reference: Minister of Natural Resources and Environment's Letter of Proposal No. 978 dated: September 8th, 2011

Reference: Minister of Interior's Letter of Proposal No. 119 dated: September 27th, 2011 .

²⁷¹ Decree on Establishment and Operation of Ministry of Ministry of Post, Telecom and Communication No.303 Vientiane Capital City, dated: September 26th, 2011 code section 3:appointing the duties and the authority of Ministry of Ministry of Post, Telecom and Communication as follows: 1) To suggest and administer and manage the policy on developing information and communication technology of the country to lead to concrete action. 2) To promote and encourage cooperation, domestically and abroad, in order to have

Its responsibility decree is widely recognized as a key driver of developing the whole country in terms of post, telecom and communication. The structure of the organization is as follows:²⁷²

A : Administration Structure and Departments

1. Department of Communications for Purposes
2. Department of Information Technology
3. Telecommunication Department²⁷³
4. Posts Department²⁷⁴

efficient and comprehensive development and usage of information and communication technology in all sectors.3) to promote, research into, and develop information and communication technology for increasing potential and competitiveness of information and communication technology industry of the country. 4) To promote and support the development of personnel performing work concerned with information and communication technology and personnel of all sectors and divisions to be able to use information and communication technology efficiently. 5) To follow up the performance under policy on developing information and communication technology. 6) To enable the maximization of investment in the ICT sector and create new competitive business opportunities for the growth of the ICT industry for socio-economic development 7) To ensure that ICT infrastructure is accessible, robust, reliable, affordable and secure to meet the needs of the country and its people 8) To accelerate the socio-economic development of South Africans and facilitate the building of an inclusive Information Society through partnerships with business and civil society and 3 spheres of Government 9) To improve Departmental performance and enhance the role of ICT SOEs as the delivery arms of Government 10) To encourage the orderly development of Telecommunication System that enhance and strengthens the social and economic welfare of Lao PDR 11) To ensure in keeping with the prevalent Social and economic realities of Lao PDR, access to reliable, reasonably price and modern Telecommunication services and internet. Services for the greatest number of people as far as practicable 12) To ensure the efficiency of the national Telecommunication System and its capability to complete in both the national and international spheres 13) To prevent and abolish discrimination in providing telecommunication services, to progressively effect reliance and competitive and market oriented system and in keeping with these objectives to ensure effective control of the Commission 14) To encourage the introduction of new services and to create a favorable atmosphere for the local and foreign investors who intend to invest in the Telecommunication Sector of Lao PDR

²⁷² Decree on Establishment and Operation of Ministry of Post, Telecom and Communication No 303 Vientiane Capital City, dated: September 26th, 2011 code section 5.

²⁷³ Law on Telecommunication dated: April 25th, 2001.

5. Planning, Finance and Cooperation Department
6. Department of Inspection
7. Department of Organization and Personnel
8. Personnel Cabinet Office
9. Institute of Post, Telecom and Communication
10. ICT Research Center
11. Department of National Internet Exchange²⁷⁵
12. Department of e-Government Project

B : A Local Sector

1. Provincial Post, Telecom and Communication Department
2. District Post, Telecom and Communication Bureau

6. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment²⁷⁶

Ministry of Natural and Resources and Environment²⁷⁷ is one of the missions undertaken by the government.

It is widely considered as Chief of Staff and responsible for the natural environment:²⁷⁸ land, forestry, water, air, biodiversity, and mineral as well as its extended responsibility²⁷⁹ to

²⁷⁴ Law on Post No. 06 dated: May 17th, 2004.

²⁷⁵ Decree on Internet Using Inspection of Lao PDR No. 104 dated: March 21st, 2012.

²⁷⁶ Decree on Establishment and Operation of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment No. 435 Vientiane Capital City, dated: November 28th, 2011.

²⁷⁷ 73 Decree on Establishment and Operation of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment No.435 Vientiane Capital City, dated November 28th, 2011.

²⁷⁸ 1st Constitution (1991) and Constitution (the latest version, 2003)

²⁷⁹ Decree on Establishment and Operation of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment No.435 Vientiane Capital City, dated: November 28th, 2011 code section 3: Appointing the duties and the authority of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment as follows: 1) To expedite the rehabilitation of seriously degraded natural resources and make them productive 2) To rehabilitate the environment and mitigate pollution problems in critical areas. 3) To enhance the capability of government officials and to support indigenous knowledge, at every level of society, so that it can contribute to successful natural resource conservation and management and environmental protection 4) To maintain the value of natural resources, bio-diversity, ecosystem balance and environmental quality, including rehabilitation of degraded natural

resources, in order to support national development 5) To develop sustainable utilization of natural resources, which are considered as social capital, so that they can contribute to sustainable nation building that is in harmony with economic development, public welfare and environmental protection throughout the country 6) To encourage proactive integration of the administrative management of natural resources and environmental protection, based on key performance indicators. 7) To reform and review laws and regulations concerned with natural resources, bio-diversity, environment and pollution, so that they are consistent with policy guidelines, and to ensure effective law enforcement 8) Assess the status and potential of all natural resource sectors including bio-diversity 9) Preserve, conserve, develop and rehabilitate natural resources to maintain their availability and manage their use to satisfy the need for sustainable development, including promoting the implementation of Royal Development Projects 10) Place added value associated with economic, social and environmental impacts resulting from the profitable use natural resources 11) Efficiently formulate rules, criteria and procedures for accessing natural resources by the local community and people's groups, ensuring fairness in distributing benefits This includes providing recommendations, guidelines and measures for all natural resource sectors suited to Lao PDR's situation based on research and development data. 12) Encourage rural and urban communities to seek a better. environment and better quality of life by coordinating efforts to formulate city plans and community rules that suit the potential of concerned areas 13) Protect, maintain and rehabilitate environmental quality to keep it at a standard suitable for human health and to use appropriate technology for managing environmental quality. 14) Prevent and control risks to human health that affect the livelihood of the people and improve environmental quality and the quality of life 15) Enhance the learning process to increase the community's capability to protect, maintain and rehabilitate the environment, community, ancient arts, natural beauty, archaeological significance, historical monuments, ancient national treasures, traditional beliefs, lifestyles and local knowledge as national heritage, for the benefit of future generations 16) Integrate the management of natural resources conservation and environmental protection, based on the principle of good governance centered at local area management, participation and decentralization 17) Extend knowledge to the people and continuously enhance institutional capability at all levels 18) Enable concerned people to gain skills and efficiency in using the body of knowledge and techniques required by their ministerial roles and missions 19) Develop systems and standards for administrative management and database development to allow updated GIS networking with the national GIS database mainframe 20) Promote research and development that support policy development, plan formulation and implementation at all levels 21) Campaign and encourage public awareness for all groups of people, including building participation networks to facilitate careful and continuous implementation 22) Respond to issues concerning natural resources and the environment and build tools and mechanisms for managing the environment efficiently 23) Provide incentives based on economic, social and legal measures 24) Develop mechanisms to reduce conflict over natural resource use

cover natural

Reference: Law on Government of Lao PDR No.02 dated: May 6th, 2003.

Reference: Speech of the President of Lao PDR in accordance with the government structure and administration No.107 dated: June 30th 2011.

Reference: Minister of Natural Resources and Environment's Letter of Proposal No. 978 dated: September 29th, 2011.

Reference: Minister of Interior's Letter of Proposal No. 119 dated: October 27th, 2011.

Disasters, climate change, meteorological department and hydrography all over the country. The structure of the ministry is divided as follows:²⁸⁰

A Central Sector

1. Office of the Ministry
2. Department of Organization and Personnel
3. Department of Land Policy and Land Use Inspection
4. Department of Planning and Cooperation
5. The Land Use Planning and Development Department.
6. Departments of the National Land Management Authority
7. Department of Water Recourses²⁸¹
8. Department of Environmental Quality Promotion²⁸²

and to mitigate environmental problems. These would include market mechanisms to help maintain a balance between demand and supply and encourage responsible use of natural resources and the environment 25) Amend and rectify existing laws and propose new laws to be used as tools to ensure compliance and enforcement. Related laws would be adapted and effectively implemented to respond to the existing situation 26) Increase Thailand's role in addressing international issues on natural resources and the environment to develop collaborative development and to protect public interests 27) Monitor, inspect and give performance measurements, using result-based indicators 28) To perform the duties assigned by the head of the organization and the government.

²⁸⁰ Decree on Establishment and Operation of Ministry of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment No. 435 Vientiane Capital City, dated November 28th, 2011 Code section 5.

²⁸¹ Law on Water and Water Resources No. 02-96 dated: October 11th, 1996 and Decree of Prime Minister in accordance with Water and Water Resources No. 204 dated: October 9th, 2001.

Decree of Prime Minister on Water Resources and Environmental Management No.149 dated: May 10th, 2007.

²⁸² Law on Quality of Environment and Law on Environmental Prevention No. 02/99 dated: April 3rd, 1999.

9. Pollution Control Department²⁸³
10. Department of Forest Resource Management²⁸⁴
11. Department of Geology and Mineral
12. Department of Meteorology and Hydrology²⁸⁵
13. Department of National Disaster and Climate Change Management²⁸⁶
14. Department of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment²⁸⁷
15. The Water Resources and Environment Research Institute²⁸⁸
16. The Secretariat of the Greater Mekong Sub-region²⁸⁹
17. Land Natural Resources Information Research Centre

A Local Sector

1. Provincial Natural Resources and Environment Department

Decree of Prime Minister on National Environment Committee Appointment No. 09 dated: December 2nd, 200 and Decree of Prime Minister No. 102 dated: June 4th, 2001.

Law on Waste Control and Toxic Waste No. 2/99 dated: April 3rd, 1999 and Decree of prime Minister on Garbage Management from Medical Service No. 1706/ 2004.

²⁸³ Law on Environmental Control (Pollution Control).

²⁸⁴ Law on Forestry dated October 11th, 1996.

Law on Forestry (Edited version) No. 13 dated: November 9th, 2005.

Decree of Prime Minister No. 38 dated: February 21st, 2005 and Law on Principles and Administration of Natural Resources and Environment.

Law on Forestry No. 06 dated: December 24, 2007 and Speech of Prime Minister N0. 333 dated: July 19, 2010 on Forest Protection.

²⁸⁵ Decree of Prime Minister No. 293 dated: June 15, 2010 on the Dam Construction Committee.

²⁸⁶ Law on Climate Change.

Law on Protection of Environment No. 02/99 dated: April 3, 1999.

Decree of Prime Minister No. 137 dated: March 12, 2010 on certifying an Announcement of Strategy for Climate Change of Lao PDR and Decree of Prime Minister on Control of import and export the chemicals No. 162 dated: October 13, 2003.

²⁸⁷ Decree of Prime Minister on Management and Operation of Committee and Protection of coast and Ecology along the Mae Khong River and Yellow River No. 161 dated: September 15, 2008.

²⁸⁸ Law on Marine Animals and Wild Animals No. 07 dated: December 24, 2007.

²⁸⁹ Decree of Prime Minister No.072 dated: March 16th, 2009 on Foundation and Operation of the committee of Mea Khong River.

2. District Natural Resources and Environment Bureau

7. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is an administration organization²⁹⁰ of the government and it is significantly recognized as Chief of Staff and responsible for both agriculture and forestry²⁹¹ all over the country.

²⁹⁰Decree of Prime Minister No. 148 Vientiane dated: May 10th, 2007 Code 3 concerning law on responsibilities of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry as follows: 1. Conduct research and development studies on various agricultural disciplines concerning crops and farm mechanization. 2. Provide services on the analysis, inspection, and quality certification and advises on soil, water, fertilizer, crops, agricultural inputs production, products quality, export promotion and other areas of concern. 3. Transfer of agricultural technology to concerned government officials, farmers and the private sector. 4. Implementation of urgent programs assigned to the Department of Agriculture by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives and the Cabinet Minister. 5. Promotes and develops agriculturists and agricultural organizations. 6) Provides agriculturists with vocational training and agricultural services. 7) Develops, promotes and coordinates for agriculturists, agricultural knowledge transfer and management of crops, fisheries and livestock productivity. 8) Carries out any other tasks legally required to be the Department's powers and duties as designated by the ministry or cabinet. 9) To expedite the rehabilitation of seriously degraded natural resources and make them productive. 10) To rehabilitate the environment and mitigate pollution problems in critical areas. 11) To enhance the capability of government officials and to support indigenous knowledge, at every level of society, so that it can contribute to successful natural resource conservation and management and environmental protection. 12) To maintain the value of natural resources, bio-diversity, ecosystem balance and environmental quality, including rehabilitation of degraded natural resources, in order to support national development. 13) To develop sustainable utilization of natural resources, which are considered as social capital, so that they can contribute to sustainable nation building that is in harmony with economic development, public welfare and environmental protection throughout the country. 14) To encourage proactive integration of the administrative management of natural resources and environmental protection, based on key performance indicators. 15) To reform and review laws and regulations concerned with natural resources, bio-diversity, environment and pollution, so that they are consistent with policy guidelines and to ensure effective law enforcement.

²⁹¹ Decree of Prime Minister on Operation of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry No. 148 Vientiane dated: May 10th, 2007 cited by law on Government of Lao PDR No 2 dated: May 6th, 2003.

Cited by research of Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry No. 0422/07 dated: April 23, 2007.

Cited by the proposal of Minister of office of the Prime Minister dated: May 2007.

The structure of the organization can be divided into two sectors:²⁹² a central and a local sectors and The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is comprised of several departments including as follows:

A Central Sector

1. Office of the Ministry
2. Department of Organization and Personnel
3. Department of Forest Inspection (DOFI)
4. Department of Planning
5. Department of Agriculture
6. Department of Livestock and Fisheries²⁹³
7. Department of Forestry (DOF)²⁹⁴
8. Department of Irrigation²⁹⁵
9. The National Agriculture & Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI)
10. The National Agriculture & Forestry Extension Service (NAFES)

A Local Sector

17 Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Offices (PAFOs), and 139 District Agriculture and Forestry Extension Offices (DAFES)

²⁹² Decree of Prime Minister on Operation of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry No. 148 Vientiane dated: May 10th, 2007 Code 6.

²⁹³ Law on Fishery No. 03 dated: July 9th, 2009.

²⁹⁴ Law on Forestry dated: October 11th, 1996.

Law on Forestry (Edited version) No. 13 dated: November 9th, 2005.

Decree of Prime Minister No. 333 dated: July 19th, 2010 on Protection for forestry.

²⁹⁵ Decree of Prime Minister No. 293 dated: June 15th, 2010 on Foundation and Operation of committees of Dam.

8. Ministry of Energy and Mines²⁹⁶

Ministry of Energy and Mines is a governmental or unit²⁹⁷, which is supported by seven Departments. The supporting departments are classified into three streams: general administration, mines, and energy.²⁹⁸

²⁹⁶ Decree of Minister of Ministry of Energy and Mine No. 372 Vientiane dated: October 21st, 2011

²⁹⁷ Decree of Minister of Ministry of Energy and Mine No. 372 Vientiane dated: October 21st, 2011

Code 3 concerning responsibilities of the government officers of Ministry of Energy and Mines. The purpose and functions of the ministry are, under the direction of the minister: 1) to prepare and develop comprehensive policies on energy, mineral resources in Laos, and to make reports and recommendations for their implementation; 2) to initiate and carry out any investigation, research, study or inventory respecting mineral resources, and on energy facilities and future requirements for Laos; 3) to collect and circulate the information acquired; 4) to administer Acts and regulations assigned to the minister under this section; 4) and discharge other duties assigned to the minister; 5) to regulate all mining activity; 6) to establish energy services for ministries of the government, and for that purpose to obtain from them information about their projects, programs and requirements involving energy; 7) To carry out duties, functions and powers relating to energy, the minister may acquire and dispose of property; 8) To expend capital sums required for the purpose of this section out of money appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose; 9) To be a vibrant, performance driven Ministry that ensures that Laos mineral, energy and geological resources contribute to the socio economic development of the country 10) To promote, facilitate, regulate and monitor the responsible development and sustainable utilization of Lao's mineral, geological and energy resources through competent staff, innovation, research and stakeholder collaboration in a conducive environment for the benefit of all Lao people; 11) To provide policy guidance in the development and exploitation of the energy and mineral resources; 12) To create an enabling environment in order to attract investment in the development, provision and utilization of energy and mineral resources; 13) To acquire, process and interpret technical data in order to establish the energy and mineral resource potential of the country; 14) To inspect, regulate, monitor and evaluate activities of private companies in energy and mineral sectors so that the resources are developed, exploited and used on a rational and sustainable basis; 15) To conduct the operation of Ministry of Energy and Mines; 16) To follow the regulations, policies and rules of the ministry.

²⁹⁸ Decree of Prime Minister on operation of Ministry of Energy and Mine No. 372 Vientiane dated: October 21st, 2011.

Cited by Law of Government of Lao PDR No. 02 dated: May 6th, 2003.

Cited by Decree of the President of the Lao PDR No. 107 dated: June 30th, 2011 concerning the structure of government administration and authority in the Lao PDR.

A Central Sector

1. Office of the Ministry
2. Department of Statutory Monitoring and Personnel
3. Department of Inspection
4. Department of Mines²⁹⁹
5. Department of Energy Policy and Planning
6. Department of Energy Business
7. Department of Energy Management
8. Institute of Alternative Energy

A Local Sector

1. Provincial Energy and Mine Department
2. District Energy and Mine Bureau

9 Ministry of Public Works and Transport³⁰⁰

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport: MTPT is decreed by the Royal Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR)³⁰¹ to lead and manage the public works and all the

Cited by the letter of the Prime Minister on Ministry of Energy and Mine No 1100 dated: September 13th, 2011.

Cited by Letter of minister of Ministry of Interior dated: October 2011.

²⁹⁹ Law on Mines No. 04-97 dated: April 12th, 1997 and Law on Mines No. 04 dated: December 8th, 2008.

³⁰⁰ Decree on Foundation and Operation of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport No. 373 Vientiane dated: October 22nd, 2007

³⁰¹ Decree on Foundation and Operation of Ministry of Public Works and Transport No. 373 Vientiane dated: October 22nd, 2007 Code 3 concerning The Ministry of Public Works and Transport has the following missions and functions: 1) Manage the Implementation of national policy concerning all public works construction by establishing the principles of law. 2) cooperate with various organizations to develop the country. 3) Build, maintain and manage all the transportation infrastructure such as roads, bridges, ports, railways, waterways and buildings. 4) establish the regulations for the development of the roads, ports, railways and waterways infrastructure. 5) Establish the regulations and control the transport by road, railway and waterway. 6) Participate and cooperate to establish laws, regulations, and diverse standards concerning the construction of transport infrastructure. 7) Realize the other constructions that the Royal Government entrusts to it. 8) Cooperate with the Secretariat of Civil Aviation concerning all airport construction works. 9) To provide the highest quality transport and infrastructure sector strategic policy. 10) Advice and plans to the Government in

transportation infrastructure such as roads, bridges, ports, railways, waterways and buildings. The structure of the organization is comprised of the central level;³⁰² and provincial authorities and the local level as follows:

The Central Level

1. Office of the Ministry
2. Department of Organization and Personnel
3. Department of Planning and Cooperation
4. Department of Inspection
5. Department of Highways
6. Department of Land Transport
7. Department of Town and Country Planning³⁰³
8. Department of Civil Aviation
9. Marine Department
10. Office of Railway
11. Institute of Public Works and Transport

The Local Level

1. Provincial Public Works and Transport Department
2. District Public Works and Transport bureau (if necessary)

a timely manner. 11) To research, consult and provide a complete picture of the implications and benefits of policy and plan options available. 12) To plan, develop and maintain an economic, efficient and effective transport infrastructure. 13) Plan, develop and maintain economic, efficient and effective transport services by road, rail, water, air and pipeline.

³⁰² Decree on Foundation and Operation of Ministry of Public Works and Transport No. 373 Vientiane dated: October 22nd, 2007.

³⁰³ Law on city plan No. 03/ 99 dated: April 3rd, 1999.

10 Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism³⁰⁴

Ministry of Information³⁰⁵, Culture and Tourism: MICT is a government organization³⁰⁶ subordinated to the Prime Minister's Office.³⁰⁷ The ministry's primary areas of responsibility are

³⁰⁴Decrees on Foundation and Operation of Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism No. 396 Vientiane Dated: November 2nd, 2011.

³⁰⁵Decrees on Foundation and Operation of Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism No. 396 Vientiane Dated: November 2nd, 2011.

Cited by Law on Government of the Lao PDR No. 02 dated: May 6th, 2003.

Cited by Decree No. 107 Dated: June 30th, 2011 concerning the structure of the organization of the Lao PDR.

Cited by the proposal of Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism No. 81 dated: August 23rd, 2011 and No. 155 dated: September 21st, 2011.

³⁰⁶ Constitution of the Lao PDR 1999 and Constitution (Edited version) 2003.

³⁰⁷ Decree on Foundation and Operation of Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism No. 396 Vientiane Dated: November 2nd, 2011 Code 3 concerning the missions of the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism as follows: 1) To develop Laos as a world class tourist and cultural destination as well as to build the national identity based on arts, culture and heritage. 2) To enhance the tourism and culture sectors as well as to strengthen, conserve and preserve national arts, culture and heritage. 3) To strengthen the arts, culture and heritage towards enhancing national unity based on the National Cultural Policy. 4) To enhance the synergy and cooperation among the tourism and culture industry players towards making Laos the preferred tourist and cultural destinations. 5) To strengthen the tourism and culture sectors towards empowering the nation's economy 6) To promote Laos uniqueness in arts, culture and heritage as the main catalyst for the growth in tourism and culture sectors. 7) To develop knowledgeable, skilled, creative and innovative human capital in tourism and culture sectors. 8) To pursue a clear and transparent tourism policy protecting the state and the public interest on the basis of the European Union principles. 9) To work for positioning Laos as a well-known and preferred year-round tourist destination with clearly identifiable national identity, authentic culture and nature, occupying a leading place among tourist destinations. 10) To focus on the development of specialized types of tourism, improving the quality of the national tourism product and its competitiveness, and attracting more tourists. 11) To promote quality services and protecting the rights and safety of consumers. 12) Ensuring effective coordination between the institutions and integrating tourism into related sectorial policies; Interacting with the tourist business. 13) To Make Lao PDR a recognized leader in the tourist development of the region and building a positive attitude towards our country among the target groups. 14) To raise the level of awareness for Lao PDR as a country of rich opportunities for summer and winter holidays, of ancient culture, rich in historical and architectural monuments, mineral resources and beautiful and preserved nature, as a destination that offers security and tranquility to its guests. 15) To make

information resources development, culture and tourism all over the country. The structure of the organization is comprised of two main levels: the central level and the local level as follows:³⁰⁸

A: The Central Level (Ministry)

1. Office of the Ministry
2. Department of Organization and Personnel
3. Department of Inspection
4. Department of Planning and Finance
5. Department of International Relations
6. Department of Mass Media
7. Arts and Performance Department³⁰⁹
8. Department of Culture³¹⁰
9. Department of Publication
10. National Heritage Department³¹¹
11. Department of Film Archive
12. Fine Art Department³¹²

effective national marketing aimed at positioning and promoting Lao PDR as a year-round tourist destination, in agreement with sectorial organizations and major tour operators working at target markets for Lao PDR through targeted messages to different markets aimed at the target groups.

³⁰⁸ Decree on Foundation and Operation of Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism No. 396 Vientiane Dated: November 2nd, 2011 Code5.

³⁰⁹ Decree of Prime Minister on National Artist No. 194 Dated: December 17th, 2004.

³¹⁰ Decree of Prime Minister on National Artist No. 194 Dated: December 17th, 2004.

³¹¹ Law on cultural Heritage of the Lao PDR No.03 dated: June concerning National Heritage Conservation about culture, history, and the environment. Law on National Heritage No. 08 dated: November 9th 2005. Law on archaeological finds and historic sites and Law on fossils. Decree of the Prime Minister on Rules and City plans for Luang Phra Bang No. 158 dated: August 24th, 1996. Decree of Prime Minister No. 175 dated: November 6th 2003 on Plans for the Conservation of the National Heritage of Luang Phra Bang. Decree of Prime Minister No. 175 dated: February 1st, 2012 on Plan for Conservation of the National Heritage of Luang Phra Bang. Decree of Prime Minister No. 278 dated: September 29th, 2009 on Plan for Conservation of the National heritage of Vieng Zai.

13. Department of Tourism Development³¹³
14. Department of Tourism Promotion
15. Department of Tourism Management

The administration in the field of academics that depends on the ministry includes

1. Lao National Radio
2. Lao National Television
3. Lao News Agency
4. Lao Newspaper
5. International Newspapers (Vientiane Times and Le Rénovateur)
6. Institute of Mass Media and Culture
7. National Institute of Fine – Arts

The administrator is equal to the head of the department

1. National Fine Arts Department
2. National Body Art Department
3. National Musical Drama Department
4. Press and Publication Department
5. National Library
6. School of National Arts
7. Lao National Museum
8. National Doll Department
9. National Dialogue Play Department
10. Journal of Art Created Language
11. Training Center for Tourism
12. National Cultural Achieve
13. Cultural Center For Children
14. Department of Ancient Science

³¹² Law on Handicrafts No.. 02 dated: July 25th, 2008.

³¹³ Law on Tourism No. 10 dated: November 9th, 2005.

A Local Level

1. Provincial Center for Information and Tourism
2. District Center for Information and Tourism GAP

4.2 Ministries related to Politics and Security

1. Ministry of Interior³¹⁴

The Ministry of Interior³¹⁵ is an administration organization of the government and it is significantly recognized as Chief of State.³¹⁶ The ministry has responsibility over: local

³¹⁴ Decree on Foundation and Operation of Ministry of the Interior No. 253 Vientiane dated: August 19th, 2011.

³¹⁵ Decree on Foundation and Operation of Ministry of the Interior No. 253 Vientiane dated: August 19th, 2011. Cited by Law No. 02 dated: May 6th 2003 concerning Government of the Lao PDR.

Cited by Decree of the President of the country No. 107 dated: June 30th 2011 concerning the structure of the administration and appointed members of the board of the Government of Lao PDR.

Cited by the proposal of the Prime Minister of Interior No. 11 dated: August 10th, 2011.

³¹⁶ Decree on Foundation and Operation of the Ministry of Interior No. 253 Vientiane dated: August 19th, 2011 Code 3 concerning the missions of the Ministry of Interior as follows: 1) to maintain of security, general order, safety and law enforcement. 2) To achieve a balance between maintaining security and stability and respecting human rights and freedoms. 3) To commit to legal and ethical standards and implementation of the principles of equality and transparency. 4) To keep up the high spirit of policemen and achieve a high level of readiness through preparation, improved qualifications and training. 5) To deploy high technology and advanced systems in the field of security-related work. 6) To build channels to connect with all sections of society, embodying the concept of community partnership, cooperation and coordination with other official authorities. 6) To define and lead policies and strategic objectives for the Ministry of Interior 7) To identify strategic objectives and approve policies and strategies for achieving these objectives in order to address the security and governance needs of the country. 8) To demonstrate accountability to the President, Parliament and people of the Lao PDR for the legal, ethical, honest, impartial and effective performance of the Ministry of Interior. 9) Ensure conformity with the law, and the integrity and effectiveness of officials in providing policing services to the Lao PDR. 10) To oversee and hold provincial police chiefs, border police commanders and special force units of the government officers to account for their work and performance. 11) Ensure effectiveness, trustworthiness and transparency in the Government support units and hold them accountable. 12) Ensure coordination at the strategic level in developing policies with other security and civil agencies of the country. 13) Ensure the existence of effective mechanisms for communicating policies and decisions from the top to the bottom of the organization, and receive progress reports on implementation of policies,

administrations, internal security, citizenship, land management, and public works³¹⁷. It includes local police, traffic police, immigration police, security police (including border police), and other armed police units.³¹⁸

The Structure of the Ministry

1. Office of the Ministry
2. Department of Organization and Personnel³¹⁹
3. Department of Inspection³²⁰
4. Department of Planning and Cooperation
5. Department of Administration Development
6. Local Administration Department³²¹
7. Department of Government Officer Services³²²
8. Department of National Maps
9. Department of National Document
10. Department of Competition and Compliment

strategies, functions and activities from the bottom up. 14) To ensure inter-ministerial cooperation to support coordination and collaboration among security agencies. 15) To ensure human rights and gender and ethnic balance in the Lao PDR.

³¹⁷ Decree on rules and regulations of government officers of the Lao PDR No. 80 Vientiane dated: May 19th, 2003.

³¹⁸ Decree on Foundation and Operation of Ministry of Interior No. 253 Vientiane dated: August 19th 2011 code 5.

³¹⁹ Law on information about government of the Lao PDR; speech on rules for the government officers of the Lao PDR No. 82 Vientiane dated: May 19th, 2003 and Law on Prevention of Corruption No.03 Vientiane dated: January 19th, 2005.

³²⁰ Law on Inspection of the government No. 02 Vientiane dated: July 2nd, 2007 and Law on Inspection No. 05 Vientiane dated: July 3rd, 2007.

³²¹ Law on the Government No. 02 Vientiane dated: May 6th 2003 and Law on Public Administration No. 03 Vientiane dated: October 22nd, 2003.

³²² Law on Smart City Administration/Law on Inspection of the government No. 02 Vientiane dated: July 2nd, 2007.

Law on Inspection No. 05 Vientiane dated: July 3rd, 2007 and Law on Inspection of council No. 09 Vientiane dated: October 22nd, 2004.

11. Department of Evaluation and Government Officers Development³²³
12. Department of Citizens Administration³²⁴
13. Department of Tribes and Religions
14. Institute of the Science of Public Administration Training Center
15. Center of Standard Investigation and Maps

A Local Level

1. Interior Department of Provincial Administration, Vientiane
2. Bureau of Municipal Interior Department

2. Government Inspection Authority³²⁵

Government Inspection Authority³²⁶ is the counter-corruption organization (State Organization)³²⁷ that has the role of preventing and countering corruption within the country by

³²³ Plan for Improvement and Integration of the National Government (2011-2015).

³²⁴ Decree on Regulations for the government officers of the Lao PDR No. 82 Vientiane dated: May 26th, 2003.

³²⁵ Decree on Foundation and Operation of the Inspection of the government No. 10 Vientiane dated: January 26th, 2004.

³²⁶ Decree on Foundation and Operation of the Inspection of the government No. 10 Vientiane dated: January 26th, 2004.

Cited by section 7 code 70:6 and 7 of the Constitution of the Lao PDR.

Cited by section 2 code 7: 13 and section 7 code 36 concerning the law of the Lao PDR.

Cited by the proposal of the Prime Minister No. 36 dated: January 14th, 2004.

³²⁷ Decree on Foundation and Operation of the Inspection of the government No. 10 Vientiane dated: January 26th, 2004 code 3 sets forth the responsibilities of the Chief of State as follows: 1) To promulgate the Constitution and laws already adopted by the National Assembly 2) To issue presidential edicts and decrees 3) To propose the appointment or removal of the Prime Minister to the National Assembly for consideration and decision 4) To appoint or remove the Prime Minister and to appoint, transfer or remove members of the government after approval by the National Assembly 5) To appoint or remove the Vice-President of the People's Supreme Court based on the recommendation of the President of the People's Supreme Court, [and to] appoint or remove the Deputy Supreme Public Prosecutor based on the recommendation of the Supreme Public Prosecutor 6) To appoint, transfer or remove provincial and city governors based on the recommendation of the Prime Minister 7) To be the head of the people's armed forces 8) To decide on promotions or demotions at the rank of general in the national defense and security forces based on the

assigning the State Inspection Authority at the central level and state inspection authorities at provincial levels for implementation.

The counter-corruption organization is an investigation organization and performs its duties independently. The counter-corruption organization at the central level has a status equal to a ministry. The head of such organization is appointed and removed by the same procedure as a member of the government. The counter-corruption organization at the provincial level has a status equal to a provincial division. The head of the counter-corruption organization at the provincial level is appointed or removed by the head of the counter-corruption organization³²⁸ at the central level, after coordination with the provincial governor and city mayor. The organizational structure of the counter-corruption organization consists of:³²⁹

1. The Office of Government Inspection Authority
2. Department of Inspection Anti-corruption Division³³⁰
3. Department of Economic Inspection Division
4. Department of Investigation Division³³¹

recommendation of the Prime Minister 9) To convene and preside at the government's special meetings 10) To decide on conferring national gold medals, orders of merit, medals of victory and the highest honorific titles of the State 11) To decide on granting amnesty 12) To decide on general or partial military conscription and to declare states of emergency all over the country or in any particular locality 13) To issue the ratification of secession from treaties and agreements signed with foreign countries 14) To appoint and recall plenipotentiary representatives of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to or from foreign countries based on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, and to accept the plenipotentiary representatives of foreign countries accredited to the Lao People's Democratic Republic 15) To exercise such other rights and perform such other duties as provided by the laws.

³²⁸ Law on Protection of Corruption No. 03 Vientiane dated: January 19th, 2005.

³²⁹ Decree on Foundation and Operation of the Inspection of the Government No. 10 Vientiane dated: January 26th, 2004 Code 6.

³³⁰ Law on Smart City Administration No. 02 Vientiane dated: July 2nd, 2007. Law on Inspection No. 05 Vientiane dated: July 3rd, 2007. Law on Inspection of the National Council No. 09 Vientiane dated: October 22nd, 2004 and Speech on the regulations of the government officers No. 82 Vientiane dated: may 19th, 2003.

³³¹ Law on the Institute of criminal proceedings of the Lao PDR: Speech on the regulations of the government officers No. 82 Vientiane dated: May 19th, 2003.

3. Ministry of National Defense

Ministry of National Defense is originally from the Lao Army Force which was established on January 20th, 1949 at Mae Cave in the region of Baan Phong Sa, Ta Seang Lao Hoong, Chiang Kham District in Hua Phan, which was led by Mr. Krisorn Phromwihan, Mr. Sisawad Keawboopun and Mr. Phetwong.³³² After that Laos became independent and the Army has been named as Laos Army until the present time.³³³

The Ministry of National Defense is a cabinet-level government department of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.³³⁴ The ministry controls and manages³³⁵ the Royal Lao Armed Forces to maintain national security, territorial integrity and national defense.

³³² The Lao People's Armed Forces is the name of the armed forces of Laos, who are charged with protecting the country.

³³³ Website of Lao Information: <http://www.Kpl.gov.laDefault.aspx>.

³³⁴ Constitution section 3 Prevention of the country No. 32 dated: May 28th 2003 determined 3 codes: code 31-33-36 and consist of Law on National Prevention No. 02 Vientiane dated: March 8th 1995, Law on Lao Soldiers No. 07 Vientiane dated: October 22nd 2004 and Law on Peace and Order Prevention No. 40 Vientiane dated: December 19th, 2013.

³³⁵ Decree of Prime Minister on Foundation and Operation of the Ministry of National Defense No. 348 Vientiane dated: October 1st, 2007 code 4 defines the responsibilities of the Ministry of Defense as follows: 1) Formulate of policies, programs and projects in regard to the subject of Defense, and all subjects that come under the purview of Departments, Statutory Institutions and Public Corporations. 2) Provide for the defense of the country through the facilitation of the functioning of the Armed Services. 3) Maintenance of internal security 4) Defense and internal security related intelligence services 5) Relations with visiting Armed Forces 6) Explosives and firearms 7) Maintenance of Light Houses (other than those that belong to the Ports Authority) 8) Higher Education for defense services personnel 8) Matters relating to private security services 9) Rescue operations and administration of the country and to guard against external and internal threats to national peace and security, promote the welfare of soldiers, veterans and their families in order to attain national security, uphold sovereignty and territorial integrity, support socio-economic development and political stability. 10) To maximize its effectiveness and efficiency for guarding against internal and external threats to national peace and security, and provide support for social and economic development 11) To provide the military forces needed to deter war and to protect the security of our country 12) to support the overall mission of the Department of Defense by providing official, timely and accurate information about defense policies, organizations, functions and operations. And to also be the single, unified starting point for finding military information online 13) To follow the instruction of the head of the ministry.

The Ministry of Defense has the responsibilities in defending and safeguarding the security of the country from both internal and external threats by preparing military forces for combat warfare, protecting, suppressing insurgents and rebellions, attaining national development and safeguarding the national interests, as well as performing other missions described by the designated laws.³³⁶ The organizational structure of Ministry of National Defense consists of:³³⁷

1. Office of the Minister of Defense
2. Office of the Permanent Secretary for Defense
3. Royal Aide-de-Camp Department
4. Royal Security Command Department
5. Royal Armed Forces
6. Department of Science and Military History
7. Department of All Sciences
8. Headquarters of the Military
9. Headquarters of the Vientiane Military
10. School, Hospital, Industry and Treasury

³³⁶ Decree of Prime Minister of Foundation and Operation of the Ministry of National Defense No. 348 Vientiane dated: October 1st, 2007.

Cited by Law on Government of Lao PDR No. 02 dated: May 6th, 2003.

Cited by Law on Lao Soldier No. 07 dated: October 22nd, 2004.

Cited by the proposal of the Minister of National Defense No. 2168 dated: September 21st, 2007.

Cited by the proposal of the Minister of National Defense No. 87 dated: September 25th, 2007.

³³⁷ Decree of the Prime Minister on Foundation and Operation of the Ministry of National Defense No. 348 Vientiane dated: October 1st, 2007 Code 6.

4. Ministry of Public Security³³⁸

Ministry of Public Security is the Ministry of the Interior of Laos,³³⁹ which is directly controlled by the Central Sectors of the Governmental Administration³⁴⁰ and The Committee of the Central

Government as well as the responsibilities of the Ministry of Public Security as follows:

The responsibilities of public security agencies in the Lao PDR include:

1. To prevent, stop and investigate criminal activities, fight against terrorist activities and maintain stability and order
2. To maintain border security, supervise public information networks.
3. To supervise security concerning state organizations, social organizations, enterprises, institutions, and large construction sites.

³³⁸ Decree of Organization and Operation of Ministry of Public Security No. 79 Vientiane dated: February 27th 2007.

³³⁹ Law on Public Security No. 03 Vientiane dated: July 2nd 2007.

³⁴⁰ Decree on Organization and Operation of Ministry of Public Security No. 79 Vientiane dated: February 27th 2007 Code 3 defines the responsibilities of ministry of Public Security as follows: 1) To ensure nationwide security, social order and the prevention, detection and investigation of crime. 2) To maintain internal security, which are mostly carried out by the internal security force. 3) To guard against all forms of attempted attacks and sabotage; protect designated individuals and facilities. 4) To ensure the security of important international and national conferences and large-scale cultural and sports events. 5) To protect important airports, radio stations key and confidential units and vital places in such sectors as state economy and national defense. 6) To protect important bridges and tunnels and ensure the security of prisons and detention houses. 7) To maintain public order in state-designated large and medium-sized cities or specific zones. 8) To regularize and strictly manage the performance of its duties, and improve them through science and technology, including improvement of duty-related facilities, and reduce hidden hazards. 9) To enhance duty performance and ensure the safety of guarded targets by optimizing duty organization and arrangement, implementing duty regulations and meticulously organizing important temporary duties. 10) To handle dozens of attempted attacks against guarded targets, prevents hundreds of escape attempts by detained suspects and imprisoned convicts, organize thousands of important temporary duties and ensure the security of important international and national conferences and large-scale events in cooperation with the government departments concerned.

4. To guide community security commissions of the Lao PDR.³⁴¹

The structure of Ministry of Public Security³⁴² includes the 3 headquarters of the Supreme Commander, one head office, 6 departments, 3 headquarters and 1 bureau of National Public Security.

1. Headquarters: Supreme Commander of Politic Security
2. Headquarters: Supreme Commander of Public Security
3. Headquarters: Supreme Commander of Police
4. Office of Ministry of Public Security
5. Quartermaster's Department
6. Department of News and Detection
7. Department of Local Administration and Social Security
8. Department of Information and Communications³⁴³
9. Department of Inspection
10. Department of Historical Investigation and Science for Public Security
11. Bureau of Central Security
12. Bureau of Location
13. Bureau of Location Security
14. Bureau of National Public Security

³⁴¹Decree on Organization and Operation of Ministry of Public Security No. 79 Vientiane dated: February 27th, 2007 Code 2.

³⁴²Decree on Organization and Operation of Ministry of Public Security No. 79 Vientiane dated: February 27th, 2007 Cited by Constitution of the Lao PDR.

Cited by Law on Government of the Lao PDR.

Cited by the proposal of the committee of the Government No. 078 dated: February 26th, 2007.

³⁴³Decree on Information Control through the Internet 2014. Cited by Law on the Government of the Lao PDR. Cited by Law on Telecommunication 2011. Cited by the Letter of the Minister of Post, Telecom and Communications No. 1760 dated: July 12th, 2014. Speech on Regulations, Policies, and Measures on Information Control through the Internet for national Stability, Peace and Order.

Apart from the government sectors that administer the country, the Lao PDR is governed by only a single political party. This is The Lao People's Revolutionary Party, a communist party that has governed Laos since 1975. The policy-making organizations are the Politburo, the Secretariat and the Central Committee.³⁴⁴ A party congress, which elects members³⁴⁵ to the politburo and central committee, is held every five years. The government is the administrative organization of the state. The government manages in a unified manner³⁴⁶ the implementation of duties of state in all fields: political, economic, cultural, social, national defense and security and foreign affairs.³⁴⁷ The government³⁴⁸ has the following rights and duties as follows:³⁴⁹ 1) To implement the Constitution, laws and resolutions of the National Assembly as well as state decrees and acts of the President of state.³⁵⁰ 2. To submit draft laws to the National Assembly and draft decrees and acts to the President of state. 3) To map out the strategic plans on the

³⁴⁴ Law on the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Code 9.

³⁴⁵ Law on the Election of the National Council No. 05 Vientiane dated: December 15th, 2010.

³⁴⁶ Law on the Election of the National Council No. 05 Vientiane dated: December 15th, 2010 (Edited Version).

³⁴⁷ The President of the country is the Head of State of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the representative of the multi-ethnic Lao people both within the country and abroad. The President of the State is elected by the National Assembly with two-thirds of the votes of all members of the National Assembly attending the session. The President of the State has the following rights and duties: 1. To promulgate the Constitution and laws already adopted by the National Assembly; 2. To issue presidential edicts and decrees; 3. To propose the appointment or removal of the Prime Minister to the National Assembly for consideration and decision; 4. To appoint or remove the Prime Minister, [and to] appoint, transfer or remove members of the government after approval by the National Assembly; 5. To appoint or remove the Vice-President of the People's Supreme Court based on the recommendation of the President of the People's Supreme Court, and to appoint or remove the Deputy Supreme Public Prosecutor based on the recommendation of the Supreme Public Prosecutor; 6. To appoint, transfer or remove provincial and city governors based on the recommendation of the Prime Minister; 7. To be the head of the people's armed forces; 8. To decide on promotions or demotions to the rank of general in the national defense and security forces based on the recommendation of the Prime Minister; 9. To convene and preside at the government's special meetings (Website: KPL: Lao News Agency/ <http://kpl.gov.la/Default.aspx>).

³⁴⁸ The committee of the National Council was not from the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, but it was appointed by the Government (6th Conference).

³⁴⁹ Regulations of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Code 1 and 2.

³⁵⁰ Regulations of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Code 11.

socio-economic development and annual state budgets and submit them to the National Assembly for consideration and approval. 4) To issue decrees and decisions on the management of socio-economic, scientific and technical fields, national defense and security and foreign affairs. 5) To organize, guide and supervise the functioning of the managerial organizations of all branches and of local administrative organizations. 6) To organize and supervise the activities of the national defense and security forces. 7) To sign treaties and agreements with foreign countries and guide their implementation 8) To suspend or revoke decisions, instructions of the ministries, the ministry-equivalent organizations, organizations attached to the government, and local administrative organizations if they run counter to laws. 9) To exercise other rights and execute other duties as stipulated by law.³⁵¹

The administration of the center through the democratic system can be divided into sectors as follows:

1. Central Sectors of the Governmental Administration³⁵²

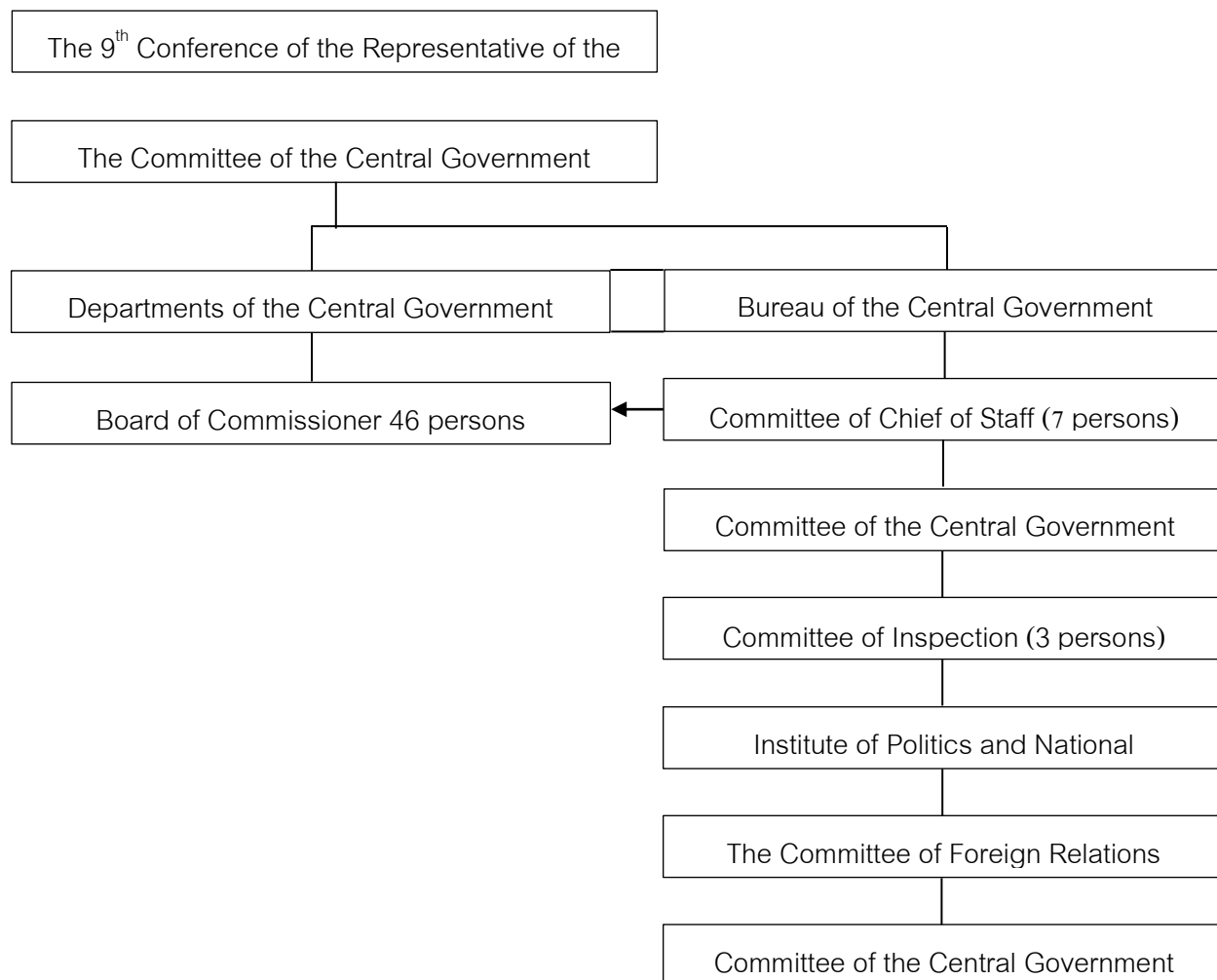
The Committee of the Central Government, Department of the Central Government and Chief of Staff of the central government are comprised of the Bureau of the Central Government, the Committee of the Central Government, Committee of the Central Government Promotion, the Committee of Inspection, the Committee of Foreign Relations, and the Institute of Politics and National Administration can determine the responsibilities, duties, and rights of the administrative departments, the Department of the Central Government and the Chief of Staff of the central government.³⁵³

³⁵¹ Regulations of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Code 8.

³⁵² Regulations of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Code 13 and 16.

³⁵³ Regulations of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Code 7.

Table 1

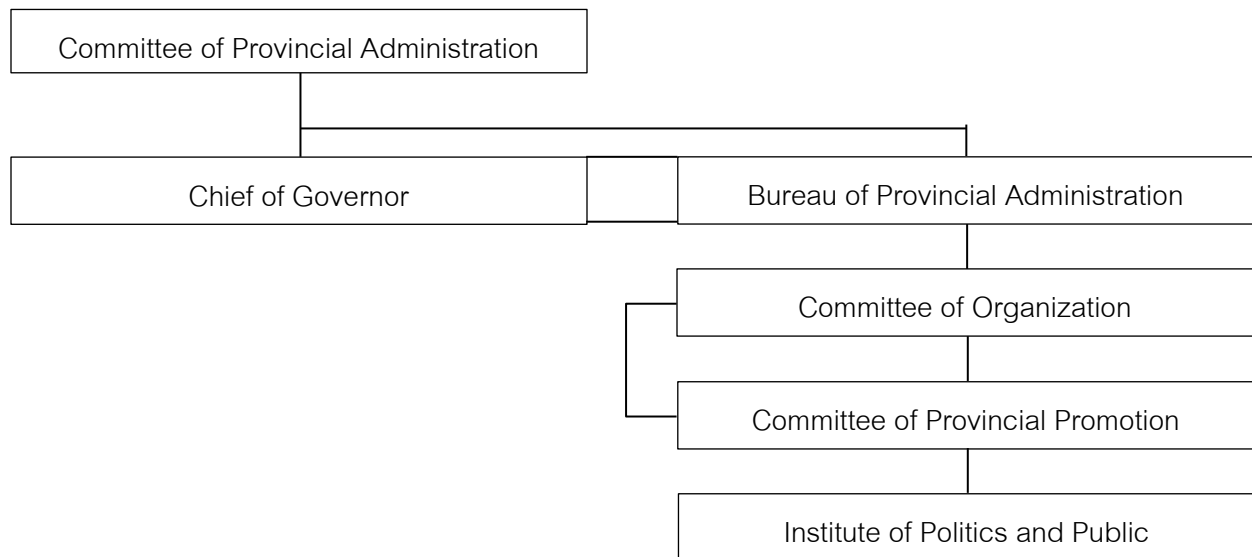


2. Provincial and District Administration includes:

The Committee of Provincial Administration, the Chief of Governor and other committees such as the Bureau of Provincial Administration, the Committee of Organization, the Committee of Provincial Promotion, the Committee of Inspection, and Institute of Politics and Public Administration. The administration can determine the duties and responsibilities through the conference of the representatives.³⁵⁴

³⁵⁴ Regulations of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Code 21

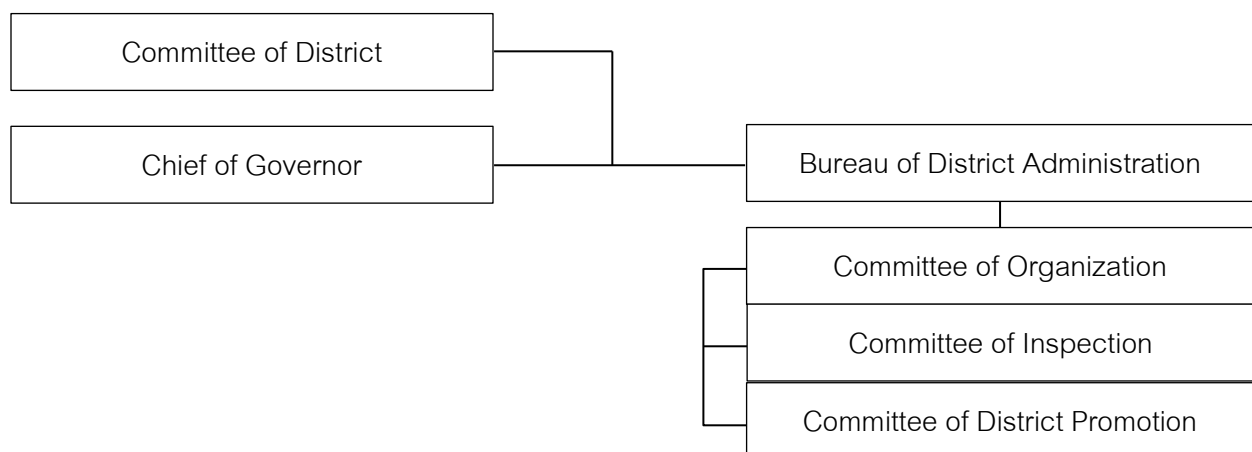
Table 2



3. District

District consist of the Committee of District Administration, the Chief of Governor, and other committees such as the Bureau of District Administration, the Committee of Organization, the Committee of District Promotion, the Committee of Inspection, and Local Administration³⁵⁵

Table 3

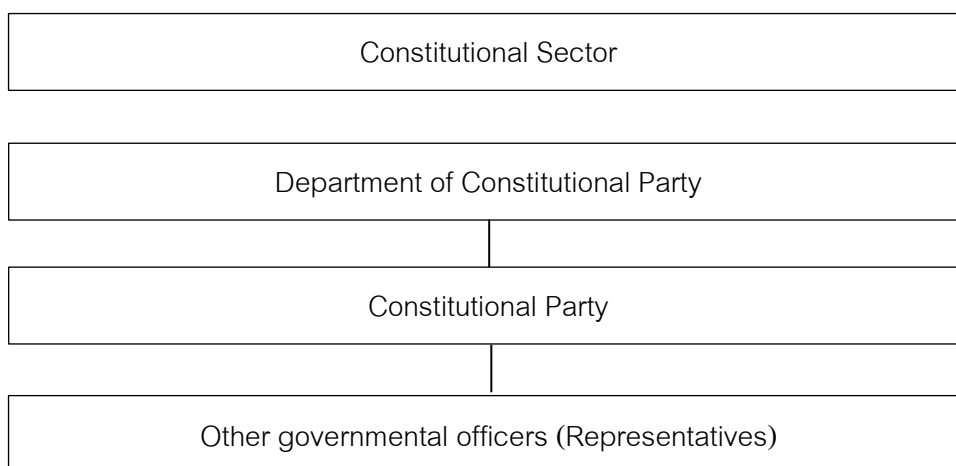


³⁵⁵ Regulations of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Code 18.

4. Constitutional Sector³⁵⁶

The foundation of the Constitutional Party includes the Constitutional Party, the Department of Constitutional Party and other organizations that were established in the village, schools, hospitals, the Department of Academics, the Department of Economy, the Department of National Warriors and other departments. The department has to consist of more than three persons such as the Faculty of Law, the Union of Lao Ladies,³⁵⁷ the Representatives of Labor, etc. The representative can be members of the government party such as the Faculty of Law, Faculty of Engineering, the Faculty of Business Administration, and the representatives from the universities and other governmental officers.

Table 4



³⁵⁶ Regulations of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Code 23.

³⁵⁷ Union of Lao Women; Law on Development and Protection of Lao Women No. 08 dated: October 22nd, 2004.

Conclusion

This research comes to the conclusion that after the country gain independent there are signs indicating that the current Lao PDR. Government is open to changes, and it continues with legitimacy efforts from external social, cultural, and political influences. It is apparent that law reform is flowing from increasing openness to modernizing pressures of younger, better-educated elite. The country first started with the socialist Economic policy but was changed in 1988 when the county embarked on a gradual, limited return to private enterprise and the liberalization of foreign investment laws. Laos became a member of ASEAN in 1997 and the WTO in 2013.

Economic reform since 1986 under the New Economic Mechanism follows by political or social transformation into Laos' community. Lao society has gradually enjoyed greater freedom of movement, employment, and international interaction. The human rights situation has improved and the government tries to improve its record on the matter. The Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) puts its political and social emphasis on preventing activities it perceives as threatening to itself or to social order.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic is one of the world's few remaining mild communist regimes. Since taking power in 1975, the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) has favored the Chinese model of absolute one-party rule combined with gradual economic liberalization.

The first constitution of the country dated 1947 which was during pre-independence time and presently Laos used new constitution which promulgated on 13-15 August 1991 and amended in 2003 (2003). Laos embarks on the legal system which based closely on the legal system of China. Citizen is eligible for universal suffrage when they reach 18.

Government policies are determined by the party through the all-powerful nine-member Politburo of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and the 49-member Central Committee. Important government decisions are scrutinized by the Council of Ministers. Ministers are appointed by president and approved by National Assembly. Laos's constitutional and legal system has developed since the 1990s, and it is an ongoing process. Judiciary, executive, legislative branches of the government create positive law and interpret them under the

guidance of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP)

President and vice president are elected by National Assembly for five-year terms; election last held on 30 April 2011 (next to be held in 2016). Prime minister nominated by the president and elected by the National Assembly for five-year term.

Legislative branch of Lao PDR is a unicameral National Assembly which contains 132 seats. National Assembly members are elected by popular vote from a list of candidates chosen by the Lao People's National Assembly Revolutionary Party to serve five-year terms.

Judicial branch consists of People's Supreme Court and other lower courts which are provincial, municipal, district, and military courts. President of People's Supreme Court elected by National Assembly on recommendation of National Assembly Standing Committee; vice president of People's Supreme Court and judges appointed by National Assembly Standing Committee.

Social and Cultural Policies

Lao PDR's social policy also derived from the constitution which is regarded as the people constitution which is said to be different from other liberal democracy models. Yet similarities can be found in the areas of international concern such as the prohibition of torture, arbitrary arrest, and detention without trial. Even though the country still adheres to the Marxist Leninist ideologies it signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in 2000.

The government acknowledges some issues affecting women, people with disabilities, and other distinct minority and interest groups. The state's ability and motivation to address these issues is somewhat limited by resource constraints.

The constitution protects equity for women and minorities, and the family code prohibits legal discrimination in marriage and inheritance. Laos has ratified the relevant international conventions.

The government has actively supported the Lao Women's Union and National Commission for Mothers and Children, as well as development assistance programs targeting women. Trafficking in women and children is a major problem. Laos has made efforts to support international anti-trafficking endeavors, including through providing judicial and police training and in-kind support for NGOs such as office space and airtime.

Article 9 of the constitution discourages acts that create divisions among religions and persons thereby certain level of freedom in religious belief is guaranteed. In July 2002, the government promulgated a decree on religious practice that expanded the range of activities permitted to all religious practitioners, including for minority religions to proselytize and print religious material.

Freedom of assembly and speech are guaranteed in the constitution but the penal code prohibits participation in an organization for the purposes of demonstrations or other acts that cause "turmoil or social instability."

Lao PDR changes its economic policy to become closer to market economy which is called the "the New Economic Mechanism."

Trade unions are permitted within the framework of the officially sanctioned Federation of Lao Trade Unions, which is controlled by the LPRP. Trade unions are largely restricted to the public sector. According to the labor code, disputes are to be resolved through workplace committees, with final authority resting with the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. Strikes are not prohibited by law.

Political and security ideologies of the country can be traced from its flag description: liberation, prosperity and unity. Lao PDR's flag has three horizontal bands of red (top), blue (double width), and red with a large white disk centered in the blue band; the red bands recall the blood shed for liberation; the blue band represents the Mekong River and prosperity; the white disk symbolizes the full moon against the Mekong River, but also signifies the unity of the people under the Lao People's Republic.

Preventing state corruption in Laos is the major task in current policy. In the past, the politically powerful engaged in a wide range of corrupt behavior, and the regulatory environment to protect against this activity was inadequate. The present government starts process on accountability reforms by creating effective legislative process to punish official corruption. Internal and external audit systems for government employees are formed.

Political and Security Policy

The Lao People's Democratic Republic is one of the world's few remaining mild communist regimes. Since taking power in 1975, the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) has

avored the Chinese model of absolute one-party rule combined with gradual economic liberalization.

The first constitution of the country dated 1947 which was during pre-independence time and presently Laos used new constitution which promulgated on 13-15 August 1991 and amended in 2003 (2003). Laos embarks on the legal system which based closely on the legal system of China. Citizen is eligible for universal suffrage when they reach 18.

Government policies are determined by the party through the all-powerful nine-member Politburo of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and the 49-member Central Committee. Important government decisions are scrutinized by the Council of Ministers. Ministers are appointed by president and approved by National Assembly. Laos's constitutional and legal system has developed since the 1990s, and it is an ongoing process. Judiciary, executive, legislative branches of the government create positive law and interpret them under the guidance of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP)

President and vice president are elected by National Assembly for five-year terms; election last held on 30 April 2011 (next to be held in 2016). Prime minister nominated by the president and elected by the National Assembly for five-year term.

Legislative branch of Lao PDR is a unicameral National Assembly which contains 132 seats. National Assembly members are elected by popular vote from a list of candidates chosen by the Lao People's National Assembly Revolutionary Party to serve five-year terms.

Judicial branch consists of People's Supreme Court and other lower courts which are provincial, municipal, district, and military courts. President of People's Supreme Court elected by National Assembly on recommendation of National Assembly Standing Committee; vice president of People's Supreme Court and judges appointed by National Assembly Standing Committee.

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The foreign relations of Laos

The foreign relations of Laos, in the beginning of the Revolutionary Pathet Lao's took over in December 1975, were described as a hostile position toward the West. The government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic sided itself with the Soviet bloc. It was depending heavily on the Soviets for most of its foreign assistance. Laos and Vietnam are allies in the wake of the countries independent. Such a "special relationship" with Vietnam under a 1977 treaty of friendship and cooperation created strain with China during border conflict between China and Vietnam.

When the Soviet Union collapsed the sources of foreign assistance to Lao PDR. were scarce and Vietnam even though emerged as a victorious country was not able to provide assistance. Laos has no alternative but to improve relations with its regional neighbors and rich nations. Lao PDR. abandoned its policy of international isolation and expanded relations with other nations both East and West regardless of their political ideologies -- Australia, France, Japan, Sweden, and India are among them. Laos was admitted into the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in July 1997 and is now a member of the World Trade Organisation. It participated in the inaugural East Asia Summit in 2005.

Laos is a member of the following international organizations: Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACCT), Association of Southeast Asian Nations ASEAN, ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), ASEAN Regional Forum, Asian Development Bank, Colombo Plan, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Group of 77G-77, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Development Association (IDA), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Finance Corporation (IFC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Labour Organization (ILO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Intelsat (nonsignatory user), and Interpol.

Laos is also a member of the International Olympic Commission (IOC), International Telecommunication Union ITU, Mekong Group, Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), United Nations, United Nations Convention on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Universal Postal Union (UPU), World Federation of Trade Unions, World Health Organization (WHO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), World Tourism Organization, World Trade Organization.³⁵⁸

As mentioned earlier, Vietnam was regarded by Lao PDR. as model of socialist achievement and leader in military power. Somehow Laos went ahead of Vietnam with its New Economic Mechanism to introduce market mechanisms into its economy. This initiative brought Laos to open up its door to Thailand and China at some cost to its special dependence on Vietnam.

Brown, MacAlister and Joseph J. Zasloff indicate that:

“Laos might have reached the same point of normalization in following Vietnam's economic and diplomatic change, but by moving ahead resolutely and responding to Thai and Chinese gestures, Laos has broadened its range of donors, trading partners, and investors independent of Vietnam's attempts to accomplish the same goal. Thus, Vietnam remains in the shadows as a mentor and emergency ally, and the tutelage of Laos has shifted dramatically to development banks and international entrepreneurs.”³⁵⁹

In December 2004, the United States extending normal trade relations to Laos. In February 2005, a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) between the two countries entered into force. The Lao Government joined the World Trade Organization in 2 February 2013.

Relations with the People's Republic of China have improved over the years. Although the two were allies during the Vietnam War, the Sino-Vietnamese War in 1979 led to a sharp deterioration in Sino-Lao relations. These relations began to improve in the late 1980s. In 1989

³⁵⁸ Detail in Chapter 1

³⁵⁹ Brown, MacAlister and Joseph J. Zasloff. "Relations with Vietnam". Laos: a country study (Andrea Matles Savada, editor).Library of Congress Federal Research Division(July 1994).

Sino-Lao relations were normalized.

Today Lao PDR. relationship with PRC in many respects are cordial and accommodating. China has already provided financial support to several major transport projects in Laos, including funding more than a quarter of the 228.7 km long R3 Road. Three other projects are in the development stage, while a further four are already underway. (By Times Reporters)

It was further reported that recently the agreement was reached at a meeting in Vientiane between representatives from the Lao Public Works and Transport Ministry and a delegation from its Chinese counterpart. The Lao representative was succeed in presenting a cooperation proposal and received a positive response from the Chinese counterpart. The Lao side proposed four projects amounting to more than US\$771 million, which it has anticipated in its relationship with China. The projects involve road and bridge construction, river and land transport, and aviation.

A tripartite meeting between Laos, China and Thailand was also proposed to discuss issues regarding cross-border transport through the R3 road which links the three nations. Lao side has asked his counterpart to consider identifying potential transport routes from Vientiane to China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region through Vietnam. It is reported that the issue was agreed upon in principle at the last meeting of the Greater Mekong Sub-region's senior officials. The Lao's minister also asked China to consider amending an agreement on air transport, signed by the two governments in 1978, to make it more relevant to the present trade climate. In return Laos stands ready to cancel particular service fees. There were also calls for China to consider offering scholarships to Lao students and technical staff to study and train in China in the field of civil aviation.

With regard to Lao PDR.'s relationship with Thailand, both countries enjoy good relations particularly with the mutual interest proffered by China. Thailand is Laos' primary trading partner. Despite strong economic and cultural ties with Thailand, parts of the border shared by the two countries are by no mean definite which resulted in conflicts between the two countries.

In 1987, Lao and Thai leaders signed a communiqué, which gave the indication of their intention to improve relations. Since then, they have made steady progress, notably the construction and opening of the Friendship Bridge between the two countries.

When China signed a memorandum of understanding with Thailand to build 542 miles of double-track railway from Nong Khai on the Laos border to the Thai industrialized eastern seaboard, it benefit Lao as well because there is a connecting rail way from Nong Khai to Laos via Friendship bridge crossing Mekong river. China has conditionally agreed with Laos to build a railway from Kunming through Laos connecting with Thailand. Therefore it is not difficult to envisage that the mutual interest will enhance stronger ties between the two countries.

Overall picture of Lao PDR. today is the country that succeeded in building its credibility in social , cultural and legal development. Lao PDR. reiterates that it has political stability and can maintain the country's securities. It will do well in upgrading the country's status to developing country and can eventually proceed proudly into ASEAN community.