Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade in Lao PDR

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Outline

- Trade Policies;
- Lao PDR Trade Portal;
- Customs Reform and Modernization;
- National Single Window.
Trade Policies

- Completed WTO accession negotiation.
- Commitment to the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015.
- Trade Facilitation.
  - Approved Trade Facilitation Strategic Plan 2011-2015 in 2011;
  - Established Trade Facilitation Secretariat (TFS) in 2010;
  - Establishing Lao PDR Trade Portal launched in June 2012.
Lao PDR Trade Portal

http://laotradeportal.gov.la
Lao PDR Trade Portal

- Enable Compliance with Article X of GATT; Article 13 ATIGA;
- Transparency of trade information;
- Tangible cost savings for the trade.
- A key initiative of Lao PDR to facilitate trade.
What is the Lao PDR Trade Portal?

- A single stop point for all information relating to import/export and transit in Lao PDR;

- A website that contains all regulatory trade related information, i.e.
  - All laws, regulations and other legal instruments;
  - All license and permit requirements, prohibitions, restrictions, technical standards, SPS measures;
  - Entire commodity classification and tariffs;
  - All procedures for license/permit application and clearance;
  - Copies of all forms.

- All information is indexed, cross-referenced and dynamically presented.
Customs Reform and Modernization

- Implementation of Asycuda World;
  - Live in Vientiane capital;
  - Currently being rolled out country wide.
- New Customs law in force from April 2012.
  - Conformant with WTO valuation;
  - Allows electronic transactions.

(Source: Customs department)
Next Steps

- Currently developing New simplified model of operation for all permit and license issuing agency
  - Rationalization and simplification of process;
  - Harmonization of data;
  - Leveraging automation;
  - Elimination where possible of paper documents.

- Will lead to the Lao National Single Window...
Lao National Single Window

- ASEAN commitment in order to establish the NSW by 2012; The Programme started in October with team of international consultants working with Customs and all other agencies to:
  - Develop Functional and Technical Specifications;
  - Operational Model;
  - Legal Basis;
  - Capacity Building and change management plan;
  - Technology Architecture.

- Commitment to ASEAN in order to join ASEAN Single Window
Thank you
http://www.laotradeportal.gov.la