




Country Presentation Lao PDR

**Regional Workshop on Opportunities and Challenges in
Using Evidence Based Trade Policy for the Achievement
of Sustainable Development Goals**

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1. Country Snapshot

Name	LAO PEOPLE’S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC “Lao PDR”
Surface Area	Total : 236.800 Sq km, Land: 230.800 Sq km, Water: 6.000 Sq km
Population	6,492 Million (2015)
Border with 5 countries	Cambodia: 541 Km, China: 423 Km, Myanmar: 235 Km, Thailand: 1.754 Km and Vietnam: 2.130 Km
Currency	Kip (LAK)
GDP per Capita	1,725 US\$ (2014)
GDP growth rate (%)	7.9% (2014)
Import	33.6 % of GDP (2014)
Export	20 % of GDP (2014)

1. Country Snapshot (con't)

- **Lao PDR: Strategic Location**

Lao PDR is at the centre of the GMS, consisting of Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, and Yunnan province of China.

- It is the only country bordering all the other countries in the sub-region.
- More than 70% of international trade in Laos, except air freight is cross-border trade.



2. Trade Policy

Lao PDR participates in and is party to Regional and International Organizations

- Bilateral Trade Agreements with 16 Countries
- ✓ Border Trade Agreement with Viet Nam
- ✓ Bilateral Investment Treaty with Japan

No.158th WTO member in 2013



ASEAN Economic Community 2015



3. Trade Facilitation

Improvement in Legislation during WTO Accession

- **Recently revised law on Investment Promotion 2009, and it's implemented decree in 2011**
- **Law on Minerals (2008), revised Law on Minerals (2011)**
- **Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Decree (2010)**
- **Land Law (2003), Decree on Implementation of the Land Law (2008) and Decree on Land Concessions (2009)**
- **National Land Policy, currently under revision**
- **National Policy on Environmental and Social Sustainability of the Hydropower Sector**
- **Law on Forestry (2007)**
- **Agricultural Law (1998), revised 2012**
- **Law on Electricity (2011)**

	2009	2012	Improvement
Time used for Import and Export	17.9 hrs	11.24 hrs	↓6.6 hrs
Import procedures	9	5	↓4 steps
Export procedures	7	4	↓3 steps

3. Trade Facilitation (con't)

Implementation and Prospects

- **ASYCUDA – Customs Clearance:** at the checkpoints
- **Lao Trade Portal:**
www.laotradeportal.gov.la
- **National Single Window**
- **ASEAN Single Window**
- **Advanced ruling (Trade Facilitation Agreement)**
- **Paperless procedures**

4. Challenge on Trade Statistics and Policies:

- High discrepancy on Custom data and mirror trade data.
- Timeliness.
- Data access still limited.
- No proper base or evident to estimate on informal trade, especially the border trade.