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Water and Urban Development in Lao PDR

Noupheuak VIRABOUTH
Deputy Director General
Department of Housing and Urban Planning
Ministry of Public Works and Transport
Lao PDR
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Introduction
NSEDP7 (2011-2015)

- Necessary thrust to graduate the country from the Least-Developed Country status by 2020, and

- creates opportunities for strengthened regional and international co-operation.

- A key strategy of the plan involves identifying provinces and urban centres with the highest potential for rapid growth, improving their planning systems, and providing them with efficient infrastructure and services.
National strategy for urban development to the year 2030

- To make Vientiane Capital, provincial towns and District towns becoming political, administration, economic, social and cultural centres of the Nation and respective localities;
- To make Luangprabang becoming a Centre of Northern Region;
- To make Vientiane Capital and Kaysone Phomvihane town becoming the growth Centre of the Central Region;
- To make Pakse Town becoming economic, technical and scientific centre of the Southern Region becoming the main bridge in the economic relation with the central, and northern regions and neighboring countries.

- the urban water supply development shall be in line with the urban development.
Current Status
Country administration

- Vientiane Capital,
- 17 Provinces and
- 148 districts, including 4 districts being the place where the municipality of Vientiane Capital is located, 17 towns as provincial capitals and 127 towns as district centres.
The population of Lao PDR increased by about one million in very 10 years;

With a growth rate of 2%, the population will be 6.9 million by 2015, 8 million by 2020 and 10 million by 2030.

In 2005, urban population was about 1,436,361 inhabitants, representing about 25% of the total population.

Presently, urban population is about 1,780,000 inhabitants and

It is estimated that by the year 2020 the urban population will be about 2.5 million inhabitants representing 33% of the total population.
Main constraints for urban water supply sector development

To date, more than $250 million has been invested in the improvement of water supplies in urban areas. Thanks to these supports, as end of 2014 there are 104 water supply systems serving 90 towns. Urban coverage is about 63%. Main constraints are:

- insufficient funds to expand coverage and/or improve service levels, and limitation of self financing capacity;
- weak sector planning and implementation capacity of responsible authorities at central, regional, local and commune level and lack of qualified engineers and technicians, and
- the absence of the so-called "enhancing environment”, often characterized by an inadequate institutional and legal framework.
Urban Water Supply Sector Strategy to 2030

Our vision is:

“Safe, Reliable Water Supplies and Healthy Environment for All”

Our mission is:

“Provide Customers with Sustained, Clean and Safe Piped Water at a Fair Price”

Our target is:

- up to 67% of urban population by the year 2015 have 24-hour per day access to safe drinking water, up to 80% by the year 2020 and up to 90% by the year 2030.
10 specific goals of the Water Supply Sector Strategy

- Appropriate legal framework;
- Appropriate institutional framework and raising status and boost capacity of the sector organization;
- Appropriate regulatory system for higher efficiency;
- Water supply and urban sanitation integrated with urban development;
- Expanding the water supply and sanitation development and service delivery to small towns (emerging towns) in rural areas;
10 specific goals of the Water Supply Sector Strategy (Cont.)

- Strong, efficient, sustainable, customer-oriented public water supplies;
- Active participation of the private sector in the water supply and sanitation development and service delivery;
- Adequate, competent staff for the development and management of the sector;
- Promoted gender mainstreaming in the water supply and urban sanitation sector; and
- Promoted development and use of appropriate techniques and technologies.
Major Challenges

- Finding fund on average USD 40 million annually, to:
  - Upgrading and rehabilitation of existing systems,
  - Development of new systems for remaining more than 30 district towns and maximizing coverage in these new service areas,
  - Expansion of water supply system to emerging towns, and
  - Ensuring water is safe from source to tap.

- Ensuring sector effectiveness, sustainability and equitability;

- Ensuring the poor are not disadvantaged.
Responses and expectation for external support

In addition to national budget and private sector participation, it is expected that:

- ADB
- AFD
- JICA
- NORAD
- OPEC
- KOICA
- UN-Habitat
- SEDIF
- NEDA
- AusAID
- WHO
- BORDA

will continue to support our country in the water and urban development
Thank You Very Much for your Kind Attention!

For more information please contact:

Noupheuak Virabouth
nvirabouth@yahoo.com