

JICA in the Lao PDR 2014-2015

Inclusive and Dynamic Development

jica

Japan International Cooperation Agency



Inclusive and Dynamic Development

Contents

Contents

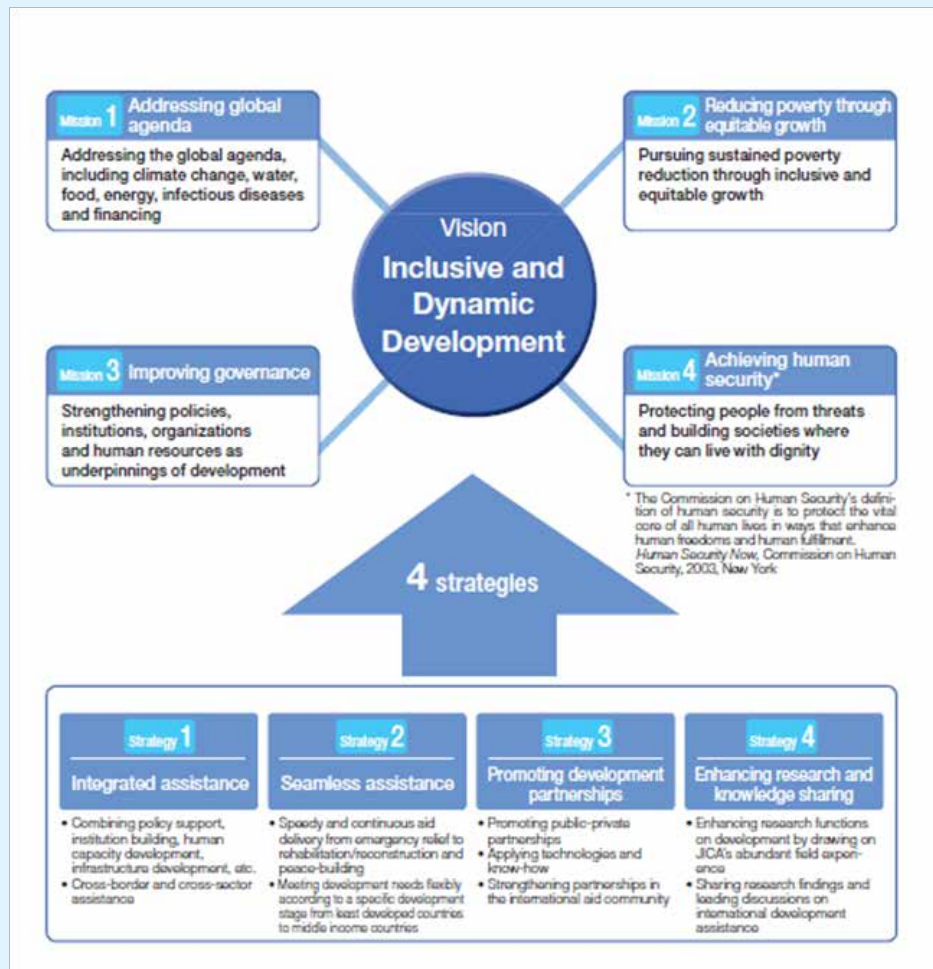
Outline of JICA

Assistance in the Lao PDR

■ Infrastructure Sector	8
■ Agriculture Sector	14
■ Education Sector	18
■ Health Sector	20
■ Others	22
- Governance Sector	
- Private Sector	
■ Regional Cooperation	24
■ Volunteer Program	26
■ Partnership Program	28
■ Other programs	29
- Training and Dialogue Program in Japan	
- Training Programs for Young Leaders in Japan	
- Japan Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship Program (JDS)	
■ JICA Activities in the Lao PDR	30

JICA's Vision, Mission and Strategy

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) implements Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) in an integrated and strategic manner. Three forms of assistance: technical cooperation, grant aid, and concessional loans (Japanese ODA Loans) are seamlessly managed through a single entity, providing high quality international cooperation to meet the needs of the people living in developing countries. There are many issues in the world that must be addressed not by individual countries but by the international community. JICA's cooperative operations are achieved through four main strategies and are implemented under this Vision and Mission.



History of the JICA Laos Office

Japanese ODA activity in the Lao PDR commenced with the acceptance of trainees in 1958 and the dispatch of experts in 1959. Confirming the long-standing relationship between both nations, the Lao PDR is also acknowledged as the first country to have received Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) in 1965. The Vientiane Office (established in 1967) oversaw many major development projects, including the construction of Nam Ngum Hydropower Station from the late 1960s to early 1970s. Even after closure of the office in 1978, Japan continued to provide support to the Lao PDR through Grant Aid projects.

In 1990, the Vientiane Office reopened as a JOCV Office and the dispatch of volunteers resumed. In 1996, the JOCV Office was renamed the JICA Laos Office and, since this time, JICA has been directly in charge of numerous cooperation activities along with managing the volunteer scheme – increasing the scale of its assistance across various sectors. Now, JICA is the leading bilateral donor to the Lao PDR and continuously supports social and economic development in partnership and friendship with the Lao people. The charts below show the data of past cooperation activities.

Types of JICA Assistance

1) Technical Cooperation

Technical assistance for developing countries includes: (1) dispatch of experts; (2) dispatch of volunteers; (3) acceptance of training participants; (4) provision of equipment; (5) technical cooperation projects; and (6) technical cooperation for development planning.

2) Japanese ODA Loans

ODA loans are concessionary loans provided to developing countries.

3) Grant Aid

Financial assistance extended to developing countries without an obligation for repayment.



*This excludes Grant Aid which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to directly implement for the necessity of diplomatic policy.

Japan's ODA refers to the funds and technology that the Government of Japan provides to developing countries in order to carry out economic cooperation in support of socio-economic development. SE Asia, which shares close relations with Japan and has influence on Japan's security and economic development, has occupied a major position in Japan's ODA as a priority region.

Aligning Japan's position towards a more strategic implementation of ODA, a new "Medium-Term ODA Policy" was formulated in February 2005 in accordance with the ODA Charter. The new policy covers the perspective of "human security", highlighting 4 priority issues:

- (1) poverty reduction;
- (2) sustainable growth;
- (3) addressing global problems; and
- (4) peace building. The new policy also includes measures to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of assistance.

Disbursement (2006-2012)

Year (JFY)	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Technical Cooperation	21.6	24.6	31.6	27.8	34.3	32.7
Grant Aid (E/N)	51.7	38.7	38.6	31.1	41.7	41.1
Loan (E/N)	5.0	0	15.0	0	41.7	0

(Unit: 100 million yen)

Data source: JICA Statistics Report (Jigyo-Jissekihyo) / KunibetsuDatabook 2010 (MOFA)

Number and disbursement of cooperation activities (Total: 1958-2010)

	As of July 2014	Total (up to JFY2012)
No. of Training Participants ¹	313 (as of 2012)	4,373
No. of Experts	63	3,136
No. of JOCV/SV ²	42	821
Disbursement for Technical Cooperation		54.0 billion yen (2010)
Disbursement for Grant		123.5 billion yen (2009)
Disbursement for Loan		18.9 billion yen (2010)

Data source: JICA Statistics Report (Jigyo-Jissekihyo) / KunibetsuDatabook 2010 (MOFA)



¹ It consists of trainee number in Japan, Lao PDR and third countries.

² Data of Year 2011

Assistance in Laos

Located at the heart of the Greater Mekong region, the Lao PDR shares its border with five countries: perity of the Lao PDR is a precondition for the security and prosperity of the Greater Mekong region recent years through the mining of its mineral resources and hydroelectric power generation. Despite lennium Development Goals (MDGs) and graduate from the United Nations' index of Least-Developed Official Development Assistance (ODA) to facilitate socio-economic development, in order to narrow leading bilateral development organization to the Lao PDR.

(1) Development of Economic and Social Infrastructure

JICA supports numerous transport and economic infrastructure projects that are instrumental to strengthening ASEAN connectivity. It also supports logistics projects that improve and facilitate the investment and trade environment, encouraging greater confidence and investment from the private sector, including Japanese companies. At the same time, in order to achieve balanced economic growth, JICA provides assistance in the fields of environmental management, water treatment, and urban planning that contribute significantly to creating environments that meet the needs of local communities.



(2) Agriculture

JICA assistance aims to increase productivity in agriculture, a key industry, through projects that promote irrigated agriculture and the cultivation of commercial crops. These activities help to increase the earnings of farmers who constitute the majority of the country's poor, as well as helping the Lao PDR to realize stable economic growth and narrow the development gap between urban and rural areas. At the same time, JICA extends assistance towards sustainable use of forest resources, to facilitate conservation, livelihood improvement and poverty reduction.

(3) Improvement of Educational Environment and Human Resource Development

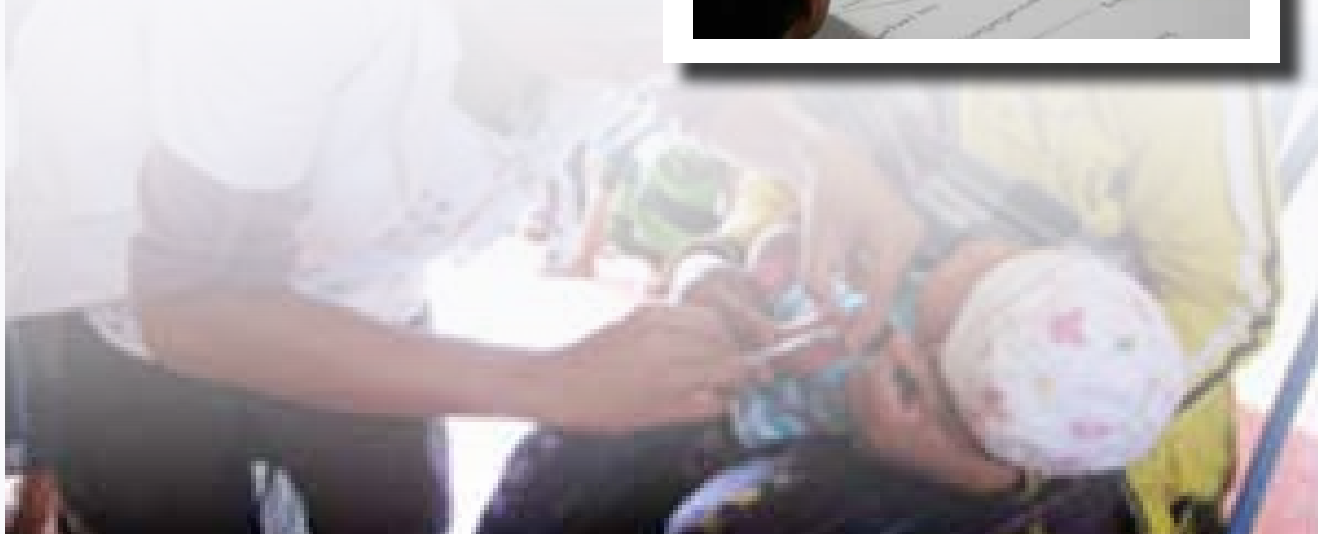
JICA provides assistance to help develop the country's human resources through the educational environment by raising the quality of teachers and enhancing the management of schools. Particular attention is paid to science and mathematics instruction in primary education. Assistance is also extended to higher education and technical and vocational education in order to enhance the Lao private economic sector.



Cambodia, China, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. Given its geopolitical position, the security and pros- and the wider ASEAN community. Its economy has grown at the annual rate of almost eight percent in recent economic growth, the country must overcome a number of challenges in order to achieve its Mil-Countries. To this end, Japan, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), extends the development gap between the Lao PDR and its ASEAN neighbors. Today, JICA is recognized as the

(4) Improvement of Healthcare Services

JICA provides assistance to help strengthen the Lao healthcare system to support achieving the health-related MDGs. JICA projects in the health sector focus on developing human resources and improving health facilities, helping to increase access to healthcare services, particularly those targeting Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health.



(5) Others

1. Be mindful of the need to improve governance such as administrative capacity, institutional building and the judicial system, to help promote development and improve the effectiveness of assistance.
2. Based on the action plan for “A Decade toward the Green Mekong” Initiative, be mindful of compatibility between environmental impact and economic growth, sustainable development, and the need for measures against climate change.
3. Unexploded ordnance (UXO), which continues to blight many parts of the country, presents a barrier to socio-economic development by impeding the expansion of farming and infrastructure. Be mindful of UXO clearance as a cross-sector issue.

Infrastructure Sector

Technical Cooperation Project (TCP)

Project on Riverbank Protection Works Phase II

Project Period: November 2010 - October 2014

Project Location: Vientiane Capital, Bokeo, Bolikhamxay and Luangprabang Provinces

Project Outline: In Lao PDR, 86% of the land belongs to the Mekong River basin. The land has been suffering from erosion which leads to the collapse of infrastructure. JICA has been conducting a program to promote low-cost and environmentally-friendly measures of riverbank protection since 1997. A Japanese traditional method, “Soda mattress”, will be introduced to Lao PDR.



The Project to Enhance The Capacity of Vientiane Capital State Bus Enterprise

Project Period: January 2010 - December 2014

Project Location: Vientiane Capital

Project Outline: Public transportation usage in Vientiane Capital has been decreasing drastically over the past several years. In order to increase public bus users, which will help alleviate traffic congestion and emissions in the city, a pilot program will focus on coordinating with the National University of Laos to promote bus ridership among students. The overall objectives will support the State Bus Enterprise through improved service quality and corporate management. Success factors of this project will be measured by improving financial management, upgraded equipment and facilities, and improved human resource skills.



Project for Improvement of the Road Management Capacity

Project Period: September 2011 - September 2016

Project Location: Savannakhet and Vientiane Provinces

Project Outline: Currently, almost 60% of the Lao PDR's total road network is rated as “below fair” condition. Rapid development of roads and bridges will also lead to large amounts of maintenance costs in the future. This project will assist in producing guidelines and manuals, as well as providing maintenance equipment as part of the efforts to maintain the road network in the target areas.

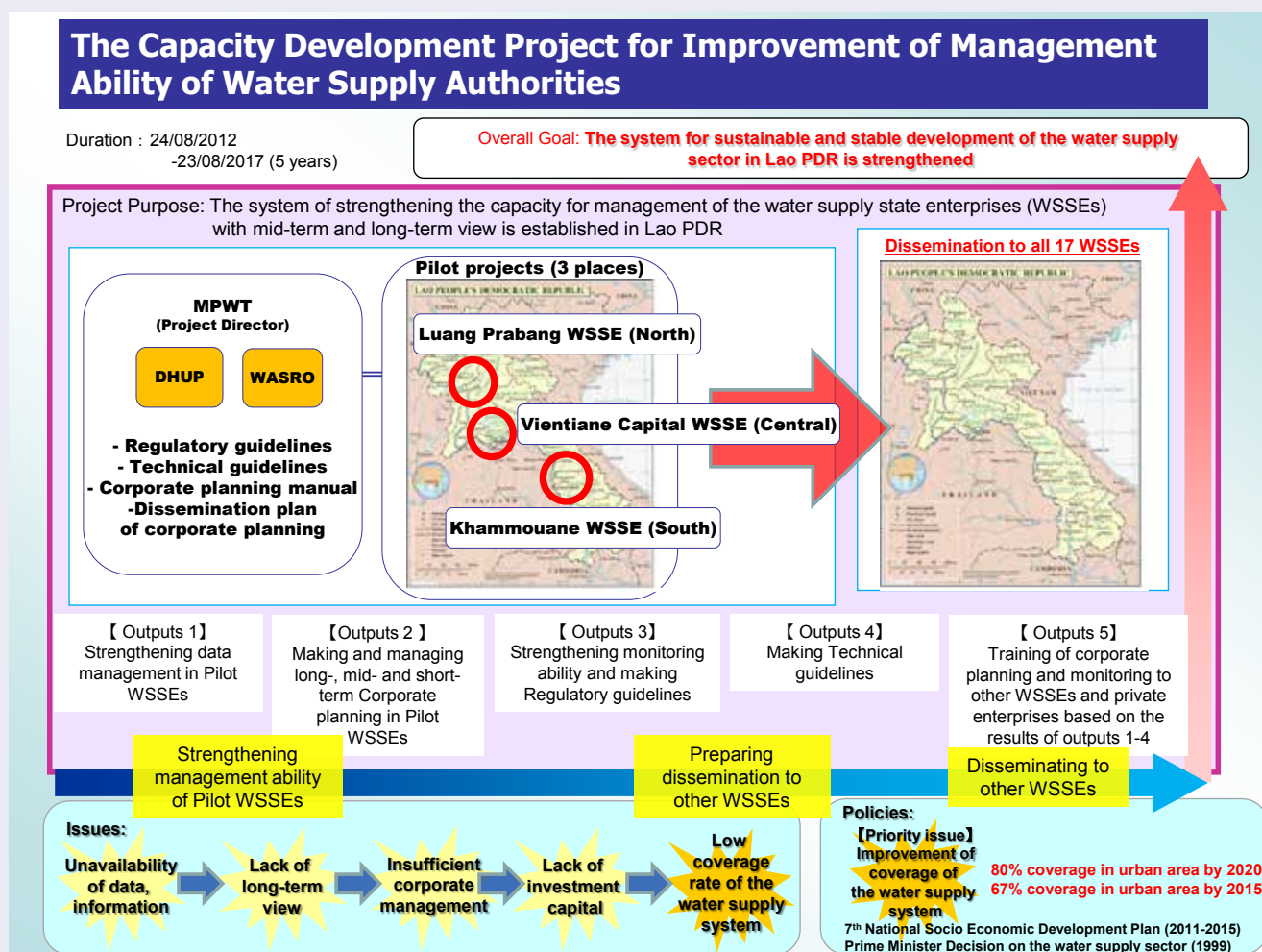


Capacity Development Project for Improvement of Management Ability of Water Supply Authorities

Project Period: August 2012 - August 2017

Project Location: Vientiane Capital, LuangPrabang and Khammouane Provinces

Project Outline: The overall goal of this project will be to create a sustainable and stable development system for the water supply sector in Lao PDR. Within the project, a review of the existing planning process and management will be conducted, with the following integration of “Asset Management”, a Japanese approach to water supply management. A national monitoring system will be developed in order to carry out evaluations at the pilot sites. Service and technical guidelines will be developed, alongside a corporate planning manual.



The Project for Urban Development Management

Project Period: October 2013 - October 2016

Project Location: Vientiane Capital

Project Outline: Based on a cooperative study between JICA and the Lao Government in 2010 and 2011, the Project will support Laos in its efforts to reach socio-economic development goals. The study, which is based on population projections for 2030, proposes a “multi-core structure” which is composed of the development of sub-centers, infrastructure development, and urban development control. The technical cooperation will be carried out by the Ministry and Department of Public Works and Transport of Vientiane Capital. The goals of this project embrace the revision of the regulatory framework, development of basic data, formulation of development control tools and mechanisms, and enhancement of human and institutional capacity for the project components.

Project for Urban Water Environment Improvement in Vientiane Capital

Project Period: September 2014 - September 2019

Project Location: Vientiane Capital

Project Outline: The Project aims to strengthen the institutional framework and organizations for wastewater treatment in Vientiane capital through participatory approach. The expected outputs of the project are 1) capacity is strengthened for planning and designing of structural and ecological measures for wastewater treatment, 2) the operation of legal and regulatory framework is strengthened for water environmental management, and 3) awareness is raised through environmental education.

Grant Aid

The Project for Introduction of Clean Energy by Solar Electricity Generation System

Project Period: March 2010 - June 2014

Project Location: Vientiane Capital

Project Outline: The Government of Laos has joined the “Cool Earth Partnership” to prioritize reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting economic development while keeping climate change in mind. Solar modules will be constructed on top of Wattay International Airport building structures to reduce the burden of power consumption by the facilities. The system will work with the power from the utility grid without batteries and will automatically shut down in the case of a grid power blackout. The project is expected to reduce the fossil fuel consumption in the neighbouring power import countries, which will correspond to the reduction of greenhouse gas emission and economic growth in Laos.

Project for Improvement of National Road No. 9 as East-West Corridor

Project Period: April 2012 - March 2015

Project Location: Savannakhet Province

Project Outline: National Road No. 9 forms an integral part of the “East-West Corridor” that traverses Indochina. This project aims to restore damaged areas and overlay certain sections of the road to promote the mobility of people and the exchange of commodities in the region. The project is expected to contribute greatly to boosting the local economy.



The Project for Construction of Sekong Bridge on NR 16 B in the Southern Region of Lao

E/N Signed: 19 May, 2014

Project Location: Sekong Province

Project Outline: The project will support construction of a new bridge to connect the missing link between Sekong town and Dakchueng. The new bridge will be an integral part of NR16, strengthening connectivity to the region as the road links Thailand and Vietnam through Southern Laos. The bridge will provide all-weather access to Kalueng, Sanxay and Dakchueng districts, and people will no longer have to rely on ferry boat crossings. Residents on the eastern side of the river will be able to reliably travel to Sekong Town at night and in the rainy season, improving their access to public services such as schools and hospitals.

Project for Improvement of Solid Waste Management in Environmental Sustainable Cities

EN/ Signed: 14 March, 2014

Project Location: Vientiane Capital, Luang Prabang and Xayaboury

Project Outline: The project aims to improve urban environment and sanitation through the enhancement and efficiency in collecting and transferring wastes. For the project, transfer station will be constructed in Vientiane Capital and equipment for the waste collection methods such as compactor trucks, dump trucks, and skip loaders, will be provided for the three districts. It is anticipated that the volume of waste will rapidly increase in accordance with the population growth in urban Laos. The volume of waste collected in the Vientiane Capital is currently 69.3t/day, in Luang Prabang it is 20.6 t/day, and Xayaboury it is 19.2 t/day. By 2020, the waste volume is expected to double in Luang Prabang and Xayaboury, and more than triple in Vientiane, increasing the collection rate and service coverage. Therefore, enhancement of waste management system is vital for environmental sustainability.



Meteorological and Hydrological Services Improvement Project

Project Period: 2013

Project Location: Nationwide

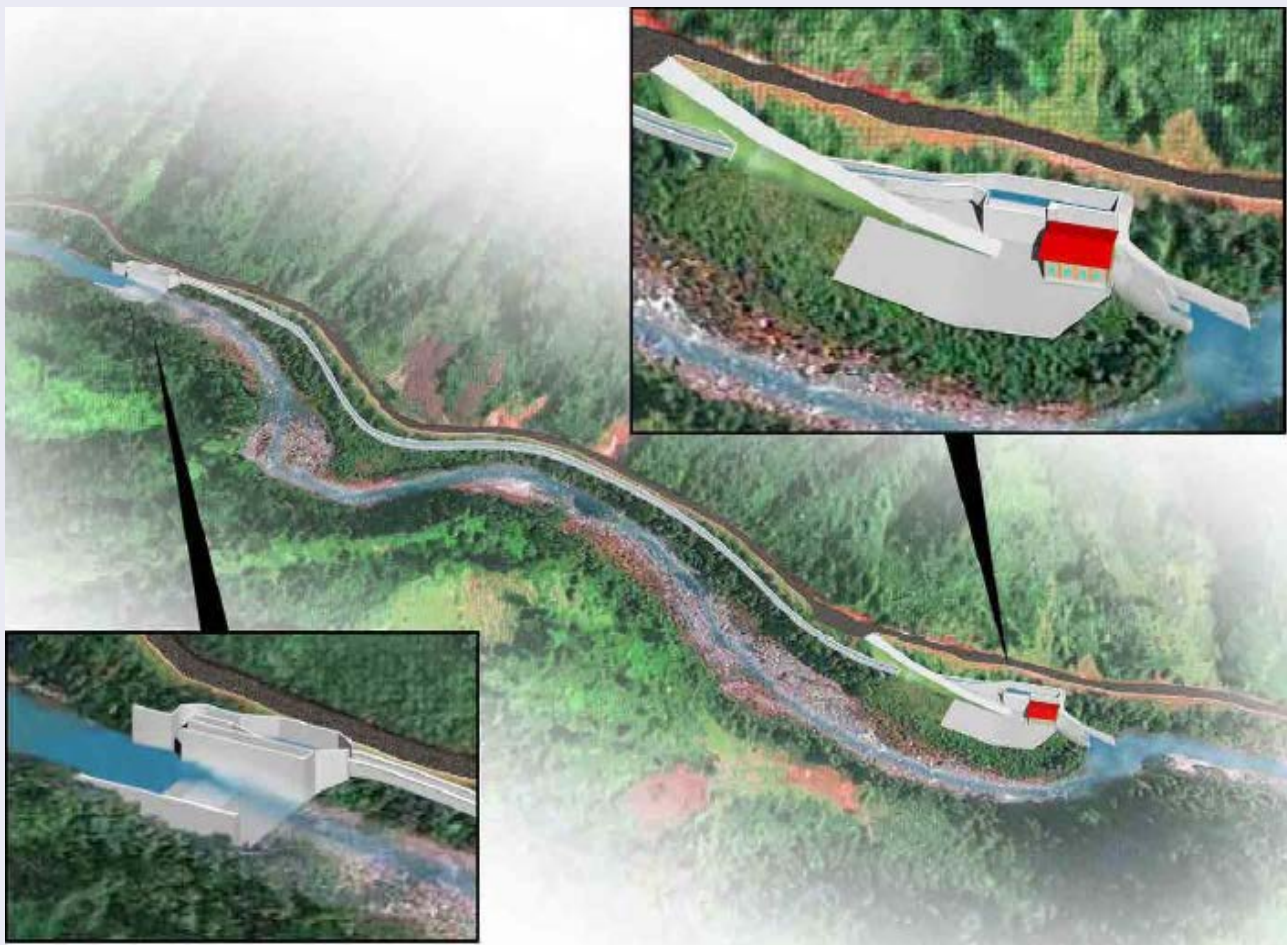
Project Outline: The project aims to reduce the damage caused by meteorological and hydrological disasters in Lao PDR with more accurate hazardous weather information. The project will provide the equipment and facilities for meteorological and hydrological observation. Eighteen automatic weather observation systems and four water level systems will be installed. These upgrades will allow Lao PDR to transmit and receive data from the World Meteorological Organization, improving regional and global information that are integral to weather forecasts and warnings.

Mini Hydropower Development Project

Project Period: March 2013 - January 2016

Project Location: Phongsaly Province

Project Outline: A mini-hydropower plant will be constructed with distribution lines to villages needing electricity in GnodOu District in Northern Laos. The project is expected to reduce power imports, which are too expensive for rural villages to sustainably purchase. In accordance with the “Green Growth” policy of Japan, the equipment will be procured from small and medium enterprises in Japan. After completion of the project, the system will be operated and maintained by EDL. To support financial management, the Provincial Rural Electrification Fund will be established to manage the fund and rehabilitation activities of the plant. By the end of the project, it is expected that nearly 8,000 people in one of the poorest districts in Laos will be able to access electricity.



Thakhek Water Supply Development Project

Project Period: June 2013 - December 2017

Project Location: Khammouane Province

Project Outline: As of 2012, the water supply coverage rate in Thakhek was only 58%, but is expected to reach 80% by 2020. The project will carry out the construction of a new water treatment plant and pipeline installation in order to enhance water supply capacity in Thakhek. A new water treatment plant, intake facility and elevated tanks will be built. JICA will provide essential training for operation and maintenance of the new water treatment plant, as well as the management of the water distribution system. It is expected that about 50,000 people in urban Thakehk will benefit from the project.

ODA Loans

Expansion of the Vientiane International Airport Terminal

L/A Signed: 10 January, 2014

Project Location: Vientiane Capital

Project Outline: At the Vientiane International Airport, the number of passengers passing through the international terminal in 2012 reached about twice the planned capacity. Because Lao PDR is landlocked and 80% occupied by mountains, air transportation is integral for strengthening connectivity with ASEAN countries. The project calls for substantial improvements in transportation services with the goals of increasing the annual volume of air transportation, the annual number of flights, and expanding international and domestic terminals. In addition, the project will introduce the eco-airport concept to reduce the operation effects on the environment, and upgrade the using an environmentally-friendly design and energy-saving technologies.



Southern Region Power System Development Project

L/A Signed: March 2012

Project Location: Savanakhet, Saravan Provinces

Project Outline: Through ODA loans, JICA is supporting Lao PDR's Southern Regional Power System Development Project. With its plentiful water resources, Laos generates enough hydropower to export 80% of it to other countries. The amount of power imports, however, has risen due to the expansion of domestic demand as well as insufficient transmission and distribution networks in the country. Thus, there is an urgent need to construct a transmission system which connects the area facing a power shortage and the area with surplus power. The project aims to interconnect the two transmission systems in Savannakhet and Saravan and to improve the reliability of power by constructing 200 km of 115kV transmission lines and related facilities. The funds from this Japanese ODA loan will be allocated to civil works and consulting services.



Nam Ngum 1 Hydropower Station Expansion Project

L/A Signed: 21 June, 2013

Project Outline: Japan is supporting the Nam Ngum 1 Hydropower Station Expansion Project. Referred to as the “battery of ASEAN,” Laos is furthering the development of power that uses the country’s ample potential of hydropower. Because the vast majority of power in Laos is hydropower, there is a large fluctuation in output between the dry and rainy seasons, and the gap between power supply and demand is particularly wide in the dry season during peak hours in the central region where the capital region is located. Boasting a holding of 7 billion cubic meters, the reservoir has a stable inflow of water throughout the year, so the hydropower station will contribute to alleviating the power deficit in the capital even in the dry season. During construction, the existing dam body will be pierced, which will allow for work to proceed without stopping generation at the existing units. Another advantage of the project is that because it is an expansion using the current dam, there will be almost no environmental or social impact on the reservoir or the areas downstream.

Agriculture Sector

Technical Cooperation Project (TCP)

Participatory Land and Forest Management Project for Reducing Deforestation (PAREDD)

Project Period: August 2009 - August 2015

Project Location: LuangPrabang Province

Project Summary: PAREDD aims to develop an approach to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in villages and village clusters with the participation of the village residents. PAREDD is carrying out participatory land and forest use planning, activities for reducing deforestation (forest management, agriculture livelihoods improvement, etc) and carbon stock monitoring. Through this program, the capacities of villagers and local government staff are expected to strengthen, which in turn contributes to anticipated successful REDD+ implementation.



Forestry Sector Capacity Development Project (FSCAP)

Project Period: October 2010 - September 2014

Project Location: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)

Project Summary: FSCAP aims at capacity building of Department of Forestry staff through assisting formulation, implementation, and monitoring of policies and legislation. FSCAP plays an important role in coordination among stakeholders of the forestry sector including authorities of the Government of Lao PDR as well as development partners and initiatives. FSCAP responds to issues emerging from international and domestic agendas such as climate change and land use changes.

Livelihood Improvement Project for Southern Mountainous and Plateau Areas (LIPS)

Project Period: November 2010 - November 2015

Project Location: Champassak, Saravan, Sekong, and Attapue Provinces

Project Summary: Mountainous areas near the southern Lao border where minority groups dominate the population are called the 'CLV development triangle'. To tackle the problems of food insecurity and poverty in these areas, improvement of agricultural, forestry, and livestock production systems that are resilient to natural and socio-economic conditions is a priority. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, assisted by JICA, has implemented technical cooperation projects for improving the villagers livelihoods through extension of appropriate technology based on the concept of cluster-based extension.



Participatory Irrigated Agriculture Development Project in Southern Areas along the Mekong (PIAD)

Project Period: November 2010 - November 2015

Project Location: Savannakhet Province, Vientiane Capital

Project Summary: PIAD aims to build the capacity of government officials and Farmers Organizations (FOs) to strengthen and improve participatory irrigated agriculture. First, the project aims to improve the capacity of Provincial and Districts' government staff through implementing trainings. It will also carry out construction of tertiary canal systems and teach proper operation and maintenance of the system. Finally, the project will aid the development of the appropriate cropping patterns for commercial crops such as rice, vegetables and maize based on the FOs' capacity and the progress of irrigation canal works.

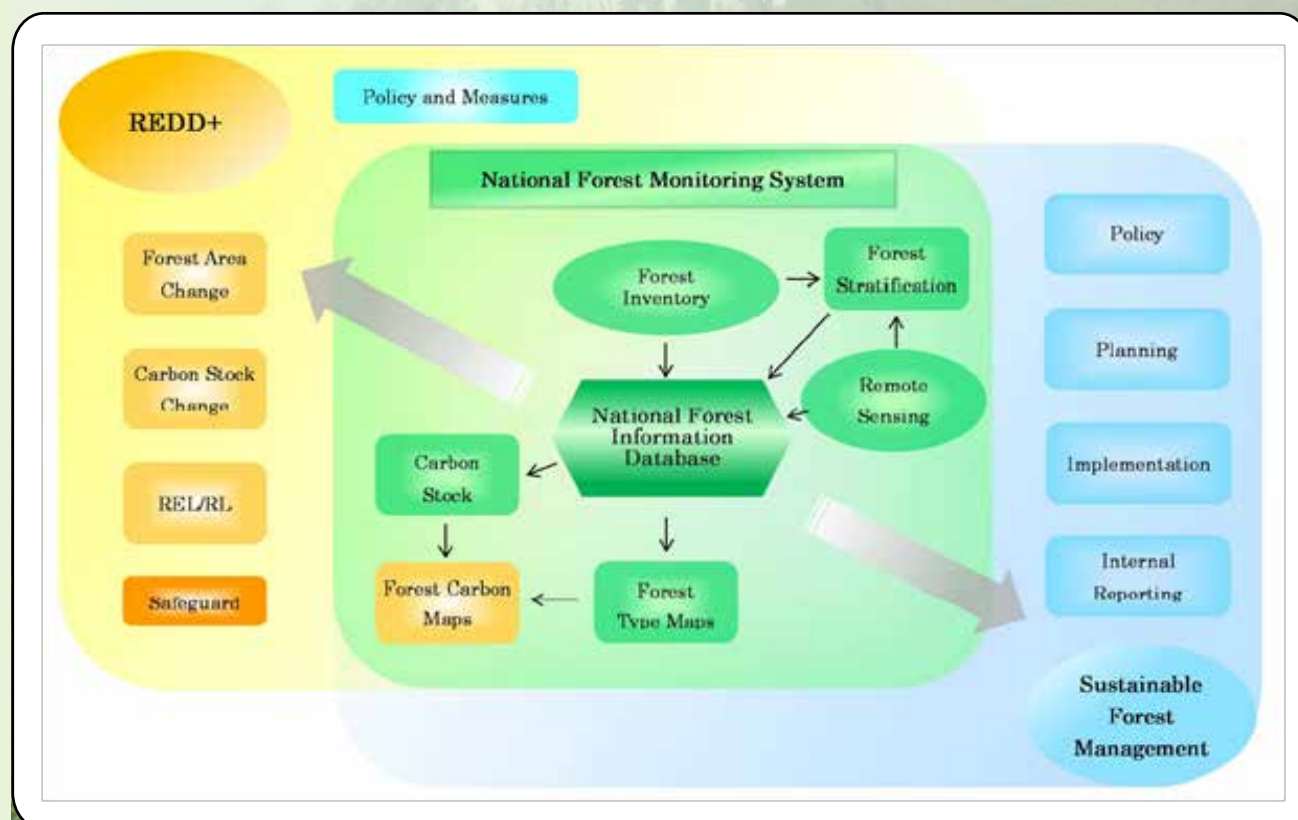


Capacity Development Project for Establishing National Forest Information System for Sustainable Forest Management and REDD+ (NFIS)

Project Period: September 2013 - September 2015

Project Location: Vientiane Capital

Project Summary: The project's aim to ensure the capacity building for forest resource and information management at a national level is a top priority in Lao PDR. This follow-up project will develop a more enhanced forest information system that will be integral for technical cooperation in the field. Through this program, the NFIS will compile information on Forest Carbon Dynamics at a national level, design a prototype of National Forest Information Database (NFIDB) and the next round of national forest inventory (NFI), as well as compile other information required for REDD+. A process for communication sharing and coordination with other organizations and stakeholders has been developed and is detailed in the graphic below.



Lao Organic Agriculture Promotion Project

Project Period: September 2013 - September 2016

Project Location: Vientiane Capital

Project Summary: Organic agriculture has a high potential for commercial production because pesticides and chemical fertilizers have not been widely applied in conventional farming. In 2005, the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry on Organic Agriculture Standards in collaboration with NGOs, launched a collaborative project “Promotion of Organic Farming and Marketing in the Lao PDR (PROFIL) Project”. PROFIL aimed at creating a favorable framework organic agriculture by supporting the production of organic products, promoting their sales on the domestic market, and the development of regional and international markets. Although PROFIL ended in 2011, it set up the structure for promoting organics and inspections for organic certification. The continuation of the project will build knowledge and human resource capacity to ensure these systems are fully functional.



Education Sector

Technical Cooperation Project (TCP)

Project Supporting Community Initiative on Education Development Phase 2 (CIED 2)

Project Period: September 2012 - August 2016

Project Location: Savannakhet, Champasack, Saravan, and Sekong Provinces

Project Summary: The Project for Supporting Community Initiatives for Primary Education Development in the Southern Provinces (CIED project) is supporting schools in target areas to improve access to primary education based on each School Development Plan (SDP) formulated by the communities themselves. The educational indicators in southern provinces, such as drop-out and repetition rates, are still higher than the national target. The project is supporting Laos as it strives to achieve its target of “Education for All” by 2015. Already, improvement in access has been confirmed at the target schools in the beginning states of the project.

Increasing the ratio of schools that achieved the quality standard is a key factor to the achievement of other educational indicators related to the access and quality of primary education. Therefore, the CEID Project (Phase 2) intends to strengthen the capacity development of educational administrative organizations both at central and local levels and promotes the SDP cycle based on the outcome of CIED project. Additionally, a School Block Grant program, which was started in 2012 by distributing subsidies per student to primary schools in the entire country, can be linked to the SDP cycle for effective utilization of the budget.



Country-Focused Training on Improvement of Quality of Textbooks and Teacher Manuals for Sciences and Mathematics in Primary Education

Project Period: April 2013 - March 2016

Project Summary: This training course in Japan aims to equip staff of Research Institute for Educational Sciences (RIES) with knowledge and capacity as core human resources to effectively conduct the upcoming curriculum and textbook review/revision for math and science subjects of primary education.

In-Country Training on Strengthening Faculty of Management and Administration in Savannakhet University

Project Period: September 2012 - August 2015

Project Location: Savannakhet Province

Project Summary: Savannakhet University opened in 2009 as the fourth public university in Lao PDR. Due to its location in the east-west corridor and next to a special economic zone, the university is expected to be a model of economic research and teaching, as well as to motivate socio-economic development in the central region. JICA, alongside the National University of Laos, is working to strengthen the Business Management & Administration and IT fields in the university through a variety of methods.

Grant Aid

Project for Improving Secondary School Environment in the Southern Provinces

Project Period: 2014-2016

Project Location: Attapeu, Saravan, and Sekong Provinces

Project Summary: “Improving Secondary School Environment in the Southern Provinces” aims to improve the learning environment and access to the secondary education in Attapeu, Saravan, and Sekong Provinces. The majority of the populations in these provinces are some of the poorest in Laos. The mountain regions are also a barrier to education access. Though access to primary education in Lao PDR has improved and is marked with a 95.2% net enrollment rate in 2012, access to secondary education is still limited. The southern provinces struggle with lower secondary enrollment, with rates hovering around the 50% mark, much lower than the national average of 64.7% (2012).

It is both urgent and necessary to improve secondary education in these provinces, and this project will be implemented in 45 schools. About ten thousand students and hundreds of teachers will benefit from 235 new classrooms, 36 teacher rooms, 3 dormitories, 36 bathrooms and 37 garages.



Japan Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship Program (JDS)

In 1999, a Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) was established by the Government of the Lao PDR with assistance from the Government of Japan – through its Grant Aid facility executed by JICA. The objective of the JDS Program is to support human resource development in the Lao PDR by targeting highly capable, young government officials. By acquiring expert knowledge, research application and human networks in Japanese universities, JDS participants are expected to use knowledge gained to take an active role in practically solving problems relating to social and economic development in the Lao PDR.

A new JDS Program framework was adopted in 2008, which aims to enhance the program’s effectiveness and efficiency in relation to development issues and priority areas.

Health Sector

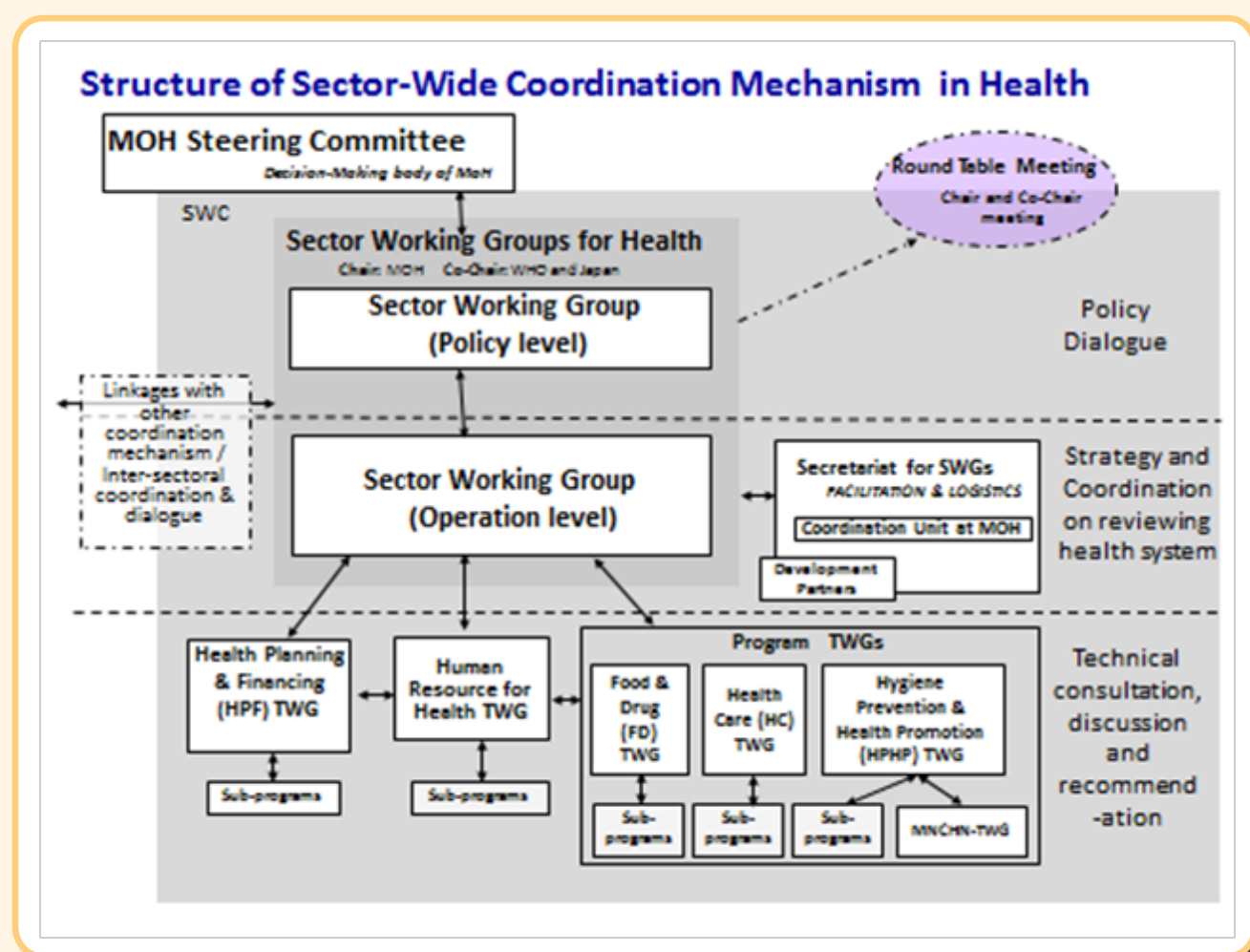
Technical Cooperation Project (TCP)

Capacity Development for Sector-wide Coordination in Health Phase 2 (CDSWC2)

Project Period: December 2010 - December 2015

Project Location: Ministry of Health

Project Summary: CDSWC2 is building on the success of Phase1, aiming at further development of MoH's capacity to manage SWC Mechanism by themselves and expand this mechanism to the provincial level. Our vision is to have the health sector leading the implementation of 7th 5-year Health Sector Development Plan by coordinating health related activities performed by all the stakeholders and thereby improving of health status of the Lao people. This will support the achievement of Millennium Development Goals and contribute to poverty eradication in the country.



Project for Strengthening Integrated Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Services (MNCH)

Project Period: May 2010 - May 2015

Project Location: Champasak, Saravan, Sekong, Attapue Provinces

Project Summary: Through the MNCHN Technical Working Group (TWG), the coordination of MCH/EPI services has been promoted as a core strategy of the MNCH integrated package and the adoption of skilled birth attendants (SBAs) in cooperation with various development partners. The following three items are strategic objectives:

1. Improving leadership, governance, and management capacity for program implementation
2. Strengthening the efficiency and quality of health service provisions
3. Mobilizing individuals, families, and communities for maternal, neonatal, and child health



Project for Sustainable Development of Human Resources for Health to Improve Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (HRH)

Project Period: February 2012 - February 2016

Project Location: Nationwide

Project Summary: The project aims at strengthening quality education systems so that series of trainings in health educational institutes at the provincial level will be managed effectively and efficiently for development of health resources in terms of quantity and quality. The overall goal of the current project is to improve MNCH services by creating a system to develop human resources for healthcare in Laos.

Primary goals for this project include:

- 1) Standardized systems for nursing education are developed and/or institutionalized.
- 2) Strengthened training institutions to implement quality educational programs
- 3) Improved coordination among stakeholders to effectively improve educational systems.



Grant Aid

Project for Strengthening Health Service Network in Southern Provinces

Project Period: March 2013 - July 2015

Project Location: Champasak, Saravan, Sekong, Attapue Provinces

Project Summary: In southern provinces, MNCH indicators remain at very low levels. Improvement of access to health facilities and expansion of MNCH services are issues to be addressed immediately in order to achieve MDG-4 “Reducing of Under-Five Mortality Rate” and MDG-5 “Improvement of Maternal Health”. In order to expand health service network to rural, remote and mountainous areas in aiming to make the primary health care including MNCH services available there, the project will construct about 70 new health facilities and provide equipment to further nine district hospitals.

Other Sector

Governance Sector

Technical Cooperation Project (TCP)

Project for Human Resource Development in the Legal Sector (Phase 2)

Project Period: July 2014 - July 2018

Project Location: Vientiane Capital

Project Summary: The Lao Government's 7th Socio-Economic Development Plan and the Legal Sector Master Plan, place high priority on human resource development in the legal sector by outlining a comprehensive long-term strategic plan for the development of the rule of law by 2020. JICA's Project for Human Resource Development in the Legal Sector, which began in 2010, has contributed to the capacity development of systematic studies on theories and practices for institutions and officials in the legal and justice sectors.

The continuation of this project is necessary in order to improve the understanding of statutory provisions and to provide a uniform approach to the implementation of law practices. These improvements will have a positive impact on the promotion of foreign investment and economic growth.

The Project for Human Resource Development in the Legal Sector (Phase2) aims to lead legal and justice sector and legal education management by develop their capacity for the following:

1. Improvement of legal drafting work
2. Improvement of law implementation and enforcement
3. Improvement of legal education & training for prospective legal professionals and increased legal awareness through outreach



Project for Establishing a Public Investment Plan under NSEDP (PCAP III)

Project Period: March 2012 - September 2015

Project Location: Vientiane Capital

Project Summary: The Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) is responsible for conducting assessments for public investment projects and verifying their validity in respective sectors. They also provide instructions and advice for management of public investment projects, along with periodical monitoring and evaluation. With MPI, JICA previously provided two technical cooperation projects, "Project for Capacity Building in Public Investment Program (PIP) Management (PCAP)" and "Project for Enhancing Capacity of Public Investment Program Management (PCAP2)". These improved the capacity of MPI to manage public investment projects, by developing and disseminating methods and tools for assessment and monitoring



and evaluating. JICA also held training programs and these improvements led to the enactment of the Public Investment Law in 2009. The next phase for JICA and the MPI is to further enhance the financial management methods and strengthen project management and coordination capacity.

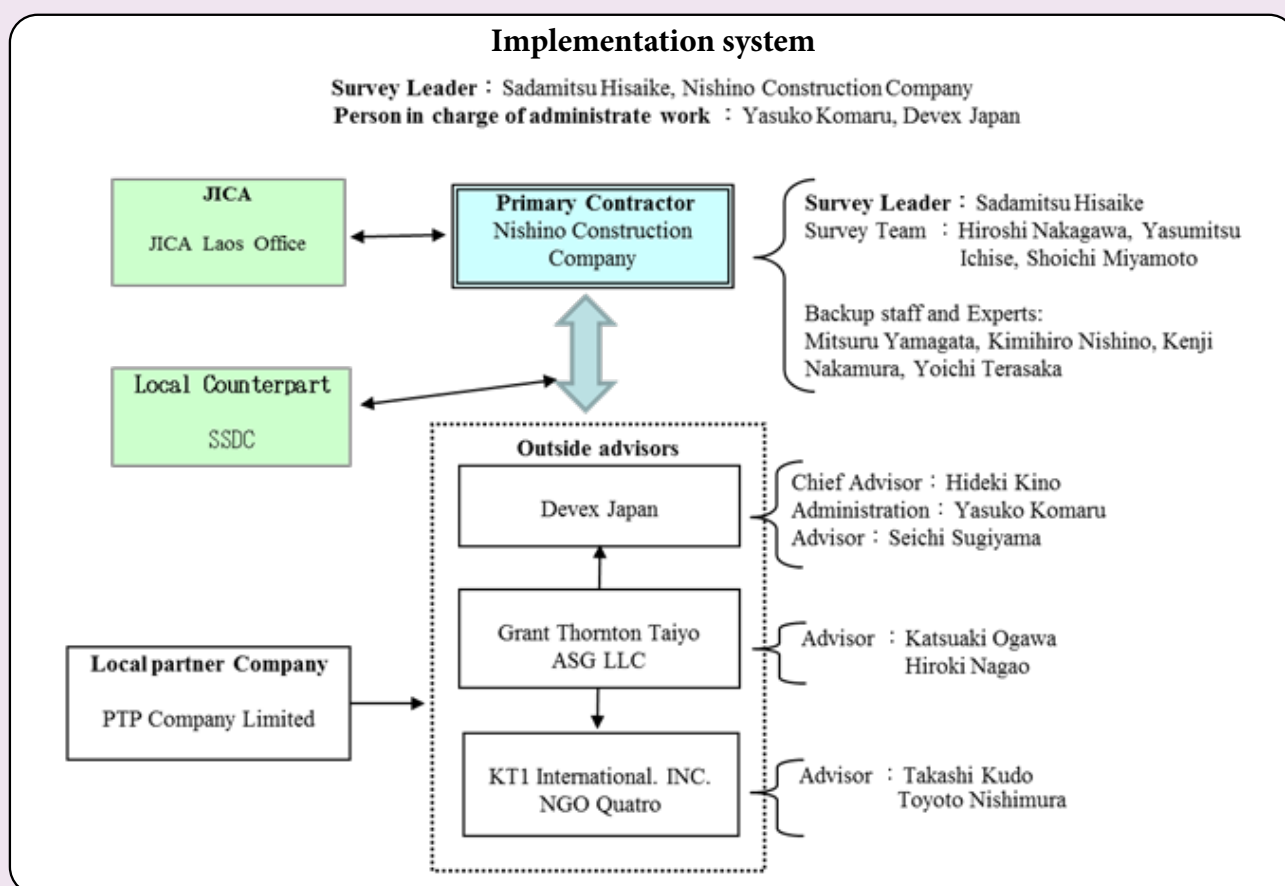
Private Sector Partnership

Pilot Survey for Disseminating Small and Medium Enterprises Technologies for Wooden House Building Materials and Construction with Pre-cut Machine

Project Period: July 2013 - December 2014

Project Location: Champasak and Sekong Provinces

Project Summary: The Nishino Construction Company has partnered with the Lao Southern Skill Development Center to strengthen the link between commercial forestry management and the wooden house industry. The project transfers the skills of using unique Japanese technology to build functional walls for wooden houses that precisely shield the living space to the outside world, which enhances the habitability and comfort level. By utilizing this method, the connection between the wooden parts is further stabilized with much lower costs, making it easier to produce residential wooden frames. It is possible to learn the technology by short-term training. The technology does not require any heavy machinery, and the packaging/transportation of the finished parts can easily be conducted. By utilizing the residential wooden frame, it is possible to construct clean and comfortable wooden houses that fit in the lifestyle of Lao people which is affordable for the low to medium income citizens.



Regional Cooperation

ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (Phase 3)

Project Period: March 2013 - March 2018

Project Location: ASEAN Countries, National University of Laos

Project Summary: The project aims to nurture internationally competitive personnel with multicultural awareness through academic cooperation among leading engineering higher education institutions in ASEAN and Japan. To realize these missions, a consortium of engineering graduate schools has been established to produce graduates with degrees of international standard. Ten engineer fields have been identified and assigned to member institutions to act as Host Institutions. The Hosts are responsible for training youth graduates and teaching staff from other members and managing research activities in the fields. The project also provides integrative supports of scholarships and grants for faculty development and network establishment.

The goals for Phase III of this project are:

1. To strengthen the link among member institutions, industries, and communities
2. Establish a system to conduct research activities addressing regional common issues
3. Improve research and educational capacities of faculty staff of member institutions
4. Strengthen the academic network among member institutions and Japanese supporting universities

Laos-Cambodia South-South Cooperation on UXO/Mine Action Sector

Project Period: July 2012 - June 2015

Project Location: Laos- Nationwide and Cambodia

Project Outline: UXO is a major obstacle to socio-economic development in the Lao PDR, and it remains one of the government's most challenging tasks. UXO Lao and CMAC will share knowledge and exchange expertise through six workshops to be held in each country, on various themes, over a period of three years. The dispatched JICA expert provides advice and assistance to UXO Lao in the management and implementation of training, including the Laos-Cambodia South-South Cooperation on UXO/Mine Action Sector, as well as advice for upgrading and improving the organization's training capacity. Japan has provided Grant Aid to UXO Lao with approximately 11 million USD worth of new equipment, including 400 detectors, 100 vehicles, 100 PCs and other tools necessary to accelerate the organization's UXO clearance efforts. The replacement of this equipment will not only reduce much of the financial burden of maintenance, allowing the organization to put more of its budget towards front-line clearance efforts, but also increase the speed and effectiveness of these vital activities, helping thousands more people and contributing to poverty reduction.



Project for the Capacity Development for Transition to the New CNS/ATM systems in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam

Project Period: January 2011 - December 2014

Project Location: Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam

Project Outline: A New Communication, Navigation Surveillance / Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) System utilizes satellite-based technologies in collaboration with ground navigation infrastructure, and on-board aircraft avionics, to maximize the capabilities of its sub-systems. The new CNS/ATM System will be compatible with those being defined and specified by International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The project's three expected outcomes are the development of Capacity to establish performance-based navigation flight procedures, development of a training system for air traffic controllers and air navigation technical staff, and the strengthening of safety oversight capability through the introduction of safety management systems in air navigation services.

Lao Pilot Program for Narrowing the Development Gap towards ASEAN Integration

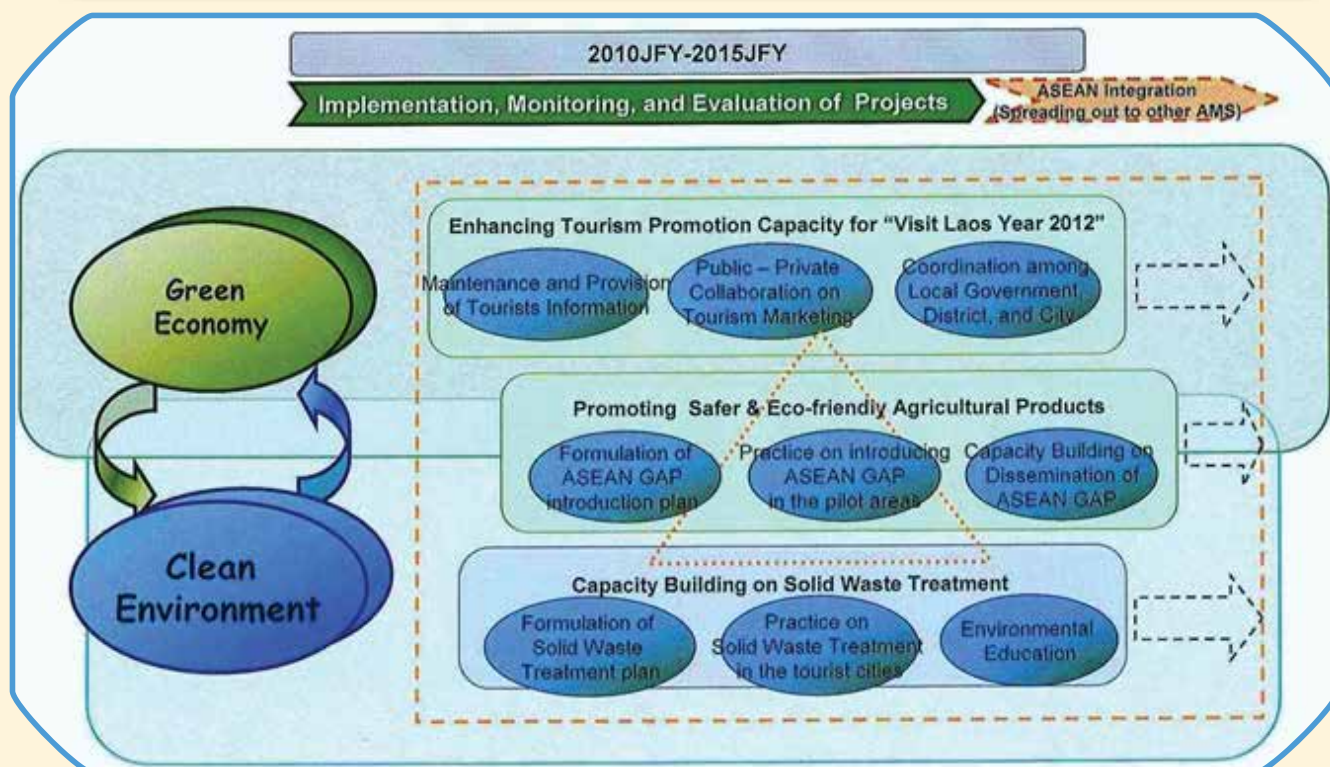
Project Period: October 2010 – October 2015

Project Location: Vientiane Capital

Project Outline: The joint collaboration between ASEC and JICA is aimed to support the initiative of the government of the Lao PDR and to balance development growth and environment conservation. The LPP is comprised of the following compartments to turn its concept to “Clean, Green and Beautiful Laos” into reality.

1. Establish and apply an effective mechanism for tourism promotion with a sound of sustainable use of resources through a collaboration of Public-Private Partnership
2. Share expertise and experiences in creating Environment Sustainable City Guideline emphasizing in solid waste management and waste water treatment.
3. Introduce Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) for safe and quality agricultural production promotion.

JICA-ASEAN Cooperation: Laos Pilot Program for Narrowing the Development Gap toward ASEAN Intergration



Volunteer Program

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs)

In 2015, JICA will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the first JOCV dispatch to Lao PDR. Lao PDR was the very first country to receive volunteers from Japan in 1965. Like other JICA projects, the JOCV program is designed to help developing countries' socio-economic development at the grass-roots level. Japanese youth that are between 20 and 39 years old, demonstrate specific skills with volunteer spirit to work in developing countries for two years. JOCV volunteers are assigned by a bilateral agreement between the Government of Japan and that of the recipient countries.

The JOCV program enables young, enthusiastic and motivated Japanese people to contribute to social and economic development of developing countries by utilizing their knowledge and skills. Members of the JOCV program think and work together with the local people in order to accomplish sustainable development for a better future. JICA believes that the JOCV program is an effective way to understand real needs of the host countries. JOCV and local people establish friendship through technical transfer and experiences in host countries.

Prior to being dispatched to recipient organizations, JOCVs take two months to learn the Lao language as a preparation for their activities in Lao PDR. This training makes their transition to the new environment smoothly.

Currently, there are approximately 50 JOCVs in Lao PDR who are sharing their wealth of knowledge and expertise in order to develop local human resources in over ten different fields including education, health, sports and agriculture. JICA will do its best to provide volunteers in other technical fields from the request of the Government of Lao PDR (GoL).



SENIOR VOLUNTEERS (SVs)

JICA has been dispatching Senior Volunteers (SVs) aged between 40 and 69 years to developing countries under its Senior Volunteers Program, as a part of its international technical cooperation activities. Both the number of SV and the range of their technical fields have increased over the years in order to meet the technical needs of the recipient countries. The fundamental purpose of the program is to support activities that contribute to the social and economic development of the recipient countries. SVs who have extensive experience and expertise in a particular field.



Senior Volunteers are selected in order to fulfill the recognised need of the recipient countries. However, the activities of SVs not only encompass transferable skills such as building human resource capacity but also entail contact with local people at a grass-roots level, resulting in the establishment of close friendships and cultural exchanges between SVs and local people.

The Senior Volunteer Program was established in 1998 after a bilateral agreement was reached between the Government of Japan and that of Lao PDR. According to this agreement, the Government of Japan will do its best to dispatch SVs with the request from Government of Lao PDR.

Since the first dispatch of SVs to the Lao PDR in 1999, more than 140 SVs have cooperated in sharing their knowledge and expertise in order to develop local human resources in various fields including education, vocational training, computer, public health and sports.



JICA Partnership Program

The Japanese government offers various assistance programs to meet the diverse needs of developing countries through ODA. In international cooperation, the role of NGOs and local governments has become more important, both in Japan and in developing countries.

The JICA Partnership Program (JPP) was introduced in 2002 to support and cooperate with the implementation of projects formulated by Japanese NGOs, Japanese local governments, and Japanese universities to utilize their accumulated knowledge and experience in assistance activities for developing countries.

JPP is a technical cooperation program implemented by JICA to contribute to the social and economic development of developing countries at the grass-roots level in collaboration with “Partners in Japan,” such as NGOs, universities, local governments, and public corporations.

Grass Roots Technical Cooperation Projects

No.	Project	Japanese NGO/ Local Government	Duration
1	Vocational Training for Producing Trainers for the Short-Term Vocational Training Center	IV-Japan	December 2011 - November 2016
2	ODOP regional Promotion Project in Southern Laos	IC-NET	April 2012 - December 2015
3	PWDs Independence promotion Program by Sport and Vocational Activities in LuangPrabang	ADDP	July 2012 - Jun 2015
4	The Cha Ganju School and Community-Based Oral Health Promotion Project	The University of Ryukyus	September 2012 - September 2017
5	Fan Industry Promotion Program in VangVieng District	Kagawa Prefecture	July 2012 - March 2015
6	Basic Irrigation Agriculture Technology Dissemination Project with Farmers' Participation	Taisetsu LID	October 2013 - September 2016
7	The Project for the Improvement of Water Environment in Vientiane Capital	Chiba Prefecture	November 2013 - March 2016
8	Diversified Farming Promotion for SRI Farmers Mountainous Area in LuangPrabang Province	PRO-NET 21	February 2014 - November 2018
9	Extension of School Reading Activities to Communities	Action with Lao Children (ALC)	February 2014 - February 2018
10	Vocational Woodworking Training Course for Youth Income Generation	IV-JAPAN/Saitama Prefecture	February 2014 - February 2017
11	Improvement of Capacity of Teaching in Pre and Primary Education for Children Especially for Minority	SVA	July 2014 - March 2018
12	Promotion of Small Scale Enterprenureship of Persons with Disabilities in Lao PDR.	AAR Japan	July 2014 - December 2017

Other program

Training and Dialogue Program in Japan

The training program for overseas participants is one of the fundamental components of JICA's technical cooperation activities for developing countries. Participants come from overseas in order to obtain knowledge and technology in a variety of fields. Currently, JICA is accepting about 10,000 participants per year, from over 150 countries and areas of the world. JICA has accepted more than 265,000 technical training participants since 1954.

The objectives of JICA's Training and Dialogue Program are: 1) to contribute to the development of human resources to address or solve targeted problems in developing countries; and 2) to contribute to the promotion of mutual understanding and friendship.

JICA's Training Program can be divided into two types: the "group type" and the "individual type". JICA formulates the curriculum of the group-type program according to the common needs of developing countries. In principle, each group consists of participants from different countries, enabling them to share knowledge among themselves.

JICA conducts more than 500 group-type programs every year. In these programs, depending on their content, many different methods are used, including lectures, discussions, practice, seminars, research, and observation.



Individual-type programs are formulated to satisfy specific needs, based on a formal request from the nominating countries. Many Individual-type programs are conducted for the counterparts of JICA experts/volunteers who are dispatched overseas, which enable them to learn technologies that would be difficult to acquire in their own countries. Counterparts are, in most cases, officials or professional/technical staff in recipient organizations where Japanese experts/volunteers have been dispatched by JICA.

Every year, JICA accepts over 150 trainees from Laos for training, including long-term trainees who pursue academic degrees at Japanese universities.

Training Program for Young Leaders in Japan

The Japan-Laos Friendship Program commenced in 1995 under a technical cooperation scheme for the Lao PDR. The Japan-Laos Youth Friendship Program has played a significant role in deepening friendship between both nations.

Under this program, from 1995-2010, 411 Lao youth have been invited to Japan for 3-4 weeks at a time in order to study their specialized fields and to meet Japanese people. In order to implement all JICA activities effectively, JICA has decided to modify its Youth Invitation Program and to be a more technical-oriented training program called the "Training Program for Young Leaders".

This program, conducted by JICA under a technical cooperation scheme, promotes human resource development for developing countries. Under this program, young and promissory individuals between 20 and 35 years old, who are expected to lead development in their country, are trained in their specialized fields.

The scope of training varies in range from administration, education, agriculture, social welfare, healthcare and environment to information and communication technology. The training program also serves to prove the effectiveness of technical cooperation implemented by JICA in developing countries, with more than 25 participants from Laos invited to Japan each year to be trained in their field.



JICA Activities in the Lao PDR



Handover Ceremony for the Hinheup Bridge construction project.



Hygiene Education by JOCVs in Attapeu province.



Human Resource Development for better quality Agriculture products in the Lao PDR.



Supporting Human Resource Development through Sports



Workshop on Math Education organized by JOCVs for schools in Vientiane province.

Prenatal
Checkup by
JOCV at Park
Ngeum District



JOCV Teaching
Computer
Techniques at
National
University



Math Lesson by
JOCV in Salavan
Province

Raising
Awareness
for Solid Waste
Management





JICA Laos Office

3rd Floor, Sihom Commerce Center, Sihom Village, Chanthabouly District
P.O.Box 3933, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
Tel: +856-21-241 100, Fax: +856-21-241 101-2
E-mail: La_oso_rep@jica.go.jp