

LPPE NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to LPPE Newsletter!

This newsletter is to introduce the various activities in the project “Environmental Management Component of the Laos Pilot Project for Narrowing the Development Gap towards ASEAN Integration (LPPE)” and to stimulate dialogue on urban environmental management in Lao PDR. It will report project progress, findings, lessons learnt, technical tips, and anything else useful for environmental sustainability in urban areas.

What is LPPE, then?

In order to practically implement the LPP, the three parties agreed to select three sectors where the resource availability of ASEAN and JICA meet with the development needs in Lao PDR; tourism, agriculture and the environment. These three target sectors were then developed as individual project components to be carried out in parallel under the LPP's umbrella. LPPE is the environmental component (Fig.1).

What is LPP?

LPP, Laos Pilot Project for Narrowing Development Gap towards ASEAN Integration, is a five-year project initiated by the Government of Lao PDR, ASEAN Secretariat and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in 2010. It aims to establish a tripartite cooperation mechanism which will contribute to narrowing the development gap and putting ASEAN integration in 2015 into perspective.

For such a project purpose, three outputs are expected to be produced, namely;

- Output 1. Establishment of tripartite cooperation structure
- Output 2. Implementation of PDCA cycle
- Output 3. Capacity development of Lao Government

ESC: Keyword of LPPE

The principal **purpose** of LPPE is:

*The promotion of **environmentally sustainable cities (ESC)** in Lao PDR is enhanced based on the “ASEAN Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AIESC)”.*

AIESC was promulgated in 2005 by the ASEAN Working Group for ESC to promote collaborative attempts among ASEAN cities for sound urban development that ensures environmental sustainability. Therefore, it is considered that ESC promotion is one of the important concerns for Laos with a view to ASEAN integration. Also, due to the relatively large reliance of the national economy on natural resources and accelerated

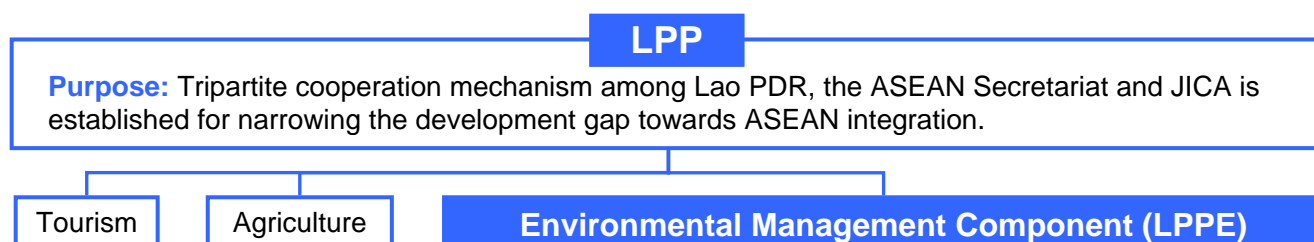


Fig.1: Structure of the LPP and LPPE

urbanization experienced in Laos in recent years, ESC promotion will be one of the prerequisites for the graduation from LLDC status by 2020, a top agenda of the Lao government.

To achieve the aforementioned purpose, LPPE aims to produce three outputs (Fig.2).

Output 1: Formulation of ESC Guidelines

This output is important in that in the course of the formulation of ESC guidelines, the concept of ESC and process necessary to approach ESC will be clearly outlined and understood by Lao counterparts. Furthermore, it is expected that the guidelines will serve as a tool to sustain the effect of LPPE even after its termination.

Output 2: Improvement of solid waste management (SWM) in the three pilot cities based on the ESC Guidelines

Output 2 will come about from the implementation of various pilot projects on the ground in Vientiane Capital, Luang Prabang and Xayabouri. The pilot projects will be designed in the sector of SWM as a model in order to efficiently use available resources and to ensure tangible improvements within the project period.

Output 3: Promotion of community-based Urban Environmental Management for SWM in the three pilot cities

LPPE pays special attention to people, as their views, mind-set and behavior must be changed so as to improve the urban

environment and sustain the improved urban environment. Steady and extended community-based activities will be planned and carried out in coordination with the pilot projects.

Who are the players?

As an ultimate decision making body, an LPP Steering Committee (LPPSC) has been established with the vice minister of the Ministry of Planning and Investment as chairperson. The committee members include representatives from relevant organizations such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao National Tourism Authority, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), which was formerly known as Water Resources and Environment Administration, and Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT).

Also, there is an LPP Office (LPPO) that functions as a secretariat to LPPSC. The Government of Laos, ASEAN Secretariat and JICA have each sent a project co-manager to LPPO.

In LPPE, a technical committee (T/C) is established by representatives of relevant organizations at the central level and local level (i.e. three pilot sites) with a project manager to be appointed by MONRE. From the JICA side, a team of experts (to be called JET) have been/will be dispatched to Laos to provide technical assistance to the Laotian counterparts. JET also presents you this newsletter.

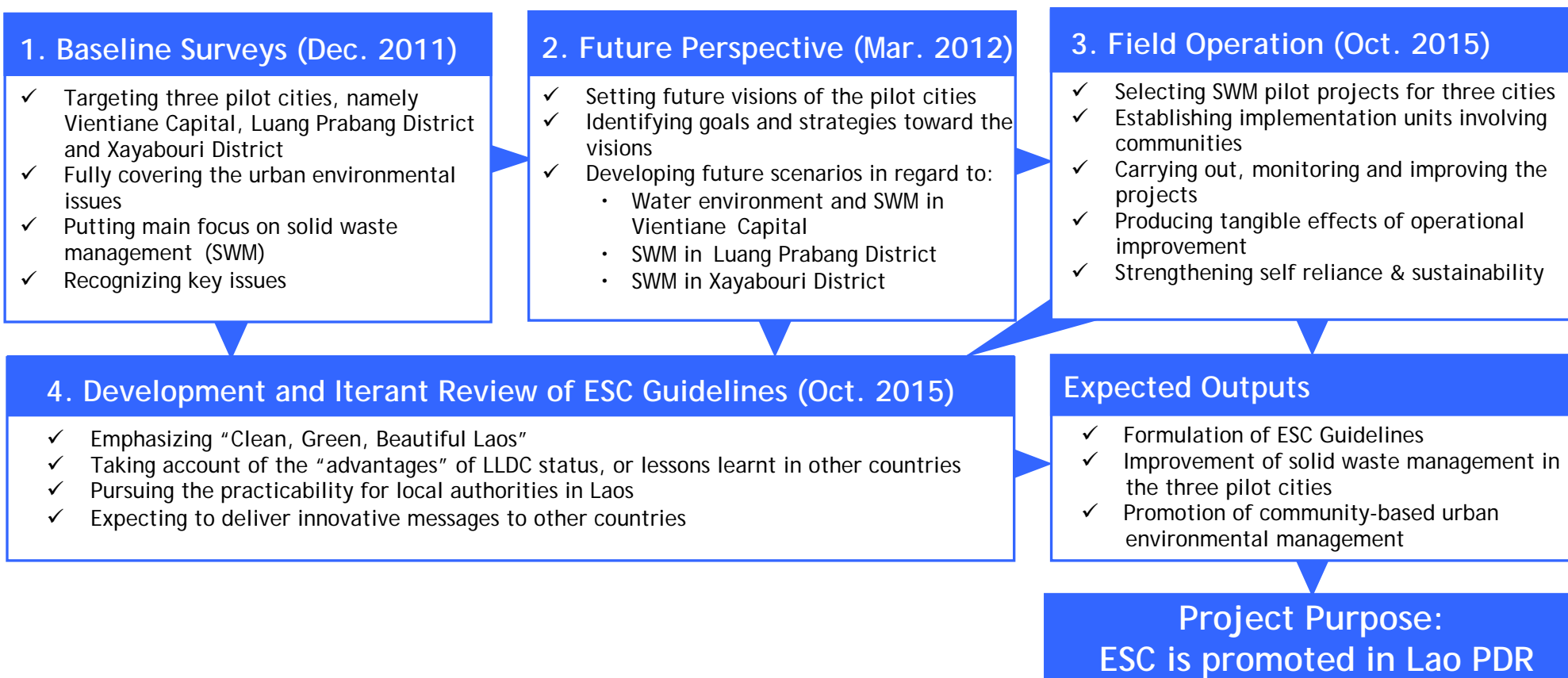


Fig.2: Outline of LPPE

LPPE's Project Flow and Schedule

LPPE started in August 2011 and ends in October 2015. It mainly consists of 4 components as follows to achieve the project outputs and purpose.

We are now at the first stage of baseline surveys, and also have started an introductory discussion about the ESC guidelines with MONRE and other T/C members. Further, field investigation of solid waste management started in three pilot cities, which will be specifically reported in a later issue of the Newsletter.



Progress Made in the Baseline Surveys

The first five months of the project is a baseline survey stage. There are two types of baseline survey.

1. Baseline survey of urban environmental management

This is a survey to understand the whole picture of urban environmental management in the three pilot sites. It covers a range of subjects such as natural conditions, socio-economic conditions, organizational system, and land use planning. Interviews and literature reviews were mostly carried out and it is time to organize all the information obtained and identify important issues. The result of this baseline survey will serve as a base to produce future visions for ESC of three sites.

2. Baseline survey of solid waste management (SWM)

SWM is one of the concerns covered by the first type of the baseline survey, but an in-depth baseline survey is also being conducted to understand SWM in the pilot sites more specifically.

The SWM baseline survey has several further components, including waste amount and composition survey (WACS), waste collection survey and final disposal site survey. Their results will be analyzed and utilized when SWM improvement scenarios and SWM pilot projects are developed early next year.



Photo 1. Waste Categorization in WACS (Vientiane)

1st Joint Technical Committee Held in October

The first T/C was held on 25 and 26 October in Xayabouri district.



Photo 2. 1st Technical Committee

As an official body to approve the whole project scope and to give a green light, this first committee had been much-awaited since the end of August, when the JET started its project activities in Vientiane. It was, however, influenced by long deliberation and institutional uncertainty caused by the restructuring of MONRE, which is one of the newest ministries in Lao PDR established in June 2011. To make it work as effectively and efficiently as possible, the country had been paying particular attention to its structure, mandates and personnel.

The committee was co-chaired by Ms. Bounphak Inthapanya, Xayabouri District Governor; Mr. Phengkahmla Phonvisai, Director of Pollution Control Division/DoE/MONRE; and Mr. Yoshinori Yonesato, Representative of LPPO/JICA. It was attended by 33 participants from central and local governmental organizations.

After the presentation on the project outline described in the Inception Report by Mr. Naofumi Sato, a vice JET leader, the participants were divided into groups and discussed their commitment to and expectations of the project. Group presentation on the second day demonstrated the consolidated motivation of all the relevant agencies and the success of the T/C.