



Draft Programme

National Technical Capacity Building Workshop on Fostering Productive Capacities and Structural Economic Transformation in Lao PDR: Implications for Graduation from the LDC category

Pre-consultations for the 2018 Round Table Meeting

29-30 August 2018
National Convention Centre, Vientiane

Day 1 (Wednesday, 29 August 2018)

08:00 - 08:30 Registration

Opening Session

This session is intended to set the tone for the workshop and provide direction for subsequent discussions. It will particularly highlight the objectives, expected outcome and implications of the workshop in preparing for graduation from the LDC category and measuring productive capacities for trade and development policy formulation and implementation in Lao PDR.

08:30 - 08:40 Welcoming remarks: **Mr. Anouparb Vongnorkeo**, Director General of International Organization Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR.

08:40 - 08:50 Introductory Remarks: **Ms. Kaarina Immonen**, UN Resident Coordinator, Lao PDR

08:50 – 09:00 Introductory Remarks: **Mr. Mussie Delelegn**, Chief, Landlocked Countries Section, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

09:00 - 10:15 Session I (Sub-theme I): Assessment of progress of Lao PDR towards internationally agreed goals including graduation and policy options;

This session is intended to set the stage for the workshop discussions by assessing the current socio-economic development situation of Lao PDR. The session will trace the progress achieved by Lao PDR towards graduation from the LDC category and numerous international development goals (MDGs, SDGs), and identify key factors that played a role in supporting this progress. The session will also identify challenges and obstacles ahead, as well as policy options for Lao PDR to address them.

09:00 - 09:15 Where does Lao PDR stand with regard to graduation criteria and global socioeconomic development goals. **Mr. Sitthiroth Rasphone**, Researcher, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Vientiane

09:15 - 09:30 Implementation of 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan: Key challenges, opportunities and the way forward: **Ms. Sisavanh Didaravong**, Deputy Director General, Department of Planning, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Vientiane

09:30 - 09:45 UN system support towards graduation: **Mr. Balasubramaniam Murali**, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Lao PDR

09:45-10:15 Interactive Discussion

10:15 – 12:00 Session II (Sub-theme I): Graduation from LDC status: the case of Lao PDR

This session will examine the graduation process and the forthcoming graduation of Lao PDR in greater detail. In particular, the session will highlight the drivers behind the progress achieved by Lao PDR towards graduation, as well as the comparison with other LDCs approaching graduation.

10:15 – 10:30 Preparedness of Lao PDR to exit from the LDC category: **Mr. Kanya Khammoungkhoun, Deputy Director General of International Organization Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR (tbc)**

10:30 - 10:45 Coffee/Tea Break

10:45-11:00 The drivers of graduation: Comparing Lao PDR to other LDCs, **Mr. Mussie Delelegn, Chief, Landlocked Developing Countries Section, ALDC Division, UNCTAD**

11:00 – 11:15 The role of private investment in supporting sustainable graduation, Representative of the World Bank Office/Asian Development Bank, Vientiane, Lao PDR (tbc)

11:15-12:00 Interactive Discussion

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch Break

13:00 – 13:30 Session III (Sub-theme I): Policies for sustainable growth and development in a post-graduation environment

This session will highlight the policies and measures needed to effectively utilize the momentum of graduation for sustained inclusive development, and outline measures needed to avoid pitfalls in the post-graduation environment. It will also discuss the opportunities and challenges presented by graduation from the LDC category for Lao PDR.

13:00 – 13:15 Graduation from Least Developed Country Status: Blessing or Curse? The way forward. **Mr. Mussie Delelegn, Chief, Landlocked Developing Countries' section, ALDC Division, UNCTAD**

13:15 – 14:15 Interactive Discussion

14:15 - 14:30 Coffee Break

14:30 – 16:15 Session IV (Sub-theme I) Policies to support export diversification and structural transformation in Lao PDR

This session will focus on the policies and measures needed to foster greater export diversification and structural transformation in Lao PDR. Particular emphasis will be placed on integration into regional and global value-chains; regional integration and cooperation, as well as harnessing development finance for export diversification and structural transformation.

14:30-14:45 Opportunities and challenges in integration of Lao firms in regional and global value chains, Representative of the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI), Vientiane, Lao PDR (tbc)

14:45-15:00 The role of regional integration, trade and south-south cooperation for graduation, **Mr. Andrzej Bolesta**, Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP

15:00 – 15:15 Coffee break

15:15-15:30 The role of development partners in supporting export diversification and graduation from LDC status, **Mr. Bryan Fornari**, Head of Cooperation EU Delegation in Lao PDR

15:30 – 16:15 Interactive Discussion

Day 2 (Thursday, 30 August 2018)

08:00 - 08:30 Registration

08:30 - 09:30 Session V (Sub-theme II): Building productive capacities and promoting structural economic transformation: Implications for the graduation of Lao PDR and the way forward;

This session is intended to introduce the concept of productive capacities and its role in fostering structural economic transformation. The session will highlight the linkages between productive capacities, structural economic transformation and export diversification. It discusses the role of the different components of productive capacities.

08:30 - 08:45 The concepts of productive capacities and structural economic transformation and their role in development of LDCs: **Mr. Mussie Delelegn**, Chief, LLDCs section, ALDC Division, UNCTAD

08:45 – 09:30 Interactive discussion

09:30 – 12:00 Session VI (Subtheme III): Assessment of where Lao PDR stands now in fostering productive capacities and structural economic transformation;

This session is dedicated to assessing the levels of productive capacities in Lao PDR, and comparing its performance to other countries. The session will further introduce UNCTAD's PCI index, and describe its composition and measurement, as well as assess the performance of Lao PDR on the index.

09:30 – 09:45 A qualitative assessment of productive capacities in Lao PDR: **Mr. Vanxay Sayavong**, National Consultant for UNCTAD, Vientiane, Lao PDR

09:45 – 10:00 UNCTAD's Productive Capacities Index: The performance of Lao PDR; **Mr. Moritz Meier-Ewert**, Economic Affairs Officer, LLDCs Section, UNCTAD

10:00 – 10:15 Coffee Break

10:15 – 10:30 National policy and institutional framework for fostering productive capacities and structural economic transformation in Lao PDR: **Mr. Vanxay Sayavong**, National Consultant for UNCTAD, Vientiane, Lao PDR

10:30 – 10:45 Health service availability and readiness in Lao PDR: Results of the survey with implications to human capital formation and achieving SDG's, **Mr. Yohannes Kinfu**, University of Canberra; Australia

10:45 – 12:00 Interactive Discussion

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch Break

13:00 – 15:00 Session VII (Sub-theme IV) Challenges, prospects and priorities for Lao PDR: policies and strategies to accelerate structural transformation, productive capacity-building and inclusive growth;

Drawing on the conclusions of the assessment of productive capacities in Lao PDR, this session (as well as later sessions) is intended to identify policies and measures to help Lao PDR build its productive capacities, with particular emphasis on areas where it is lagging behind. The assessment, along with the recommendations for policies and measures to address current challenges, will be provided as an input to the policy-level workshop to be held later in the year, as well as to the Annual Round Table Meeting under the theme “Mid-Term Review of the implementation of the 8th NSEDP – Progress in Sustainable Development and Effective Development Cooperation” to take place in Vientiane at the end of November 2018.

13:00 – 14:00

Panel discussion

Moderator: Mr. Mussie Deleegn, Chief, LLDCs section, ALDC Division, UNCTAD

The Panel discussion will address key measures needed for Lao PDR to build productive capacities in different sectors. In particular:

- Improving human capital and skills-training in Lao PDR, **tbc**
- Building effective transport and logistics networks in Lao PDR; **Mr. Sombath Southivong**, Senior Infrastructure Specialist, World Bank
- Strengthening Innovation Capacities in Lao PDR, **Mr. Sengchanh Phasayaseng**, Deputy Director of Department of Technology and Innovation, Lao PDR, (tbc)
- Measures needed to support Research and Development capacities in Lao PDR, Representative of the Cabinet Office of the National Science Council, Lao PDR (tbc)
- The role of the private sector in export diversification and structural economic transformation; **Mr. Mompert Hoppe**, Senior Trade Economist, World Bank, Lao PDR
- Policy and institutional implications of the health services Survey: How does Lao PDR address gaps and limitations identified in the Survey? **Mr. Yohannes Kinfu**, University of Canberra; Australia

14:00 – 14:15 Interactive Discussion

14:15 – 15:45 Session VIII (Sub-theme IV) Challenges, prospects and priorities for Lao PDR: policies and strategies to accelerate structural transformation, productive capacity-building and inclusive growth

Drawing on the conclusions of the Assessment of productive capacities in Lao PDR, this session (as well as later sessions) is intended to identify policies and measures to help Lao PDR build its productive capacities, with particular emphasis on areas where it is lagging behind. The assessment, along with the recommendations for policies and measures to address current challenges, will be provided as an input to the policy-level workshop to be held later in the year, as well as to the Annual Round Table Meeting under the theme “Mid-Term Review of the implementation of the 8th NSEDP – Progress in Sustainable Development and Effective Development Cooperation” to take place in Vientiane at the end of November 2018.

14:15 – 14:30 Strengthening structural transformation and export diversification in Lao PDR, **Mr. Rattanatay Luanglatbandith**, Public Management Specialist, ADB

14:30 - 14:45 The role of national statistical capacities in building productive capacities, Representative of the National Statistical office, Lao PDR (tbc)

14:45 - 15:30 Interactive discussion

15:30 – 16:15 Conclusion and consideration of policy recommendations, **Mr. Anouparb Vongnorkeo**, Director General of International Organization Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR (tbc)/ **Mr. Mussie Delelegn**, Chief, LLDCs Section, UNCTAD

16:15 – 16:30 Closing remarks.