



Programme

National Workshop on the Vulnerability Profile of Lao PDR and Building Resilience through Fostering Productive Capacities and Structural Economic Transformation

*8-9 October 2019
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Vientiane*

**Programme of the National Workshop
on the Vulnerability Profile of Lao PDR and Building Resilience
through Fostering Productive Capacities and Structural Economic Transformation
8-9 October 2019, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Vientiane Lao PDR**

Day 1 - 8th October 2019

08:30 - 09:00 Registration

09:00-09:40 Session 1 - Opening Session - Fostering productive capacities and structural economic transformation to address socioeconomic vulnerabilities in Lao PDR

This session is intended to set the tone for the national workshop and provide direction for subsequent discussions. It will particularly highlight the objectives, expected outcome and implications of the workshop. It will also outline the principal policy challenges faced by Lao PDR in preparing for graduation from the LDC category.

09:00-09:20 Opening remarks and Keynote address: **H.E. Dr. Kikeo Chanthaboury**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), Lao PDR

09:20-09:40 Welcoming remarks: **Ms. Sara Sekkenes**, UN Resident Coordinator in Lao PDR

09:40-10:00 Group photo and morning coffee break

10:00-12:15 Session II - Nature and sources of economic vulnerabilities in Lao PDR: policies, strategies and challenges

This session discusses the national vulnerability profile of Lao PDR, sources and causes of socioeconomic vulnerabilities and views on how they could be addressed in the context of the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan of Lao PDR and the overall development objectives of the country.

10:00-10:15 Presentation of a national report on Vulnerability profile of Lao PDR: challenges and priorities in the context of building economic resilience for graduation, **Mr. Sitthiroth Rasphone**, Acting Director General, Centre for Development and policy Research, MPI

10:15-10:30 Economic consequences of the graduation from the LDC status: policy implications for Lao PDR, **Mr. Patrick Osakwe**, Head, Trade and Poverty Branch, UNCTAD

10:30-11:00 **Interactive discussions**

- 11:00-11:15 Challenges and opportunities for enhancing agricultural productivity in Lao PDR, **Mr. Khosada Vongsana**, Director of Economic Policy Research Division, MPI
- 11:15-11:30 Main orientations of the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan of Lao PDR: implications for graduation and productive capacities building, **Ms. Phonevanh Outhavong**, Director General, Department of Planning, MPI
- 11:30 – 11:45 Policies and strategies of Lao PDR for industrialization: Challenges and opportunities ahead, **Mr Viengsavang Thippavong**, Deputy Director General, Economic Research Institute for Industry and Trade (ERIIT), Ministry of Industry and Commerce
- 11:45-12:15 **Interactive discussions**
- 12:15-13:15 Lunch Break
- 13:15-16:45 Session III - Policies and strategies for building economic resilience in Lao PDR: the role of productive capacities and structural transformation**
- This session looks at the main drivers of graduation in Lao PDR and other graduated Least Developed Countries as well as examines the impact of graduation on structural economic transformation. It will further explore the role of human capital, trade, investments and development finance in sustainable development of the country.
- 13:15-13:35 Graduation from Least Developed Countries: impact on the process of structural economic transformation in Lao PDR, **Mr. Oliver Paddison**, Chief of Countries in Special Situations, UNESCAP
- 13:35 – 13:55 Role of development partnership in facilitating graduation from LDCs category: the case of Lao PDR, **B. Murali**, Deputy Resident Representative, UN Development Programme (on behalf of the UN Country Team)
- 13:55-14:15 The main drivers of graduation: comparing Lao PDR to other Least Developed Countries, **Mr. Mussie Deleegn**, Chief, Landlocked Countries Section, UNCTAD
- 14:15 - 14:45 **Interactive discussions**
- 14:45 – 15:05 Policies and institutions of Lao PDR to build human resources capacities of the country to enhance productivity of labour and create employment

opportunities, **Mr. Phanpakit Onphanhdala**, Deputy Director, Centre for Enterprise Development and International Integration Policy, National Institute for Economic Research, Lao PDR

- 15:05-15:25 What policies and strategies are needed to enhance the role of the private sector in economic resilience building?, **Mr. Thanongsinh Kanlagna, Vice President**, the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI)
- 15:25-15:55 **Interactive discussions**
- 15:55-16:10 Afternoon Coffee break
- 16:10-16:30 Health service availability and readiness in Lao PDR: Results of the survey with implications to human capital formation and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, **Mr. Yohannes Kinfu**, Associate Professor, Qatar University, Doha – Qatar
- 16:30-16:45 Summary of key points

Day 2 - 9th October 2019

08:45 - 10:00 Session IV - 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 their 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. The session will further introduce UNCTAD's Productive Capacities Index, and describe its composition, measurement and possible applications in national policymaking with reference to Lao PDR.

- 08:45-09:00 Developing productive capacities in Landlocked Developing Countries: policy instruments and lessons, **Mr. Patrick Osakwe**, Head, Trade and Poverty Branch, UNCTAD
- 09:00-09:15 The role of data and statistics in evidence-based policy making in Lao PDR for fostering productive capacities, export diversification and structural transformation, **Ms. Phetsamone Sone**, Deputy head of Lao Statistics Bureau
- 09:15 – 09:30 The role of development finance (ODA) in support of the graduation and economic transformation process of Lao PDR, **Dr. Arounyadeth Rasphone**, Deputy Director General of International Cooperation, MPI

09:30-09:50	Interactive discussion
09:50-10:00	Morning Coffee Break
10:00-12:30	Session V - Assessment of where Lao PDR stands now in fostering productive capacities and structural economic transformation

This session is dedicated to discussing the importance of productive capacities in terms of graduation and economic development. In particular, it examines the state of productive capacities in Lao PDR. It will also discuss the methodology for computing the Productive Capacities Index (PCI), and the role of national policies and institutions to foster productive capacities.

10:00-10:15	The concept of productive capacities and structural economic transformation: methodological issues and policy implications of computing the Productive Capacities Index, Mr. Alberto Munisso , Associate Economic Affairs Officer, LLDCs Section, UNCTAD
10:15-10:30	Current State of productive capacities in Lao PDR: policy implications, Mr. Mussie Deleegn , Chief, Landlocked Countries Section, UNCTAD
10:30-10:45	Implications of the health services survey for the graduation of Lao PDR Mr. Yohannes Kinfu , Associate Professor, Qatar University, Doha – Qatar
10:45-11:15	Interactive discussions
11:15-11:30	National policy and institutional framework for fostering productive capacities and structural economic transformation in Lao PDR: Mr. Sitthiroth Rasphone , National Consultant for UNCTAD, Vientiane, Lao PDR
11:30-11:45	The role of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in manufacturing and export diversification in Lao PDR to address economic vulnerability of the country, Mr. Buavanh Vilavong , Director General, Department of Industry and Handicraft, Ministry of Industry and Commerce
11:45-12:30	Interactive discussion
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break

13:30-15:30 **Session VI – Panel discussion on key policy messages and the way forward**

Moderator: **Mr. Patrick Osakwe**, Head, Trade and Poverty Branch, UNCTAD

- **Mr. Kanya Khammoungkhoun**, Deputy Director General, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Ms. Sara Sekkenes**, UN Resident Coordinator in Lao PDR
- **Mr. Sitthiroth Rasphone**, Acting Director General, Centre for Development and Policy Research, MPI
- **Mr. Nasar Hayat**, Food and Agriculture Organization Representative to Lao PDR
- **Mr. Sommai Faming**, Country Representative, UNIDO
- **UN Development Programme**