

A. OVERVIEW OF EDUCATION SERVICES IN LAO PDR

Background Information

In the National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2006-2014, the Government of Lao PDR identified the education sector as one (1) of the four (4) pillars of the poverty reduction strategy.

The education services sector directly contributes to poverty reduction and economic growth through two main channels. The first channel is directly related to the empowerment of Lao citizens from early childhood through to adulthood by ensuring that Lao PDR secures its future and continues efforts to augment its literacy rate and level of education. The Government of Lao PDR partnered with development partners such as the World Bank and UNESCO in undertaking several initiatives geared towards enhancing the education services sector to this end.

The second channel speaks to education services as an export revenue earner; this is more directly linked to the Higher Level Education services.

The National Education Sector Development Framework 2009-2015¹ maps out policies and strategies for the development of various dimensions of the education system, including Early Childhood, Primary and Lower Secondary Education, Upper Secondary Education, Higher Education, strengthening education management and human resources and improving sector governance and performance management.

The Sector Development Framework further sets out priorities governing:

- assuring equitable access to education services
- improving quality and efficiency of education services
- improving education sector governance and performance management
- improving financing strategy, planning and management
- strengthening sector performance monitoring and review systems

These key areas positively influence the development of the education services sector.

The WTO classification for this sector covers:

- Primary education services;

¹ <http://moe.gov.la/data/publications/ESDF%20English%20version.pdf>

- Secondary education services;
- Higher education services;
- Adult education; and
- Other education services

B. KEY IMPERATIVES AND INFORMATION FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS AND INVESTORS

I. Legal and Regulatory Environment of the Education Services Sector

The education services sector is regulated through regulatory entities, primary and secondary legislation and sector specific associations and organisations.

II. Regulatory Entities governing the Education Services Sector

The primary regulatory entity governing the Education Services Sector is the Ministry of Education and Sports. The Ministry of Education and Sports is supported by the following Ministries and agencies, which complement the regulatory, and oversight efforts of the Ministry:

- Education Division in Provinces
- Education Office in Districts and Municipalities
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Planning and Investment
- District Education Bureau
- Educational Inspection Body
- Educational Administration Bodies
- Education Advisory Councils
- School Boards/Committees
- Provincial Educational Divisions

III. Education Services Sector Associations

Key Associations governing the Education Services Sector include:

- Village Education Development Committee
- Parents Learners Association

IV. Legislation (Laws and Regulations) governing the Education Services Sector

Relevant legislations which impact the Education Services Sector include:

PRIMARY LEGISLATION	SECONDARY LEGISLATION		
	Decrees	Decisions	Instructions
Education Law (Amended) No. 62/NA	Decree on Organisation and Functioning of the National Higher Education Chamber No. 64/PM	Ministerial Decision on Rules Governing Lao Student Study Aboard No. 3552/MOES.DSA.13	Instruction on Verification of Academic Certificates, Diplomas and Educational Qualifications No. 0602/MOES.DI
Vocational Education Law No. 42/NA	Decree on Higher Education No. 177/GOV	Decision on the National Curriculum Standard for Specialization Level I No. 4129 /MOES.DHE/11	
		Decision on the National Curriculum Standard for Specialization Level II No. 4126 /MOES.DHE/11	
		Decision on the National Continuing Curriculum Standard for Associate Degree No. 4124/MOES.DHE./11	
		Decision on the National Continuing Curriculum Standards for Bachelor's Degree No. 4123/MOES.DHE/11	
		Decision on the National Curriculum Standards for Master's Degree No. 4128	

		/MOES.DHE/2011	
		Decision on the National Curriculum Standards for Graduate Diploma No. 4125/MOES.DHE.2011	
		Decision on the National Curriculum Standards for Doctoral Degree No. 4127/MOES.DHE.2011	