

Supporting WTO Accession

*Integrated Framework (IF) - Trade-Related Technical Assistance: Window II
Capacity Building & Technical Support to Lao PDR
in the World Trade Organisation Accession Negotiations*

Description

Support to WTO accession has been identified as one of the four priority projects by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, to be funded by the Integrated Framework Trust Fund (Window II) managed by UNDP in Geneva. (UNDP supports additional three Window II projects: Strengthening the Integrated Framework National Implement Unit, Implementation of the Rules of Origin, and Support to exports from the garment industry). These projects have been formulated and implemented within the Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries, also known as the Integrated Framework or IF.

Main Objectives and Activities

Main Objectives

- Improved capacity of the GOL to prepare and negotiate a pro-poor and pro-growth WTO accession agreement and improved capacity of the Lao WTO negotiations team to coordinate with the working party
- Improved capacity of the GOL to negotiate market access in the goods and services sectors
- Increased national awareness, consensus and commitment on WTO accession negotiations

Main Activities in 2009

- Necessary documents for the 5th Working Party and bilateral negotiations in Geneva prepared by FTPD. These include completing legislative action plan, answering the 5th set of questions, revising goods and service offers and updating factual summary.
- The capacity in forming trade negotiation mandates is strengthened through participation in national/ regional workshops, on job training and conducting a study on the implications of WTO Commitments of Lao's Policies Making.
- Three dissemination workshops/seminars on progress of Lao accession to WTO organized. The meeting for National Steering Committee/Secretariat's of WTO accession of Laos conducted.

Agreement Signed with the Government

<http://www.undplao.org/whatwedo/programmespovred.php>

Key Results, Reports and Publications to date

- The Necessary documents for the 4th and 5th Working Party and bilateral negotiations in Geneva have been successfully prepared; the 4th and 5th working party has successfully conducted in June 2008 and July 2009 respectively.
- One experience sharing workshop with experts on WTO issues for government and private sector was organized.
- The negotiation team has exchanged WTO accession experience with the Vietnam and Cambodia through field trip and workshop.
- Numerous dissemination workshops on the progress of Lao WTO accession have been organized at the central and

Duration

June 2007 to December 2009

Location

Vientiane Capital

Budget

Total budget: USD 300,000

Current year budget: USD 160,000

Partners

Implementing Partner:

- Foreign Trade Policy Department (FTPD),
Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Other Partners:

- N/A

Contributing Donors

Window II Trust Fund

Delivery

Expenditure from start date till Oct 2009:
USD 206,897

- provincial level to raise public's awareness on implications of the WTO;
- Numerous WTO related materials have been translated and published, e.g progress of Lao WTO accession, General Agreement on Trade in Services, etc
- The study on the implication of WTO accession on the domestic protected industries, steel bar, cement and beer, is being conducted.

Thematic Area

Corporate Thematic Area: Poverty Reduction & MDGs

UNDAF Outcome 1: By 2011, the livelihoods of poor, vulnerable and food insecure populations are enhanced through sustainable development (within MDG framework)

CP Outcome 1.5: Enabled environment for growth with equity

CP output 1.5.2: Enhanced capacity building for service delivery and strengthened negotiation skills and policy advice on trade and poverty policies, including global and regional agreements such as the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA), accession to the World Trade Organization and investment promotion (UNCTAD, ITC, UNIDO, UNDP)

Millennium Development Goal

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

Contact

UNDP Programme Officer

Ms. Latsany Phakdisoth

Programme Analyst, Poverty Reduction Unit

Tel: 856 21 267737,

Fax: 856 21 267799

E-mail: latsany.phakdisoth@undp.org

UNDP Vientiane

Lane Xang Avenue, P.O Box 345, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Project Manager

Mr. Buavanh Vilavong

Director of Multilateral Trade Division, Foreign Trade Policy Department

Tel: +856 21 450 065

Fax: +856 21 450 066

Email: b.vilabong@laopdr.com

Ministry of Industry and Commerce

Phonxay Road

P.O. Box: 4107

Vientiane, Lao PDR

Project Executive/IF Focal Point

Ms. Khemmani Pholsena

Vice Minister of Industry and Commerce

Tel: +856 21 450 067

Fax: +856 21 415 927

Email: khemmani@laopdr.com

Ministry of Industry and Commerce

Phonxay Road

P.O. Box: 4107