



Round Table Implementation Meeting 2014

“Accelerating the achievement of the 7th NSEDP/ MDGs and 2020 LDC Graduation”

The Progress of Implementation of Governance Framework for Achieving the NSEDP/MDGs

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Don Chan Palace Hotel

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Presentation Outline

- I. Governance reform implementation - 2014 update
 - Public Service Improvement
 - People's Representation and Participation
 - Rule of Law
 - Key Improvement in governance reform
- II. Challenges and constraints
- III. Priorities for enhancement of the governance system in the coming years and some solution



I. Update on Governance Reform

1. Public Service Improvement

on-going progress in strengthening the public administration system to improve:

- Regulatory framework
 - On-going revision on the Law of Government and related public administration laws
 - Proposed Law on Citizen Management Law, etc.
 - Support and develop some regulations related to the delegation of responsibilities according to Sam Sang direction
- State structure and machinery of state administration;
 - Organization and Operation of Bank of Lao PDR; Securities and Exchange; reorganization of Ministry of Justice;



I. Update on Governance Reform (2)

1. Public Service Improvement (cont.)

■ **Central-Local Relations**

- Pilot implementation of Sam Sang – delegate the responsibilities between central, provincial, district and village level.
- Revision of some public administration laws such as government, Law on Local Administration, proposed Law on City and Municipality

■ **Improving civil service management**

- Civil service recruitment process through the general examination and technical examination
- Continue to develop Job Position and Job Description (review and pilot in some ministries and some provinces)
- Development Civil Servant Development Plan and decree on civil service development
- Draft Decree on Civil Service Appraisal



I. Update on Governance Reform (3)

2. People's Representation and Participation

- Dialogue on implementation of 7th NSEDP & state budget plan
- New laws enacted – 7th Ordinary Session (mid-year)
 - Law on money laundering; Independent Audit; Value-added Tax; Law on Tax.
 - Amendments to Law on Handling Petitions, Law on Customs, and Law on Standards
- Revision of Decrees on Non-Profit Association and Foundation
- Decree on INGO Implementation Guideline
- Development of PM decree on media fund



I. Update on Governance Reform (4)

3. Rule of Law

Steady progress in development of legal framework and law reform

- Revision of the 2003 Constitution
- Codification of criminal and civil codes
- Refinement of the legal framework for Village Mediation Units (VMUs)
- Development of a decree on legal aid
- Preparation of establishment of National Judicial Training Institute



4. Key Improvement in governance reform

1. Public Service Improvement:

- Expansion of District Development Fund (DDF): 7 provinces; 52 districts in order to strengthen the local administration and improve service delivery
- Pilot climate change grant for local infrastructure – Saravan & Sekong provinces
- Development of Pilot monitoring of local service delivery:
 - District Service Delivery Monitoring System
 - Service User Feedback Survey
- Dissemination of guidelines for the establishment of new ODSCs
- Capacity development support to provincial and district authorities to implement Sam Sang under GPAR-CADEM Fund



4. Key Improvement in governance reform (cont.)

2. Rule of Law:

- Underwent the second Universal Periodic Review at the Human Rights Council in Geneva, The Lao PDR accepted fully or partially 107 Recommendations and will be implementing them
- Related to Sam Sang, 45 days- law training courses were conducted to key staff at the provincial and district level (40 intakes) and conducted other law training.
- Improved the organizational structure of district justice offices in 51 districts.



4. Key Improvement in governance reform (cont.)

3. People's Representation and Participation

- 35th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)
- Start the *National Assembly Strategic Support Project* - to effectively exercise the oversight functions
- Civil society engagement with Government vis-à-vis NPA and Foundation Decree revision; input to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report; Round Table process, etc
- Six community radios in operation. By end 2014 additional two in Xayabouly & Saravan provinces



II. Challenges and constraints

- The delay of revision of regulations related to the public administration and delegation of responsibilities to the local level leads to the delay of the implementation
- Limited no. of experience staff and budget to support and monitor the work at the local-grass root level
- Big capacity gap of local staff especially at village level and district level



III. Priorities for enhancement of the governance system in the coming years

1. Public Service Improvement

- Amendment to the 2003 Constitution
- Amendments to various laws and regulations to improve public administration
 - Law on Government, Law on Local Administration, law on Civil Service, Decree on State Enterprise Employee Management, Decree on Management and Protection of Religious Activities, Decree on Document Management and Decree on Organizational Structure Standard, etc.
 - Improving organizational structure by defining roles and functions of organizations at each level – relevant to Sam Sang direction
 - Civil service management – develop and improve regulations, staff planning, improve salary system and employee welfare, merit-based recruitment and retention policies for civil servants; developing a civil service registration database to ensure the Govt is able to keep track of the status of civil servants



III. Priorities for enhancement of the governance system in the coming years (cont.)

2. People's representation and participation

- Establishment of People's Assembly
- Consider and approve laws in governance area

3. Rule of Law

- Legal Sector Master Plan
- Building capacity of judges, prosecutors and lawyers to reduce shortage in the number of existing legal professional in Lao PDR; Establishment of a national judicial training institute
- Enhance knowledge of citizens regarding laws and regulation and of their fundamental rights and obligations which affect their ability to comply with existing legal framework – aim to Sam Sang direction



Some solutions

- Continue to develop and improve laws-regulation including delegation of responsibility between central - local and province - district based on Sam Sang direction
- Finalize the master plan of civil servant development
- Capacity building for the local administration and its staff especially at village and districts
- Improve and enhance the participation from all sectors including private sector and civil society in service delivery at local level
- Support ministries concerned in fund mobilization



THANK YOU