



## Round Table Meeting 2018

### “Mid-term Review of the Implementation of the 8<sup>th</sup> NSED- Progress in Sustainable Development and Effective Development Cooperation”

This brief intends to provide general information on the Round Table Implementation Meeting’s agenda 2018, which will be held on 4 -5 December in Vientiane Capital. As part of the agenda items, the meeting delegations will visit two projects, namely the Lao-Chinese Railway Construction project and Organic Farm project. The short summary of the project as follows:

**Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 2018**

**Time:12:45-14:10h** Visit Lao-Chinese railway construction project

**Location:** Ban Nakhoun noy, Naxaithong District, Vientiane Capital



- On 7<sup>th</sup> April 2010, the Government of Lao PDR and the Republic of China signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation on the railway construction project. The MoU indicated that the initial plan was to construct a railway to connect the Lao-China border, Bor Han-Bor Tean, going down to Vientiane Capital and to Thailand. On 2<sup>th</sup> December 2015, both parties organized a ceremony for the ground-breaking Lao-Chinese railway construction project, as well as in the honor of the 40-year anniversary of independent day. The event was attended by high-ranking officials from both countries.
- The objective of the project is to support Lao PDR in the establishing a strong economic infrastructure, moving the country from a landlock country to a connected country in the region, and connected to the world. A part from this, it also promotes trade, investment, tourism and so on.
- The length of the Lao-Chinese railway from Bor Ten to Vientiane Capital is about 414,332 Km.
- The duration of construction is 5 years and the project started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2017. The project is expected to be completed in December 2021. The total construction budget is 5,956 million US Dollars. It is a cost sharing project, where the Lao Government invests 30% and the Republic of China invests 70% in the project. The total duration for paying back the total of the investment is within 35 years (including the construction period). The railway’s speed limit for the transporting people is 160Km/h. However, the flat area, in the future the speed limit can be up to 200 Km/h between Vang Vieng and Vientiane Capital. The railway’s speed limit for the transporting goods is 120Km/h.

➤ **Expected output from the project**

- Lao PDR will have a strong economic infrastructure, which will turn the country from a landlock country into a connected country in the region, and furthermore connected to the world.
- Lao PDR will have a potential in promoting trade cooperation, goods exchange, transportation, tourism and investment with ASEAN nations and China which is biggest economic growth in the world and big market for the products of Laos as well as countries in this region.

**Time:14:10-17:30h Visit organic farm**

**Location: Ban Thaxang, Parkngum district District, Vientiane Capital**



- Vegetable Organic production group in Vientiane Capital consists of 11 groups and membership of 238 families, with 279 hectares of production area, covered 6 districts such as Xaysettha, Sikhottabong, Xaythany, HadSaiphong, Nasaithong and PakNgum.
- In ThaXang village of PakNgum, Vientiane Capital, there are 147 families consisting of 813 people, 423 women; Using the saving fund of production groups for building plastic green house for growing vegetables; with the technical and marketing support from JICA.
- The objective of the establishment of organic vegetable group is to help the vegetable farmers to be able to sell continuously and thus sustainably improve their livelihood.
- The Ban ThaXang Organic Vegetable Group was established on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2010, initially with 8 members of 8 families covering only 1 hectare, with the support from the Swiss Helvetus funded project (PROFIL) that implemented by the Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry together with the Vientiane Capital Agriculture and Forestry Office, and the Pak Ngum District Agriculture and Forestry Office;
- During the implementation of the JICA supported Lao Organic Agriculture Promotion Project through the Department of Agriculture from 2014 to 2016, there were 75 families, with total area of 60 hectares of production area and 150 vegetable plastic covers or green houses;
- In 2018, with Clean Agriculture Development Project (CADP), the members have increased to 98 families, with production areas of 122 ha and 350 plastic cover houses;
- Currently, average income of one family is from 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 kip per week;
- As for marketing, organic vegetables from ThaXang village are selling at 3 places such as: on Monday and Thursday at the Xangkhou village and at the 5 km Badminton Stadium of Xaythany District, and on Wednesday and Saturday at ITECC in the form of temporary tent market;
- The organic vegetable production of ThaXang village has developed a group development by deposits from its members, currently with deposits of 850 million kip that have been loaned to members.