



## **Lao PDR's ASEAN Chairmanship:**

### **Key results of the 56<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Economic Minister's Meeting**

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# Overview

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- I. Meeting Schedules under the AEC Pillar
  - II. Lao PDR's Priority Economic Deliverables
  - III. Trade in Goods, Investment, Electronic Commerce and Digital Economy, Public-Private Sector Engagement, Global ASEAN, Sustainable Growth in ASEAN
  - IV. Way Forward
  - V. Guidance for Lao PDR's Smooth LDC Transition: Proposed Priority Actions in Trade and Trade-Related Areas 2024 to 2030
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## I. MEETING SCHEDULES UNDER THE AEC PILLAR

# Notional Calendar 2024

Senior Official Level	Vice Minister Level	Ministerial Level
<b>SEOM Retreat</b> 07-08 December 2023 Pullman, Luang Prabang	<b>45th HLTF-EI</b> 21st February 2024 S. Vang Vieng, Vang Vieng	<b>30th AEM Retreat</b> 09 March 2024 Pullman, Luang Prabang
<b>SEOM 1/55</b> 13-22 January 2024 Lao Plaza Hotel Vientiane	<b>46th HLTF-EI,</b> 14 August 2024, Lao Plaza Hotel Vientiane, Lao PDR	<b>56th AEM Meeting and Related Meetings</b> 15-22 September 2024 Vientiane
<b>SEOM 2/55</b> 20-24 May 2024 Bangkok, Thailand		<b>24th AEC Council Meeting,</b> 6-7 October 2024, Crowne Plaza Hotel Vientiane
<b>SEOM 3/55,</b> 9-14 July 2024, Crowne Plaza Hotel Vientiane		



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## II. LAO PDR'S PRIORITY ECONOMIC DELIVERABLES





# Priority Economic Deliverables 2024

## **Strategic Thrust I: *Integrating and Connecting Economies***

- 1) ASEAN Declaration on Enhancing Supply Chain Connectivity
- 2) To Complete the Review on the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Intellectual Property Cooperation (AFAIPC) with a view to Upgrading the Agreement
- 3) Substantial conclusion of updated ASEAN-China FTA “3.0”
- 4) Achieve Entry-into-Force of Upgraded ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA (AANZFTA)

## **Strategic Thrust II: *Forging an Inclusive and Sustainable Future***

- 1) Reframing strategies for narrowing development gaps and promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth in the ASEAN region
- 2) Develop the Strategy/ Guideline for Crop Burning Reduction to support the implementation of the ASEAN Carbon Neutrality Strategy
- 3) ASEAN Action Plan on Sustainable Agriculture
- 4) Achieve substantive progress in finalizing the successor agreement on the ASEAN Power Grid and multilateral power trade in the region
- 5) ASEAN Ecotourism Standards
- 6) Addressing Financing-Gaps Among MSMEs

## **Strategic Thrust III: *Transforming for a Digital Future***

- 1) Complete the technical study on the New Generation of ASEAN Single Window
- 2) Adopt the Roadmap on Digital Trade Standards in ASEAN
- 3) ASEAN Online Education Platform for Industry 4.0
- 4) Adoption of a Roadmap to Establish Regionally Comparable and Recognised Unique Business Identification Numbers (UBIN) in ASEAN

## Priority Economic Deliverables – Completion Status

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Fully Completed

Complete the Review on the AFAIPC With A View to Upgrading the Agreement

Achieve Substantial Conclusion of Upgraded ASEAN-China FTA “3.0”

Adopt the Strategy/ Guideline for Crop Burning Reduction to support the implementation of the ASEAN Carbon Neutrality Strategy

Adopt the ASEAN Action Plan on Sustainable Agriculture

Achieve substantive progress in finalizing the successor agreement on the ASEAN Power Grid and multilateral power trade in the region

Adopt the ASEAN Ecotourism Standards for Activities, Facilities and Services (tbc)

Addressing Financing Gaps Among MSMEs

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Substantively Completed

ASEAN Declaration on Supply Chain Connectivity

Endorse the Reframed strategies for narrowing development gaps and promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth in the ASEAN region

Establish ASEAN Online Education Platform for Industry 4.0

4

On-going

Entry-into-Force of Protocol 2 to Amend the Agreement Establishing AANZFTA

Complete the Study on New Generation ASEAN Single Window

Adopt the Roadmap on Digital Trade Standards

Implementation Roadmap to Establish Regionally Comparable and Recognised Unique Business Identification Numbers (UBIN) in ASEAN



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### III. TRADE IN GOODS



# III. Trade in Goods

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- ❑ ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) Upgrade Negotiations
  - Be a modern, comprehensive, forward-looking agreement
  - The agreement shall cover traditional and emerging elements.
  - Timeline for concluding negotiations by the end of the first quarter of 2025, signed at the sidelines of the 57th AEM – at the 39th AFTA Council in September 2025.
  
- ❑ The issuance and acceptance of e-Form D by all AMS from 1 January 2024.



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### III. INVESTMENT



# III. Investment

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- Signing of the Fifth Protocol to Amend the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA)
  - Transition of the current single-annex reservation list under the ACIA to a two-annex negative list
  - The scope of the ACIA beyond manufacturing, agriculture, fishery, forestry, mining and quarrying and their incidental services; and the application of the ratchet mechanism to some Member States.



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### III. ELECTRONIC COMMERCE AND DIGITAL ECONOMY



# III. Electronic Commerce and Digital Economy

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## □ ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA)

- The seamless and secure flow of goods, services, and data is supported by enabling rules, regulation infrastructure, and talent.
- Time to complete of DEFA negotiations in 2025.



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### III. PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT



# III. Public-Private Sector Engagement

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- ❑ Greater involvement and more structured participation of the private sector
  - ❑ ASEAN-BAC to strengthen its institutional role as the top of private sector body in ASEAN
  - ❑ Enhance the mechanism for the ASEAN-BAC engagement with sectoral bodies under the AEC.
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### III. WORKING TOWARDS A GLOBAL ASEAN



# III. Working towards a Global ASEAN

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- ❑ Upgrade and review the Free Trade Agreements or Comprehensive Economic Partnerships with external partners
- ❑ The substantial conclusion of the ASEAN-China FTA 3.0 Upgrade Negotiations
- ❑ The ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)
- ❑ ASEAN-Canada Free Trade Area (ACAFTA).
- ❑ The establishment of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Support Unit,



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### III. ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH IN ASEAN



# I. Achieving Sustainable Growth in ASEAN

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- ❑ The ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality,
  - ❑ The Framework for Circular Economy,
  - ❑ The ASEAN Blue Economy Framework.
  - ❑ Circular economy elements into the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA)
  - ❑ The Terms of Reference for the ASEAN Task Force on Carbon Neutrality.
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### III. WAY FORWARD



# I. Way forward

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- ❑ Conducting of dissemination workshop:
  1. Northern part of Laos on December 2024
  2. Central part of Laos on January 2025
  3. Southern part of Laos on February 2025
- ❑ Transforming the action of ASEAN PEDs into national activities
- ❑ Keeping close collaboration with AMSs and especially Malaysia as the next ASEAN Chair.

**Guidance for Lao PDR's Smooth LDC Transition: Proposed  
Priority Actions in Trade and Trade-Related Areas 2024 to  
2030**

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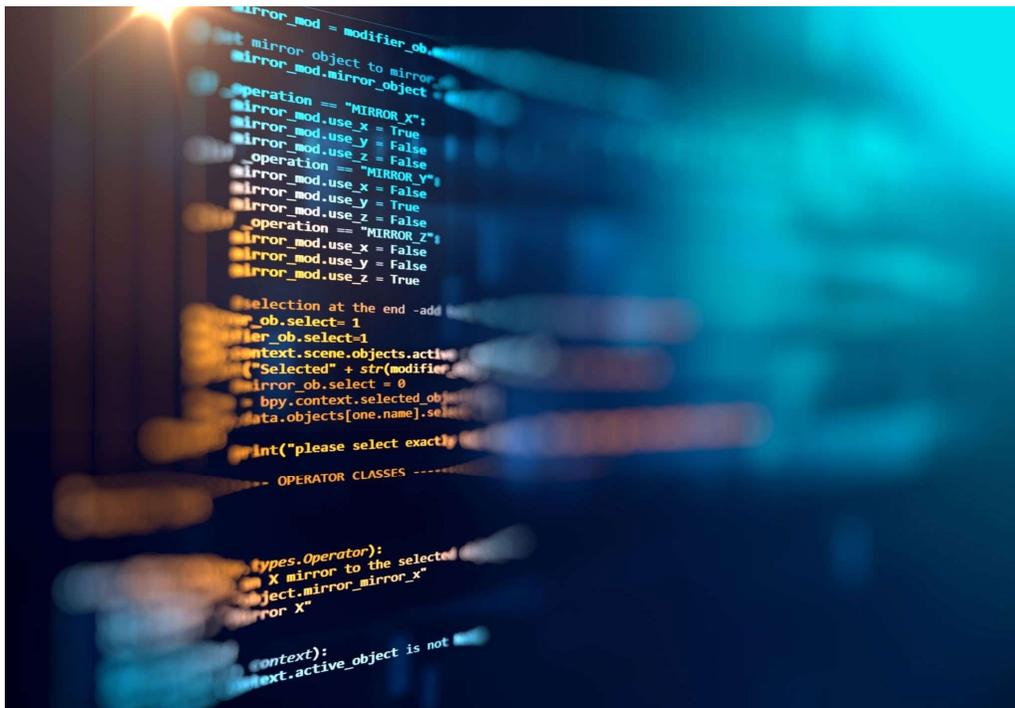
## Background Analysis

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- ❖ Lao PDR is scheduled to graduate from its LDC status in 2026.
- ❖ Graduating from LDC status is a positive development and opens new opportunities.
- ❖ Graduation is also a challenge

## The Effects of Graduation for Lao PDR



1. The loss of preferential market access
2. The loss of flexibilities in WTO
3. The loss of flexibilities in trade negotiations
4. The loss of technical assistance and ODA for LDCs

## Action 9 of the Smooth Transition Strategy (STS): facilitate and develop quality trade relationships

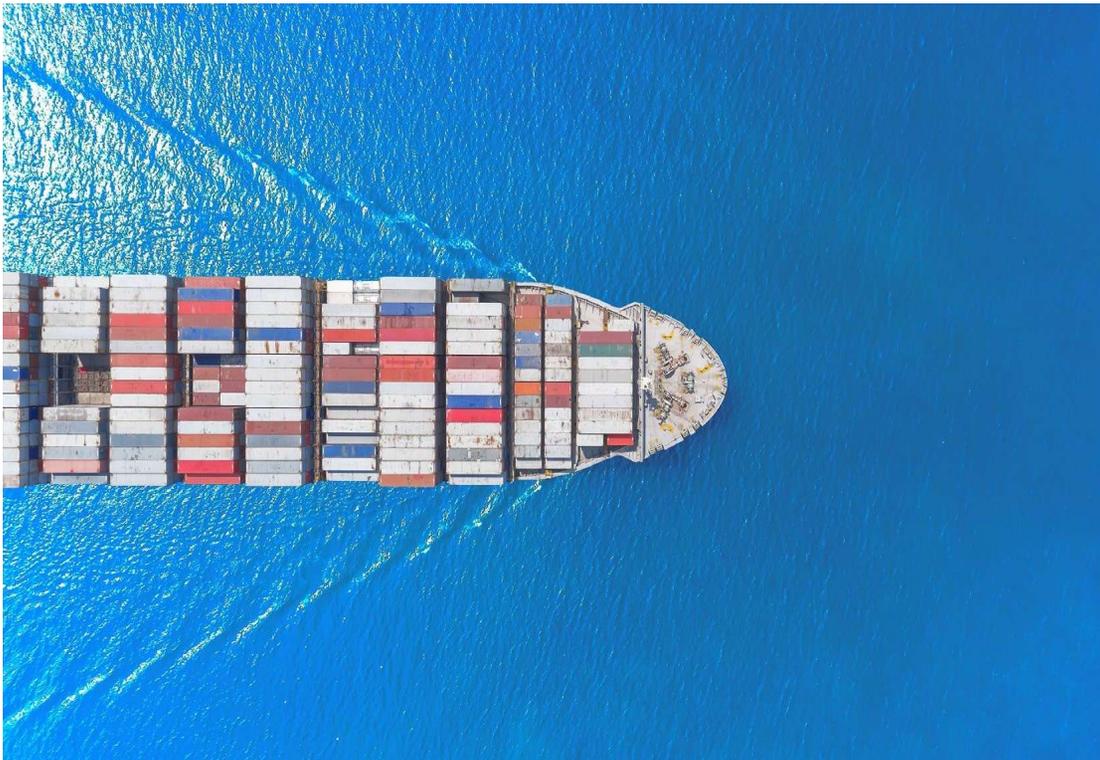
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1. Maintaining market access for Lao PDR exports by mitigating the effects of the loss of LDC preferences
2. Diversification of Lao PDR exports in terms of their destination: potential new markets

## Action 10: Enhance and promote domestic production for export in line with international standards

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1. Product analysis
  - Lao Handicraft
  - Wood
  - Coffee
2. E-commerce

## Actions in Preparing for Lao PDR's LDC Graduation

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- Support from the LBE Projects
- Capacity Building
- Dissemination Workshops
- Engaging with Private Sector



# Thank you

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