

Pre-Consultation to the High-Level Round Table Meeting
Theme: Post LDC Graduation, Unlocking New Development Ambitions –
Growth, jobs and Technology

22 October 2025 (tbc), Venue: tbc

Panel discussion format

- *Panel Discussion –Unlocking New Development Ambitions – Growth, jobs and Technology*
- *10.30-11.45 am*

Suggested participants for consideration

- *Moderator – Dr Sitthiroth Rasphone*
- *Technology – XM / founder of Loca*
- *Sustainability – green growth/ GGGI*
- *Jobs – Khwima Nthara – Country Manager, World Bank /WB*
- *Dr. Phouphet , Vice President, National University of Laos*
- *DG MOIC – agri, energy, tourism*

Total 75 minutes

<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • moderator introduces the theme of the discussion and panel members 	5 mins
<p>Round 1: What are the strategic opportunities for Lao PDR – post LDC graduation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strength of domestic economic sectors – agriculture, tourism, energy, logistics – building on natural resource endowment, infrastructure developments • Regional economies – global growth in middle-class, regional trade integration opportunities • Sustainability – how can green /sustainable practices increase Lao competitiveness? • Technology – what are the low-cost transferable technology that can boost key economic sectors? Are there opportunities to leapfrog development milestones? • How do we address the importance of job-rich, inclusive growth? • Moderator – 2 min • Panelists – 3 min each 	20 min
<p>Round 2: Where do we go from here? What are the key actions that can equip Lao PDR to benefit from these strategic opportunities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we attract technology transfer and investments to these key sectors? • What are the enablers? human resource development ? which areas? What are the foundations? Can technology transform schooling system in Lao PDR where there are severe teacher shortages? • Governance – business environment , transparency, investment promotion • Macro-economic reform – economic stability 	20 mins

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator – 2 min • Panelists – 3 min each 	
Q&A - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator – 1 min to invite questions • Each intervention should not be more than 2 mins 	10 mins
Round 3 – Panelists response and wrap up with final messages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator – 2 min • Panelists – 3 min each – 	20 mins
Conclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final wrap up by moderator – thank panel members and the audience for the questions for attending the discussion 	5 mins

Introduction by moderator – 5 mins

- **Introduction to the panel discussion**

Ahead of this year’s high level round table meeting, I am pleased to welcome you to this panel discussion on Unlocking New Development Ambitions – Growth, jobs and Technology.

My name is xx. I will be moderating this discussion.

We have all heard the challenges and the progress made up until now on human development and economic growth in his excellency’s address. We have also heard the speakers from countries that have graduated from LDC status on what challenges and opportunities they faced following graduation. With this context in mind, I would like to focus our panel discussion on the future opportunities for sustainable development on Lao PDR.

Before we kick off the discussion, I am pleased to introduce a very distinguished panel. First we have:

- Name: title, organization, key role

The panel discussion will have three rounds. In the first round we would like to hear from the panelists on where there see the strategic opportunities for development in Lao PDR.

In the second round, we will deep dive into the next steps, on how we look at the current context and what policies and actions need to be prioritized for Lao PDR to tap into these strategic opportunities to accelerate and even leapfrog developmental milestones.

We will then invite our wonderful audience to share any reflections.

Following this, I will ask the panelists to do a quick response and wrap up, which will be the final round of this discussion.

Lets begin....

Round 1- each panelist gets 3 mins

In this round I will ask panelists to quickly tell us about the strategic opportunities that Lao PDR has in terms of accelerating development? I would like to start with xx...

Order of responses

- **Dr Phouphet** – Discuss the potential of existing/established economic sectors – agriculture, tourism, energy, logistics – building on natural resource endowment, infrastructure developments
- **MOIC** - Regional economies – global growth in middle-class, regional trade integration opportunities, logistics hub – gateway to central Asia?
- **GGGI or ADB** - Sustainability – how can green /sustainable practices increase Lao competitiveness? Green tourism – can Lao PDR become South East Asia’s premium green tourism destination?
- **Loca** - Technology – what are the low-cost transferable technology that can boost key economic sectors? Are there opportunities to leapfrog development milestones? What are some examples of how AI and technology is transforming agriculture/food security, tourism, energy, light manufacturing, logistics sectors?
- **WB** - How do we address the importance of job-rich, inclusive growth?

Round 2- each panelist gets 3 mins

I agree with the panelists because.....

With this in mind, lets move on to the most important question in front of us today - Where do we go from here? How do we take these opportunities forward?

Order of responses

- **Loca** - How do we attract technology transfer and investments to these key sectors?
- **Dr Phouphet** What are the enablers? human resource development ? which areas? What are the foundations? Can technology transform schooling system in Lao PDR where there are severe teacher shortages?
- **MOIC** - Governance – business environment , transparency, investment promotion
- **WB** - Macro-economic reform – economic stability
- **GGGI or ADB** – incentives for green investments, what has worked

Questions – 10 mins

- xx– 2mins
- xx – 2 mins
- xx - 2 mins
- xx – 2 mins
- xx – 2 mins

Round 3 / Respond to Qs and Wrap up – each panelist gets 3mins

I now turn to the panelists for this final round. Please respond to the questions and wrap up in 3 minutes. Shall we start with you xxx?

- **MOIC –**
- **Loca**
- **WB -**
- **GGI or ADB**
- **Dr Phouphet**
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Conclusion by moderator – 5 min

That's it from us. I thank our panel members for this very rich discussion. Thank you for those who made interventions during the Q&A and thank you everyone who are joining us today – physically and remotely. I hope you enjoyed the discussion. Have a good day.