



# 14<sup>th</sup> High-Level Round Table Meeting

Under the Theme: “Enhancing Partnerships for Effectiveness Development Cooperation in Implementing the 10<sup>th</sup> five-year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2026-2030) to Support the Country’s Smooth and Resilient Graduation from Least Developed Country Status and Achieve Sustainable Development Goals”



# Logistic Note

## 14<sup>th</sup> High-Level Round Table Meeting

**18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025**  
**National Convention Center**  
**Vientiane, Lao PDR**

Please note that some details in this logistics note may be updated following discussions with relevant stakeholders. Should any changes occur, we will inform you accordingly.

Prepared by  
International Finance and Cooperation Department  
Ministry of Finance  
10 November 2025

## Table of Contents

I. About the 14 <sup>th</sup> High-Level Round Table Meeting 2025 .....	1
1.1. Dates and Venue .....	1
1.2. Meeting Room Arrangements .....	5
1.3. Photo Sessions during 14 <sup>th</sup> HL-RTM 2025 .....	5
1.4. Translation Facilities. ....	5
1.5. Registration and Confirmation of Attendance .....	5
1.6. Identification Badges .....	6
1.7. Meeting Documents .....	6
1.8. Visa Requirements .....	6
1.9. Protocol and Hospitality .....	7
1.10. Accommodation .....	7
1.11. Development Exhibition .....	9
1.12. Security and Medical Facilities .....	10
1.13. Dressing Code .....	10
II. About Lao PDR and the Vientiane Capital .....	10
2.1. Overview .....	10
2.2. Weather .....	12
2.3. Time Zone .....	12
2.4. Banking Facilities and Currency .....	12
2.5. Medical Facilities .....	13
2.6. Emergency Numbers .....	13

This logistics note is intended to provide participants of the 14<sup>th</sup> High-Level Round Table Meeting (14<sup>th</sup> HL-RTM 2025) with key practical and administrative information regarding the event and its venues in Vientiane Capital. It outlines essential details such as the meeting date and location, registration and confirmation procedures, protocol and hospitality arrangements, travel and transport logistics, accommodation options, meals and receptions, field visit sites, security protocols, weather conditions, banking services, and available medical facilities.

## I. About the 14<sup>th</sup> High-Level Round Table Meeting 2025

### 1.1. Dates and Venue

The 14<sup>th</sup> High-Level Round Table Meeting (HL-RTM 2025) will take place from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at the National Convention Centre (NCC) in Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR. The venue includes one main conference hall and several breakout rooms to accommodate plenary sessions, Baci ceremony signing ceremony, press conference, and associated events.

#### **Day 1: 18 November 2025 – Baci Ceremony**

*(Venue: Room No.1, National Convention Centre, Vientiane Capital Lao PDR)*

<b>15:30 – 16:00</b> (30 mn)	<b>Arrival of Delegations</b>
<b>Official Opening Ceremony</b>	
<b>16:00 – 16:10</b> (10 mn)	<b>Master of Ceremony and Welcome to the Baci Ceremony</b> <i>By: Mr. Vongkhamheng VONGTHACHACK, Director General, International Finance and Cooperation Department, Ministry of Finance</i>
<b>16:10 – 17:00</b> (50 mn)	<b>Baci Ceremony</b> <i>A heartwarming for visitors is a delightful and charming ceremony that is regularly practiced in Laos today after passing down through the generations for as long as anyone can remember. The practice is to ask surrounding spirit to welcome and safeguard the visitor with the best wishes. This happens when visitor comes to Laos to perform any activity on this land.</i> - Hosted By: H.E. Mr. Saleumxay KOMMASITH, Deputy Prime Minister of the Lao PDR and Spouse - Proceeded By: Baci Ceremony master
<b>17:00 – 17:15</b> (15 mn)	<b>Welcome Speech</b> <i>By: H.E. Mr. Santiphab PHOMVIHANE, Minister of Finance</i>
<b>17:15 – 21:00</b> (4 hrs 05 mn)	<b>Dinner Reception</b>

#### **Day 2: 19 November 2025, High-Level Meeting**

##### **Morning Session**

*Venue: Room No. 2, National Convention Centre*

<b>08:00 – 08:25</b> (25 mn)	<b>Registration</b>
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## Official Opening Ceremony

<b>08:25 – 08:30</b> (05 mn)	<b>Introduction by Master of Ceremony</b> <i>By: Ph.D. Mr. Vongkhamheng VONGTHACHACK, Director General, International Finance and Cooperation Department, Ministry of Finance</i>
<b>08:30 – 08:40</b> (10 mn)	<b>Official Opening Keynote Address</b> <i>By: H.E. Mr. Sonexay SIPHANDONE, The Prime Minister of the Lao PDR</i>
<b>08:40 – 08:45</b> (10 mn)	<b>Remark Via-Recorded Video</b> <i>By: H.E. Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development.</i>
<b>08:45 – 08:50</b> (05 mn)	<b>Remarks</b> <i>By: Mr. David McLachlan-Karr, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, UN Development Coordination Office (UNDCO)</i>

## Launching and Signing Ceremony of the Vientiane Declaration III (VD III 2026-2035)

<b>08:50 – 09:05</b> (15 mn)	<b>Brief outline of the Vientiane Declaration III (VD III 2026-2035)</b> <i>This presentation will provide key cooperation agreement for development, including implementation and monitoring arrangements. The presentation will reflect the implementation result on the recommendations of the 4<sup>th</sup> Round of Global Survey on Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.</i> <i>By: H.E. Mr. Soulivath SOUVANNACHOUMKHAM, Deputy Minister of Finance.</i>
<b>09:05 – 09:20</b> (15 mn)	<b>Endorse and Signing Ceremony of the Vientiane Declaration III (VD III 2026-2035)</b>  <b>Representative of the Government of Lao PDR</b> <i>H.E Mr. Anouparb Vongnorkeo, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs</i>  <b>Representative of Development Partners</b> <i>Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator</i>  <b>Honorably witnessed by: The Deputy Prime Minister of the Lao PDR and Mr. David McLachlan-Karr, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, UN Development Coordination Office (UNDCO).</b>

## Associated Events

<b>09:20 – 09:35</b> (15 mn)	<b>Photo Session with the Deputy Prime Minister and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, UN Development Coordination Office (UNDCO).</b> <i>Master of Ceremony By: Mr. Sysomphorn PHETDAOHEAUNG, Deputy Director General of IFCD-MOF</i> Group 1: Ministers, Presidents of Committee of the Lao National Assembly, Ministerial-Level Organization and Provincial Governors/Governor of Vientiane Capital Group 2: Head Delegations of Development Partners, Ambassadors and Heads/Deputy Heads of International Organizations, International Non-Government Organization (INGOs),
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	National and International Private Sectors, Civil Society Organization (CSOs)/ Non-Profit Associations (NPAs).
<b>09:35 – 10:00</b> (25 mn)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Official Tour of the 14<sup>th</sup> HL-RTM Development Cooperation Exhibition</i></li> <li>- <i>Coffee &amp; Tea Break</i></li> </ul>

### **Presentations and Plenary Discussion**

*Chaired by H.E Mr. Saleumxay KOMMASITH, Deputy Prime Minister of Lao PDR  
Co-Chaired Mr. David McLachlan-Karr, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, UN  
Development Coordination Office (UNDOC)*

<b>10:00 – 10:20</b> (20 mn)	<p><b>Presentation on achievement of the 9<sup>th</sup> five-year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021 – 2025) and Priorities of the 10<sup>th</sup> five-year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2026-2030).</b> <i>This presentation will provide overview of the key achievements of 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP and Priorities of the 10<sup>th</sup> NSEDP.</i> <i>By: H.E. Mr. Santiphab PHOMVIHANE, Minister of Finance</i></p>
<b>10:20 – 10:40</b> (20 mn)	<p><b>Presentation on the Lao PDR’s Progress toward LDC Graduation and Doha Programme of Action</b> <i>This presentation will provide brief updates on the implementation of the LDC Graduation Smoot Transition Strategy and Doha Programme of Action</i> <i>By: H.E Mr. Anouparb Vongnorkeo, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.</i></p>
<b>10:40 – 11:00</b> (20 mn)	<p><b>Presentation on the Result of Pre-Consultation: Post LDC Graduation, Unlocking New Development Ambitions – Growth, Jobs and Technology.</b> <i>This presentation will report on the results and feedback received from forward-looking dialogue on the future of development in Lao PDR at the High-Level Pre-Consultation Meeting, outlined the opportunities and prioritized actions for development trajectory after LDC graduation.</i> <i>By: H.E. Mr. Soulivath SOUVANNACHOUMKHAM, Deputy Minister of Finance</i></p>
<b>11:00 – 12:00</b> (60 mn)	<b>Plenary Discussion</b>
<b>12:00 – 13:30</b> (90 mn)	<b>Lunch Break</b>

### **Afternoon Session**

**Venue: Room No. 2, National Convention Centre**

### **Presentations and Plenary Discussion**

<b>13:30 – 14:00</b> (30 mn)	<b>Interventions from the National Assembly, Provincial level and the Private Sector</b>
<b>14:00 – 14:15</b> (15 mn)	<i>Coffee &amp; Tea Break</i>
<b>14:15– 15:30</b> (75 mn)	<p><b>Plenary Discussion</b> <i>This discussion will provide an opportunity for participants to add recommendation regarding all presentations in Day 1</i></p>

<b>15:30 – 15:40</b> (10 mn)	<b>Official Summary</b> <i>Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator to Lao PDR</i>
<b>15:40 – 15:50</b> (10 mn)	<b>Remarks</b> <i>By: Mr. David McLachlan-Karr, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, UN Development Coordination Office (UNDCO)</i>
<b>15:50 – 16:00</b> (10 mn)	<b>Official Closing Remarks</b> <i>By: H.E Mr. Saleumxay KOMMASITH, Deputy Prime Minister of Lao PDR</i>
<b><i>The Hight-Level Round Table Meeting in 2025 is officially closed</i></b>	

### **Press Conference**

*Venue: Dokkoun, Room No. 4, National Convention Centre*

<b>16:00 – 16:30</b> (30 mn)	<b>The High-Level Round Table Meeting’s Press Conference To present the key outcomes of the 14th HL-RTM in 2025:</b> – H.E. Mr. Santiphab PHOMVIHANE, Minister of Finance – Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator to Lao PDR
<b><i>Chair and Co-chair of 10 Sector Working Groups are encouraged to attend the Press Conference.</i></b>	
<b>End of the Day and return to the hotel</b>	

## **Day 3: 20 November 2025 – Courtesy Call to the President of Lao PDR** ***(Venue: President’s Office, Vientiane Capital Lao PDR)***

<b>08:30 – 09:00</b> (30 mn)	<b>Gathering Head of Delegations of 14<sup>th</sup> HL-RTM At Prime Minister’s Office</b> - <b>Participants: Invited Head of Delegations (High-Level)</b>
<b>09:00 – 09:15</b> (15 mn)	<b>Travelling to President Office</b>

### **Courtesy Call**

<b>09:15 – 09:30</b> (15 mn)	<b>Introduction and Objective</b> <i>Led By: H.E. Mr. Mr. Saleumxay KOMMASITH, Deputy Prime Minister of Lao PDR</i>
<b>09:30 – 09:45</b> (15 mn)	<b>Debriefing Results of the 14<sup>th</sup> Hight-Level Round Table Meeting in 2025</b> <i>By: H.E. Mr. Santiphab PHOMVIHANE, Minister of Finance</i>
<b>09:45 – 10:00</b> (15 mn)	<b>The Way Forward for Development Cooperation</b> <i>By: Mr. David McLachlan-Karr, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, UN Development Coordination Office (UNDCO)</i>
<b>10:00 – 10:20</b> (20 mn)	<b>The President of the Lao PDR give instruction of the implementation of the results of the 14<sup>th</sup> High-Level Round Table Meeting</b>
<b>Group Photo with the President of Lao PDR</b> <i>The President and the Delegations</i>	

## 1.2. Meeting Room Arrangements

- The Baci Ceremony will be held in Room No. 1, which will be arranged in a circular format to foster inclusivity and traditional ambiance.
- The main conference hall Room No. 02 will also be arranged in a circular format to facilitate open dialogue among participants.
- Press Conference Room No. 4
- Delegations will be seated in English alphabetical order, with head delegates positioned at the front.
- One seat will be allocated for each delegation representing delegation of state, government representative, the United Nations Agencies, INGO Network, Non-Profit Associations (NPAs), and private sector entities.

## 1.3. Photo Sessions during 14<sup>th</sup> HL-RTM 2025

During the morning session of the 14<sup>th</sup> High-Level Round Table Meeting (HL-RTM 2025), two official photo sessions will be held with the Prime Minister of the Lao PDR:

**Group 1:** Ministers, Presidents of Committee of the Lao National Assembly, Ministerial-Level Organization and Provincial Governors/Governor of Vientiane Capital

**Group 2:** Head Delegations of Development Partners, Ambassadors and Heads/Deputy Heads of International Organizations, International Non-Government Organization (INGOs), National and International Private Sectors, Civil Society Organization (CSOs)/ Non-Profit Associations (NPAs).

## 1.4. Translation Facilities.

The 14<sup>th</sup> High-Level Round Table Meeting (HL-RTM 2025) will be conducted in both Lao and English by providing simultaneous interpretation throughout the meeting. This includes fully equipped translation booths and audio equipment such as microphones and headsets available at all designated meeting rooms.

## 1.5. Registration and Confirmation of Attendance

Delegations participating in the **14<sup>th</sup> High-Level Round Table Meeting (HL-RTM 2025)** are kindly requested to register their attendance by completing the online registration form via provided QR Code.

Baci Ceremony



14<sup>th</sup> HL-RTM



The deadline for registration is **14 November 2025**.

For any questions or assistance regarding registration, please contact:

- **Mr. Souliya CHANSOMPHOU**, Director of Division, IFCD-MOF  
Mobile: +85620 9886 2184  
Email: [chansomphou2000@gmail.com](mailto:chansomphou2000@gmail.com)  
Copy: [rtpsecretariat@gmail.com](mailto:rtpsecretariat@gmail.com)

## 1.6. Identification Badges

Identification badges (nametags) will be issued to all registered participants in the morning of **18<sup>th</sup> November 2025** in Room **No.10**. upon arrival and registration at the designated registration desk located in front of the main conference hall.

All participants are kindly requested to wear their nametag at all times during the meeting sessions and associated events to ensure smooth access and coordination.

For any questions or assistance regarding registration and badges, please contact:

- **Mr. Souliya CHANSOMPHOU**, Director of Division, IFCD-MOF  
Mobile: +85620 9886 2184  
Email: [chansomphou2000@gmail.com](mailto:chansomphou2000@gmail.com)  
Copy: [rtpsecretariat@gmail.com](mailto:rtpsecretariat@gmail.com)
- **Mr. Kitsana VILAYTHONG**v, Deputy Director of Division, IFCD-MOF  
Mobile: +85620 7782 5572  
Email: [leykitsana@gmail.com](mailto:leykitsana@gmail.com)

## 1.7. Meeting Documents

Meeting document of **14<sup>th</sup> High-Level Round Table Meeting (HL-RTM 2025)** will be shared digitally via QR Code.

### Documents



All meeting-related materials will also be made available on the official RTM website: <http://www.rtm.org.la> prior to the event.

For any questions or assistance regarding meeting documents, please contact: Please visit information desk

## 1.8. Visa Requirements

Delegates attending the **14<sup>th</sup> High-Level Round Table Meeting (HL-RTM 2025)** who require a visa to enter Lao PDR may obtain one through the following options:

- **Pre-arrival visa:** Available from Lao Embassies and Consulates in your country, if applicable.
- **E-visa:** Please visit <https://laoevisa.gov.la/>
- **Visa on arrival:** Available at major international checkpoints, including **Wattay International Airport** and the **Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge** (Vientiane–Nong Khai Border and other designated entry points).

The visa on arrival is valid for **30 days**. Delegates wishing to extend their stay may request a visa extension at the **Immigration Office**, located at Dongnasok Village, Sikhottabong District, Vientiane Capital

To obtain a visa on arrival, please bring:

- One **passport-size photo** (3x4 cm)

- A valid passport with at least six months of remaining validity.

For any questions or assistance regarding visa arrangements, please contact:

- **Mr. Soulignong MAPHANGVONG**, Director of Division, Department of Diplomatic Protocol-MOFA  
Mobile: +856 20 20977 37745  
Email: [soulignong@gmail.com](mailto:soulignong@gmail.com)
- **Mr. Vilakone SOUVANDY**, Deputy Director of Division, IFCD-MoF  
Mobile: +85620 5438 3344  
Email: [vilakone.dic@gmail.com](mailto:vilakone.dic@gmail.com)

## **1.9. Protocol and Hospitality**

### **Arrival and Airport Pick-up**

Transportation from the airport to the recommended hotels will be arranged by the respective hotels best on booking. Upon arrival, participants are advised to look for hotel signage or representatives at the arrival area for assistance.

### **Local Transportation During the Meeting**

Registered participants will be responsible for their own transportation between hotels and the meeting venue.

### **Courtesy Call on with the President of Lao PDR**

Following the conclusion of the **14<sup>th</sup> High-Level Round Table Meeting (HL-RTM 2025)**, heads of delegation will attend a **courtesy call with the President of Lao PDR** to present the outcomes of the meeting. The invited head of delegations and agencies will be gathered at the **Prime Minister's Office in Vientiane Capital** and will travel to the President's Office by the escorted motorcade.

For any questions or assistance regarding protocol and hospitality arrangements, please contact:

- **Mr. Souliya CHANSOMPHOU**, Director of Division, IFCD-MOF  
Mobile: +85620 9886 2184  
Email: [chansomphou2000@gmail.com](mailto:chansomphou2000@gmail.com)
- **Mr. Oulaikhid CHANTHAVILAY**, Director of Division, Cabinet Office-MOF  
Mobile: + 856 20 5928 9695  
Email: [Oulaikhid@gmail.com](mailto:Oulaikhid@gmail.com)

## **1.10. Accommodation**

As the **14<sup>th</sup> High-Level Round Table Meeting (HL-RTM 2025)** will be held at the **National Convention Centre (NCC)** in Vientiane Capital, participants are encouraged to book their accommodation at the following recommended hotels to ensure convenience in transportation and coordination:

### **Recommended Hotels**

- **Latsavong WandaVista Vientiane**  
Unit 23, Avenue Kaysone Phomvihane, Chommany village, Saysettha district, Vientiane capital, Lao P.D.R  
Tel: +856(030) 9998 888

Email: [marcom.vientiane@wandahotels.com](mailto:marcom.vientiane@wandahotels.com)

Website: <https://www.wandahotels.com/en/hotel/wanda-vista-vientiane-booking-65-200>

- **Angkham Hotel Vientiane**

No 453 Unit 36 Kaysone Phomvihane, Chommany Tay Village, Saysettha District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR

Tel: +856 21 900011-13, 414848-9

Fax: +856 21 900010, 453551

Email: [info@angkhamhotel.com](mailto:info@angkhamhotel.com)

- **Lao Plaza Hotel**

63 Samsenthai Road, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Tel: +856-21-218800-1

Mobile: +856-20-55067899

Fax: +856-21-218808-9

Email: [lph@laoplazahotel.com](mailto:lph@laoplazahotel.com); [bqt@laoplazahotel.com](mailto:bqt@laoplazahotel.com)

Website: <http://www.laoplazahotel.com>

- **Landmark Mekong Riverside Hotel**

Donchan Road, Thatkhao Village, Sisattanak District, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Tel: +856-21-266888

Fax: +856-21-266899

Email: [info@landmarkmekonghotel.com.la](mailto:info@landmarkmekonghotel.com.la)

Website: <http://www.landmarkmekonghotel.com.la>

- **Settha Palace Hotel**

6 Pang Kham Street, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Tel: +856-21-217581

Fax: +856-21-217583

Email: [reservations@setthapalace.com](mailto:reservations@setthapalace.com)

Website: <http://www.setthapalace.com>

- **Double Tree by Hilton Vientiane**

Xienggeun Village, Chanthabury District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR

Tel: +856 21 457 878

Email: [vtevl\\_info@hilton.com](mailto:vtevl_info@hilton.com)

Website: <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/vtevl-di-doubletree-vientiane/>

- **Amari Vientiane**

Chaofa Ngum Road, Wat Chan Village, Chanthabuly District, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Tel: +856 021 618 123

Website: [https://www.amari.com/vientiane?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=gmb&utm\\_content=home&utm\\_campaign=avl](https://www.amari.com/vientiane?utm_source=google&utm_medium=gmb&utm_content=home&utm_campaign=avl)

- **Crowne Plaza Hotel**

20 Samsenthai Road, Nongduang Nua Village, Sikhottabong District, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Tel: +856-21-908888

Fax: +856-21-918888

Email: [crowneplaza.vientiane@ihg.com](mailto:crowneplaza.vientiane@ihg.com)

Website: <http://www.crowneplaza.com>

- **Don Chan Palace Hotel**  
6 Rue Fa Ngum, Piawat Village, Sisattanak District, Vientiane, Lao PDR  
Tel: +856-21-244288  
Fax: +856-21-244111-2  
Email: [info@donchanpalacelaopdr.com](mailto:info@donchanpalacelaopdr.com)  
Website: <http://www.donchanpalacelaopdr.com>

During the HL-RTM 2025, **coffee breaks and lunch** will be provided for all registered participants at the meeting venue of the National Convention Centre.

For special dietary requirements, participants are kindly requested to notify the organizing sub-committee in advance:

- **Ms. Lattanakhone Outhaiyavong**, Deputy Director of Division, IFCD-MOF  
Mobile: +856 20 2352 5959  
Email: [lattanakhone1980@gmail.com](mailto:lattanakhone1980@gmail.com)
- **Ms. Phatsakone Ngaoluangrath**, Officer at NPFID Project  
Mobile: +85620 2803 0272  
Email: [annaphatsakone55@gmail.com](mailto:annaphatsakone55@gmail.com)

Please also indicate your request in the online registration form.

### 1.11. Development Exhibition

A Development Exhibition will be organized as a side event during the 14th High-Level Round Table Meeting (HL-RTM 2025) on 19th November at the National Convention Centre in Vientiane Capital.

All ten Sector Working Groups (SWGs) are invited to showcase their contributions to sustainable development, innovative development, and inclusive growth. The arrangements are encouraged to coordinate with the SWGs Secretariat by 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

**The exhibition will focus on partnerships for effective development at the sectoral level, demonstrating how the Government of Lao PDR, its Development Partners, and other stakeholders are working together to achieve the National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSED), graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**

**This platform will facilitate the dissemination of successful methodologies, case studies, and development stories by SWGs and other contributors, highlighting innovative approaches to addressing national development challenges.**

#### Exhibition Structure

- Booths will be sized **1.2m x 3.2m**, with layout and design coordinated by the **International Finance and Cooperation Department (IFCD-MOF)**.
- **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)** will have the opportunity to present their work through the **Governance SWG booth**. It is highly recommended that CSO representatives coordinate directly with the **Chair of the Governance SWG**.
- **Gender equality** will be mainstreamed across all booths.

Each booth is required to include a **Speaker's Corner**, where a **senior official (minimum rank: Director General)** will be available to deliver **5-minute presentations** upon request.

These presentations are especially encouraged during the **formal visit by the Deputy Prime Minister of Lao PDR** and other high-ranking officials.

### Contact Information

For any questions or assistance regarding the Development Exhibition, please contact:

- **Mr. Kouthong SOMMALA**, Deputy Director General, IFCD-MOF  
Mobile: +856 20 5501 9942  
Email: [ksommala@gmail.com](mailto:ksommala@gmail.com)
- **Ms. Nouanlaong THAMMAVONG**, Deputy Chief of Cabinet-MOF  
Mobile: +85620 2297 8898
- **Mr. Alounsith Maniphonh**, Director of Division, IFCD-MOF  
Mobile: +85620 5999 9153  
Email: [alounsith.dic@gmail.com](mailto:alounsith.dic@gmail.com)

### 1.12. Security and Medical Facilities

To ensure the safety and well-being of all participants during the **14<sup>th</sup> High-Level Round Table Meeting (HL-RTM 2025)**, **security personnel and mobile healthcare services** will be stationed at the National Convention Centre.

All participants will be subject to **security screening** when entering meeting and function areas. For identification and access purposes, participants are kindly requested to **always wear their nametags prominently** throughout the event.

For any questions or assistance regarding security or medical arrangements, please visit Information desk and medical service room.

### 1.13. Dressing Code.

Participants are kindly advised to wear **formal attire** during all official meetings and panel discussions of the **14<sup>th</sup> High-Level Round Table Meeting (HL-RTM 2025)**.

## II. About Lao PDR and the Vientiane Capital

### 2.1. Overview

The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) is a landlocked country located in the heart of the Indochina peninsula in Southeast Asia. It spans approximately **236,800 square kilometers**, characterized by predominantly mountainous terrain and rich natural landscapes.

As of 2025, Lao PDR had an estimated population of **7.82 million people** with a population density of around **34.11 people per square kilometer**. The population is unevenly distributed, with most residents living in the fertile valleys along the Mekong River and its tributaries. The capital city, Vientiane, has an estimated population of **840,940 people** and serves as the political, economic, and cultural center of the country.

Lao PDR shares borders with:

- China to the north
- Vietnam to the east
- Cambodia to the south
- Thailand to the west
- Myanmar to the northwest

The country stretches **1,700 km from north to south**, with an east-west width ranging from **140 km to over 500 km** at its widest point.

The official language is **Lao**. Though **French, English, Chinese, and Vietnamese** are also able to be communicated, especially in urban and business settings.

### **Vientiane Capital**

Situated along a curve of the Mekong River, Vientiane Capital has a rich history dating back to around 1,000 AD. It became the capital of Lao PDR in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century due to its strategic location and fertile surroundings.

Vientiane is home to several significant cultural and religious landmarks, including:

- **That Luang (Great Stupa)** – the national symbol and most revered monument in Lao PDR.
- **Wat Sisaket** – built in 1818, it is the oldest temple in Vientiane and houses thousands of Buddha statues.
- **Wat Ong Teu Mahavihan** – known for its 16th-century bronze Buddha and intricate wooden carvings.
- **Patuxay** – the triumph monument which is recommended as the best viewpoint for Vientiane prefecture.
- **Vientiane Night Market** – it is one of the most visited Night Market in Vientiane Capital, located in Chao Anouvong Park along Mekong riverside, open at 6 pm - 9 pm.
- **Wat Si Muang** – the spiritual heart of the city, home to the guardian spirit of Vientiane.
- **Hor Phakeo** – a museum showcasing traditional Lao Buddha statues and religious art.
- **Wat Xieng Khouan (Buddha Park)** – a unique sculpture park blending Buddhist and Hindu imagery.

Visitors can explore the Lao National Library, which offers a mix of revolutionary history and other interested books. Most major attractions are within walking or cycling distance of central hotels.

### **Local Culture and Cuisine**

Vientiane offers a vibrant mix of traditional Lao culture and international influences. Popular local dishes include:

- **Tam Mak-Hung** – spicy green papaya salad
- **Laap** – minced meat salad with herbs
- **Ping Kai** – grilled chicken
- **Kaeng Nor** - Bamboo sooth soup with mixed local herbs.

The city also features a variety of French, Indian, Thai, Chinese, and Vietnamese restaurants, reflecting its multicultural character. Refreshments such as Beer Lao and fresh fruit shakes are widely available.

**For shopping, Talat Sao (Morning Market) and nearby modern shopping malls** are a popular destination for colorful textiles, silks, handicrafts, and souvenirs. Upscale galleries offer fine wood carvings, mulberry paper products, and bamboo or rattan basketry.

At sunset, the Mekong River promenade provides a scenic and relaxing view, making it a perfect spot to unwind after a day of meetings or exploration.

## 2.2. Weather

Lao PDR experiences a **tropical monsoon climate**, characterized by strong seasonal influences, abundant sunshine, high humidity, and significant rainfall. While the climate can feel hot and humid, regions near the tropics and in mountainous areas tend to be slightly cooler and more temperate.

The country's weather system is divided into two distinct seasons:

- **Dry Season:** From **October to late April**, with minimal rainfall and average temperatures ranging from **22°C to 27°C**, occasionally peaking at **35°C**.
- **Wet Season:** From **May to late September**, marked by frequent rain and elevated humidity levels.

The transition from wet to dry season typically occurs at the end of October, reducing the likelihood of rain for the following five months.

In particular, **Vientiane Capital** features a **tropical savanna climate** with clearly defined wet and dry seasons. The dry season spans from **November through March**, while the wet season begins in **April** and lasts approximately **seven months**. Throughout the year, Vientiane tends to be **hot and humid**, though temperatures are generally more moderate during the dry season.

## 2.3. Time Zone

Lao PDR operates on **Lao Standard Time**, which is **7 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+7)**. The country does not observe daylight saving time.

## 2.4. Banking Facilities and Currency

Banking services in **Vientiane Capital** are widely accessible. **Automated Teller Machines (ATMs)** are available throughout the city, and **major credit cards** such as **VISA**, **MasterCard**, and **American Express (AMEX)** are accepted at most hotels, restaurants, and retail establishments.

The official currency of Lao PDR is the **Lao Kip (LAK)**. Currency exchange services are available at:

- International airports
- Local banks
- Licensed exchange bureaus

As of **4 November**, the indicative exchange rates are:

- **1 US Dollar (USD) ≈ 21,545 LAK (buy) / 21,814 LAK (sell)**
- **1 Euro (EUR) ≈ 24,580 LAK (buy) / 25,071 LAK (sell)**
- **1 Thai Baht (THB) ≈ 662.16 LAK (buy) / 670.3 LAK (sell)**

Please note that exchange rates are subject to change and may vary slightly depending on the provider. For the most accurate and up-to-date rates, participants are encouraged to check with local banks

For the latest exchange rates, please visit the official website of the Banque pour le Commerce Extérieur Lao (BCEL): <http://www.bcel.com.la/bcel/exchange-rate.html?lang=en>

## 2.5. Medical Facilities

Vientiane Capital offers access to several reputable medical facilities that are available for both appointments and emergency care. The following institutions are recommended for delegates attending the **14<sup>th</sup> High-Level Round Table Meeting (HL-RTM 2025)**:

### Recommended Medical Facilities

- **Mahosot Hospital**  
A leading public hospital offering general and specialized medical services.
- **Setthathirath Hospital**  
A well-equipped government hospital provides a wide range of healthcare services.
- **French Clinic** (including dental services)  
**Address:** Boulevard Khouvieng, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR  
**Opening Hours:**
  - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 08:30–12:00 and 13:00–19:00
  - Wednesday: 08:30–12:00 and 13:30–17:00
  - Saturday: 09:00–12:00**Telephone:** +856 21 214150  
**Emergency:** +856 20 655 4794  
**Email:** [cmaflao@gmail.com](mailto:cmaflao@gmail.com)
- **Australian Embassy Medical Clinic**  
**Address:** Km4, Thadeua Road, Watnak Village, Sisattanak District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR  
**Opening Hours:** Monday–Friday: 08:30–12:30 and 13:30–17:00  
**Phone:** +856 21 353 840  
**Fax:** +856 21 353 841

### Health Advisory

Delegates are advised to take precautions against mosquito bites, especially during outdoor events, to reduce the risk of malaria and dengue fever. It is recommended to use insect repellent and wear long-sleeved clothing when outdoors.

## 2.6. Emergency Numbers

For urgent assistance during your stay in the Lao PDR, the following emergency services are available:

- **Police:** 1191
- **Tourist Police:** +856-21-251128
- **Fire Department:** 1190
- **Ambulance Services:**
  - General Emergency: 1195
  - Vientiane Rescue: 1623 and 1624

Please keep these numbers accessible throughout your visit, especially during field visits and travel between venues.

Overall issues about the meeting:

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