

## **Integrated Framework in the Lao PDR Post-National Validation Workshop Aide Memoire September 2005**

On 12 September 2006 a National Validation Workshop was held for the Integrated Framework (IF) Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) and Action Matrix in Vientiane, capital of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR).

During and following the Validation Workshop, discussions took place between the Lao Government, core IF agencies and the Australian Government (the local IF Facilitator) on the follow-up steps in the IF process necessary to progress the implementation of the Action Matrix.

This aide memoire prepared by the Lao Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the IF National Focal Point for Lao PDR, is designed to outline these next steps, which are as follows:

- Preparation of a report on the proceedings of the National Validation Workshop.  
Action: Ministry of Industry and Commerce  
Timing: End September 2006.
- Preparation of final version of the DTIS and the Action Matrix, based on the discussions at the National Validation Workshop.  
Action: Ministry of Industry and Commerce with assistance from the World Bank  
Timing: October 2006
- Translate into Lao the final versions of DTIS and Action Matrix.  
Action: Ministry of Industry and Commerce  
Timing: October 2006
- Approval of final versions of DTIS and Action Matrix by the IF National Secretariat and the Prime Minister's Office.  
Action: Ministry of Industry and Commerce  
Timing: October 2006
- Distribution of Validation Workshop report and revised DTIS and Action Matrix among donor community within Lao PDR and internationally.  
Action: Ministry of Industry and Commerce and IFF (Australian Government)  
Timing: End September 2006.
- Include IF and trade generally on the agenda for during the Development Partners' Roundtable Meeting in November 2006.  
Action: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Industry and Commerce  
Timing: October 2006
- "Mainstream" trade into national development and poverty reduction plans.

- Action: Committee on Planning and Investment and Ministry of Industry and Commerce  
Timing: Trade is a core-principle to Sixth Lao Five-Year National Social-Economic Development Plan and the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy. Efforts to ensure inclusion in all relevant departmental plans and budgets are ongoing.
- Establish a National IF Implementation Unit.  
Action: Ministry of Industry and Commerce  
Timing: By end of 2006
  - Explore implementation, governance and monitoring mechanisms within the Lao Government for IF implementation.  
Action: Ministry of Industry and Commerce with assistance from the Australian Government and European Commission.  
Timing: By end of 2006
  - Donor coordination maintained and consultation mechanisms established.  
Action: Australian Government  
Timing: Ongoing
  - Updating database of trade related assistance in Lao PDR.  
Action: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
Timing: Ongoing
  - Formulation of Window II project proposals based on identification of top priorities in the Action Matrix and establishment of a Local Project Appraisal Committee to assess these projects.  
Action: Government side – IF Secretariat and Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Donor side – UNDP  
Timing: Approval of Window II projects worth up to US\$1 million to occur in early 2007 (must be completed within one year of formal Government approval of DTIS and Action Matrix)
  - Assistance to Lao Government in project formulation and development  
Action: UNDP, UNCTAD and ITC  
Timing: 2006/2007
  - Assistance to Lao Government in managing Window II project approval process.  
Action: UNDP  
Timing: 2006/2007
  - Explore potential for the establishment of a multi-donor trust fund for non-Window II IF implementation funding.  
Action: European Commission and World Bank  
Timing: Scoping mission to be held in Early November 2006

- Proposal on multi-donor trust fund submitted to the Lao Government for consideration.

Action: European Commission and World Bank

Timing: end of 2006