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Semi-Annual January-June 2012 Report

Laos-US International and ASEAN Integration (LUNA) Project

(Final version submitted August 17, 2012 with feedback from the Project Steering Committee on July 20, 2012)

This publication was produced by the LUNA-Lao Project at the request of the Lao PDR Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia.

Semi-Annual January-June 2012 Report -- Laos-US Interna- tional and ASEAN Integration (LUNA) Project

Compiled for

USAID/RDMA and
The Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR

Under Contract

486-I-00-07-00008-00
Task Order 02

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ACRONYMS

AEC – ASEAN Economic Community

ADB – Asian Development Bank

ASEAN – Association of Southeast Asian Nations

ASW – ASEAN Single Window

AusAID – Australian Agency for International Development

BTA – U.S.-Lao PDR Bilateral Trade Agreement

DIP – Department of Intellectual Property (MOST)

DIT – Department of Information Technology (MOST)

DISM – Department of Intellectual Property, Standardization and Metrology (NAST)

DSM – Department of Standardization and Metrology (MOST)

EC – European Commission

EDC – Enterprise and Development Consultants

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.

FTPD – Foreign Trade Policy Department

GATS – General Agreement on Trade in Services (WTO)

GiZ – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Development Agency)

IP – Intellectual Property

IPR – Intellectual Property Rights

IOSCO – International Organization of Securities Commissions

IMF – International Monetary Fund

LBA – Lao Bar Association

LNCCI – Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry

LTP – Lao Trade Portal

LUNA – Laos-United States International and ASEAN Integration (LUNA) Project

MAF – Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

MOF – Ministry of Finance

MOFA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MOH – Ministry of Health

MOIC – Ministry of Industry and Commerce

MOJ – Ministry of Justice

MPI – Ministry of Planning and Investment

MPT – Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Communications

MOST – Ministry of Science and Technology

NA – National Assembly

NA-EPF – NA Committee on Economics, Planning and Finance

NAST – National Authority for Science and Technology (upgraded to MOST)

NSW – National Single Window

PMO – Prime Minister’s Office

PSC – Project Steering Committee

RDMA – USAID Regional Development Mission/Asia

SECO – Securities and Exchange Commission Office

SPC – Supreme People’s Court

SPS – Sanitary-Phytosanitary Measures

TBT – Technical Barriers to Trade

TDF – Trade Development Fund Facility (funded by the Multilateral Donor Trust Fund)

UNCTAD – U.N. Conference and Trade and Development

UNDP – U.N. Development Program

UNDP – SELNA Project – [UN Joint Program on Support to an Effective Lao National Assembly](#)

UNIDO – U.N. Industrial Development Organization

USAID – U.S. Agency for International Development

WB – World Bank

WTO – World Trade Organization

Introduction

The objective of the USAID-funded Laos-United States International and ASEAN Integration (LUNA) Project is to support the government of Laos in drafting, analyzing, promulgating, and implementing the array of legal and economic policy reforms and institutional capacity building needed to accomplish the following three objectives:

- Support the effective implementation of the U.S.-Lao PDR Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA);
- Support the timely accession of Laos to the World Trade Organization (WTO); and
- Support Laos in fulfilling its commitments to the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

The three trade agreements form the pillars for establishing priorities for LUNA activities. These trade agreements have far-reaching impact, not only on commercial activity in Laos, but also on governance and the rule of law. To be most successful, the modernization and deepening of the Lao legal system and the integration of its economy into regional and global markets, which are driven by effectively implementing the trade agreements, should be integral and positive components of Laos' long-term development strategy. Although the mandate for the project is to support implementation of the trade agreements, the more general, and ultimately more important, goal of the project is to help Laos use the trade agreements to lay a strong foundation for sustained, broad-based development, poverty reduction, and strengthened rule of law and governance.

LUNA provides demand-driven support to six line ministries – the Ministries of Industry and Commerce (MOIC), Justice (MOJ), Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Health (MOH), Finance (MOF), and Science and Technology (NAST), as well as the National Assembly (NA) and the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI). LUNA's technical assistance consists of legal and economic policy analysis, comments on draft laws and regulations, training, and support for workshops and seminars, publications, study missions, translations, research, and certain equipment purchases. As much as possible, the project attempts to provide on-the-job and other types of training to counterpart staff, and project technical advisors work in teams with government counterparts to produce outputs. In this way, not only will useful legal and policy reforms be advanced, but the capacity of staff will also be enhanced, which will contribute significantly to the sustained impact of the project into the future.

This document provides a Semi-Annual Report on LUNA activities from January through June 2012 with expected project activities for July to December 2012 that have been requested by our assigned counterparts. The Semi-Annual Report is in line with the LUNA Work Plan for 2012 that was approved through a joint letter from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) on June 26, 2011.

Status Report on LUNA Activities from January to June 2012 and Proposed Activities for July to December 2012

The first six months of 2012 were an extremely active period of activity by our counterparts as they moved forward laws and regulations to meet the requirements of the BTA, WTO and ASEAN, particularly in preparation for WTO Working Party meetings in March and July. As a result, LUNA was quite busy as well, supporting on a demand-driven basis our counterpart efforts to develop effective legislation and institutional capacities that comply with the trade agreements and that support national socio-economic development objectives. There will be a continued urgency of work leading up to the next planned Working Party meeting in mid-September, followed by work on a number of major draft laws leading into the December National Assembly session.

A. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

Project Office and Team Operations

Project operations and support continue to operate effectively, with no new information to report over the last six months.

Supervision and Project Steering Committee Activities

The PSC met on February 28, 2012 with representatives from LUNA's Lao PDR counterparts, the U.S. Government and from related donor projects, to review and approve LUNA's Work Plan for 2012. The meeting was co-chaired by Mme. Khemmani Pholsena, Vice Minister of Industry and Commerce and Michal Satin, Director of the General Development Office from the USAID/RDMA in Bangkok. Minutes of this meeting were finalized on March 6, 2012. The 2012 Annual Work Plan was approved in principle, with requests for several revisions. Revisions were then made and verified. The official approval letter was signed by USAID and MOIC on June 26, 2012. The meeting agreed to organize the next meeting on July 20, 2012 in Luang Prabang.

In addition, based on requests from the MOIC's Planning Department, MPI and other donors, after USAID approval, LUNA will report estimated funding amounts for each of our major activity areas.

Report Deliverables

This report meets contractual requirements for USAID with regard to the second quarter report for 2012 and requirements for the Semi-Annual Report from the Project Steering Committee.

B. SUMMARY OF LUNA ACTIVITIES FROM JANUARY TO JUNE 2012

LUNA worked with our counterparts from January to June 2012 to accomplish the following outputs (see Appendix A for details):

- 1) LUNA supported 29 workshops with 1,847 participants (1,368 male and 479 female) from January to June 2012. Participants from every province attended LUNA-supported workshops over this period.
- 2) LUNA provided detailed legal comments, often on several different drafts of the same instrument, on 4 draft laws and 4 draft implementing regulations¹, with the following regulations supported by LUNA approved over this period:
 1. Ministerial Decision on Basic Principles on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures in Plant and Animal Product Administration, No. 0039/MoAF was approved on January 11, 2012.
 2. Government Decree on the Prevention and Control of Animal Diseases, No. 228/GoL, May 31, 2012
 3. Government Decree on the Control of the Movement of Animals and Animal Products, No. 230/GoL, June 4, 2012
 4. Instruction of the Ministry of Finance on Customs Valuation of Imported Goods, No. 1537/MOF, June 4, 2012.
 5. Government Decree on the Implementation of the Law on Standardization, No. 234/GoL, June 6, 2012.
- 3) LUNA provided translations of 20 documents from January through June 2012, as follows:
 1. Instruction of the Director General of the Customs Department on Customs Valuation for Imports, No. 2401/CD, September 29, 2010.

¹ Comments on numerous versions of the draft Law on Making Legislation, draft Law on E-Transactions, and one comprehensive set of comments on the draft Law on Insurance and draft Law on Civil Procedure, and comments on several versions of the SPS decrees on animal health and on animal movement, Instruction on Customs Valuation, and draft decree on economic dispute resolution.

2. Revised Customs Law, approved December 21, 2012.
3. Instruction on Completing the Customs Valuation Form, No.00266/CD, November 4, 2011.
4. Instruction of the Ministry of Finance on Customs Valuation, No. 1398/PM, June 16, 2010.
5. Decision of the Ministry of Finance on the Implementation of the Customs Declaration Form for Imports Subject to Customs Duties and Taxes, No. 2095/MOF, approved September 25, 2011.
6. Draft Government Decree to Implement and Operate the Lao National Single Window
7. Revised Law on Insurance
8. Draft Civil Procedure Law
9. Prime Minister Decision on the Increase of Minimum Registered Capital for a Commercial Bank and Minimum Investment Capital For a Branch of a Foreign Commercial Bank, No. 141/PM, approved on September 24, 2009
10. Bank of Lao PDR Commercial Bank and Financial Institution Management Department Instructions on Application Procedures for the Establishment of a Commercial Bank in Lao PDR, No. 705/CBMD, approved December 31, 2007.
11. Bank of Lao PDR Regulations on the Use of Registered and Investment Capital, No. 01/BOL, approved January 28, 2010.
12. Bank of Lao PDR Commercial Bank and Financial Institution Management Department Requirements for the Establishment of a Commercial Bank in Lao PDR, No. 704/CBMD, approved December 31, 2007.
13. Draft Law on Electronic Transactions
14. Draft Government Decree to Implement Revisions to the Law on Resolution of Economic Disputes
15. Draft Law on Making of Legislation
16. Draft PM Decree on the Prevention and Control of Animal Epidemic Diseases
17. Draft PM Decree on Control of the Movement of Animals and Animal Products
18. Draft Regulation on Customs Valuation In Implementation of the WTO Customs Valuation Agreement
19. Customs Notice 2326 on Reducing Administrative Prices
20. Revised the Law on Telecommunications

C. REPORT ON PROJECT ACTIVITIES FROM JANUARY TO JUNE 2012 AND PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FROM JULY TO DECEMBER 2012

This section reports on each demand-driven project activity conducted from January to June 2012 followed by activities already approved in the Annual Work Plan (AR2012) or newly proposed for July to December 2012. The presentation is organized in the same format as the Annual Work Plan, as follows:

1. Analytical frameworks and general trade-capacity building to advance the BTA, WTO and AEC;
2. Transparency and dispute settlement;
3. SPS and TBT;
4. Trade facilitation and management;
5. Customs and the Lao National Single Window linked to the ASEAN Single Window;
6. Intellectual property rights;
7. Trade in services; and,
8. Public-private policy dialogue on trade policy.

1. Analytical Frameworks and General Trade-Capacity Building to Advance the BTA, WTO AND AEC

Activity 1.1: Develop a Roadmap of Legal and Institutional Reforms for BTA Implementation, WTO Accession and the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint

As discussed and approved in the Annual 2012 Work Plan, this activity has been discontinued.

Activity 1.2: Support MOIC-FTPD Capacity-Building and Public-Outreach Programs

Report on January-June 2012 Activities. The following activities supported MOIC-FTPD capacity building from January-June 2012.

- **Maintenance and Improvement of the FTPD's Communication and Public Outreach Capabilities**
 - **FTPD's Webpage and Internet Capacity.** The FTPD Webpage (www.laoftpd.com) is fully operational and is being updated continuously by FTPD staff, serving over this period as the main instrument for the MOIC to provide information on trade policy issues, including WTO accession and AEC activities, to the public and trade communities. LUNA also provided two computers to improve FTPD's communications capabilities.

- **FTPD's WTO and Trade Reference Room.** The FTPD's WTO and Trade Reference Room continues to serve as a useful information centre, particularly for university students and officials, and as a useful meeting venue.

Support the Deepening of Understanding in Lao Universities on the Key Issues Related to the Trade Agreements. LUNA supported presentations at the Faculty of Law and Political Science for masters' students in international law on May 9 by the LUNA-supported Singaporean expert on economic dispute resolution and on June 12 by LUNA's ICT expert on the draft Law on Electronic Transactions. In both cases, around 80 faculty and law students attended.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012. LUNA will provide the following capacity-building support to the FTPD from July to December 2012:

- **Continue Support for Improving Communication Capabilities.** LUNA will continue to provide small but strategic amounts of funding in 2012 to upgrade the FTPD's internet capacity and to further improve the FTPD website. **(Approved in AR2012)**
- **Training.** As reported in the sections on SPS-TBT Enquiry Points below, LUNA will support one staff member of the FTPD's SPS-TBT Notification Unit to participate in week-long internships with counterparts in Thailand and Vietnam in September. Also, LUNA will support FTPD staff to participate in possible additional study missions, including the Ministry of Health study mission to Thailand on food inspection procedures. As requested, LUNA will support additional, targeted capacity development for FTPD staff. **(Approved in AR2012)**
- **Development of Trade Remedy Mechanisms (likely with an initial emphasis on safeguards).** LUNA will support the MOIC to conduct a strategy session in August or early September 2012, which will include participation by an USAID-funded expert on trade remedies currently working in Hanoi, Vietnam. Based on the findings of this session, a plan for developing trade remedy laws will be developed. It is expected that this will include an initial focus on developing a Law on Safeguards, followed over time with laws on anti-dumping and countervailing duties, and will include support for legal drafting, staff training, public awareness and a study mission to learn from the experiences of neighboring countries. Implementation capacities will be considered throughout this process, including the possible coordination of implementation capacities between competition and trade remedy policies. **(Approved in AR2012)**
- **Public Awareness.** FTPD has requested LUNA to support a "Public Forum on WTO Accession of Lao PDR" in Vientiane Capital, tentatively scheduled to be at the ICTC on 30th August 2012, from 13.30 - 17:00 p.m. The target audience will be NGO officers, staff in private companies, university/college students and the interested general public. The Forum will include presentations on WTO principles, Laos' WTO accession process, resulting trade opportunities and challenges and will include dissemination of the DTIS-II Report. **(New Request)**
- **Lectures by LUNA Experts at Lao Universities.** Whenever possible, LUNA and our counterparts will arrange to provide lectures on issues related to the trade agreements and the rule

of law for Lao university faculty and students, in particular the Faculty of Law and Political Science for masters' students in international law. **(New Request)**

- **Publication of WTO Agreements.** LUNA will support publication of 1,000 copies of a range of WTO agreements translated into the Lao language. **(New Request)**

(Request by the FTPD)

Activity 1.3: Support the National Assembly to Develop the Laws and Capacities Required for WTO Accession, BTA Implementation, and Meeting AEC Obligations

Report on January-July 2012 Activities. LUNA supported a high-level 3-day retreat in Thalath on May 29-31, 2012 organized by the NA Committees on Law and on Economics, Planning and Finance (EPF) to review the laws coming up for review and approval in the June/July 2012 National Assembly session. Around 80 participants attended this program, including four members of the Standing Committee and most leaders, members and staff of the Law and EPF Committee as well as leading members and staff from the other NA committees, as well as senior officials from authorities responsible for leading the drafting of each law. All sessions was chaired by the Vice-President of the National Assembly. The following draft laws were presented by leaders of the drafting authorizes: draft new Law on Making of Legislation; draft new Law on Electronic Transactions; draft revisions to the Law on State Assets; draft revisions to the Law on Civil Procedure; and, draft revisions to the Law on Criminal Procedure. LUNA experts provided international perspectives on each of the draft laws except the Law on State Assets and the Law on Criminal Procedures.

LUNA followed up the retreat in June with more detailed comments and recommendations to the National Assembly and Supreme People's Court for changes to the draft revisions to the Civil Procedure Law relative to requirements in the U.S.-Lao PDR BTA with regard to commercial dispute settlement and to requirements in the WTO's TRIPS Agreement with regard to intellectual property rights, noting as well the need for revisions to be consistent with the recent revisions to the Law on Resolution of Economic Disputes and Law on Intellectual Property.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012.

- **Major Workshop(s)/Retreat(s) Leading Up to the December 2012 National Assembly Session.** LUNA has been requested by the NA-EPF Committee and the NA Law Committee to support one or possibly two high-level workshops/retreats for National Assembly leadership to review key draft laws for consideration at the December 2012 session. Depending upon the needs of the NA, one 3-day retreat may be held to review priority draft laws, and there has been a request for a special 2-day session with NA leadership to focus on the draft Law on Electronic Transactions, given that this law introduces a number of technical issues and processes that are quite new for Lao PDR. **(Approved in AR2012)**

(Request by the NA-EPF and NA Law Committee)

Activity 1.4: Support for Implementing the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint

Report on January-July 2012 Activities. As reported in the 2012 LUNA Annual Work Plan, LUNA co-organized with GIZ a major “High-Level Workshop on Laos toward the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015” on January 23-24, 2012 in Vientiane with around 112 participants. For distribution at this and future workshops, LUNA supported the publication of 2,000 copies of a brochure on “Lao and ASEAN Economic Community 2015” and 2,000 copies of a FTPD-ASEAN Division notebook.

LUNA also supported implementation of ASEAN Requirements on TBT Issues included in the ASEAN Good Regulatory Practice Guide and the ASEAN Policy Guideline on Standards and Conformance by working with counterparts to include core elements of these ASEAN obligations into the Government Decree to Implement the Law on Standardization that was approved on June 6, 2012 and the Law on Making of Legislation that is expected to be approved in the June/July National Assembly session.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012.

- **Development of a Draft Competition Law.** In conjunction with the GIZ project and separate USAID-funding for an expert from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, LUNA will work with MOIC’s Department of Domestic Trade to support a technical assistance effort in August 2012 to provide a solid foundation for drafting a Competition Law, with follow on activity as determined. Follow up activities will be developed as requested. **(Approved in AR2012)**
- **Development of the Lao National Single Window to be Linked to the ASEAN Single Window.** See Activity 5.2 for a more detailed explanation.
- **Support for Implementing Good Regulatory Practice Initiatives in New Laws and Decrees.** See Activities 2.1 and 3.2.

(Request by the FTPD and other agencies as noted in the referred Activities)

2. Transparency and Dispute Settlement

Activity 2.1: Support Development of a Law on Making Legislation

Report on January-July 2012 Activities. Supporting the development of a strong Law on Making Legislation was a high priority for LUNA over this period, given the decision to accelerate the National Assembly review of a draft to the June/July 2012 session. LUNA experts met regularly with the core MOJ-led drafting team for developing the Law on Making Legislation, including the Vice-Minister of Justice and senior officials from the MOJ, NA and the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO). During the week of February 6-10, 2012, LUNA supported technical working meetings by the MOJ-

led drafting team to develop a full Lao language first draft of the Law. LUNA supported the MOJ to organize a 3-day retreat in Thalath, Vientiane Province, on February 29 to March 2, 2012 for the core drafting team to meet with a range of other Lao officials and LUNA experts to review the first draft Law and to make recommendations for improvements, followed quickly by another retreat on March 9-11 in Thalath for the core drafting team and LUNA experts to further revise the draft based on input from the previous retreat. Based on the progress made at these sessions, LUNA supported a national consultation workshop in Vientiane on March 27-28, 2012 with 72 participants to facilitate input from key stakeholders on the draft law and to build public awareness of the key issues covered by this Law. At a retreat for National Assembly leadership from May 29-31, 2012, a mature draft of the Law on Making Legislation was reviewed in detail, with subsequent meetings between the NA and MOJ leadership and technical staff to fine-tune the wording of the Law.

The draft Law on Making Legislation was approved in May 2012 by the Government Cabinet and submitted to the National Assembly for review and approval in the June/July 2012 session. LUNA will continue to work with the drafting team and NA Law Committee to fine tune the final wording of the Law before it is promulgated.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012. With the approval of the Law on Making Legislation by the National Assembly, LUNA will support the following activities to advance the effective implementation of this Law. Note that this Law will not come into effect until January 1, 2013 because of the need to develop capacities and understanding at the National Assembly, all levels of Government and other State Agencies to implement the Law effectively, as well as the need to develop an operational Official Gazette.

- 1) **Provide Support for Developing Key Implementing Regulations.** LUNA will support the development of key implementing regulations for the Law on Making Legislation, including a Government Decree to operate the Official Gazette and Ministry of Justice Decision to implement the regulatory and budgetary assessments. Once the Law has been promulgated, LUNA will work with the MOJ to develop sustained support programs for the needed implementing regulations. **(New Request)**
- 2) **Provide Support for Public Awareness and Training to Implement the Law on Making Legislation, Both at the Central and Local Levels.** Given how this new Law will affect legislation development from laws to village regulations, it will be critical to ensure that all levels of Government and related State agencies understand the provisions in the new Law and have appropriate training to implement the Law. Once the Law has been promulgated, LUNA will work with the MOJ to develop sustained support programs for the needed implementing regulations. **(New Request)**
- 3) **Provide Equipment to Support the MOJ Legislation Department to Develop and Implement Laws and Regulations.** The MOJ's Legislation Department has requested LUNA to support the provision of a printer/copy machine and three desk top computers to facilitate the implementation of this Law and other laws related to implementation of the trade agreements. **(Follow on Request from 2011)**

(Request by the MOJ and NA; MOJ is the lead agency)

Activity 2.2: Support Strengthening of Administrative and Judicial Appeal Processes

Report on January-July 2012 Activities. A diagnostic report on administrative and judicial appeal processes is being developed by LUNA staff, building upon the current processes established in the Law on Petitions and Civil Procedure Law. The WTO and other trade agreements have extensive requirements for the “right to appeal” government decisions. LUNA experts developed a rough draft report in late 2011 and are in the process of upgrading the draft.

In addition to this report, LUNA provided comments to help strengthen “right to appeal” processes in several laws and regulations, including the Customs Law and the draft Law on Electronic Transactions.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012. LUNA will continue to support awareness of international practice with regard to right to appeal processes. See Activity 5.1 for a new request to support implementation of the innovative new right to appeal process in the Customs Department.

Activity 2.3: Support the Implementation of the Revised Law on Resolution of Economic Disputes

Report on January-July 2012 Activities. LUNA supported the Ministry of Justice’s Center for Economic Dispute Resolution (CEDR) to organize a major 4-day workshop on economic dispute resolution from May 7-10, 2012. LUNA provided funding for the venue, lunches and translation, while the MOJ covered all other costs, including participation by government officials and mediators and arbitrators from a number of provinces throughout Laos. The May 7-8 session was opened by the Vice-Minister of Justice and included around 100 participants representing a wide range of line ministries, judicial organizations, the Lao Bar Association and the business sector, including Department of Justice participants from most of the provinces. Presentations during these two days were more general and LUNA supported a presentation on the principles and best practices for international arbitration by a Singapore lawyer with extensive practical experience conducting arbitration in the region and with a focus on the Singapore International Arbitration Center (SIAC). CEDR also presented an outline of the draft Government Decree to Implement the Revisions to the Law on Resolution of Economic Disputes for discussion and feedback. The May 9-10 “training” session focused on more technical discussions for around 50 mediators and arbitrators and MOJ staff, with LUNA’s Singaporean expert leading a technical discussion on arbitration processes during the morning of May 10, including working through an actual arbitration case. Participation by the Singaporean expert was provided pro bono by the Rajah Tann Law Firm, with LUNA supporting airfare and per diem.

In early February, 2012 the CEDR provided LUNA with around 35 articles as a start for a draft Government Decree to Implement the Revisions to the Law on Resolution of Economic Disputes. After translation and after feedback from the May Workshop, LUNA experts, including the Singaporean expert, provided comments on strengthening the draft decree, including the submittal of a full draft decree in English and Lao.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012. LUNA will focus support to the MOJ-CEDR from July to December 2012 to develop a strong Government Decree to Implement the Revised Law on Resolution of Economic Disputes, building upon work over the first six months of the year.

- 1) **Support the Development of a Government Decree to Implement the Revised Law on Resolution of Economic Disputes.** In addition to providing detailed comments on drafts, LUNA will support a retreat with the core drafting team to review a full draft decree, followed by a larger national consultation workshop in Vientiane and possibly the provinces. The MOJ-CEDR expects to provide a full draft decree by the end of August 2012. This could lead to the retreat being conducted in September and the Consultation workshop(s) being conducted in October, with editing after the workshops leading to submission of the draft for approval to the Government Cabinet in November or December. Dates and specific activities will be confirmed as the drafting process evolves. **(Approved in AR2012)**
- 2) **Brochures and a Book.** LUNA will support the CEDR to publish brochures and a book of relevant laws and regulations (including the NY Convention on enforcing arbitral awards) to publicize and build public awareness of the benefits of commercial mediation and arbitration processes. **(Approved in AR2012)**
- 3) **Support 1st Annual Meeting on EDR in Laos.** LUNA will provide some support for the first annual meeting on alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in Laos, tentatively scheduled for December, 2012. **(Approved in AR2012)**
- 4) LUNA will encourage other donors to provide further training and capacity building on economic dispute settlement over time, including for training of judges, increasing understanding by businesses, and furthering understanding of international arbitration procedures. As noted in Issue Area 8, LUNA will also support the LNCCI to research and potentially make a plan to establish a private arbitration center in Laos. **(Approved in AR2012)**

(Request by the MOJ-CEDR)

Activity 2.4: Linking the Trade Agreements and Legal Sector Development

Report on January-June 2011s Activities. In all of its activities, LUNA continually supports the strong link between the requirements in the trade agreements and enhancing governance and the rule of law in Laos. In particular, LUNA works to link the trade agreements to achieving the longer-term objectives of the Legal Sector Master Plan (LSMP) and development of a Rule of Law State in Lao PDR by 2020.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012. The MOJ's Judicial Research Institute, which manages the LSMP, has requested that LUNA support the development of a new Civil Code and the related modernization of the Contract Law. In cooperation with support by JICA, LUNA can provide international perspectives and help link this work directly to support implementation of the trade agreements. Since the schedule for completing the development of these two laws is 2015, LUNA will help support initial thinking and concepts over the last six months of 2012 leading into more intensive support in 2013 and 2014. LUNA will meet with the MOJ and JICA experts in August to determine how best to develop this activity. **(New Request)**

(Request by MOJ)

3. SPS and TBT

In the first six months of 2012, LUNA continued to work intensively with the FTPD, NAST-DISM (MST-DSM) and MAF to support the development of regulations to modernize the legal framework for SPS and TBT processes and to bring them into compliance with the trade agreements.

Activity 3.1: Support Establishment and Operation of SPS and TBT Enquiry Points and Notification Unit

Report on January-June 2012 Activities. LUNA experts helped DSM and MAF to develop a TBT Enquiry Point (TBT-EP) Webpage and a SPS Enquiry Point Webpage (SPS-EP) hosted on the Lao Trade Portal (LTP) – <http://laotradeportal.gov.la>.² This option has a number of advantages, including that it allows DSM/MAF to benefit from the sustained capabilities of the LTP to provide technical and security support for the website and to make it as easy as possible to access the TBT-EP and SPS-EP from the LTP. Upon the release of the LTP on June 22, 2012, a pilot TBT-EP and SPS-EP webpage was made available to the public. Although key data are available on these webpages, including an easy to use enquiry function, more work needs to be done to provide a comprehensive overview of TBT and SPS procedures and measures.

In conjunction with the TDF, LUNA provided partial funding and in some cases LUNA speakers on international best practice for four workshops organized by MST-DSM to raise awareness among MST Departments in all provinces with regard to the WTO-TBT Agreement and the new regulations to establish and operate the TBT Enquiry Point and the SPS-TBT Notification Unit. Since the Enquiry Point will cover not only national but also provincial and local procedures and measures, TBT contact points will be established eventually in each province (initially the plan is to establish around 4 provincial contact points as a pilot project to learn more about how best to extend to all provinces). The workshops were held in Luang Prabang on January 16-17, Vang Vieng on Jan. 23, Savannakhet on Feb. 20 and Oudomsay on June 13-15.

On May 18, 2012, DSM organized a workshop in Vientiane supported by LUNA with around 41 participants from relevant government sectors to introduce key elements of the Government Decree to Implement the Law on Standardization and to review key responsibilities for operating the TBT-EP. Included at this meeting for the first time were the assigned contact points from eight ministries, who will work closely with the DSM-led TBT-EP to carry out EP functions.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012. LUNA will provide support to DSM and MAF to be prepared to fully operate the enquiry points by the end of 2012, including as follows:

- 1) **On-the-Job Training Study Mission on SPS and TBT Enquiry Points to Hanoi and Possibly One Additional Site.** Organize a study mission for one-week, on-the-job training internships with the TBT and SPS Enquiry Point agencies in Hanoi, Vietnam and possibly one

² The Lao Trade Portal was developed and launched with technical assistance from the TDF.

additional site (either Bangkok or a neighboring country that operates more in English), with the first internship likely in September 2012 in Vietnam. The participants in the study mission will sit directly with the key counterpart staff that are responsible for operating enquiry points in Vietnam in order to be exposed in the most practical sense to how enquiry points operate. It has been requested by DSM to focus training on countries that would encourage staff to speak English in order to build capacity both on technical issues and the English used around those issues. If there is a consensus on this, then the program to Thailand will be substituted with possibly a longer stay in Vietnam, or a program to another “English-speaking” country. **(Approved in AR2012)**

- 2) **Develop Operational Manuals for the SPS and TBT Enquiry Points.** Building upon the initial work of the ADB consultant in late 2011, LUNA will support DSM and MAF to develop English and Lao language operating manuals by September 2012 for conducting enquiry point business, which will include guidance not only for the Enquiry Point, but also for the ministerial and provincial contact points. **(Approved in AR2012)**
- 3) **Support SPS and TBT Enquiry Points Launch.** LUNA will support an Enquiry Point launch program, possibly in September.

(Request by the MST-DSM, MAF and FTPD)

Activity 3.2: Support Finalization of Regulations to Implement the Law on Standardization

Report on January-June 2012 Activities. Over the first six months of 2012, LUNA met several times with the MST-DSM-led drafting team to move forward final wording of the Government Decree to Implement the Law on Standardization, which includes a number of key WTO and ASEAN requirements. The Government Decree on the Implementation of the Law on Standardization, No. 234/GoL was approved on June 6, 2012.

On May 18, 2012, DSM organized a workshop on “Steps to Implement Legislation Related to WTO and ASEAN Requirements for Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment” in Vientiane supported by LUNA with around 41 participants from key government sectors to introduce key elements of the Government Decree to Implement the Law on Standardization and to review key responsibilities for operating the TBT-EP. LUNA’s TBT expert Ed Nemeroff made a presentation on international best practice at this meeting, and the draft National Quality Infrastructure Strategy was presented.

LUNA with the help of our TBT expert Ed Nemeroff helped to organize the donation of e-learning metrology training software to DSM. This e-learning precision measurement and training material was presented to the Director General of DSM by a member of the US Embassy at the May 18 workshop. The donation, which was provided by the U.S.-based WorkPlace Training Inc, included five interactive metrology and accreditation training modules for as many DSM staff as possible, and is valued at \$15,000.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012. Given the strength of the new decree on standardization, MST-DSM has determined that focus should be placed on developing the regulations and capacity building needed to implement the decree and that revision of the Law on Standardization should be

postponed to a later date. To advance the effective implementation of the recently approved Decree, therefore, LUNA will support the following activities over the last six months of 2012:

- 1) **Support the Development of Implementing Regulations for the Decree on Standardization.** LUNA will provide comments and support workshops to help MST-DSM to draft priority implementing regulations for the standardization decree, including the following:
 - a. Code of Practice for Technical Regulations (draft expected by October, 2012);
 - b. Regulation to establish the Lao National Bureau of Accreditation (LNAB) (draft expected by October, 2012);
 - c. Regulation on standards services and processes (draft by December, 2012);
 - d. Regulation on post-market surveillance (no schedule yet) ; and,
 - e. Regulation on Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) for conformity testing in line with the ASEAN Framework on MRAs (still under consideration for need).
 - f. As well, a guideline manual on drafting procedures for standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures may be developed (draft expected by October, 2012). **(All approved in AR2012)**

- 2) **Public Awareness and Implementation of Standardization Decree.** Since the standardization decree affects many line ministries at the national and provincial levels, effective implementation of the decree will require a good awareness of new procedures for developing standards, technical regulations and conformity assessments. LUNA will continue to support workshops, trainings and other activities as needed to facilitate effective implementation of the decree and implementing regulations. These programs may be done in conjunction with reviews of draft regulations and in conjunction with the TDF. Dates for these workshops will be determined. **(Approved in AR2012)**
 - a. LUNA will cooperate with the ADB project working on regulatory impact assessment to provide training and develop needed templates.

- 3) **Notification of Acceptance of the WTO-TBT Code of Good Practice for Standards.** The decree on standardization authorizes the Lao PDR to accept and comply with the WTO-ISO/IEC Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards, which must be done through a notification form submitted to the ISO/IEC Information Center with copies sent by the ISO/IEC to the WTO Secretariat. LUNA will provide any technical assistance needed for completing the acceptance process. Currently, the expectation is to complete this within two months following formal WTO accession. **(Approved in AR2012)**

(Request by MST-DSM)

Activity 3.3: Support Development of the Law on Metrology

Report on January-June 2012 Activities. Based on discussions and a draft memo on the need to revise the Law on Metrology before developing an implementing decree, the MST moved forward to recommend to the National Assembly that the Law on Metrology be revised in 2013.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012. LUNA will support the following activities to advance development of a legal framework for an operational metrology system in Laos that conforms with international best practice, as follows:

- 1) **Support Revision of the Law on Metrology.** The draft memo justifying the need to revise the Law on Metrology will be completed by September 2012. LUNA will then work with the MST to draft revisions to the Metrology Law, with a first draft of revisions expected by the end of September 2012. Once a solid draft is available, technical team and consultation workshops will be supported. MST-DSM will aim to submit the revisions to the Government and National Assembly for either the June or December 2013 NA sessions. (Approved in AR2012)

(Request by MST-DSM)

Activity 3.4: Build MOST-DSM Institutional and Implementation Capacities

Report on January-June 2012 Activities. In cooperation with lead support from the Trade Development Fund, LUNA helped facilitate the development of a draft National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) Strategic Plan for developing DSM's institutional and human resource capacities to meet the demands of an increasingly open and rapidly growing Lao economy and to benefit from the application of international best practices. This draft was presented at the May 18, 2012 workshop noted above for comments, and is in the process of being reviewed, translated and approved. LUNA's TBT expert is the lead consultant for this effort, with TDF providing core funding for the consultant's time and LUNA providing travel, workshop support and technical comments.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012. LUNA will continue to provide back-up support for this effort as requested. MST-DSM Director General Sisomphet has emphasized that he would like to have some on-going and complementary LUNA support for implementing the NQI Strategic Plan, even though the TDF will provide most of the funding for implementation.

(Request by MST-DSM)

Activity 3.5: Support Development and Implementation Capacity of SPS-Related Regulations for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Report on January-June 2012 Activities. Benefiting from on-going LUNA support in 2011, the "Ministerial Decision on Basic Principles on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures in Plant and Animal Product Administration", No. 0039/MoAF was approved on January 11, 2012. Also, LUNA provided several sets of comments on two additional key SPS regulations over this period, which were approved in May/June 2012, as follows:

1. Government Decree on the Prevention and Control of Animal Diseases, No. 228/GoL, May 31, 2012

2. Government Decree on the Control of the Movement of Animals and Animal Products, No. 230/GoL, June 4, 2012

As noted in Activity 3.1, LUNA supported the development of a pilot SPS Enquiry Point Webpage that was made public with the launch of the LTP on June 22, 2012.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012. LUNA has been requested to support the following SPS efforts over the last six months of 2012.

Activities with MAF's Planning Department will include the following:

- 1) **Workshops and Training Sessions on the SPS Enquiry Point and SPS Basic Principles Regulation.** LUNA will support the MAF Planning Department to organize workshops and training sessions to raise awareness, provide training and prepare operating manuals for the SPS Enquiry Point, both at the ministerial level and for provincial officials. This will include disseminating information on the SPS principles established in the new regulation on SPS basic principles. The timing for these workshops will be determined and coordinated with similar efforts by the MOH-FDD and MST-DSM. **(Approved in AR2012)**
 - a. See Activity 3.1 for support for O-J-T internships for two SPS-EP experts.
 - b. LUNA will support several computers to strengthen the capabilities of the MAF Enquiry Point.
- 2) **Translation.** LUNA will provide translation for priority documents for the MAF Planning Department. **(Approved in AR2012)**

(Request by MAF Planning Department)

Activities with the MAF's Department of Livestock and Veterinary Matters (DLV) will include the following (these activities are expected to be carried out in October to December 2012):

- 1) **Book on Animal Health Law and Regulations.** Publish 500 copies of a comprehensive book on laws and regulations affecting animal health, and make sure these are all posted on the SPS Enquiry Point website. **(Approved in AR2012)**
- 2) **Posters to Encourage Better Understanding and Implementation of Regulations.** Publish a series of posters and other media that can be used throughout rural areas in Laos to raise awareness of improved animal health standards and procedures. **(Approved in AR2012)**
- 3) **Workshop on New Animal Health Regulations in the North.** Support at least one workshop in the north to raise awareness of the new animal health standards and procedures in a way that can train MAF and other officials to pass along the knowledge and training in rural areas. **(Approved in AR2012)**

(Request by MAF-DLV)

Activities with the MAF's Department of Agriculture (DOA) will include the following:

- 1) **Translations.** LUNA will translate the existing "SPS notifications" for agricultural imports and exports, which can be posted on the SPS website, and will translate others as requested. **(Approved in AR2012)**
- 2) **A Pilot Workshop on SPS Procedures for Exporting and Importing.** LUNA will support the MAF-DOA to organize a pilot workshop in Vientiane to raise awareness particularly among producers and farmers on SPS procedures for exporting and importing, and to discuss how the MAF-DOA can more effectively disseminate information to targeted stakeholder groups. **(Approved in AR2012)**

(Request by MAF-DOA)

Activity 3.6: Support Development and Implementation Capacity of SPS-Related Regulations for the Ministry of Health

Report on January-June 2012 Activities. LUNA did not directly support any activities with the Ministry of Health's Food and Drug Department (FDD) of the Ministry of Health.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012. LUNA will support the following MOH-FDD activities over the last six months of 2012.

- 1) **Support for Developing Revisions to the Food Law.** LUNA will provide comments and support consultation workshops on revising the Food Law. LUNA will work in coordination with the FAO Legal Expert financed by the TDF and in some cases will co-sponsor programs with the TDF-financed FAO or directly with the TDF to help develop the Food Law.
 - a. The FDD drafting team with support from the FAO legal expert will complete first draft revisions. LUNA will provide comments on that draft.
 - b. **Small Technical Drafting Workshops.** LUNA will support small technical workshops in Vientiane among FDD, MOH and other ministry experts to gain input on the draft revisions to the Food Law in July and August.
 - c. **Three National Consultation Workshops.** LUNA, possibly co-sponsored with the FAO-TDF, will support three National Consultation Workshops to collect comments on draft revisions to the Food Law, likely first in Vientiane in late September followed by Luang Prabang in October and Pakse in December, 2012.
 - d. The Ministry of Health plans to submit a draft Food Law to the Government Cabinet around February and then to submit a draft to the National Assembly session in June 2013. LUNA will provide support as needed into the lead up to submission. **(All approved in AR2012)**
- 2) **Training Retreat for Ministry of Health-FDD Staff on SPS, TBT and Food Safety Requirements.** LUNA will support a 2-day retreat in Thalath, Vientiane Province with around 50 Ministry of Health and FDD staff from Vientiane Capital and a number of provinces to review TBT and SPS principles and requirements and the recently approved MOH regulation

on food safety. Provincial staff will play a critical role in implementing the new legislation that is being developed in line with SPS and TBT requirements in the WTO and ASEAN. This will most likely be done in September 2012. **(Approved in AR2012)**

- 3) **Workshop on ASEAN Requirements for Food Safety.** LUNA will support a one-day workshop in Vientiane to review the key requirements in ASEAN for food safety and how Laos is progressing toward meeting these requirements. The focus of the workshop will include 5 key documents being developed by ASEAN on: a) food control systems; b) food hygiene; c) export and import inspection; d) food labeling; and e) Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), GMP and ISO 22,000. Participants will include producers, traders and government officials. This is most likely to be done in conjunction with the training retreat noted just above in September 2012. **(Approved in AR2012)**
- 4) **Study Mission to Bangkok on Food Importation Systems and Food Inspection.** LUNA will support a study mission with around 7-8 participants to meet for around a week with Thai counterparts that implement food safety regulations and import controls. Participants will be both from MOH and MOIC-FTPD, given the linkages between food safety and trade facilitation. This is currently scheduled for October 2012. **(Approved in AR2012)**
- 5) **Provide a Range of Translations and Publications,** as follows:
 - a. ASEAN Requirements on Food Safety to Lao language (both the existing and draft versions);
 - b. Provide comments on the draft English translation of the MOH Regulation on Food Inspection;
 - c. Draft Food Inspection Guidelines to Lao language (when available);
 - d. Standard Operating Procedures for Imports to English;
 - e. Guideline Risk Assessment Plan to Lao language;
 - f. University curriculum for Food Safety to Lao and other translations as needed;
 - g. Publish around 300 copies of the recently approved MOH Regulation on Food Inspection, including both Lao and English versions. **(All approved in AR2012)**
- 6) **Support Small Technical Workshops on Key Drafts.** Over the course of the year, LUNA may support small technical workshops to move forward key food policy regulations, including the finalization of the Food Inspection Guideline. **(Approved in AR2012)**

(Request by MOH-FDD)

4. Trade in Goods and Trade Facilitation

Activity 4.1: Support Development and Implementation of Regulations on Trading Rights

Report on January-June 2012 Activities. LUNA did not provide any support for trading right issues over this period.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012. LUNA will provide technical input on helping to explain the limitations for using price controls, as requested. LUNA will discuss additional support for improving the trading rights regime and trade facilitation initiatives. A schedule for this work has not been established.

(Request by FTPD, MOIC)

5. Customs and the Lao National Single Window linked to the ASEAN Single Window

Activity 5.1: Support Revision to and Implementation of the Customs Law

Report on January-June 2012 Activities. At the request of FTPD, LUNA translated six Customs-related documents noted in the Summary of LUNA activities. LUNA provided detailed comments and recommendations on the draft instruction on the assessment of the value of imports, which was approved as the Instruction of the Ministry of Finance on Customs Valuation of Imported Goods, No. 1537/MOF on June 4, 2012.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012. As noted in the previous LUNA reports, the World Bank is providing on-going support for Customs modernization through its Customs and Trade Facilitation Project, and the IMF is providing complementary legal and policy advice on customs issues. As a result, LUNA has provided less support to Customs that might be expected because of the strong technical assistance by the other donors. LUNA's work below will be coordinated carefully with the other donor programs, especially the World Bank's Customs and Trade Facilitation Project.

1) Provide Comments on Draft Customs Regulations. LUNA expects to be requested on a case-by-case basis to comment on draft regulations to implement the newly revised Customs Law, especially on regulations related to customs valuation and IP border measures. Customs request for a study mission on IP border measures is included in Issue Activity 6.4. **(Approved in AR2012)**

2) Support to the Department of Customs to Implement the New Appeal Process Included in the Revised Law on Customs. Using additional funding provided by the Washington-based USAID Partnership for Trade Facilitation, LUNA will provide focused support for strengthening the innovative new appeal process for Customs procedures that was developed in the revisions to the Law on Customs approved in December 2011. This support will build on initial support provided by the World Bank on this issue. A detailed work plan will be developed once the funds become available, which is expected in August or September, 2012. **(New Request with additional USAID funding)**

3) Support to the Department of Customs to Implement the Transit Guarantee Procedures Included in the Revised Law on Customs. Also using additional funds provided by the Washington-based USAID Partnership for Trade Facilitation, LUNA will work with the Customs Department to develop a program for supporting the development of new transit guarantee procedures. This support

will build as appropriate on any complementary support provided by the World Bank on this issue.
(New Request with additional USAID funding)

(Request by Customs Department and FTPD)

Activity 5.2: Support Development of the Lao National Single Window Linked to the ASEAN Single Window

Report on January-June 2012 Activities. With the USAID/ADVANCE ASEAN Single Window (ASW) Project working through the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia taking the lead, LUNA provided on-the-ground support for planning a major workshop supported by the ASW Project to review a Roadmap for Establishing the LNSW Linked to the ASW. This workshop was originally scheduled for late 2011 but was rescheduled and held on January 26-27, 2012 in Vientiane with around 80 participants (see the more detailed report in the LUNA 2012 Annual Report).

LUNA in cooperation with the ASW Project met several times with a Ministry of Finance-led team to develop a first draft Government Decree to Implement and Operate the Lao National Single Window, which was subsequently translated in the Lao language in April. After personnel changes, leadership for drafting the decree was shifted to the Customs Department, which is in the process of developing a multi-ministry preparation team.

Closely linked to the legal requirements for developing a LNSW, LUNA also supported the development of a draft Electronic Transactions Law with the Ministry of Science and Technology's Department on Information Technology (MST-DIT), as reported in Activity 7.4.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012. The Ministry of Finance has asked LUNA to support the following activities in 2012:

- 1) **Support Development of a Government Decree to Establish and Operate the Lao National Single Window Linked to the ASEAN Single Window.** The Customs Department, which has taken over leadership for developing the decree, is gathering a multi-ministry preparation team for the decree. This team is expected to be in place by the end of August 2012. Shortly thereafter, the team will review and provide comments on the draft decree. Customs has agreed to then meet with LUNA to develop a Custom's-led first draft of the decree. This work will be carried out in close cooperation with the World Bank's Customs and Trade Facilitation Project, as well as the WB's Lao National Single Window Preparation Program. The World Bank will be supporting a LNSW Preparation Program from around September 2012 to April 2013 that will lead into a major 4-year project that will support the integration of the Customs modernization work with a fully functioning Lao National Single Window.
 - a. **Consultation Workshop(s) for the Decree.** LUNA will support Customs to organize a consultation workshop in Vientiane to introduce the decree to a range of government agencies and private-sector stakeholders and to get their input on how to strengthen the draft decree. This will likely be held in October. It will then be determined whether any provincial consultations may be needed. **(Approved in AR2012)**

- b. **Develop a First Draft MOF Implementing Regulation.** In parallel with developing the draft decree, LUNA will support preparation of a first draft MOF implementing regulation for the LNSW in English and the Lao language. **(Approved in AR2012)**

(Request by the Ministry of Finance and Customs)

6. Intellectual Property Protection

Activity 6.1: Support for Revision of the Law on Intellectual Property and Preparation of Implementing Regulations

Report on January-June 2012 Activities. A major Revision to the Law on Intellectual Property was approved by the National Assembly on December 20, 2011. LUNA then shifted quickly to supporting the development of first draft regulations to implement the newly revised Law. For three weeks from March to early April, LUNA's IP expert Judy Goans worked with Ministry of Science and Technology Department of Intellectual Property (DIP) staff to organize thinking about the number and content of needed regulations, and then worked with each Division in DIP to develop the following first drafts:

- 1) Draft Regulation on Patents and Petty Patents;
- 2) Draft Regulation on Copyrights and Related Rights;
- 3) Draft Regulation on Trademarks and Trade Names;
- 4) Draft Regulation on Industrial Designs;
- 5) Draft Regulation on Integrated Circuit Layout Designs;
- 6) Draft Regulation on Data Protection and Unfair Competition (received in July); and,
- 7) Draft Regulation on Geographic Indicators.

A draft regulation on plant variety protection will be developed after the above regulations are in a more advanced state.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012.

- 1) **Advancing Implementing Regulations for the Revised Intellectual Property Law.** LUNA's IP expert Judy Goans will come to Laos from August 8 to September 1 to work with DIP counterparts to finalize the above listed draft IP regulations. To meet the challenging objective of approving these quite detailed and lengthy regulations and sending them to the next WTO Working Party meeting in mid-September, LUNA will support an accelerated translation process so that both a Lao and English version of the draft regulations will be available for discussion during Ms. Goans time in Laos. DIP staff will review and improve the draft regulations in August, with the goal of having these approved by the Ministry of Science and Technology in early September. The first three regulations will receive highest priority. As these seven draft regulations move forward, a draft regulation on plant variety protection will be developed for expected consideration and approval in 2013. **(Approved in AR2012)**

(Request by MST-DIP)

Activity 6.2: Support Accession to Intellectual Property Treaties

Report on January-June 2012 Activities. LUNA supported DIP to organize a workshop on March 14, 2012 to publicize Lao PDR's accession to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works in Vientiane with around 50 participants.

Planned Activities July-December 2012. No activities are planned over this period. .

(Request by MST-DIP (Copyright Office))

Activity 6.3: Support to Upgrade the Patent Office's Capacity to Examine and Approve Patents

Report on January-June 2012 Activities. No support was supported for this activity over this period.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012. To support development of the capacity of the Patent Office and to accelerate the operation of an effective patent examination process, LUNA has been requested to support the following activities.

- 1) **Enhance Internet Capacity for the Patent Office.** LUNA will provide expanded internet access to the Patent Office to allow it to access international patent searches more effectively. **(Approved in AR2012)**
- 2) **Public Release Activity for Issuing the First Patent in the Lao PDR.** LUNA will be requested to support the MST-DIP to organize a public release activity to promote the issuance of the first patent(s) in Laos. The date for this release will be determined. **(Approved in AR2012)**
- 3) **Capacity Building for the Patent Office.** LUNA will continue to support the building of capacity to review patent applications by the Patent Office over the course of the year. Activities may include providing training for the patent staff, workshops on patents with the university, and continuing the development of procedures for patent examination. **(Approved in AR2012)**

(Request by MST-DIP (Patent Office))

Activity 6.4: Support Development of a Stronger Legal Framework and Public Understanding for Intellectual Property Border Measures

Report on January-June 2012 Activities. No support was provided for this activity over this period.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012. LUNA will continue to support the development of a WTO-compliant system for IP border measures in Laos as follows:

- 1) **Support for Revising Regulations on IP Border Measures.** LUNA will provide comments and other support as needed to revise the "Instruction on Customs Measures for the Protection

of IPR" to be in line with the revised Customs Law and WTO-TRIPS requirements. **(Approved in AR2012)**

2) **Support for a Study Mission to Thailand on the Operation of IP Border Measures.**

LUNA will support a study mission for around 6 to 8 customs officials to Thailand to learn more about how the Thai system of IP border measures operates in practice. This may include a trip to the Nong Khai Friendship Bridge and elsewhere in Thailand, as appropriate. The timing for this will be determined after further discussion. **(Approved in AR2012)**

(Request by Customs, FTPD and MST-DIP; Customs is in the lead)

Activity 6.5: Support Capacity Building and Public Awareness to Enhance Implementation of IP Processes

Report on January-June 2012 Activities. LUNA supported the DIP to organize a public awareness seminar in Vientiane with around 425 participants to promote IP protection on International IP Day on April 26, 2012. With an opening by the Vice-Minister of Science and Technology, the program included the distribution of IPR-protection T-shirts, CD-ROMs and booths by stakeholders supporting stronger IPR protection in Lao PDR.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012. No support is planned for this activity over the next 6 months.

(Request by MST-DIP)

Activity 6.6: Support the Development of Guidelines for Civil Court Proceedings and Capacity Building for the Judiciary for IPR and Other International Trade Issues

Report on January-June 2012 Activities. An important ramification of the implementation of the trade agreements is that businesses and foreign governments will look to the courts in Lao PDR as a primary institution for resolving commercial disputes, protecting intellectual property rights and in some cases enforcing criminal sanctions. Most profoundly, the WTO Trade-Related Intellectual Property (TRIPS) Agreement specifies a number of requirements for civil court procedures to protect IP right holders. Another key area is economic dispute resolution, including commercial arbitration, which has requirements included in the U.S.-Lao PDR Bilateral Trade Agreement and the NY Convention on foreign arbitral awards. Furthermore, there are issues of consistency among Lao PDR laws. As a result of Lao PDR efforts to meet treaty requirements, the revisions to the Law on Intellectual Property approved in December 2011 and the revisions to the Law on the Resolution of Economic Disputes approved in December 2010 incorporate new international standards for court proceedings that need to be validated in the revised Civil Procedure Law.

At the National Assembly Retreat supported by LUNA on May 29-31, the Vice-President of the Supreme People's Court (SPC) presented draft revisions to the Law on Civil Procedure and a LUNA expert provided some initial comments. Several weeks later, given the importance of making further revisions to the draft Law to meet the treaty requirements, LUNA provided more detailed comments to the SPC and the two key committees in the National Assembly.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012. Following up these contacts, the Supreme People's Court has submitted an official letter to the PSC for LUNA support of the following:

- 1) **Support the Development of Guidelines to Implement the Revised Civil Procedure Law.**
Once the revised Civil Procedure Law has been promulgated, the SPC will develop new implementing guidelines for court proceedings. LUNA will support the SPC to draft several of these guidelines, especially for issues directly related to the trade agreements where there are clear treaty requirements or where they can benefit from other international best practice.
(New Request)
- 2) **Support Capacity Building for the Judiciary with regard to Intellectual Property, Economic Dispute Resolution, and Other New Areas Related to Trade Agreements.**
 - a. **Support a Workshop on the WTO, BTA and Civil Court Proceedings** in August 2012 when LUNA's expert on IPR and court proceedings is in Laos. **(New Request)**
 - b. **Support Additional Training Activities and Resources for the Judicial Sector**, as requested, to enhance the capability of the judiciary to judge effectively on the many new issues being introduced into new legislation in Lao PDR. **(New Request)**
 - c. LUNA will work with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Regional Office in Bangkok to coordinate and if possibly share expenses for judicial training.

(Requested by the Supreme People's Court)

7. Trade in Services

Activity 7.1: Support the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) Enquiry Point

Report on January-June 2012 Activities. No support provided for this activity over this period.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012. No future requests for LUNA support is expected.

(Request by FTPD)

Activity 7.2: Support Development and Implementation of an Effective Law on Lawyers

Report on January-June 2012 Activities. LUNA met with the Lao Bar Association (LBA) and reviewed its Code of Ethics and By-Laws.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012. LUNA will provide the LBA with written recommendations for strengthening its Code of Ethics and By-Laws.

(Request by the MOJ)

Activity 7.3: Support Development of the Revision to the Law on Telecommunications

Report on January-June 2012 Activities. In March, LUNA provided the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications with a detailed memo on the regulations needed to implement the recently approved revisions to the Law on Telecommunications and met with MPT leadership to discuss the recommendations.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012. No request has been made for further LUNA technical assistance on telecommunications, but LUNA stands prepared to support needed implementing regulations for the newly revised Law on Telecommunications.

(Request by the FTPD, MPT and NA; FTPD is the leading agency)

Activity 7.4: Support Development of a Law on Electronic Transactions

Report on January-June 2012 Activities. Building upon strong support in 2011, LUNA translated to Lao language an initial English-language draft Law on Electronic Transactions based in large part on the UNCITRAL Model Law for Electronic Transactions. LUNA then worked closely with the MST's Department of Information Technology (DIT) to strengthen the draft Law over this period. LUNA supported major consultation workshops in Luang Prabang on April 5-6 for around 70 participants from northern provinces and in Pakse for southern provinces on April 26-27 with around 70 participants.

A draft Law on Electronic Transactions was presented at the high-level National Assembly retreat in Thalath on May 29-31. A key outcome of this meeting was a decision that the draft Law on E-Transactions would be submitted to the December 2012 National Assembly session for review and approval, with the MST currently planning to submit the draft law for approval by the Government Cabinet in August 2012. With guidance from NA leadership, LUNA supported a 3-day retreat from May 31 to June 2 for the core drafting team along with MOJ and NA technical staff to revise the draft in line with NA leadership guidance.

LUNA's ICT expert John Adams participated in most of these activities during two trips to Laos – from March 17 to April 3 and from May 27 to June 9.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012.

- 1) **Support the Improvement of the Draft Law on Electronic Transactions.** LUNA will continue to support the strengthening of the draft Law on Electronic Transactions as it moves through MOJ review, Cabinet approval, and submittal for review and approval by the National Assembly. LUNA's ICT expert John Adams will come to Laos in October to support key activities. **(Approved in AR2012)**
- 2) **National Assembly Workshop to Review the Draft Law on Electronic Transactions.** The NA has requested LUNA to support a 2-day retreat for NA leadership likely in October 2012 to do a technical review of the draft Law on Electronic Transactions after it has been adjusted by the MOJ and approved by the Government Cabinet. This may be a separate retreat, or part of a larger retreat that will review other draft laws in line for review and approval in the December 2012 session (see Activity 1.3). **(New Request)**

- 3) **Study Mission to Singapore.** Given the stress by the NA on the importance for the Government to be prepared to implement the new Law on E-Transactions, LUNA has been requested to support a study mission to learn how Singapore promotes e-commerce and e-government and how it regulates digital signature service providers. This will likely be done in September or October 2012. **(New Request)**

(Request by MST-DIT)

Activity 7.5: Law on Insurance

Report on January-June 2012 Activities. LUNA worked daily for almost two weeks with the National Assembly and Ministry of Finance to strengthen the wording of the revised Law on Insurance in February 2012, and then did an English translation of the approved revisions to the Law on Insurance.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012.

- 1) **Support Development of the Government Decree to Implement the Revised Law on Insurance.** The Ministry of Finance completed an initial draft Government Decree to Implement the Revised Law on Insurance.
- a. **Comments on Draft Decree.** LUNA will provide detailed comments on that draft in July 2012 and on subsequent drafts as requested. **(Approved in AR2012)**
 - b. **Consultation Workshop(s).** LUNA will support a National Consultation Workshop in Vientiane to get feedback on how to strengthen the draft from government officials and stakeholders, likely in September or October 2012. **(Approved in AR2012)**

(Request by MOF)

8. Public-Private Dialogue on Trade Policy

Activity 8.1: Support Productive Public-Private Dialogue on Trade Policy and Build Awareness on Trade Issues by the Business Sector

Report on January-June 2012 Activities. LUNA supported the LNCCI to organize public-private dialogue workshops on June 7 on the draft Law on Electronic Transactions with around 35 participants and on June 26 with around 25 participants on the draft Law on Making Legislation. In both cases, a Director General from the ministry in charge of drafting the law made a presentation followed by comments on international best practice by a LUNA expert. See reports on Activity 2.1 and Activity 7.4 as well.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012.

- 1) **Support Workshops on WTO Accession and Key New Laws.** LUNA will continue to support the LNCCI to organize workshops for business leaders to discuss key draft laws with the Government officials taking the lead in drafting the law. LUNA will support a Workshop on the WTO Accession and Trade Policy likely in Louang Namtha in early December. **(Approved in AR2012)**
- 2) **Support a Trade-Policy Workshop around the LNCCI Expo 2012.** LUNA will support the LNCCI to organize a trade-policy workshop around October 2012 to supplement the LNCCI Expo 2012 Trade Fair. **(Approved in AR2012)**

(Request by LNCCI)

Activity 8.2: Build the Capacity of the LNCCI to Participate More Effectively in Public-Private Dialogue on Trade Policy and to Support Trade Facilitation

Report on January-June 2012 Activities. LUNA supported Ms. Xaynari Chanthala, the LUNA-supported Legal Advisor to the LNCCI, to work 40 percent time with LNCCI leadership to support the LNCCI to develop a stronger legal analysis and policy advocacy capability. She has provided assistance to the LNCCI in their analysis of the draft Labor Law and has provided a training program for LNCCI staff on key commercial laws. LUNA has provided the LNCCI with a CD-ROM of all Lao laws, about two-thirds of which have been translated into English. During the visit of the Singaporean economic dispute resolution expert (see Activity 2.3), LUNA arranged for him and Xaynari to have a discussion on conditions for the LNCCI to develop a private economic dispute resolution center.

LUNA supported the LNCCI and MOIC's Department for Imports and Exports (DIMEX) to organize two retreats to train Chamber staff to issue certificates of origin for exports. As part of MOIC's effort to improve trade facilitation, responsibility for issuing certificates of origin will be shifted on July 1, 2012 to the Chamber where trade agreements allow private certification. To provide the training needed to facilitate this devolution of authority to the private sector, LUNA supported the LNCCI and DIMEX to organize two 3-day training retreats, the first in Thalath on April 25-27 for around 50 participants including from all 14 provincial Chamber offices and the second also in Thalath on June 13-15 for around 60 participants from all over the country, in this case including both Chamber regional offices and Department of Industry and Commerce counterparts in the 14 provinces.

Planned Activities for July-December 2012.

- 1) **Support by the LUNA-supported Legal Advisor for the LNCCI.** LUNA will continue to fund Ms. Xaynari Chanthala on a 40-percent basis to support the development of LNCCI's legal analysis and policy advocacy capabilities.
 - a. **Develop a LNCCI Lao Law Forum.** The LNCCI has asked LUNA and Xaynari to support the development of a Lao Law Forum as a resource for the Lao business community. A possible terms of reference for a Lao Law Forum is being drafted for consideration by LNCCI leadership. **(New Request)**
 - b. **Provide Background for the LNCCI to Establish an Economic Dispute Resolution Center.** LUNA will support the LNCCI to organize a meeting with LNCCI leadership to review more carefully possibilities for establishing an Economic Dispute

Resolution Center. This will be done during a time when the Singaporean expert on economic dispute resolution will be available in Vientiane. **(Approved in AR2012)**

- 2) **Training for LNCCI Staff on Rules of Origin.** The LNCCI will take over responsibility for issuing certificates of origin for some countries on July 1, 2012, after benefiting from the two training sessions supported by LUNA noted above. As needed, LUNA will support a follow-up workshop to review how the new processes are working, and to identify and resolve problems. **(New Request)**

(Request by LNCCI)

APPENDIX A: LUNA

Workshops from 2010 through June 30, 2012

No.	Activity	BTA, WTO, AEC Relationship	Date	Counter-part(s)	Partici-pants	Place
2010						
1	Workshop on Public-Private Trade Policy Dialogue	Transparency, Policy Dialogue	Jan. 28, 2010	MOIC/ FTPD	48 total 39M 9F	Vientiane Capital
2	Workshop on Bern Convention on Copyrights	IPR	Aug. 26, 2010	NAST/ DISM	59 total 40M 19F	Vientiane Capital
3	Workshop on SPS and TBT Enquiry and Notification Points	Trade in Goods	Sept. 8-9, 2010	MOIC, MAF, MOH, NAST	68 total 51M 18F	Vientiane Capital
4	National Assembly Intersession Program	Transparency, Public Awareness	Sept. 13–16, 2010	National Assembly	120 total 96M 24F	Thalath, Vientiane Province
5	Workshop on the draft Law on Resolution of Economic Disputes and the Law on Lawyers	BTA Article 10 and Trade in Services	Oct. 22, 2010	MOJ and National Assembly	57 total 45M 12F	Vientiane Capital
6	Technical workshop on the draft Law on Resolution of Economic Disputes	BTA Article 10	Dec. 7, 2010	MOJ and National Assembly	15 total 12M 3F	Vientiane Capital
2011						
1st Quarter 2011						
7	Workshop on SPS and TBT Enquiry and Notification	SPS and TBT	Jan 21, 2011	MOIC/ FTPD	12 total 8M	Vientiane Capital

	Points				4F	
8	Workshop on Fundamental Principles for a Securities Law	Trade in services	Jan. 24, 2011	Office of Securities and Exchange	20 total 15M 5F	Vientiane Capital
9	Workshop on Draft Prime Minister Decree to Implement the Standardization Law	TBT	Jan 26-27, 2011	NAST/ DISM	20 total 10M 10F	Vientiane Capital
10	Workshop on the Draft Law on Lawyers	Trade in Services	Feb. 3, 2011	MOJ and Lao Bar Association	47 total 40M 7F	Vientiane Capital
11	Workshop on the Status of the WTO Accession and Public-Private Policy Dialogue	Public awareness and public-private dialogue	Feb. 24, 2011	LNCCI and FTPD	82 total 68M 14F	Luang Prabang
12	Training Workshop on International Commercial Arbitration	BTA, Article 10	Mar. 7 and 9, 2011	MOJ and LBA, in cooperation with Canadian Bar Assoc.	102 total 84M 18F	Vientiane Capital
13	Retreat on Draft of Law on Lawyers	Legal Services	Mar. 10-12, 2011	MOJ	21 total 18M 3F	Thalath, Vientiane Province
14	Workshop on Draft TBT Enquiry Point Regulation	TBT	Mar. 23, 2011	NAST/ DISM	32 total 23M 9F	Vientiane Capital
15	Workshop on Economic Law Priorities for the Legislative Agenda from 2011-2015	BTA, WTO, ASEAN	March 29-30, 2011	National Assembly	94 total 82M 12F	Vientiane Capital
16	Training on Intellectual Property Border Measures	IPR	March 30, 2011	MOF/Customs	31 total 28M 3F	Vientiane Capital
17	Workshop on Draft Prime Minister Decree to Implement the Standardization Law	TBT	Mar. 31 and April 1, 2011	NAST/ DISM	34 total 28M 6F	Vientiane Capital
18	Almost daily meetings with core drafting team for PM Decree to Implement the Intellectual Property Law	IPR	March 15 to 29, 2011	NAST/ DISM	4-5 each meeting	Vientiane Capital
2nd Quarter 2011						
19	Workshop on the SPS Enquiry	SPS	April 8,	MAF	11 total	Vientiane Capital

	Point		2011		7M 4F	
20	Intensive meetings with core drafting team on TBT enquiry point regulation and PM implementing decree for the Law on Standardization	TBT	April 20, 22, 27 and May 3, 19, 26 and June 2, 8, 2011	NAST-DISM	Around 4-6 each meeting	Vientiane Capital
21	Retreat on SPS Enquiry Point and MAF Principles for Applying SPS Measures	SPS	April 25-26, 2011	MAF	41 total 27M 14F	Thalath, Vientiane Province
22	Half-day working meetings with the Drafting Team for Law on Laws	Legal transparency	April 27, May 18, June 21, 2011	MOJ	Around 12 each meeting	Vientiane Capital
23	Retreat on the Metrology Law and drafting a Prime Ministerial Implementing Decree	TBT	April 28-29, 2011	NAST/DISM	7 total 5M 2F	Thalath, Vientiane Capital
24	Project Steering Committee Workshop on LUNA Work Plan 2011	Project administration	April 29, 2011	FTPD	19 total 13M 6F	Vientiane Capital
25	Almost daily meetings with core drafting team for PM Decree to Implement the Intellectual Property Law	IPR	April 29 thru May 6, 2011	NAST/DISM	4-5 each meeting	Vientiane Capital
26	Workshop on Intellectual Property Border Measures	Customs, IPR	May 9-10, 2011	MOF/Customs	50 total 47M 3F	Thalath, Vientiane Province
27	Release Event for FTPD Webpage, WTO/Trade Reference Room, and 5 U.S. Product Manuals	FTPD capacity building	May 12, 2011	FTPD	112 total 70M 42F	Vientiane Capital
28	Workshop on the Status of the WTO Accession and Public-Private Policy Dialogue	Public awareness and public-private dialogue	June 13, 2011	LNCCI and FTPD	73 total 60M 13F	Pakse, Champasak province
29	Workshop on Lao National Single Window Legal Requirements Analysis and Roadmap Activity ³	ASEAN Single Window	June 20, 2011	Customs	30 total 20M 10F	Vientiane Capital
3rd Quarter 2011						
30	Workshop for Business Sector Review of IPR Border Meas-	Customs, IPR	July 25, 2011	Customs and LNCCI	55 total 40M 15F	Vientiane Capital

³ LUNA provided logistics support, with the ASW providing funding and technical leadership.

	ure Decision					
31	Ministry of Justice Training Program on Legislative Drafting	MOJ capacity building	August 8, 2011	MOJ	56 total 41M 15F	Vientiane Capital
32	Ministry of Justice Training Program on Legislative Drafting	MOJ capacity building	August 11, 2011	MOJ	39 total 35M 4F	Vientiane Capital
34	Consultative Workshop on the Draft Law on Lawyers	Services	Aug 18-19, 2011	MOJ	77 total 55M 22F	Vientiane Capital
35	Consultative Workshop on the Draft Law on Lawyers	Services	Aug 22-23, 2011	MOJ	66 total 62M 4F	Luang Prabang
36	Consultative Workshop on the Draft Law on Lawyers	Services	Aug 29-30, 2011	MOJ	53 total 49M 4F	Pakse
37	Consultative Workshop on Draft Revisions to the Law on IPR	IPR	Sept 23, 2011	MOST	66 total 49M 17F	Vientiane Capital
4th Quarter 2011						
38	Technical Workshop on Draft E-Commerce Decree	Services	Oct 7, 2011	MOST	18 total 12M 6F	Vientiane Capital
39	The National Assembly Workshop to Review Draft Laws	Many laws	Oct 10-12, 2011	NA	70 total 60M 10F	Vientiane Capital
40	Project Steering Committee Workshop on LUNA Work Plan 2011	Project administration	Oct 11, 2011	FTPD	27 total 19M 8F	Vientiane Capital
41	National Workshop on E-Transaction legislation	Services	Oct 21, 2011	MOST	59 total 51M, 8F	Vientiane Capital
42	Workshop on Challenges and Opportunities of Lao PDR's Economic Integration	Public awareness and public-private dialogue	Nov 22-23, 2011	LNCCI	99 total 80M 19F	Xiengkhouang Province
43	Seminar for the Challenges and Opportunities from ASEAN	Public awareness and public-private	Dec 10, 2011	LNCCI	219 total 135M	Vientiane Capital

Economic Integration and Accession to WTO for Entrepreneurs and SME in Lao PDR (Made in Lao Expo)	dialogue				84F	
1st Quarter 2012						
Technical Workshop on Developing the Draft Decree to Implement the Law on Standardization	TBT		January 11-13, 2012	DSM	12 total 10 male 2 female	Vientiane Capital
Workshop on Dissemination and Implementation of Regulation on TBT Enquiry Point and WTO/TBT Agreement	TBT		January 16-17, 2012	DSM	61 total 53 male 8 female	Luang Prabang
High-level Workshop on Lao PDR toward the ASEAN Economic Community	Many sectors		January 23-24, 2012	FTPD	104 total 73 male 31 female	Vientiane Capital
Workshop on Developing a Roadmap for the Lao PDR National Single Window	Customs, LNSW		January 26-27, 2012	Customs	59 total 51 male 8 female	Vientiane Capital
Workshop on Dissemination and Implementation of Regulation on TBT Enquiry Point and WTO/TBT Agreement	TBT		February 2, 2012	DSM	40 total 28 male 12 female	Vang Vieng
Technical working meetings by the MOJ-led drafting team to develop a full Lao language first draft of the Law on Making Legislation	Transparency		February 8-10, 2012	MOJ	14 total 11 male 3 female	Vientiane Capital
Workshop on Dissemination and Implementation on Regulation on TBT Enquiry Point and WTO/TBT Agreement	TBT		February 20, 2012	DSM	63 total 51 male 12 female	Savannakhet
3-day Retreat to Review the First Draft Law on Making Legislation	Transparency		February 29 to March 2, 2012	MOJ/NA/P MO	20 total 17 male 3 female	Thalath, Vientiane Province
3-day Retreat to Review the First Draft Law on Making	Transparency		March 9-11, 2012	MOJ/NA/P MO	18 total 12 male	Thalath, Vientiane Province

	Legislation				6 female	
	Workshop on Lao PDR Accession to the Berne Convention Release	IPR	March 14, 2012	MST-DIP	45 total 33 male 12 female	Vientiane Capital
	Technical Workshops on the Draft Electronic Transactions Law	Services	March 20-23, 2012	MST-DIT	22 total 17 male 5 female	Vientiane Capital
	National Consultation Workshop on the Draft Law on Making Legislation	Transparency	March 27-28, 2012	MOJ	72 total 62 male 10 female	Vientiane Capital
2nd Quarter 2012						
	Consultation Workshop on the Draft Electronic Transactions Law	Services	April 2-3, 2012	MST-DIT	48 total 38 male 10 female	Vientiane Capital
	Consultation Workshop on the Draft Electronic Transactions Law	Services	April 5-6, 2012	MST-DIT	71 total 63 male 8 female	Luang Prabang
	First Retreat for Training on LNCCI Officials for Issuing Certificates of Origin	Trade Facilitation	April 25-27, 2012	LNCCI, MOIC-DIMEX	51 total 31 male 20 female	Thalath, Vientiane Province
	Seminar to Promote International Intellectual Property Day	IPR	April 26, 2012	MST-DIP	425 total 297 male 128 female	Vientiane Capital
	Consultation Workshop on the Draft Electronic Transactions Law	Services	April 26-27, 2012	MST-DIT	57 total 47 male 10 female	Pakse
	Nationwide Meeting on Economic Dispute Resolution	Dispute settlement	May 7-8, 2012	MOJ-CEDR	101 total 81 male 20 female	Vientiane Capital
	Training Workshop on Economic Dispute Resolution	Dispute settlement	May 9-10, 2012	MOJ-CEDR	47 total 34 male 13 female	Vientiane Capital
	Seminar on International Best Practices for Economic Dis-	Capacity building	May 9, 2012	Faculty of Law and Political	80 total 60 male	

	pute Resolution			Science	20 female	Vientiane Capital
	Workshop on “ Steps to Implement Legislation Related to WTO and ASEAN Requirements for Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment ”.	TBT	May 18, 2012	MST-DSM	40 total 27 male 13 female	Vientiane Capital
	Technical Workshop on the Draft Law on Electronic Transactions	Services	May 21-22, 2012	MST-DIT	11 total 7 male 4 female	Vientiane Capital
	Retreat to “ Review Draft Laws under Consideration for the June 2012 National Assembly Session ”	Many laws	May 29-31, 2012	NA Law Committee and EBF Committee	94 total 68 male 26 female	Thalath, Vientiane Province
	Retreat to Review the Draft Law on Electronic Transactions	Services	May 31 to June 2, 2012	MST-DIT, MOJ, NA	21 total 15 male 6 female	Thalath, Vientiane Province
	Seminar on the Draft Law on Electronic Transaction and Related International Best Practice	Capacity building	June 5, 2012	Faculty of Law and Political Science	80 total 60 male 20 female	Vientiane Capital
	Consultation Workshop with Business Leaders on the Draft Law on Electronic Transactions	Services	June 7, 2012	LNCCI, MST-DIT	35 total 27 male 8 female	Vientiane Capital
	Second Retreat for Training on LNCCI Officials for Issuing Certificates of Origin	Trade Facilitation	June 13-15, 2012	LNCCI, MOIC-DIMEX	60 total 35 male 25 female	Thalath, Vientiane Province
	Workshop on “ Steps to Implement Legislation to WTO and ASEAN Requirements for Standards, Technical regulations and Conformity Assessment ”	TBT	June 13-15, 2012	DSM	70 total 40 male 30 female	Oudomsay Province
	Consultation Workshop with Business Leaders on the Draft Law on Making of Legislation	Transparency	June 26, 2012	LNCCI, MOJ	26 total 20 male 6 female	