

AID-FOR-TRADE: CASE STORY

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The Program of Overall Plan for Comprehensive Development of Northern Area in Laos

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Type: project or programme

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1. Issues addressed: The Program of Overall Plan for Comprehensive Development of Northern Area in Laos. Laos is one of the least developed countries in the world and its northern area is extremely poor. At the request of Laotian government, Chinese government agreed to provide grant to help Laotian government to prepare an Overall Plan for Comprehensive Development of Northern Area in Laos.

2. Objective pursued: To promote the economic and trade development of the northern area in Laos.

3. (For project and program: Design and implementation): The program was officially launched on April 22, 2007. Chinese experts carried out on-site investigation five times in Laos and discussed the planning issues in details with Laotian counterparts. Over one hundred Chinese experts and many Lao government officials and experts participated in the project. This program was successfully completed on January 12, 2009.

4. Problems encountered: No significant problems.

5. Factors for success: Joint efforts by the experts from both sides.

6. Results achieved: A total of seven development documents are produced, namely 1) Industrial Development and Cooperation Plan of Northern Area in Laos; 2) Development Plan for Agriculture and Forestry in Northern Area of Laos; 3) Development Plan for Industry and Handcraft Industry in Northern Area of Laos; 4) Special Plan for Infrastructure Construction in Northern Area of Laos; 5) Development Plan for Trade, Investment and Foreign Economic Cooperation in Northern Area of Laos; 6) List of Key Project for the Industrial Development and Cooperation in Northern Area of Laos. 7) A Map of the plan of Industrial Development and Cooperation

7. Lessons learned: None.

8. Conclusion: The Program of Overall Plan for Comprehensive Development of Northern Area in Laos focuses on the development of the pillar industry in northern area while taking account of special industries and local brands. It meanwhile pays due attention to the protection of ecological environment, human resources development and poverty elimination. The plan serves as an important reference for the macro-policy decision-making of Laotian central government and northern provincial governments. The selected key development projects provide an important basis for seeking international aid and attracting domestic and foreign investment. Once projects outlined in this program are completed, the infrastructure in the northern area of Laos will be greatly improved, which will promote its economic and trade development.