

# **9<sup>th</sup> ADBI-OECD-ILO Roundtable on Labour Migration in Asia.**

**Theme: Innovative Approaches for Effective Management of Labour Migration in Asia**

*Asian Development Bank Institute, Tokyo, Japan, 24-25 Jan 2019*

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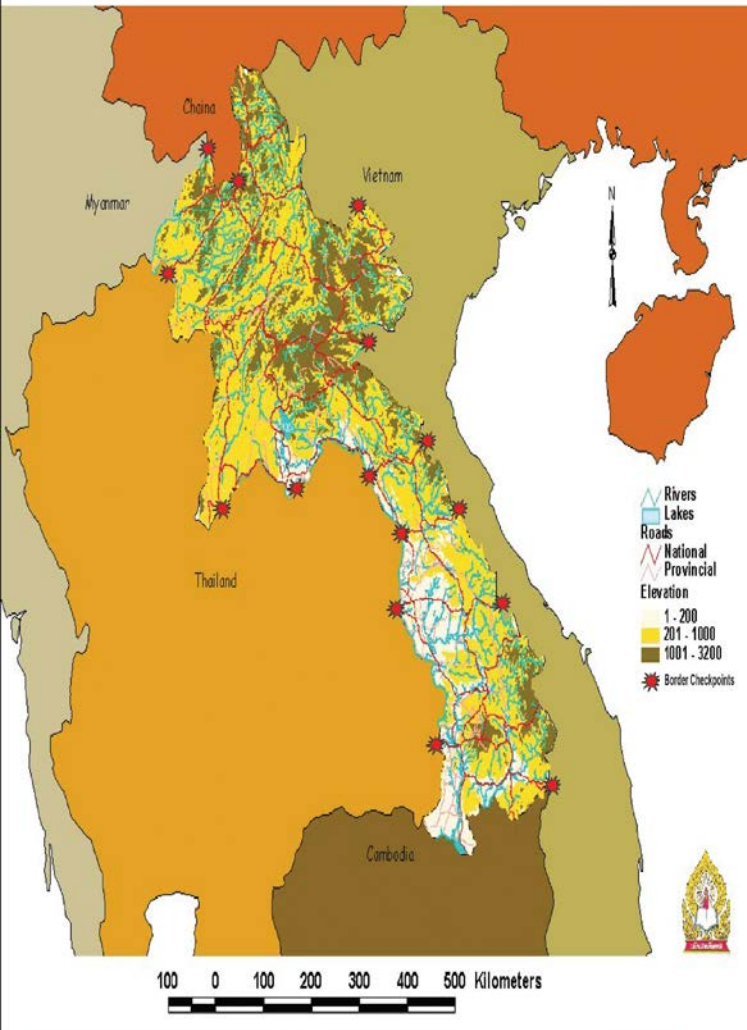
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# I. Introduction

## Lao People's Democratic Republic



## I. Country profile

### 1.1 Location

Laos is a small land-locked country located in the South-East Asia region, It shares international borders with 5 countries such as China, Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand.

### 1.2 Population&labour force situation

Population:	6.9 million
Population age 15+	4.8 million
Out of labour force	2.817.801 people
Labour force:	1.940.230 people
Employed:	1.757.733 people
Unemployment rate :	9.4%



THERE ARE SOME FISCAL YEAR SHOWS NUMBERS OF DISPATCHING LAO DOCUMENTED MIGRANT WORKERS TO THAILAND, KOREA AND JAPAN.

	2012-2013		2013-2014		2014-2015		2015-2016		2017		2018	
	Total	Female	Total	Female	Total	Female	Total	Female	Total	Female	Total	Female
<b>Agriculture</b>	1,919	754	529	210	5,763	2,144	620	253	6,132	2,516	15,294	5,810
<b>Industry</b>	9,748	4,176	4,271	1,908	17,067	8,037	2277	1040	11,736	4,974	21,031	9,030
<b>Service</b>	8,828	4,188	3,504	1,949	27,882	16,996	5144	2643	31,611	18,936	84,220	47,605
<b>Total:</b>	<b>20,495</b>	<b>9,118</b>	<b>8,304</b>	<b>4,067</b>	<b>50,712</b>	<b>27,176</b>	<b>8,041</b>	<b>3,936</b>	<b>49,479</b>	<b>26,426</b>	<b>120,545</b>	<b>62,445</b>

# THERE ARE SOME FISCAL YEAR SHOWS NUMBERS OF FOREIGN WORKERS IN LAO PDR

	2014-2015		2015-2016		2017		2018	
	Total	Female	Total	Female	Total	Female	Total	Female
<b>Agriculture</b>	17,263	2,711	15,543	2,290	10,802	987	13,793	1,421
<b>Industry</b>	2,353	650	3,343	1,096	3,177	898	4,092	1,385
<b>Service</b>	2,667	501	2,967	569	3,306	592	3,004	602
<b>Total:</b>	<b>22,283</b>	<b>3,862</b>	<b>21,853</b>	<b>3,955</b>	<b>17,285</b>	<b>2,477</b>	<b>20,889</b>	<b>3,408</b>

# UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANT WORKERS WERE REGULARIZED THEIR STATUS

[illegible]



## II. National Policies and Mechanism

❑ In order to balance labour demand and supply, protect and promote of Labor right, safety and security for worker: the action is based on some main documents:

- Revised labour law (the revised version endorsed by national Assembly 2014). *Big change in the revised labour law is the inclusion of employment policy and migration issues and migration fund, social security protection, OSH, and labour inspection*
- Strategy on Labor Development 2016-2025 and five years plan 2016-2020
- Law on Social security (recently endorsed by Govt in August 2013)
- Ministry's Regulation on Recruitment Agency Establishment and Controlling number 043/MLSW (revising and expecting to be endorsed by End of 2019)
- Drafting Decree on Labour dispute settlement system
- Drafting Migration Fund Decree
- Decree 68/2002 on Export of Lao Workers Working Abroad (revising and expecting to present at the Government Meeting by Sept 2019)
- Ministry's Regulation on working permission and Employment duration for foreign workers in Laos (revising and expecting to be endorsed by End of 2019)

- MOU on cooperation among Lao Government and Thai Government (Revised) 2016, that specified on the recruitment, labour protection, social Security and skill development
- Agreement on Employment with Thailand (Signed in the year 2017)
- Lao People's Democratic Republic–Republic of Korea: MOU on sending Lao workers to work in Korea signed in 9th September 2016
- Lao People's Democratic Republic–Japan: A new MOC on internship program signed in 2017
- Developed a computer system to store information and data about outbound migrant workers (Expecting to be used by March 2019)



- Conduct education and orientation program and safe migration campaigns at all levels





# TOT training on Save migration for staff at provincial, District and Village level



- Established 4 Migration Resource Center (MRC)  
*MRC Champasack province and MRC Xaiyaboury Province are under the Management of Provincial Labour and Social Welfare Department, and another MRC Savannasack province and MRC Luangprabang are under the management of Provincial Trade Union.*
- Established an Employment Service Center in Vientiane capital to facilitate Employment Promotion and Sending Lao Workers to Oversea
- Established 14 Jobcenters in 14 provinces to facilitate and provide counselling and necessary information to employer, jobseeker including migrant workers



- **Established 26 recruitment agencies.** These agencies duly licensed under the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare(These recruitment agencies provide pre departure training to worker who has already make a decision about working abroad and will be departing in a few days)
- Develop Pre-departure manual and Recruitment agencies were trained.
- Follow up labour migrant workers by recruitment agencies at destination country
- Evaluating performance of recruitment agencies (regarding laws and regulations of dispatching lao labour to oversean
- Labour attaché is a key person in assisting labour migration facing with all issues

# III. CHALLENGES

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- Relevant policies is not yet intensive and comprehensive and not well known by agencies concern so it leads to ineffective implementation of employment services
- Dealing with irregular migration (Jobseekers are more interested in working oversea because of better employment policy of neighboring countries)
- Dealing with seasoning labour and labour traveling to and back a day
- Inaccuracy in presenting LMI because we don't have appropriate LMI system
- Pre-departure training to labour migrants is not yet applied
- Limitation of measures to prevent the overstay of labour migrants
- Most labour migrants to oversea has limit skills(low skills)

## IV. Way forward to enhance migration management

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- Laws and regulation enforcement
- Invest more in reintegration programs
- Disseminate new labour law to authority concern and society
- Improve and expand vocational training centers nationwide
- Enhance capacity for Employment Service Center, Job centers and MRCs.
- Enhance quantitative and qualitative skills development
- Develop quality and standardization of LMI system
- Enhance coordination and collaboration among Bilateral partners, tripartite and recruitment agencies in order to protect and promote the rights of migrant workers



**Thank you very  
much for your  
attention**

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