

# Luang Prabang hydropower development to surge

## Times Reporters

Investment in the development of hydropower plants in Luang Prabang province is increasing due to many local and foreign companies continuing to show interest in the power sector there.

The provincial Energy and Mines Department representative, Mr Saysamone Thidakone, said yesterday there are some hydropower

plants under construction, while some projects are undergoing feasibility studies after the investors signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with the government recently.

"There are still some companies hoping to invest in power development projects because they have seen that the province still has a large potential in the sector," Mr Saysamone said.

Currently there are four hydropower projects under construction in the province: Nam Ou 2 is now about 40 percent completed, Nam Khan 2 and 3 are now over 50 percent complete and while the Xayaboury dam is also under construction.

The province also has many projects that are undergoing feasibility studies as part of their MOU. The studies include the hydropower dams: Nam Bak

15 megawatts (MW), Nam Nga 30MW, Nam Xeuang 1 and 2 that are 60MW and 120MW, Nam Ming with 15MW, along with Nam Khan 4 and Nam Xeng.

The province also has hydropower studies along the Nam Ou river for the projects Nam Ou 1 and 3.

"Along this river, it will be possible to build seven hydropower plants in the future, including four plants in

Phongsaly province and three in Luang Prabang province," Mr Saysamone said.

He said there still are some companies interested in hydropower dam development at other sites, mainly local companies, because the province still has great potential along the Nam Khan, Nam Pa, Nam Chia, Nam Theu and other dams in Phonxay and Phoukhoun districts.

## Japan growth short of forecasts in Oct-Dec quarter

TOKYO (AP) -- Japan's economy grew slower-than-forecast in the last quarter of 2013, clouding the outlook for recovery ahead of a sales tax hike in April.

Government figures released Monday showed the world's third-largest economy expanded 1 percent on an annualised basis in the October-December quarter.

From the prior July-September quarter, gross domestic product grew 0.3 percent. That matched growth in struggling Europe but was less than half of some forecasts despite a boom in housing construction and stronger public and private spending.

Slower growth in China and other major markets has taken a toll on exports, sapping growth at a critical time for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's recovery strategy.

"The export environment is not improving as much as expected," the economy minister, Akira Amari, told reporters.



People walk through Ginza shipping district in Tokyo.

Still he said the recovery remained steady, supported by consumer demand. Japan's consumer price index rose 0.4 percent in 2013, the first increase in five years.

The economy grew an estimated 1.6 percent in 2013, according to preliminary data

from the Cabinet Office, just slightly faster than the 1.4 percent expansion in 2012.

Since the economy emerged from recession in late 2012 it has expanded four quarters in a row, supported by a combination of strong government spending and aggressive monetary easing.

effect April 1.

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"To be sure, we expect further policy easing later this year, but not on a Q4 GDP trigger," Mizuho Bank said in a commentary Monday.

The government has already promised 5.5 trillion yen (\$54.2 billion) in fresh stimulus.

Private residential spending rose nearly 18 percent from a year earlier in October-December and 9 percent for the year. Economists expect the tax hike to cause the economy to contract in April-June after expanding in this quarter, as consumers move up purchases to beat the tax hike and then tighten their belts afterward to compensate for higher costs.

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## IN BRIEF

### Cambodia seeks to send workers to Arab Emirates

PHNOM PENH (The Cambodia Herald)—The Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training is working for the signing of MOU for Cambodian labourers to work in Arab Emirates, Minister Ith Samheng said. During his talks with Mr Kamal J Agostine, General Director and CEO of Architect Desa Paris based in Cambodia, Ith Samheng, Minister of Labour of Cambodia said that the push for the MOU to be signed was a good step for cooperation on development between the two countries in the future.

### Toyota recalls SUVs in Mideast, fires reported

TOKYO (AP) -- Toyota Motor Corp. is recalling 13,000 FJ Cruiser sport-utility vehicles, mostly in the Middle East, for fuel tubes that may overheat, melt and set off a gas leak. The automaker says five fires were reported related to the defect. There have been no reports of injuries or deaths. The recall announced Monday covers FJ Cruisers manufactured between October 2012 and January 2014. Some 10,180 are in the Middle East and 2,500 in Australia; the rest were in Africa and Panama.



### SELECTION FOR CONSULTANTS BY THE WORLD BANK REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR LOCALLY RECRUITED STAFF

Assignment Title: 1134999-Short Term Consultant Operations Analyst  
Assignment Countries: Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Position/Duration: Short-term consultant for 150 days (Renewable)  
Implementation period: Mid April, 2014 – June 30, 2015  
Closing date for applications: March 07, 2014

#### ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW

The Lao PDR health team is seeking an operations analyst to provide operational assistance to the health program in Lao PDR, in particular to support (i) supervision activities for HSIP; (ii) the new project preparation; and (iii) data-collection activities related to the program of analytic activities in Lao PDR.

#### SCOPE OF WORK

- The Operation Analyst will work on the following tasks:
  - General operational support for the health sector engagement in Lao PDR (including interfacing with both internal and external clients), and other outputs as agreed with the task manager.
  - Health Services Improvement Project (HSIP):** provide broad operational support for all aspects of project supervision and follow up to enhance the results, timeliness, and efficiency of project implementation, with a focus on project management, implementation arrangements, financial management, procurement, and the agreed actions. Participation in missions and field visits, contributions to written deliverables (such as Aide Memoires and Implementation Status Reports), and support for engagement with government counterparts and relevant development partners are expected. Review and comment on project documents, and provide guidance to the client in preparation of these documents.
  - Project Preparation:** Provide operational support to the team involved in preparation of a new project grounded on maternal health, child health, and nutrition, including costing, implementation arrangements, financial management, and procurement. Participation in missions, field visits, and meetings, and contribution to written deliverables (such as project documentation, concept notes, and Aide Memoires) will be required. Support the client through explaining and clarifying World Bank procedures and requirements.
  - Analytic and Advisory Activities (AAA):** Provide on-the-ground support for data collection activities and other related activities for the analytic program in Lao PDR.
  - Cross-support:** Cross-support to other sectors may be required, as mutually agreed between relevant task teams and the consultant.

#### SELECTION CRITERIA

- Minimum Master's degree (or equivalent combination of education and experience) in a relevant discipline (e.g. public health, economics, finance, business administration, social sciences, development studies, or other development-related field);
- At least 2 years of directly relevant work experience;
- Experience and familiarity with the operational processes and procedures of an international organization such as the World Bank;
- Advanced computer skills, including full proficiency in the use of Microsoft Office;
- Excellent communications skills (oral and written) are mandatory in both English and Lao;
- Strong interpersonal and teamwork skills and ability to work effectively with internal and external clients, in a multi-cultural environment;
- Capacity to work seamlessly and flexibly on a variety of issues and tasks, adjusting to priorities and achieving results/agreed objectives within deadlines both independently and in consultation with task team leaders as appropriate;
- Experience with analytical tasks, including basic analysis of financial and other data; and
- Synthesizing information into written reports, summaries, and presentations.

#### ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility restrictions apply:  
INDIVIDUAL / FIRM PROFILE  
The consultant should be an individual.

#### SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The World Bank now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc. for firms; CV and cover letter for individuals). Please note that the total size of all attachments should be less than 5MB.

Interested consultants are hereby invited to submit expressions of interest. Expressions of Interest should be submitted, in English, electronically through World Bank Group eConsultant2 (<https://wbgeconsult2.worldbank.org/wbgec/index.html>) => then go to Business Opportunities (Selection No. 1134999) no later than March 12, 2014

#### NOTES

Interested candidate can contact the World Bank Patuxay office (Main Office); World Bank Naxay Office, Vientiane, Lao PDR. Tel: (+856-21) 266 200; Fax: (+856-21) 266 298 for any inquiries.

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

No. 4C1.1/2013  
Health Sector Development Program  
ADB-GRANT No. 0173-LAO (SF)  
ADB-HSDP PACKAGE4C1.1/2013  
17 February 2014

- Lao People Democratic Republic has received a Grant from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of the Health Sector Development Program and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Grant to payment under the contract for supply of goods for which this announcement ADB-HSDP PACKAGE4C1.1/2013 is made.
- The Ministry of Health, Government of Lao PDR, now invites sealed Bids from eligible bidders for the supply of the following equipment: MEDICINE EQUIPMENT.
- National Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: One Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Ministry of Health, Government of Lao PDR, and inspect the Bidding Document at the address stated below from 08:00 - 12:00 a.m. and 13:30 - 16:30 p.m. For information, please contact Mr. Bounhou Kosila, chief of the Project Procurement Unit.
- The Bidding Document, in the English language, may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of US\$100 or 800,000 Lao Kips. Interested bidders who would like to receive bid documents by mail must send an additional non refundable fee of US\$20 or 160,000 Lao kips for local or US\$60 or 480,000 Lao Kips for overseas delivery. The method of payment will be remittance by Telegraphic Transfer

Account Name: H-SDP ADB Grant No.0173  
Account Number: 010.4.11.01.18874  
Bank name: Banque Pour Le Commerce Extérieur Lao Public (BCEL)  
Bank Address: No01, Pangkham Street, Ban Xiengheun, Chanthabouly District, Vientiane Lao PDR

- The document will be sent by courier or registered mail. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery. No documents will be sent unless the required funds have been provided in advance or evidence of the transfer has been communicated by facsimile at the address below.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 14.00 p.m. on or before 21 March 2014. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of not less than 5000 USD. The exchange rate to be used in conversion of the bid security amount in other freely convertible currency shall be the selling exchange rate published by the Bank of Lao PDR on the date 28 days prior to the deadline for bid submission. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline on the same day at the address below in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
- The Ministry of Health, Government of Lao PDR, will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.

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