



***A Report on
National Consultation on
South-South Economic Cooperation:
Exploring Mekong-Ganga Relationship***
25 August 2005, Vientiane Capital, Laos

I. Background

According to the List of Activities stipulated on the Partnership Agreement, National University of Laos shall organise the National Consultation in Laos and shall provide logistical support (for example tasks related to arrangement, venue, issuing invitations to foreigners for visa purposes, writing the report etc, other than providing project intellectual support and inputs). One representative from CUTS will participate at this National Consultation and CUTS shall cover the costs of participation of its representative. Therefore, this the NUOL has organize the National Consultation on August 25, 2005 at the Faculty of Economics and Business Management, National University of Laos.

II. Detail Content of the Consultation

The session was inaugurated by the Dr. Saykhong Saynasinh, Vice President of the National University of Laos. The president stress that the cooperation between CUTS-CITEE is the first step of academic cooperation between Laos and India, and will serve as an initiative of South-South Cooperation which leads to the mutual benefits and economic development in the region.

The Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business Management, NOUL explained the background and history of the project to the participants. Detail of the project activities was described and the dean stressed that the project has been successful as planned, despite the difficulties on data collection and limited data available.

The first session was closed by Dr. Sailendra Narain, Regional Representative of Swiss Agency for Developmnt & Cooperation. Dr. Narain explained the main objective of South-South Coperation and particularly this project, does not focus only on the relationship between Laos and India, but in the Mekong-Ganga Region. The project includes Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, India, and Thailand. These countries are weak compared with the North Countries. Yet, if all the countries cooperate, it will serves as a strong tools like the five fingers gather as a strong fist that can be powerful enough to be used as a weapon for a fight. The project will serve as a springboard for future cooperation. The ultimate goal was to strengthen the capacity to negotiate in the international trade areas in the World Trade Organization Program. For this reason, the project aims at university research. The later outcome will then be disseminated to larger audience. Dr. Narain also expressed that there is a language barriers, therefore, language development is required.

In session two, Dr. Prasad P. Ranade, Director of Research, CUTS-CITEE, explained the detail of the project. Dr. Ranade expressed that the Economic Spheres join hands. The northern hemisphere are developed while countries in the south are less

developed referring to the standards. Thus there was not sufficient development, high disparity and insufficient resources. Recently, south market is attractive. Dr. Renade stress that the project aims to investigate if India can influence as trading partners, I there is a possibility that these countries can learn from India, or vice versa. Our research findings state that there is a lack of knowledge about the products and market for trade, therefore, this projects aims to create opinions, awareness, and for the benefit of generations to come.

After Dr. Renade's presentation, there was a lively discussion among the participants. The participants admired the project and are happy to cooperate and contribute to the project. Representative from garment industry explained the past and current scenario of trade in garment sector between Laos and India and other countries in the world. He expressed that Laos received GSP from EU and MFN from US that allows Lao garment industry to utilize sizable raw material from India. Thus there is a room in this sector.

Before closing the morning session, Mr. Phosy Chanhming reported the research results to the audience followed by a lively discussion. The participants added the missing parts, power generation sector. It was stated that Power Industry has worked with India for quite sometimes, both in consultancy work and purchase of material such as power poles and utilities. There are also potentials for small and medium scale hydropower projects in Laos. Power distribution network projects also have great potentials. Therefore, many opportunities are available in this field.

After the lunch break, the third session was initiated by the presentation of Dr. Prabir De, Research Information System for Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries. Dr. De stressed the road and transportation network that will link all the countries in the region and recommend the possibility of using Mekong River as a route for shipping products domestically and with the neighboring countries, with European Examples of using waterway for shipping trading products.

The discussion ended by closing speech by Dean Khamlusa Nuansavanh at 15:00. The dean highly valued the session and expressed his willingness to push future cooperation forward. The Dean agreed with Dr. Narain that the first phase of South-South cooperation project.

- III. Participants
See Participant List attached.



National Consultation
South-South Economic Cooperation
Exploring Mekong-Ganga Relationship

25 August 2005, Vientiane Capital, Laos

List of Participants

Ö.E No.	Æ² –ãÖß ààÓ–ÀBAil Names and Family Names	Oà–ÀàA–NàA– ÅŠ×ì Organization	OàÇ–âÆèì Signature	UàÇ–âØÈ Remarks
1	Mr. Bouavieng	FEBM		
2	Ms. Thongsavanh	FEBM		
3	Mr. Savandoncith	FEBM		
4	Ms. Nipaphone	FEBM		
5	Mr. Phiengsanith	FEBM		
6	Mr. Somnack	FEBM		
7	Mr. Lavanh	FEBM		
8	Mr. Bounthone	FEBM		
9	Mr. Somcith	FEBM		
10	Mr. Nantha	FEBM		
11	Mr. Thongphet	FEBM		
12	Mr. Malaithong	FEBM		
13	Ms. Vadsana	FEBM		
14	Mr. Manysot	FEBM		
15	Mr. Phanseng	FEBM		
16	Mr. Khamlusa	FEBM		
17	Mr. Khamko	FEBM		
18	Mrs. Phonphet	FEBM		
19	Dr. Soakitoe	Thai Expert		
20	Mr. Phosy chanhming	FEBM		
21	Mrs. Bountieng	FEBM		
22	Mr. Ananthala	FEBM		
23	Mr. Phouthone	FEBM		
24	Mr. Thongdy kedsadasak	Electric Du Laos		

25	Mr. Sivilai	RPO		
26	Mr. Sowpalack	DICI		
27	Mr. Onesy	LNCCI		
28	Ms. Bouythang	Beer		
29	Dr. Bounlouane	LJC		
30	Mr. Phutsakhone Senamaniphone	MOC		
31	Dr. Sailendra Narein	SDC		
32	Dr. Prabir De	RIS, New Delhi		
33	Mr. Phetkham	Lao Cotton Co.		
	Dr. Prasade Ranade	CUTS, JAIPUR, India		
34	Mr. Somboun Siharath	Pan Motor		
35	Nguyon Xuon Hie	Embassy of Vietnam		
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