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

Date of submission: 2011/02/01
Region: Asia
Country: China
Type: project or programme
Author: Ministry of Commerce
Contact Details: No.2 Dong Chang An Street, Beijing, China
Tele: 0086-10-6519 7329; Email: lijing_wto@mofcom.gov.cn
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.

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.