

Report on Joint Crediting Mechanism Study Workshop in Laos



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1. Introduction

This Joint Crediting Mechanism study workshop is the second workshop held in Laos. The first workshop held by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) in early 2015. Since the first workshop, the IDEA consulting Co. Ltd of Japan together with professors from the University of Tokyo, Japan coordinated to National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI) on the concept of this study workshop and discussed on potential in creation of JCM network in Laos. However, since NAFRI has its mandate in conducting research in relation to agriculture and forestry issues (include policy arena, etc.), the Deputy Director of NAFRI discussed with Faculty of Forestry Sciences (FFS) of the National University of Laos (NUoL) whether the FFS is interested in being National Focal Person (NFP) for initial JCM research network creation and being the host for the second study workshop for JCM in Laos. With decision of the Head of Research Division of FFS, the head of the division plays a role as the NFP for cooperation with IDEA Consulting Co.Ltd and the University of Tokyo of Japan for hosting the JCM study workshop on Friday, 11 March 2016 at the FFS, NUoL (see workshop agenda in Annex 1 and pictures of the workshop in Annex 2).

1.1. Goal and purposes

The main goal of this study workshop is to raise awareness of JCM in general and JCM project in Laos to both research institutions, educational institutions and concerned governmental agencies. The specific purposes of the workshop are to:

- Introduction JCM project to audiences
- Share experiences in JCM projects
- Share experiences among researchers from different institutions on research related to reducing emission and climate change issues
- Build network on JCM projects in Laos

1.2. Overview of JCM projects in Laos

The government of Laos (GoL) signed memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Japan in August 2013 for development of JCM projects. Up to date, Laos is one of the total 16 countries that signed MoU with the government of Japan for development of such projects (see those 16 countries in Figure 1). Since the GoL signed the MoU with the government of Japan, the institutional arrangement for JCM and other related project has been begun. The advantages to the National Environmental Committee, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) be the chair of the Technical working group on Climate Change and this technical workshop group is membered by different concerned ministries; which include Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Ministry of Energy and Mines (MoEM), Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MoPT), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST), Ministry of Industrial and Commerce (MoIC), Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Ministry of Education and Sport (MoES), and the Lao Women Union. At the same time, the Mister of MoNRE assigned the Department of Disaster Management and Climate Change of the MoNRE as the national secretary of the JCM projects in Laos.



Figure 1: Countries signed MoU for JCM project development with the government of Japan (data up to 2015)

This Figure is taken from a presentation made by Mr. Bouneua Khamphilavanh during JCM study workshop held on Friday, 11 March 2016 at the FFS, NUoL.

In progressing with institutional arrangement, the GoL held the first meeting of JCM Joint Committee (JC) in Laos in May 2014 to discuss several issues with regards to JCM projects management and feasibility study in Laos. Members of the JC consist of numbers of representatives from different ministries within Laos (see Figure 2). Two main issues had been discussed and agreed at the first JCM's JC meeting; these include adoption the rules of implementation of JCM and adoption the JCM rules of procedures for JC.

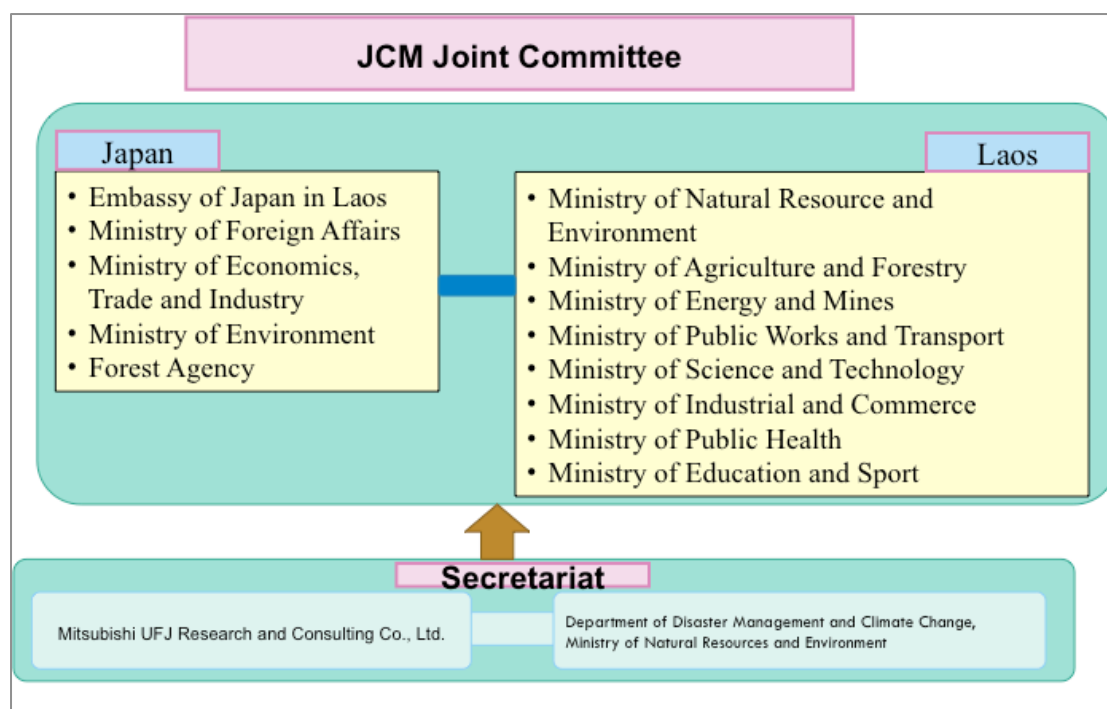


Figure 2: members of the JC for JCM in Laos

This Figure is taken from a presentation made by Mr. Bouneua Khamphilavanh during JCM study workshop held on Friday, 11 March 2016 at the FFS, NUoL.

Upon the GoL and the government of Japan signed the bilateral agreement, the feasibility studies have been conducted for finding the feasible industrial factories in Laos to join the JCM project. The feasibility study covers 6 factories and 5 hotels in the central and southern regions of the countries (see Table 1).

Table 1: List of factories and hotels in Laos covered by feasibility study for JCM.

No.	Name of companies	Location
1	Lao-China Hongta Good Luck Tobacco Factory	Savannakhet
2	Mitr Sugar Factory	Savannakhet
3	KPN Tapioca starch Factory	Champasak
4	Iron and Steel Factory	Champasak
5	Coffee Dao Heuang Group Factory	Champasak
6	Lao Tobacco Factory	Vientiane
7	Champasak Grant Hotel	Champasak
8	Don Chan Palace Hotel	Vientiane
9	Settha Palace Hotel	Vientiane
10	Mercure Hotel	Vientiane
11	Lao Plaza Hotel	Vientiane

Note: data in this table was extracted from a presentation made by Mr. Bouneua Khamphilavanh during JCM study workshop held on Friday, 11 March 2016 at the FFS, NUoL.

Apart from feasibility study, the JCM secretariat also organized several meetings and seminars invited several concerned stakeholders from governmental institutions and private companies to learn how JCM works and what are benefits for the companies in join the JCM projects. In some cases, the representatives of the factories that have joint the JCM provide concrete example of JCM projects; for instance, the case in energy efficient refrigeration technology in Indonesia had been presented in the JCM workshop in Vientiane in 2014; this was to indicate the tangible benefits that factory gain from JCM.

In order to ensure that all related stakeholders in Laos aware of JCM project preparation, the JCM Secretariat Office (Department of Disaster Management and Climate Change of MoNRE) prepared the guideline for JCM project development in Lao language. This guideline had been widely distributed to audiences, especially for those factories and hotels that are interested in development JCM projects.

1.3. Summary of last activities

Before this study workshop, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry had been responsible for this project. According to Mr. Chansamone, the activities before this workshop include organization the first workshop in January 2015 and participation the regional workshop held in Danang, Vietnam in January 2016. Since NFP had not been appointed in 2015, the JCM network building had not been effectively progressed in 2015.

2. Overview of domestic network building activities

2.1. One-stop service

In order to follow with the presentation of one-stop service for JCM project, the Head of Research Division of FFS, NUoL (Associate Prof. Dr. Sithong Thongmanivong) plays the role as NFP for JCM in Laos. This NFP will be centralized coordinating among the related stakeholders within Laos for various JCM project activities in Laos. At the same, he will also bridge related JCM project information between concerned stakeholders in Laos and Japan (the University of Tokyo). This NFP will take the role in coordination and communication with other related stakeholders (include educational institutions, research institutions, governmental agencies, private companies, etc.) for future JCM project development activities in Laos. These activities include, but not limited to, raising awareness, network building, feasibility study for JCM projects, etc..

3. Summary of the study workshop

The second JCM study workshop was held at the FFS, NUoL on Friday, 11 March 2016 and hosted by the FFS, NUoL. This study workshop was organized for one day, which include 7 presentations; 5 from Laos (all presentation were PowerPoint presentation) and 2 from professors from the University of Tokyo (one PowerPoint presentation and other was video presentation with skype for questions and answers). The presentation by professors from the University of Tokyo focused on three themes include (1) Energy, Environment and Ecosystem nexus, (2) JCM projects for sustainable

low carbon development in Asia Pacific region, and (3) JCM project proposal development. At the same time, the presentation from Laos side also cover three different themes; these include (1) research concerned to GHG emission reduction undertaken by educational and research institutions, (2) JCM projects and statuses in Laos, and (3) energy development strategy for reducing emission in Laos. Each presentation is summarized in the following bullet points:

- Energy, environment and ecosystem nexus initiative for sustainable development in Asia, presented by Dr. Geetha Mohan (the University of Tokyo). This presentation covers several issues of JCM projects in the dimensions of energy, environment and ecosystem. Vision and goal of the 3E nexus also included and explained during this presentation. The most important issues raised during this presentation include the presentation and explanation on one-stop service for JCM, procedures of creation of JC for JCM project between Japan and the host countries (such as Laos). Furthermore, criteria for JCM methodologies, contents of JCM Project Design Document (PDD) and Measuring/monitoring, report, and verification of JCM also clarified during the presentation. At the end of the presentation, detail contract information also posted, where audience can directly contact to the Integrated Research System for Sustainability Sciences (IR3S) for requesting more detail information with regards to this presentation and other information related to 3E nexus and JCM.
- JCM project development proposal, presented by Prof. Dr. Ken Fukushi from the University of Tokyo, this was a video presentation and skype connection for questions and answers. This presentation explained 4 issues with regards to JCM project proposal development. These include how to initial JCM project from the host country, JCM proposal development and submission procedures, key-important points for proposal development, and timeline for proposal development.
- Research on low carbon emission and development of NUoL and FFS, presented by Associate Prof. Dr. Khamla Phanvilay (FFS). This presentation covers (1) research agenda and mission of the FFS and NUoL and (2) Research related to carbon emission by faculties of NUoL. Apart from teaching, lecturers at NUoL has to convey 20% of time for doing research. The research carried out by staff of NUoL and FFS concern national cultural, economic, social and environmental development. In conducting the research, FFS and NUoL collaborate with different domestic and international institutions for financial and technical supports and joint research activities. Up to date, FFS has two main projects in relation to climate change issues; these include I-REDD+ project supported by the European Union and R4D project in cooperation with the University of Bern, Switzerland. With regards to institutional arrangement for research on climate change issues, FFS sets up the Research Center for Natural Resource Management and Climate Change, which FFS suppose to use this center to bridge further collaboration with different institution on research with regards to natural resource management and climate changes issues.
- Research strategy on agriculture and forestry in relation to reducing emission in Laos, presented by Dr. Chansamone Phongoudome (NAFRI). This presentation covers several issues with regards to research conducted and

planned by the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI). The main research vision of NAFRI to 2030 is main to conduct research on new modern technologies for increasing yields of agriculture, which is fit every well with poverty reduction and food security plan of the government. Based on previous research experiences, NAFRI still suffers with several challenges with regards to research, these include the limitation of financial support for research, human capacity, etc.. Future research by NAFRI in relation to climate change is to conduct research on new modern technologies for agricultural production for both reducing emission from agriculture and forestry sectors and supporting agriculture sector for adaptation to climate change.

- Current statuses and potential for JCM project in Laos, presented by Mr. Bouneua Khamphilavanh (JCM Secretariat Office, Department of Disaster Management and Climate Change, MoNRE). The explanation in this presentation includes statuses and the feasibility studies for JCM project in Laos, institutional arrangement and other issues related to JCM and climate change in Laos. In Laos, the government set a technical working group under the National Environmental Committee, which membered by 7 concerned ministries and the Lao Women Union (See section 1.2 on page 3). According to current statuses, no JCM projects in Laos have been implemented yet, all projects are in the feasibility studies. There are some potential factories and hotels potentially eligible for JCM (see Table 1), but they still need to develop JCM proposal, which is difficult parts for JCM in Laos. Therefore, the JCM Secretariat Office play its role in coordinating with Japan side for support in capacity building and development of training materials for Laos side. Parts of this effort, guideline for development of JCM project had been printed in Lao version and distributed to widely audiences.
- Energy development strategy for reduction emission in Laos, presented by Mr. Khamman Sopraseurth (a representative of Institute of Renewable Energy Promotion (IREP) of the Ministry of Energy and Mines). The presenter provided an overview of the sources of emission in Laos and the Lao National Climate Change Strategy. The strategy target to 7 sectors for adaptation and mitigation, which include (1) agriculture and food security, (2) forestry and land-use change, (3) water resources, (4) energy and transportation, (5) industry, (6) city development, and (7) health. In fact, emission from energy sector in Laos is less compared to other developed countries; this is because Laos mainly uses clean energy such as electricity from hydropower and other sources include coal, but Laos does not use/generate nuclear energy. However, trend of using energy in Laos will be increasing, demand for energy in 2030 is predicted to be double higher than the current demand. From now on, the GoL plans to encourage individual population to save energy, which target for reducing energy use for 3% in 2020, 5% in 2025, and 10 in 2030 compared to the average energy used in 2015. In order to achieve this plan, the GoL is developing related energy legislations and policies.
- Status of REDD+ and expectation for JCM REDD+ in Laos, presented by Dr. Inthavy Akkharath (Department of Forest Resource Management, MoNRE). The GoL interested in joining UNFCCC in 1995 and joint the Kyoto Protocol in 2003. In 2007, Laos initial writing proposal for REDD+ and submission to Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank. In 2008, Laos

is one of 37 countries had been selected by the World Bank. Since 2008, Laos has strongly progressed with REDD+ preparation and national REDD+ taskforce had been created and revised many times. However, REDD+ in Laos was temporarily on hold during the institutional restructuring from 2011 to 2014. Fortunately, Laos could be able to create the provincial REDD+ taskforce for two target provinces (Huaphan and Luang Prabang), the provincial REDD+ task force will be continuously creation in 4 other provinces in the northern region of the country (xayabouly, Bokeo, Luang Namtha and Oudomxay provinces). With regards to JCM feasibility study, there is a development study by Japanese investors in Houaykhing village cluster in Phonxai district, Luang Prabang Province. The potential site for reducing emission in this area is about 30,000 ha and possible annual crediting of 120,000 tCO₂.

3.1. Main discussion during the study workshop

The main discussion questions during the study workshop are summarized in Table 2 below:

Table 2: main discussion issues during the study workshop

Presentation	Questions	Responses
Energy, environment and ecosystem nexus initiative for sustainable development in Asia, presented by Dr. Geetha Mohan (the University of Tokyo).	What should we do or what tools should we use for introducing JCM projects to governmental institutions and policy makers to ensure that the government consider JCM as one of the priority mechanisms for climate change reduction or mitigation?	I'm not quite sure how should we do in Laos; but the case of Bangladesh, they have research project and specialized experts for reducing GHG emission. The research outcomes and the works have done by experts have been feeding to policy decision-making.
	What kind of technologies Japan would like to introduce to Laos for reducing emission?	It depends on the request from Laos side and also depend on the factory and the results of the feasibility study. The new technologies applied for factories in Laos should be able to reduce emission.
	Who should we connect to if the educational institution such as National University of Laos would like to access to research fund for JCM	JCM is one-stop-services, all related JCM activities in Laos should be coordinated by Laos National Focal Person (NFP), then the NFP will coordinate to 3E nexus secretariat for

	project in Laos?	clarification all JCM related questions.
	Recently, we have national REDD+ task force and technical working groups on REDD+, members of these should be considered for JCM network building	Agree, similar to this has been also processed in Vietnam.
JCM project development proposal, presented by Prof. Dr. Ken Fukushi from the University of Tokyo	How can educational and research institutions access to funding for JCM projects, such as feasibility study, etc.?	JCM is not for academic research funding sources, but for feasibility study, the researchers should contact with potential companies/factories and discuss with them if any activities that the research can help such as feasibility study activities, etc.
	In Laos, especially in the northern part, many farmer households use firewood for heating and cooking, is there any possible to apply JCM project for reducing the use of firewood in such remote area in northern Laos?	JCM is main for reducing emission in industrial and energy sectors, but using firewood should be part of REDD+ because the emission from firewood is parts of emission from forestry sector.
Research on low carbon emission and development of NUoL and FFS, presented by Associate Prof. Dr. Khamla Phanvilay (FFS)	Who (what organizations) are the main partners of FFS for research related to Climate Change?	We collaborate with many international and domestic institutions for research. For instance, there are numbers institutions involve in I-REDD+ project, which include 14 universities and the project was administrated by the University of Copenhagen, Demark. There are many research and technical services that we collaborate with Department of Forestry of MAF and other departments of MoNRE.

	Does FFS have any plan to integrate climate change issues into post-graduate courses at FFS?	Yes, we will have the climate curriculum soon. We also plan to establish internal course for Master, which we will teach in English and climate change issues will also be added into this course as well.
Research strategy on agriculture and forestry in relation to reducing emission in Laos, presented by Dr. Chansamone Phongoudome (NAFRI).	Are there any research on reducing emission from agriculture sector such as reducing emission from pig farm, etc.?	Yes, we have a research on how much pig farm produce emission. However, it is difficult to measure the emission without any measurement technologies and tools to support such research.
Current statuses and potential for JCM project in Laos, presented by Mr. Bouneua Khamphilavanh (JCM Secretariat Office, Department of Disaster Management and Climate Change, MoNRE).	How many JCM project have been implemented in Laos and implemented by which governmental organization?	Most JCM projects in Laos are in the process of feasibility study. As mentioned in my presentation, we need to raise awareness of JCM to related stakeholders and technical capacity build for JCM project proposal development is still needed for Laos.
Status of REDD+ and expectation for JCM REDD+ in Laos, presented by Dr. Inthavy Akkharath (Department of Forest Resource Management, MoNRE)	Do we have timeline for development of National REDD+ strategy in Laos?	Yes, there is timeline for development of REDD+ strategy in Laos. However, Laos is quite slow in term of developing the strategy, other countries such as Vietnam, the REDD+ strategy is developed and discussed at the national level.
	Is Provincial REDD+ task force planned for all provinces in the country, or would the government prefer to focus to 6 pilot provinces in the northern Laos before extension to other provinces?	We will focus in 6 pilot provinces and if we have succession and can sell credit in these 6 pilot provinces, we then will extent the activities to other provinces.

General discussion on JCM network building: both educational and research institutions are curious to be parts of the JCM research network. For instance, a representative of Savannakhet University raised important issues with regards to

future collaboration on research with regards to JCM and climate change issues. He raised *“Savannakhet University is still new and we have limitation of human resources and capacity on REDD+, JCM and other related mechanisms. We are happy to be parts of the JCM research network in Laos. This network will not only help us understanding the concepts, but also allowing our staff to learnt on research with regards to JCM, REDD+, etc.”*.

A representative from Suphanouvong University in Luang Prabang also raised similar issue. He requested the NFP to communicate with all related audiences here in this workshop for future JCM activities. Maybe the next JCM study workshop could be organized in other universities such Suphanouvong University, but it also depends on target audiences of the next study workshop. Suphanouvong University is also happy to be one of the members of JCM network in Laos.

A representative from MoNRE also recommended that FFS and MoNRE should closely cooperate and help each other for preparation and implementation of JCM and REDD+ related activities in Laos. Next JCM study workshop should include wider audiences than this study workshop, some private sector and industry factories should be invited to the next study workshop.

3.2. Important stakeholders

Audiences of this study workshop came from different institutions, which include educational institutions, research institutes and governmental agencies that working in relation to forestry, energy, REDD+, environment, etc. Since this study workshop aims to introduce the concept of JCM to audiences and discuss on JCM network building, the most important stakeholders for this study workshop include educational institutions (include the NUoL, Saphanouvong University, Savannakhet University, Park Pasak Technical College and Champasak Forestry College), research institute (include NAFRI and the Institute of Renewable Energy Promotion). Meanwhile, the governmental agencies that work on the issues related to REDD+ and JCM are also important for JCM networking building; these include MoNRE, MAF etc.

3.3. Role of the academic community in creating future JCM project

According to discussion during this study workshop, the main role of research for future JCM is to involve in feasibility study for JCM project in Laos and responsible for capacity building, organization of workshops, meetings, seminars on the related issues to JCM and REDD+ within Laos. Also, since the climate change issues are being taken to include into the teach materials at the educational institution (FFS), related JCM documents, guideline and other documents are important to be added to teaching materials for dissemination to widely audiences (students).

4. Creation of JCM project and co-benefit

Possible JCM projects in Laos include numbers of factories and hotels as listed in Table 1. According to Table 1, the priority for JCM projects in Laos is industry sector. However, other sectors such as transportation and others would also be interested in participation JCM, but current feasibility study may not cover those sectors yet.

Therefore, more detail feasibility study on how many private companies and sectors are interested in JCM project in Laos is needed.

As JCM in Laos is in the feasibility study stage, MRV methodologies have not been defined. Technical working group for Reference Emission Level (REL) and MRV had been established under the national REDD+ task force. This technical working group is supposed to work on REL/MRV in Laos with close coordination with the National REDD+ task force team. Up to date, this technical group is developing its term of reference for future work of the group.

The most challenges for JCM project in Laos are the awareness of the concerned stakeholders and private sectors on JCM. Also Laos still have limitation on technical knowledge on preparation JCM project proposals (include project design document) and procedures of JCM project proposal submission.

Annex 1: agenda of the study workshop

Time	Program	Presenter/speaker
08:30-09:00	Registration	
09:00 – 09:20	Opening remark	Dean
09:20 – 09:30	Background and objectives of the workshop (include self-introduction)	Dr. Thoumthone Vongvisouk
09:30 – 10:00	Energy, Environment and Ecosystems (3E) Nexus Initiative for Sustainable Development Introduction of JCM	Dr. Geetha Mohan The University of Tokyo, Japan
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee and tea break	
10:30 – 11:00	Policies on reducing emission of GHG and adaptation in Laos PDR.	Immala MoNRE
11:00 – 11:30	Research strategies on forestry and reducing emission of GHG in Lao PDR	Dr. Chansamone Phongoudome
11:30 – 12:00	Research at the National University of Laos in relation to reducing emission of GHG	Associate Prof. Dr. Khamla Phanvilay
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch break	
13:30 – 14:00	Development of JCM Project Proposals	Prof. Kensuke Fukushi The University of Tokyo, Japan
14:00 – 14:30	Research strategy on energy and reducing emission of GHG in Lao PDR	Institute of Renewable Energy Promotion
14:30 – 15:00	Coffee and tea break	
15:00 – 15:30	Plan/policy on reducing emission from forestry and land use sectors in Lao PDR	Dr. Inthavy Akkharath (MoNRE)
15:30 – 15:50	Discussion on building JCM networks in Lao PDR.	Associate Prof. Dr. Sithong Thongmanivong
15:00 – 16:00	Closing remark	Dean

Annex 2: Study workshop Pictures





Annex 3: Participants list

No.	Names	Organizations	Provinces	Tel	Email
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Annex 4: Translated JCM training material

(See the attached files: two PDF files)

Annex 5: Laos National Focal Point-Budget Costs

No.	Item	Quantity	Unit	Cost per item	Cost	Cost (Yen)
Study Workshop						
1	Rental of meeting venue	1	day	1,620,000	1,620,000	25,552
2	Rental of equipment	1	day	1,620,000	1,620,000	25,552
3	Coffee and tea	45	persons	81,000	3,645,000	57,492
4	Lunch catering	45	persons	97,200	4,374,000	68,991
5	Printing materials	1		200,000	200,000	3,155
6	Translator	1	day	5,670,000	5,670,000	89,432
7	Participants' transportation	6		1,620,000	9,720,000	153,312
8	payment for speakers	6	persons	810,000	4,860,000	76,656
Subtotal					31,709,000	500,142
Labor Costs (costs for labor have not been paid to Laos National Focal Person yet)						
1	Establishment of a researcher network within the country					
	Professor	6	person-days	1,620,000	9,720,000	153,312
	Assistant	4	person-days	810,000	3,240,000	51,104
2	Hosting a study workshop					
	Professor	6	person-days	1,620,000	9,720,000	153,312
	Assistant	3	person-days	810,000	2,430,000	38,328
3	General meeting with network participants					
	Professor	4	person-days	1,620,000	6,480,000	102,208
Subtotal					31,590,000	498,265
Total					63,299,000	998,407

Note: exchange rate: 1 Yen = 63.4 Laotian Kip