

## The Integrated Framework Internal Progress Review Meeting 2010-2011

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On the 10th of August 2011, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC) held the Integrated Framework Internal Progress Review Meeting for the fiscal year 2010-2011 at Daosavanh Hotel, Savannakhet province, Chaired by Mrs. Khemmani Pholsena, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce as well as the IF Focal Point for Lao PDR, together with 70 people from other line ministries.

This Integrated Framework Internal Progress Review Meeting highlighted the progress updates on the Integrated Framework (IF), Trade Development Facility (TDF), SECO and GIZ including progress on Lao PDR's WTO accession with 5 bilateral dialogues concluded with Canada, South Korea, Australia, China and Chinese Taipei. Regarding trade capacity building, the Economic Research Institute for Trade (ERIT) has conducted a series of training workshops related to trade issues for both the central and provincial level and is also in the process of developing and delivering a new Laos specific curriculum on international trade. There was also progress on supporting export competitiveness such as the establishment of the Garment Service Center together with the start of the Centre's training activities; also there are many activities under the E-Commerce project, sustainable silk and green production projects are also in the implementation process. Along with the above projects, the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) project has also begun work on SPS risk evaluation.

The purpose of this meeting was to review the implementation of projects in the last fiscal year from 2010-2011, to seek improvements for the project, as well as to discuss the project's annual work plan before final approval in the Steering Committee which will be held in this September. During the meeting, the representative from each Government Sub-Executing Unit (GSEU) presented an update on the project during the last fiscal year and discussed common issues with other GSEUs to find out resolution for the issues that in the upcoming year.

Speaking at the opening remarks, Mrs. Khemmani Pholsena expressed her thanks for all the hard work of GSEUs and emphasized that "up to now, we can reach 44% of total budget from TDF project in the second year of total 4 years project life. Meanwhile, there is room for improvement on implement procedures. Therefore, in order to achieve targets by the end of the project in about next 20 months, all project teams need to work harder"