

**Factsheet**  
**The 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation**  
**between Thailand and the Lao PDR**  
**3 - 4 November 2021, Bangkok**

**“Towards a Resilient and Sustainable Recovery Together”**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation between Thailand and the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, and H.E. Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR, was held in Bangkok during 3 - 4 November 2021 under the theme “Towards a Resilient and Sustainable Recovery Together”. The meeting discussed a number of important issues with outcomes that will yield tangible benefits for the peoples of both countries, such as:

**1. Closer political-security cooperation to promote common security**

- **Maintaining peace and stability along the border:**
  - To step up patrol along the border to prevent illegal border crossings.
  - To closely consult and strengthen coordination between relevant authorities of the two countries at all levels, both at central and local levels, to further promote cooperation and resolve issues.
- **Prevention and suppression of narcotic drugs:**
  - To promote closer cooperation by fully utilising existing cooperation mechanisms at all levels to prevent and suppress narcotic drugs.
  - Thailand to support the Lao PDR through capacity building for Lao officials in investigation, expansion of investigation to reach wider drug syndicates, as well as support of modern equipment and technologies for prevention and suppression of narcotic drugs.
- **Labour Cooperation:**
  - To promote closer labour cooperation, with both sides to consult with a view to making preparations for the resumption of importation of Lao migrant workers into Thailand through a legal channel when the situation permits.
- **Anti-human trafficking cooperation:**
  - To strengthen cooperation on anti-human trafficking.

- Thailand to support the Lao PDR in the establishment of the Lao-Thai Friendship Centre for Social Development Project in Vientiane, which will provide comprehensive assistance to victims of human trafficking.
- **Justice cooperation:**
  - To further deepen justice cooperation as both sides welcomed significant contribution of the Administrative Court of Thailand and Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand in the establishment of the Administrative Court of the People's Supreme Court of the Lao PDR.

## 2. Closer economic cooperation to support resilient and sustainable recovery of both countries

- **Trade and Investment:**
  - To maintain the bilateral trade target of USD 11 billion to be achieved within the extended timeframe of 2025.
  - To expedite consideration to upgrade new border points of entry and to resume the border points of entry that have been temporarily suspended in order to facilitate trade and investment as well as to allow people on both sides of the border to resume their ways of life.
  - To promote, facilitate and protect investors from the other country as well as to promote closer cooperation between private sectors of both countries.
  - To promote cross-border supply chain connectivity, logistics development, and linkages of banking systems to facilitate cross-border transactions.
- **Seamless connectivity:**
  - To expedite development of infrastructure projects and harmonisation of standards and regulations to promote greater connectivity and cross-border transportation in the sub-region, for instance, construction of the 5<sup>th</sup> Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge (Buengkan-Bolikhamxay) and the 6<sup>th</sup> Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge (Ubon Ratchathani-Salavan).
  - To expedite opening of the Common Control Area (CCA) at mutually agreed international points of entry to facilitate cross-border trade and more efficient cross-border transportation.
  - To hold discussions between Thailand, the Lao PDR and China on the connection of rail systems that will be beneficial for all three countries in terms of international transportation of goods and passengers.

- **Digital Economy:**
  - To promote cooperation on digital economy in a concrete manner, especially the development of seamless digital connectivity which is in line with international standards, and the improvement of digital literacy and digital skills.
  - To promote cooperation between digital enterprises, especially the development of startups and networks of entrepreneurs and service providers.
  - To develop Smart Cities under the ASEAN Smart Cities Network.
- **Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy Model:**
  - To promote cooperation on BCG Economy Model, such as cooperation on eco-tourism as part of sustainable tourism development.
  - To provide BCG-related training courses for Lao officials, such as transfer of knowledge on the use of biocontrol to improve productivity and quality in agricultural production.
- **Facilitation of cross-border movements of peoples:**
  - To support the establishment of a joint working group to consider the readiness to facilitate cross-border trade and movements of people between both countries and to determine relevant measures for such movements, the first phase of which may be in a form of one-day trip between Nong Khai and Udon Thani Provinces of Thailand and Vientiane of the Lao PDR.
- **Energy:**
  - To continue cooperation in the energy sector to promote energy security and socio-economic development of both countries.
- **Sustainable management of water resources:**
  - To strengthen cooperation on sustainable management of water resources at both bilateral and multilateral levels, especially on information sharing, early warning in case of activities that may affect the water level, and human resource development in the area of water management for personnel of countries in the sub-region.

### 3. Closer cooperation for stronger people-to-people partnerships

- **Public health:**
  - To strengthen cooperation between local hospitals on both sides of the border.
  - Both Ministers presided over a ceremony to symbolically hand over (1) Phone Hong Hospital Centre for Drug Rehabilitation and Recovery and Building for Preliminary

Treatment of Emergency Patients in Vientiane District, and (2) medical supplies for Children's Hospital in Vientiane.

- **Development cooperation:**

- To promote development cooperation, especially in education, agriculture and health sectors, through the implementation of the Thailand-Lao PDR Development Cooperation's Three-Year Programme (2020-2022).

- **Education and human resource development:**

- Thailand to provide scholarships for Lao nationals in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Thailand and the Lao PDR and training courses for Lao officials.

#### 4. Sub-regional and regional cooperation

- **Mekong Sub-region:**

- Thailand to fully support the Lao PDR as the host of the 10<sup>th</sup> Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Summit in 2022.

- **ASEAN:**

- To coordinate closely to strengthen ASEAN, support ASEAN Community building, and maintain ASEAN centrality.

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