



Competition Law and Policy in Lao PDR

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I. Overview

- ❖ Prime Minister's Decree No. 15/PM on Fair Trade Competition, dated 04 February 2004:
 - Competition Restriction
 - Unlawful Competition
 - Merger and Acquisition (M&A)
 - Institutional set up: Competition Authority

- ❖ Competition Law Drafting Committee established, on 21 June 2013.

- ❖ Draft Competition Law was submitted to Ministry of Justice, Prime Minister's Office and National Assembly by June, 2015.

- ❖ The Competition Law was approved by the National Assembly on July 14, 2015 and published in the Lao PDR Official Gazette in January 2016, and therefore became into force from then.

I. Overview

Scope and Coverage of the Law:

- ❖ Domestic and foreign individuals, legal entities and organizations with a business presence in Lao PDR (including State Owned Enterprises – SOEs).

- ❖ Anti-competitive practices prohibited by Law:
 - 1) An anti-competitive agreements;
 - 2) The abuse of a dominant market position and market monopoly;
 - 3) A combination that restrains competition.

- ❖ International Cooperation:
 - ❑ Liberalizes and promote foreign, regional and international cooperation in competition works.
 - ❑ Ensure effective competition and conformity with the international conventions and treaties to which Laos is a party.

I. Overview

Regulatory Body:

- ❖ Lao Competition Commission (LCC) to be established:
 - ❑ Chaired by Vice Minister of Industry and Commerce. Members are comprise of representatives from line ministries and representative from Laos National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI) and the Bar Association.

- ❖ Secretariat to the LCC to be established:
 - ❑ Department level within Ministry of Industry and Commerce.
 - ❑ LCC to determine the role and responsibility for Secretariat in details.

- ❖ Competition Officials (CO) to be established under Secretariat to LCC.

- ❖ Competition Inspectors (CI) to be established under Secretariat to the LCC.

II. Challenge

- ❖ Lack of Human Resource and Financial Supports;
- ❖ Lack of experiences such as investigation, documentation procedures, etc.
- ❖ Limitation of capacity building and advocacy, etc.

III. Future Plan

- ❖ Establish Lao Competition Commission (LCC) and Secretariat to the LCC as soon as possible;
- ❖ Enhancing the capacity of LCC as well as Secretariat to LCC;
 - Send staff to exchange and learn from other countries in the region;
 - Organize various training activities.
- ❖ Strengthening Regulations and Laws enforcement
 - Organize strategic brainstorming workshop on developing regulations under the Law - The Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for developing regulations under the Competition Law.

III. Future Plan

- ❖ Improving and strengthening Regulations and Laws in relation to competition;
 - Organize the workshops by involving relevant sectors for discussing the Glossary of Economics and Competition Law.
 - Set up website for competition activities in Lao PDR.
 - Advertise the competition activities via multimedia.
 - Consult with academia to apply this regulation to their program.

- ❖ Rising public advocacy on competition.
 - Publish Lao Competition Law book, Handbook, Brochures, Leaflets, etc. in both Lao and English version and distribute around the country.

Thank you for your attention!



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