

Ref: LAO.10.09	Project title		Project Evaluation “Lao PDR WTO Accession Support”					
Organisation	Country	Overall project value (EUR)	Proportion carried out by candidate (%)	N° of staff provided	Name of client	Origin of funding	Dates (start/end)	Name of partners if any
RONGEAD	Lao PDR	23 100	0	1	SECO *	SECO *	October 2009	IDEAS Centre Geneva
Detailed description of project						Type of services provided		
<p><b>Introduction :</b> Lao PDR is the last country in South-East Asia (and the only ASEAN member) that is not a member of the WTO, but has seen seeking membership since 1997. The process moved beyond its initial stages in November 2006 with the Second formal meeting considering Lao’s application for Membership. From SECO side, Lao PDR received first technical assistance under the third Phase of the Viet Nam WTO Accession Project (2005-2006) implemented by IDEAS Centre, Geneva, a privately constituted, independent nonprofit association. It was agreed that the expertise gained from the Viet Nam should be used in the regional context to assist Lao PD. In this context, IDEAS Centre became a “trusted advisor” of the Foreign Trade Policy Division (FTPD) of the Lao Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC), which is responsible for Lao’s WTO Accession negotiations.</p> <p>The project “Lao PDR Accession Support” 2007-2010 is therefore to be seen as consequence of the previous efforts that enabled to revitalize the long time almost inactive WTO accession process. The overall objective of the project is to facilitate and accelerate Lao PDR’s accession to WTO through the provision of international level policy advice and negotiating strategy. Globally, the activities can be described as providing support on both <i>substance</i> – through analysis on what reform should be undertaken to meet WTO treaty obligations and advice on negotiated market access commitments – and on <i>process</i> – through support on ensuring coordination and coherence among the many “chapters” of the accession process.</p> <p><b>Objectives :</b> First purpose was related to « accountability » (development results) : the evaluation has assessed the outcomes and the outputs of the project so far – if possible their impact and the return on investment of the financial assistance provided by SECO to Lao PDR.</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> purpose was related to “lessons earned” : the evaluation has drawn from the experience developed by the project to provide guidance to the parties – and in particular to the beneficiary countries – about the key conditions and the more appropriate and efficient manner for ensuring continuity and sustainability of the results achieved.</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> purpose was related to the identification of possibilities and appropriate approaches for a potential continuation of the support to the government of Lao PDR in the final stages of the WTO accession process.</p> <p><i>*SECO : Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs</i></p>						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation mission on the field</li> <li>• Redaction of a report</li> </ul>		