



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

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Minutes
Of the Annual Work Plan 2017 Workshop of Lao-EU FLEGT VPA process,
8 February 2017, at Attapeu Province.

The Annual Work Plan 2017 Workshop of Lao-EU FLEGT VPA process was held on 8 February 2017, at Hoang Anh Hotel, Attapeu Province. The workshop was chaired by Mr. Souksamay Chanthamath, Provincial Vice-Governor of Attapeu, National Steering Committee member of Lao-EU FLEGT VPA process, attended by representative from Government, private sector, CSO, with 103 participants (14 women). The detail list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

I. Objective of the Meeting

1. To present the progress of FLEGT VPA process;
2. To review achievement of FLEGT VPA implementation during 2015-2016;
3. To present on draft Annual Work Plan 2017 of Lao-EU FLEGT VPA process for further improvement to be final version;
4. To review the priority tasks of PM Order No. 15/PM implementation that will be linked and supported by FLEGT VPA process.

II. Proceeding of the Meeting

The workshop consisted of two sessions. Initially, the presentations were implemented by Negotiation Support and Development Committee (NSDC) of FLEGT VPA, FLEGT VPA Taskforce and experts of FLEGT VPA process, which included relevant topics, namely the progress of FLEGT VPA; overview of new GIZ supported project 2017, Green Programme; Achievement of FLEGT VPA during 2015-2016, draft Annual Work Plan 2017 of FLEGT VPA that covers of Result A, B and C; and Activities Plan for each Pilot Provinces (Attapeu, Khammouan, and Sayaboury). In addition, Group Discussion was arranged by dividing into three groups in order to

discuss on putting priority activities to support the Order No. 15/PM implementation, and identify the linkage between FLEGT VPA and Order No. 15/PM by figuring out how the FLEGT VPA supports to Order No. 15/PM implementation. The detail of relevant presentation PowerPoints is attached as Annex 2.

III. Findings of the meeting

The Provincial Vice-Governor of Attapeu, Chairman of the meeting, National Steering Committee member of Lao-EU FLEGT VPA process, provided welcome remark in special occasion that the important workshop was held in Attapeu Province. He stated that this workshop is a great implementation to present the annual work plan 2017 of Lao-EU FLEGT VPA, which is significant contribution to forest resources development, wood processing and trade by developing added value to wood products and sustainability in future. Furthermore, he encouraged all of participants to feel comfortable to provide desirable comments and recommendations to the Annual Work Plan 2017 for further improvement, approval, and implementation effectively. Moreover, The Provincial Vice-Governor provided additional supervision as following:

- Private sector shall keep forward on self-development and modernization in accordance with policies of the Government, provide skill training to labors, and improve quality of wood products in according to the management of input-output system. These are significant supports for accessing to EU and other markets after the FLEGT VPA signed.
- Participatory and cooperation between national and local level is required for TLAS development, each organization shall increase attention by assigned role and responsibility. In case of there is any constraint, it shall be informed and reported to relevant higher hierarchy line for further supervision and resolution promptly;
- The provincial authority in pilots provinces (Attapeu, Khammouan, and Sayaboury) shall cooperate closely with relevant stakeholders in order to test the TLAS, support on data and information recording for further TLAS development based on actual implementation in the provinces;

- Experts of supported project shall provide technical skills and experiences of TLAS development and other activities to the Government and private sector officers, in order to contribute for FLEGT VPA.

Subsequently, the meeting was processed in according to agenda including related comments and recommendations were provided and shared, and group work was conducted respectively, which could be summarized as follows:

1. Generally, the achievement of FLEGT VPA during 2015-2016 and draft Annual Work Plan 2017 FLEGT VPA were agreed mutually as relevant presentations;
2. The Lao-EU FLEGT VPA process is significant mission and relate with several stakeholders. Therefore, further development and implementation the programme need closely participation among relevant stakeholders from both national and local level especially the Government, private sector, CSO, communities and local people who rely on forest; and mutually and actively cooperation are the most essential for negotiation with EU;
3. It is necessary to upgrade and include Lao-EU FLEGT VPA process in a Government organization for more effective FLEGT VPA implementation. There will contain key officers, technical staff, permanent tasks and political responsibility specifically of assigned positions. Therefore, the FLEGT Standing Office is proposed to be upgrade to a Division under the Department of Forest Inspection (DOFI) due to the DOFI takes fully mandate on Forest Law Enforcement implementation;
4. The Annual Work Plan 2017 Workshop of FLEGT VPA was significant process, and it is considered as enhancing linguistic context of the National Assembly general meeting, implement of Forestry Strategy to 2020 in order to increase forest cover for 70% in 2020 by full rang systematic implementation of forest management, plantation and trade
5. The focused activities shall be ranked priority in order to improve for effectively Annual Work Plan 2017 implementation, and achieve the negotiation milestone in 2018, such as:

- The development of Timber Legality Definition (TLD) and Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS): if the latest draft of TLD and TLAS would be certified by the Government before they will be discussed on the negotiation.
 - The implementations supported to PM Order No. 15/PM: including reforms of Law on Forestry, Regulation No. 0112/MAF and 0116/MAF (they are ongoing in amendment process by the Department of Forestry) and other legislations. In addition, gaps of existing laws and regulation indicated by TLD development process could be included in this law framework reforms.
5. Another priority implementation for FLEGT VPA is wood processing sector modernization, which is essential to be developed closely with other sectors. Specifically, operators are the actual implementers and the Government supports and provides relevant facilitation for implementations. Recently, the development of wood processing sector in neighbor countries have been upgraded rapidly when compares with situation in Lao PDR, due to lacking of modernized technology, punctual supporting policy and sufficient skilled labors in wood processing field. Moreover, wood processing staff have not been recruited and included in both Government and private organization properly, any wood processing training and development center has not yet been available for labors and students, and research on added value and highly effective consumption of wood material is still limited, etc.
7. Result of Group Work: the activities priority of Order No. 15/PM implementation could be summarized as following: the management of input-output system shall be developed; wood processing training and development center shall be established; the government organization who responsible for timber harvesting shall be established by fund raising in order to take place on this activity fully and continuously; modernization of wood processing factories shall be enhanced; production of finished wood products shall be promoted; timber auction shall be improved; Roles, responsibilities and mechanism of wood processing factory shall be upgraded; pre-harvesting inventory plan and

timber traceability from conversion areas shall be established; and marketing study on finished wood product shall be implemented.

IV. Conclusion

The draft of annual work plan 2017 of FLEGT VPA was agreed and approved mutually. However, some details need to be reviewed especially the responsible organization for each activity. After that, the Department of Forest Inspection shall propose to Minister of Agriculture and Forestry for approval of FLEGT VPA annual work plan 2017 implementation.

After comments and recommendations were shared completely, the Provincial Vice-Governor considered the workshop as highly achievement, which participated by relevant stakeholders straightly and reliably. Finally, the Provincial Vice-Governor provided thank and appreciation to all of participants, and the workshop was closed officially at 4:30 pm effectively.

Hence, this minute is taken as a reference for further relevant implementations.

Attapeu Province, dated.....

**Chairman of the Meeting
Provincial Vice-Governor of Attapeu**

Minute Taker