

EA/LAO/new: National Water Supply Governance Program (SaiNaTee)

Year 1 of 3

Task Team Leader: Viengsamay Vongkhamsao

Client: Department of Housing and Urban Planning, MPWT

Country: Lao PDR

Partners: National Assembly, PMO-WREA, International Finance Institutions, Sector Agencies

Desired Project Outcome:

At the initial stage of the project, the governance concept is accepted and endorsed by the government, with the designed project outcomes being define through this project.

Project Description:

Water and sanitation have a weak voice in the government. Political will to raise water and sanitation into the main stream has not been strong. Responsibility for rural and urban water supply is split between two ministries (MOH and MPWT) with authority allocated to an organ that is lower than a departmental level within these ministries. There is no information available to capture real public spending on water and sanitation due to fragmentation financing across ministries. A new draft law on water supply will address some of these issues. The main aim of this project is to support the strengthening of governance mechanisms for implementation of favorable policy, legal framework and business friendly procedures for licensing and investment in water supply and sanitation.

Assumptions:

1. The Government is willing to support water and sanitation governance support programs.
2. The Government allocates sufficient resources to coordinate sector programs and to institutionalize project initiatives.

Start Date: July 2008

End Date : June 2011

Project Milestones:

1. Approved proposal for initial 3-year funding program for linking with regional and international initiatives through SaiNaTee (National Water Supply Governance Program) – December 2009.
2. Draft program proposals developed with and owned by the Government counterpart agencies are accepted by donors for additional funding – June 2009.
3. Draft Water Supply law submitted to the National Assembly for adoption – April 2009.
4. Water and sanitation topic is discussed at a policy workshop for the National Assembly – April 2009.

Indicators of Outcome:

1. Programming discussions reflect the relevance of and way forward which is agreed by the Government to institutionalize the program – Jun 2009.
2. Approval and promulgation of the draft Water Supply law by the National Assembly – August 2009.
3. One Member of Parliament is assigned to advocate for water and sanitation issues - June 2009.

Project Update:

7/08 new project sheet for FY09. Sub-activities previously dispersed across various project sheets have been brought together under this new one.

Project Activities and Outputs:

Activities	Outputs
------------	---------

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SaiNaTee Program (National Water Supply Governance Program) prepared and approved proposal for 6-year (2-phase) funding program for linking with regional and international initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoping Assignment – November 2008. • Report on potential for SaiNaTee Governance Programme – January 2009. • Proposal to donors prepared and approved by WSP – May 2009 (subject to acceptable findings from the scoping assignment study). • Proposal accepted by donor – December 2009.
<p>Water Supply Law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist the Government in draft Water Supply Law consultation and finalization. • Support the Government in developing implementing decree for the Water Supply Law and other related legislative enactments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultative workshop with Law Committee of the National Assembly – November 2008. • Dissemination strategy report – July 2009. • Printing and dissemination – November 2009. • Report on the types of legislation required, March 2009. • Other deliverables to be defined after the finalization of the report.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study on business simplification for small-scale water supply providers (mapping of the current processes with proposals for improvement) • [Links with work on Business Enabling Environment (Streamlining Business Start-up through effective implementation of the Enterprise Law) being undertaken by IFC in Lao PDR, and the WBOV CAS Objective 1.1. on improving private sector development.] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study draft report – December 2008. • Consultation workshop – February 2009. • Workshop Report – March 2009. • Final Study Report – June 2009.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct workshop with the relevant National Assembly’s committees to oversight on water and sanitation issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant committees of the Assembly organize a committee hearing on water and sanitation – April 2009.