



EXPAND YOUR BUSINESS IN LAOS

Natural resource development in Lao PDR has helped the country achieve consistently high economic growth rates throughout the last decade. Real GDP growth will average 7.6% a year in 2015-16, supported by rising exports of tourism services and recent developments in agriculture, hydropower and mining. Construction is booming and the garment industry is expected to see an export growth as the previous years.

Laos as a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is increasing its integration into the regional and global economy. On February 2013, Laos officially became a member of the World Trade Organization, the culmination of a 15-year process of reforms and negotiations.

Recent developments show that there is a good business potential for European companies. Hydropower, tourism, garment industry, environmentally friendly CDM projects, food technology are just a few examples of successful European business activities. (Source: Economist Intelligence Unit).

The **European Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia** and the **European Chamber of Commerce in Lao PDR – ECCIL** welcome you to this unique opportunity to obtain a comprehensive overview of the Lao economy and discuss opportunities and challenges for potential investors.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

8:00am – 8:30am – Registration and breakfast

08:30am – 08:35am – Welcome address by EuroCham Executive Director

08:35am – 09:05am – Overview on Laos' situation and underlying business opportunities, Dr. Ramon Bruesseler, Executive Director, ECCIL

09:05 – 09:25 – Lao business legal framework – Mr. Vinay Ahuja, Senior Regional Advisor, DFDL Laos

09:25 – 10:00 – Q&A

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dr. Ramon Bruesseler, Executive Director, ECCIL

Dr. Ramon Bruesseler studied Economic Geography, Economics and Development Economics at the universities of Bonn and Aachen. After five years as a scientist, specializing in and publishing about Asian economic development he moved to a regional economic development agency as director of international marketing and infrastructure development. In 2001 Mr. Bruesseler took over as CEO of Eurasia Managing Agency, an international consultancy. In 2007 he became CIM expert and advisor to the board of the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry where he worked on strategic and organizational issues and published several studies about the economic development of the country. Since May 2011 Mr. Bruesseler is managing director of the European Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mr. Vinay Ahuja, Senior Regional Adviser, DFDL Laos

Mr. Vinay Ahuja is a senior regional adviser and the head of DFDL India Desk. Vinay also heads the Telecom Division of the firm. He has a decade of experience in advising several multinational clients in complex corporate and commercial law transactions in Asia and specializes in legal and practical aspects of cross-border transactions in the ASEAN Region. Vinay has worked in Laos office for more than 4 years and has advised various European clients in their legal and tax requirements. Vinay also has experience in litigation and dispute resolution. Vinay is a gold medalist graduate from Symbiosis Law School, University of Pune, India and is a member of IBA, IPBA and Bar Council of India. He is a regular speaker at various international industry conferences, seminars and workshops. Vinay has also published several article and papers in various newspapers, magazines and journals including IPBA Journal, Asian-MENA, ALB, and IBLJ.

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