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Vocational Education in Lao PDR

The VELA project supports the Government of Laos in introducing the Dual-Cooperative Training approach to develop a skilled work force that meets the needs of the labour market.

Context

After years of growth, Laos' economy has been hit hard by COVID-19 and rising prices. The pandemic caused a major interruption in education and training for over two years. High inflation and a lack of skilled workers are slowing down economic recovery, especially in key economic areas. Economic pressure has led to a significant drop in student enrolment at all levels. There has been a noticeable decline in the number of female students enrolling in their preferred training courses.

Currently, the national Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system is struggling to meet the demands. It does not provide the labour market with enough graduates with the technical skills in demand. This is an obstacle to the country's economic development, especially in the country's economically dynamic regions. Dual cooperative Training (DCT), where the public and private sectors share the responsibility for skills development, is promoted by the Ministry of Education and Sports to create a workforce that meets labour market needs.

Objective

Dual-Cooperative Training (DCT) courses are implemented nationwide in Lao PDR.

Project Title	Vocational Education in Lao PDR
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project regions	Nationwide in Lao PDR
Leading executing agency	Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI)
Duration	August 2024 - July 2027

Approach

VELA supports the major implementation partners, the Department of Technical Vocational Education and Training (DTVET) of the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) and the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI), in further improving and strengthening the structural framework conditions for the implementation of Dual-Cooperative Training in Laos. Activities include:

Cooperation with the private sector:

Sustainability: supporting the LNCCI in developing strategies for the financial and institutional sustainability for the Dual-Cooperative Training - Service Centre (DCT-SC)

Expert guidance: offering guidance and training to public and private sector stakeholders on effectively implementing DCT across Laos.

Cooperation with the TVET Department of the MoES:

Access for young to TVET and the labour market: enhancing access to information and career guidance services for all students, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, at TVET institutions and beyond.

Soft skills: providing expert guidance to TVET institutions to develop and implement programs that enhance students' lives and soft skills.



In-company trainer supervises students while they practice within the

Entrepreneurship: Implementing entrepreneurship and self-employment modules in vocational institute programs.

Cooperation with the TVET Institutes and training companies:

Peer-to-peer network: supporting TVET institutes on creating peer-to-peer networks to share effective methods experiences, and knowledge on DCT implementation.

Green and digital trends: supporting TVET institutes update teacher training to reflect green and digital trends and use interactive teaching methods.

Gender: cooperating and focusing on attractive trades for female students; Introducing quality management for DCT-courses at TVET-institutions and training companies

Impact

By the end of VELA II, over 150 training contracts with companies have been established. In-company trainers have gained a professional understanding of their roles in further training. A national award for companies and schools committed to DCT will be held for the third time in 2024. The Ministry of Education and the Chamber of Commerce have begun to certify trainers, conduct in-company training, and provide training to companies. A carrier guidance platform (OASA) provides orientation for young graduates from secondary school on their professional potentials.

Regular dialogues between the Chamber of Commerce and the

Ministry of Education have been established. A handout for developing professional standards has been created, and the first standards have been drafted to serve as a basis for the future labour market-oriented curricula.

The Vocational Education Development Institute (VEDI) has conducted further training courses on DCT resource-saving Green TVET for teachers and school administrators. Additionally, the Vocational Education Development Institute (VEDI) set up a studio for developing digital teaching materials and trained staff teachers. The project also emphasizes Green TVET, focusing on training teachers in energy and resource efficiency and ecological practices. A new module on sustainable hotel and gastronomy management has been localized and launched in 2024 and will be available for free on the online learning platform, "Atingi."

Gender and Economic Development

VELA III aims to anchor the DCT approach in the Lao TVET system, aligning with Goal 4 (Human Capital) of the Team Europe Strategy 2021-2025 (TES) The module supports BMZ's core topic of Sustainable Economic Development, Training, and Employment and aligns with BMZ's strategies on vocational education, feminist external development policy, green sectors and the German development policy with Asia, especially on gender equality. Additionally, the module aims at further developing the already introduced DCT approach in close coordination with state and private sectors to expand DCT in the economically dynamic centres of the Northern, Central and Southern regions of Lao PDR that have high demand for labour in relevant occupational fields.



In-company trainer supervising students while they practice in the Automotive Mechanic course. Photo: © Phoosab Thevongsa

About GIZ Laos

GIZ, as part of German Development Cooperation, has been active in Laos since 1993, mainly on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Currently, GIZ is implementing numerous projects in three core areas: a) rural development, b) conservation of nature and natural resource and c) sustainable economic development and d) good governance.

Please visit www.giz.de/laos for further information.

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On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Other important link <https://dct.incci.la/en/>