



Tourism Recovery in Lao PDR

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The main socio-economic of Lao PDR



- Agriculture, industry and service is the main important for socio-economic in Lao PDR
- Tourism sector is becoming more and more important not only for local communities and regions but also for entire Lao economy
- The *agriculture and forestry* sector is expected to help achieve targets in food security, employment and poverty reduction and create surplus for export.
- The Lao Government has placed tourism as 1 of 11 priority sectors to contribute to country's socio - economic development.

Natural disaster risks to tourism development in Lao PDR



- In Lao PDR, the most common natural disasters are floods and droughts. Floods occur annually between May and September, caused by heavy rainfall from the annual southwest and northeast monsoons.
- Droughts, caused by significant changes in monsoon patterns, are becoming more frequent and lasting longer. Between 2009 and 2013 Lao PDR had an unprecedented number of natural disasters, claiming lives and causing widespread damage.

Natural disaster risks to tourism development in Lao PDR



- On September 19, 2009, Typhoon Ketsana hit the five southernmost provinces of Lao PDR.



- In 2011 tropical storms Haima (June) and Nok-Ten (August) both hit central Lao PDR with devastating effects.
- In 2013, a series of five major storm events crossed the country resulting in severe flooding in 12 of the country's provinces.



Country Case Study Series Disaster Recovery Framework Guide

The Country Case Study assesses the disaster recovery process in Lao PDR across four thematic areas outlined in the Recovery Framework Guidelines:

- Institutional arrangements to implement and manage recovery;
- Policy, planning and prioritization for recovery;
- Designing, costing, and financing recovery; and
- Monitoring and evaluation for disaster recovery.

Within this framework, an analysis of the transport sector has been undertaken.

Examples from two provinces – Salavan (affected by Ketsana) and Bolikhamxay (affected by Haima and Nok-Ten) are also provided.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT



- The Lao PDR is one of the countries frequently affected by river floods and drought. These recurrent natural hazards often result in human and economic losses, mainly affecting poor rural communities whose livelihoods depend heavily on agricultural activities.
- The Government of the Lao PDR pays a great attention to the issue of disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response capacities at all levels.
- Lao PDR has committed itself to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. It is also a signatory to the ASEAN Agreement for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER).

Disaster Response Planning



- The disaster Management Vision of the Lao PDR Government as articulated in the National Strategic Plan for Disaster Risk Management identifies four key strategic objectives:
 1. Safeguard sustainable development and reduce the impacts and damages caused by natural and man-made disasters;
 2. Shift from relief to mitigation of disaster impacts to community, society and economy and preparedness before a disaster strikes with emphasis on hazards such as floods, drought, landslide and fire;
 3. Ensure that disaster management is a joint responsibility of both the government and the people through building community capacity; and
 4. Promote sustainable protection of the environment and the country and the country's natural wealth such as forests, land and water resources.

Insights



- The national government of Lao PDR has made great strides in the legal and policy guidelines and authorities for disaster management.
- The Laos Government has produced plans for natural disaster preparedness and response, tying in the national, provincial, district, and community levels. Laos's plans have accounted for interagency coordination and have outlined the roles and responsibilities of each relevant ministry
- The National Disaster Management Plan follows the Hyogo Framework of action (HFA) as the overall framework to guide the response of stakeholders in addressing the impact of disasters.
- A strong emphasis, however, is given towards strengthening sub-national capacities, particularly at the provincial and community level, to fully support the government priority of poverty reduction as elaborated in national development plans and policies



Recommendations

- Disaster risk reduction is the responsibility of government at all levels and thus the National Disaster Management Plan is a plan of multiple government institutions and stakeholder departments and risk reduction partnerships.
- It is not possible for a single government institution to comprehensively address disaster risk reduction which should be viewed as a cross-cutting issue of sustainable development.
- Disaster risk reduction can only be addressed through the collective effort of both development and disaster management stakeholders in the country.
- This action plan, agreed upon by all stakeholders, provides the blueprint for initiating and undertaking this collective effort.
- Experience from Typhoon needs to longer-term development issues such as food insecurity and nutrition and interventions to prevent compounding negative impacts in already vulnerable communities.

Recommendations



Tourism Recovery

- Tourism recovery for any local economy that relies on tourism is a key component of economic recovery. If proper measures are not taken post-disaster the local or regional tourism industry can be dramatically impacted with rippling effects in a local economy .
- These resources provide guides and recommendations on tourism recovery and improving the tourism industry post-disaster, marketing strategies, regional cooperation, key opportunities and challenges, and offers key action steps communities can take for tourism recovery



Thank You

NAME OF SPEAKER: Sonexay Chanhthavong

DESIGNATION: Deputy Director of Surveys and Tourist Sites Allocation Division

ORGANISATION: Tourism Development Department, Ministry of
Information, Culture and Tourism

COUNTRY: Lao PDR

EMAIL CONTACT : sonexayvong@yahoo.com

