

CHAPTER 1 BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT

Chapter 1 Background of the Project

1.1 Background of the Request

(1) Background

Training and conferences for human resources development, mainly featuring government officials, technocrats and intellectuals, are mainly held in Vientiane by government institutions, mass organizations of the Party and donors, including conferences related to regional and international cooperation such as those of the ASEAN and the Mekong River Commission.

Although government institutions and mass organizations of the Party have their own training facilities, external facilities are often borrowed for training and conferences due to the limited accommodation and lack of adequate equipment of their own facilities. However, the number of available external facilities is insufficient to hold an increased number of training and conferences and for their use by the private sector, limiting the number of training and regional and international conferences which can be held. In addition, there are no exclusive outside facilities which are capable of acting as the venue for training and conferences of 300 – 500 persons, the size which government institutions are hoping to organize.

Therefore, to redress the shortage of training facilities for government held training and conferences on human resources development primarily for governmental officials, the Government of the Lao PDR has formulated a project to construct the International Cooperation and Training Center (hereinafter referred to as the Center) in Vientiane as a regional and international conference and training facility.

When completed, the Center will become a venue for seminars and conferences for the training of governmental officials for the purpose of national economic development and a facility for international conferences to promote external economic relations. Accordingly, the need for such a facility to promote human resources development and external economic relations remains priorities in the promotion of national economic development.

(2) Request

The Government of the Lao PDR has requested the Government of Japan a provision of grant aid for the construction and procurement of equipment for the Center for its “the Project for Construction of the International Cooperation and Training Center”.

This request is outlined as follows.

- 1) Date of request: September, 2001
- 2) Amount requested: approximately 1.2 billion yen (US\$10,000,000.-)
- 3) Contents of request:

Facilities (total floor area: 5,000 m²)

One multi-purpose hall, 3 seminar rooms, workshop, library and data-information room, small seminar rooms, waiting room, interpretation booths, director's office, administration office and other necessary rooms

Equipment

Simultaneous interpretation system, conference system, AV presentation system, teleconferencing system, AV system, lighting equipment, cooking and kitchen utensils, workshop equipment, office equipment and furniture

Upon receipt of this request, the Preparatory Study Team was dispatched by the JICA to the actual site in December, 2001. After confirming the background of the request, both parties agreed that the Lao PDR side should prepare a management and utilization plan for the Center and establish the National Committee on the Management and Utilization of the Center.