

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC



Lao People's Democratic Republic

GENERAL INFORMATION

Official Name Lao People's Democratic Republic
Capital Vientiane (Viang Chan).

LAND

Area 236,800 sq km (91,400 sq mi)
Highest Point 2,819 m (9,249 ft) at Phou Bia (Phu Bia) above sea level
Lowest Point Sea level along the coast

CLIMATE

Average Temperatures (Vientiane)
January 22 °C / 72 °F
April 29 °C / 84 °F
Average Annual Precipitation 1,780 mm (about 70 in)



POPULATION

Population 5,556,821 (2000 estimate),

Population Density 23 people per sq km (61 per sq mi) (2000 estimate)

- **Urban/Rural Breakdown**

25% Urban

75% Rural

(1998 estimate)

- **Largest Cities**

Vientiane

Louangphrabang

- **Ethnic Groups**

66% the Lao Lum

The Leu and the Phu-tai; the Black Tai and the Red Tai

- **Languages**

Official Language Lao

Other Languages, Tai-Kadai, Mon-Khmer, Tibeto-Burman, Hmong-Mien and other minority languages

- **Religions**

- Buddhism

- Christianity

- Islam

- Animism

ECONOMY

Gross Domestic Product \$1.3 billion (1998)

- **Chief Economic Products**

- Agriculture and Forestry

- Rice, corn, coffee (the only substantial export crop), soybeans, sugarcane, and sweet potatoes

- Mining

- tin, gypsum, rock salt, and coal

- Manufacturing

- saw milling, rice milling, brick making, and production of consumer products such as cigarettes, detergents, matches, plastics, beer, and soft drinks

- **Employment Breakdown**

- 78% Agriculture

- 16% Services

- 6% Industry

- **Major Exports**

- timber, hydroelectricity, coffee, and tin

- **Major Imports**

- food, petroleum products, vehicles, machinery, and steel

- **Major Trading Partners**

- Thailand, Japan, and China

- **Currency: Kip**

- Exchange Rate 920 kip to U.S.\$1 (1997 average)

GOVERNMENT

- Form of Government republic
- Head of State president – chosen by the National Assembly for a five-year term
- Head of Government Prime minister
- Appointed by the head of state upon advice of parliament

EDUCATION

Major Universities and Colleges

- National University of Laos Vientiane

- Technical colleges are located in Louangphrabang, Savannakhet, and Pakx?

ASEAN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH NETWORK (ASEAN-OSHNET)

Ministry of Labour, Thailand

Occupational Safety and Health Division
Department of Labour Protection and Welfare
Ministry of Labour, Thailand