



# 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?

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**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