



**Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity**

National President

No.: 171/NP
Vientiane Capital, dated: 20 August 2013

**Presidential Decree
of the Lao People's Democratic Republic
on the Promulgation of the Law on Tourism (amended)**

- Pursuant to Item 1, Article 67, Chapter VI of the Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic;
- Pursuant to Resolutions 05/NA, dated 24 December 2013, of the National Assembly; and
- Pursuant to Request 019/SC, dated 16 December 2013, of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly;

**The National President
of the Lao People's Democratic Republic hereby issues the following Decree:**

Article 1 The Law on Tourism (amended) is hereby promulgated.

Article 2 This Presidential Decree enters into force on the date it is signed.

National President of the Lao PDR

[SEAL OF THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE LAO PDR AND SIGNATURE]

Choummaly Xayasone



**Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity**

National Assembly

No.: **05/NA**

**Resolutions
of the National Assembly
of the Lao People's Democratic Republic
on the Approval of the Law on Tourism (amended)**

- Pursuant to Item 2, Article 53 of the Constitution and to Item 1, Article 11 of the Law on the National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic on the Rights and Duties of the National Assembly;

Following the 5th Ordinary Session of the 7th Legislature of the National Assembly, [at which] broad and in-depth study and consideration took place into the Law on Tourism (amended) during the session of 24 July 2013;

The meeting of the National Assembly agreed:

Article 1 To approve the Law on Tourism (amended) by majority vote; and

Article 2 That these Resolutions shall enter into force on the date they are signed.

Vientiane Capital, dated 24 July 2013

President of the National Assembly

*[SEAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE LAO
PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND SIGNATURE]*

Pany Yathotou



**Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity**

National Assembly

No.: 32/NA
Vientiane Capital, dated: 24 July 2013

**Law
on Tourism (amended)**

Part I

General Provisions

Article 1 Objectives (amended)

This Law specifies the principles, regulations, and measures concerning the organization, operations, management, and monitoring and inspection of tourism for such work to take place with quality and efficiently and for tourist attractions to be conserved and maintained so as to promote and develop ecotourism and cultural and historical tourism to expand and sustainably become a modern tourism industry and to promote mutual understanding, peace, friendship, and cooperation for international development to contribute to the preservation and development of the nation.

Article 2 Tourism

Tourism refers to the travel from where one resides to other localities and countries to visit and see [them], relax and have fun, exchange culture and sports, promote health, education, studies, exhibitions, meetings, and so forth without wishing to work or establish a career to seek any form of income.

Article 3 Definition of Terminology (amended)

The terminology use herein has the following meanings:

1. A “**Tourist**” shall refer to a natural person who has traveled from their place of residence to another locality or country for any of the given purposes specified in Article 2 hereof.
2. “**Tourism Business Activities**” shall refer to the performance of tourism work concerning domestic and foreign tourist services, such as sightseeing, the renovation of tourist attractions, room and board, accommodation services, and tours.

3. “**Tourism Businesses**” shall refer to the services of a business involving travel, food, accommodation, tours, and so forth for Tourists
4. “**Accommodation Businesses**” shall refer to the services of a business to provide room and board, such as hotels, guesthouses, tourist boats, guestrooms, and other room and board facilities.
5. “**Hotels**” shall refer to accommodation facilities at which there are fifteen or more bedrooms with facilities, high quality equipment and tools, and up-to-standard services.
6. “**Guesthouses**” shall refer to accommodation facilities at which there are fourteen or fewer but no less than five bedrooms with facilities, appropriate equipment and tools, and up-to-standard services.
7. “**Hostels**” shall refer to accommodation facilities with four or fewer rooms and facilities essential to travelers.
8. “**Resorts**” shall refer to accommodation facilities established at tourist attractions and which have [high] quality facilities, equipment, and tools and up-to-standard services.
9. “**Motels**” shall refer to accommodation facilities established by a main road for travelers using vehicles and which have parking lots and basic facilities.
10. “**Mobile Accommodation**” shall refer to accommodation which can move from one place to another and comprises tourist boats, railway carriages, tourist vehicles with bedrooms, and so forth with suitable facilities and services.
11. “**Campsites**” shall refer to accommodation situated at a beautiful natural tourist attraction established for Tourists to put up tents and have basic facilities.
12. “**Homestays**” shall refer to houses belonging to members of the public which have bedrooms and the facilities essential for tourist services.
13. “**Guides**” shall refer to natural persons who serve Tourists by taking them to see tourist attractions and have the duty of explaining [things to], describing, and providing information and knowledge to Tourists on the history and backgrounds thereof accurately.
14. “**Eateries**” shall refer to places which serve food and beverages.
15. “**Restaurants**” shall refer to buildings or food and beverage service facilities which are spacious and are able to cater to events.
16. “**Food Gardens**” shall refer to spacious locations with attractive scenery and food and beverage services.
17. “**Food and Beverage Venues**” shall refer to locations with a suitable area and which provide mainly light food and beverages.

18. “**Ecotourism**” shall refer to natural tourism resources as specified in Article 10 hereof as places to relax, have fun, play sports, improve health, and learn and study.
19. “**Cultural Tourism**” shall refer to cultural tourism resources as specified in Item 1, Article 11 hereof to relax, have fun, and learn and study.
20. “**Historical Tourism**” shall refer to historical tourism resources as specified in Item 2, Article 12 hereof for remembrance and to learn and study.
21. “**Tourism Resources**” shall refer to the tourism potential which is natural or manmade.
22. “**Tourist Attractions**” shall refer to Tourism Resources received from the development [of sites] into tourist sites to enable the attraction of Tourists to travel to see them.
23. The “**Tourism Industry**” shall refer to services focused on universal and systematic domestic and foreign tourism, comprising transportation businesses, Tourist Attractions, tours, accommodation, food, souvenirs, exhibitions, special events, customary events, and festivals, and so forth and which uses labor, investment and high-level specialized know-how, modern techniques, planning, marketing, and/or systematic organization.
24. “**Tourist Products**” shall refer to natural and manmade Tourism Resources to act as items to support, provide to, and serve Tourists.
25. “**Entertainment**” shall refer to enjoyment and fun, merriment and song, music, traditional recitals, comedy, traditional dance, theater, and so forth.
26. “**Special Events**” shall refer to goods and products exhibitions or major events which are organized irregularly and are not of a customary nature taking place at a given location and for which permission has officially been granted for amusement, purchases, sales, exchanges, and so forth.
27. “**Customary Events**” shall refer to the organization of customary rites and national or local celebrations.

Article 4 Policies of the State towards Tourism (amended)

The State considers Tourism to be among the priorities for socio-economic development to boost the production of goods, services, job generation, revenue creation, and the improvement of the lives and wellbeing of the multiethnic people.

The State promotes Ecotourism, Cultural Tourism, and Historical Tourism of many forms to be enticing to tourism and become a sustainable, industrial, and modern Ecotourism destination.

The State encourages, promotes, facilitates, and protects the rights and interests of domestic and foreign individuals and organizations to invest in the development and promotion of tourism through advertising, the provision of information, the organization of Special Events, Customary Events, festivals concerning arts and culture, the fine customs of the nation, traditions, and heroism of the multiethnic Lao people.

Article 5 Principles for Tourism (new)

Tourism must take place in accordance with the following principles:

1. Consistently with the concepts, policies, strategies, national socio-economic development plans (“**NSEDPs**”), and development plans of the tourism sector;
2. Ensuring peace, safety, order, sustainability, convenience, speed, equitability, and justice with public participation;
3. Ensuring the protection of the legitimate rights and interests of Tourists and natural persons and organizations associated with tourism;
4. Ensuring the development of tourism hand-in-hand with the preservation of the environmental, natural, cultural, traditions, and history of the nation; and
5. Ensuring that tourism is of quality, sustainable, and linked up to foreign countries, the region, and the world.

Article 6 Development of Individuals and Organizations (amended)

So as to promote tourism, domestic individuals and organizations must contribute to the conservation, preservation, development and the promotion of unique culture, fine customs, arts, culture, and handicrafts, and Tourism Resources and the rich and abundant environment and beauty of the nation.

Foreign individuals entering the Lao PDR have the obligation to contribute to the development and promotion of tourism and the preservation of Tourist Attractions for sustainability whilst also respecting and honoring the culture and fine customs of Laos.

Article 7 Scope of Use of This Law

This Law applies to natural and juridical persons, organizations, and domestic and foreign Tourists associated with tourism or tourism business operations of the Lao PDR.

Article 8 International Cooperation

The State promotes relations and cooperation with foreign, regional, and international entities over tourism through the exchange of lessons learned, data and information, training, the training up of employees, and the securing of assistance for tourism to be developed and tourism services to reach international standards.

Part II

Tourism Resources

Chapter 1

Types of Tourism Resources

Article 9 Types of Tourism Resources

Tourism Resources can be divided into two types:

1. Natural Tourism Resources; and
2. Manmade Tourism Resources.

Article 10 Natural Tourism Resources

Natural Tourism Resources comprise scenery, cliffs, caves, hills, mountains, volcanos, forests, plants, wildlife, insects, flowers, rivers, islands, sandbanks, lakes, ponds, waterfalls, rapids, hot springs, natural phenomena, and so forth.

Article 11 Manmade Tourism Resources (amended)

Manmade Tourism Resources comprise:

1. Cultural Tourism Resources, such as arts, architecture, sacred places, ancient artifacts, ancient sites, temples, buildings and houses, arts and literature, Special Events, Customary Events, festivals and ceremonies, ways of life, shopping malls, exhibitions, and so forth;
2. Historical Tourism Resources, such as museums, monuments, edifices, the birthplaces, residences, and work of persons of significance, traces of battlefields, and so forth; and
3. Natural Tourism Resources, such as national parks, amusement parks, zoological gardens, replicas of sites, and so forth.

Chapter 2

Tourist Attractions

Article 12 The Survey and Registration of Tourist Attractions

The information, culture, and tourism sector is responsible for the survey, collection, registration, and historical study and compilation of Tourist Attractions nationwide through coordination with other relevant sectors and local government bodies.

Article 13 Classification of the Levels of Tourist Attractions

Tourist Attractions in the Lao PDR are classified into the following two levels:

1. National level; and
2. Local level.

Article 14 National-Level Tourist Attractions

National-level Tourist Attractions refer to Tourist Attractions which constitute national-, regional-, or global-level heritage, which are highly popular, generate interest, and attract domestic and foreign Tourists to visit in great numbers, and are widely known, have basic infrastructure and facilities for Tourists, and are important in generating tourism revenues.

Article 15 Local-Level Tourist Attractions (amended)

Local-level Tourist Attractions refer to Tourist Attractions which generate interest and attract mostly domestic Tourists, have sites which can be developed, have basic facilities, and are important in generating tourism revenues for localities.

Local-level Tourist Attractions include provincial-, district-, and community-level Tourist Attractions.

Part III

Tourism Business Activities

Chapter 1

Tourism Advertising

Article 16 Objectives of Advertising (amended)

Advertising aims to raise public understanding into the importance and contributions into the preservation and promotion of tourism, make an impression on domestic Tourists to travel around and see their own country, such as tourism sites, and generate in foreign Tourists a knowledge of the Lao PDR as an interesting and unmissable tourist destination which must be studied while also gradually opening wide the Lao tourism market.

Article 17 Content of Advertising (amended)

Advertising on tourism must focus on important content, such as Tourist Attractions, beauty, the outstanding Tourism Resources and products, which are unique to the nation, and have natural, cultural, and historical value accompanied by attractive services and which make an impression on Tourists.

Article 18 Forms and Methods of Advertising (amended)

Tourism advertising uses the following forms and methods:

1. Special Events, Customary Events, festivals, and tourism exhibitions at local, national, regional, or international levels;

2. Through electronic media systems and domestic and foreign publications;
3. Through information on festivals and other promotional activities on tourism;
4. Through the organization of visits to tourism sites; and
5. Through other forms and methods which promote Lao tourism.

Chapter 2

Tourism Communications

Article 19 Communications (amended)

Domestic and foreign individuals, organizations, and Tourists can make contact and communicate conveniently, collect data, and learn new things concerning tourism in the Lao PDR and overseas.

Article 20 Provision of Data and Information

The parties concerned must provide accurate and up-to-date data and information on tourism systematically as regards Tourist Attractions, travel, accommodation facilities, Eateries, what to do and what not to do, and so forth.

Article 21 Disaster Warning Advice

The organizations concerned must provide data, information, and explanations on emergencies which have arisen or might arise and which have an impact on tourism and the image thereof while also advising on safety preventive measures for cases such as earthquakes, floods, fires, hurricanes, and epidemics.

Chapter 3

Tourist Transport

Article 22 Transport Vehicles

Tourist transport vehicles comprise aircraft, [land] vehicles, boats, and other transport vehicles based on tourist demand.

Article 23 Tourist Transport Vehicle Standards (amended)

Tourist vehicles must have quantitative and qualitative assurances, meet standards correctly, have a correct useful life in accordance with the technical [aspects] of the public works and transport sector, ensure safety, be clean, [provide] good services, and be insured.

Article 24 Tourist Transport Services (amended)

Tourist transport services must operate in accordance with the plans, itineraries, and conditions agreed in contracts.

Tourist transport service providers must be in good health, possess good interpersonal skills, have received basic training on tourism, and have a high level of responsibility.

Chapter 4

Accommodation Facilities

Article 25 Accommodation Facilities (amended)

Accommodation facilities comprise Hotels, Guesthouses, Resorts, Motels, Campsites, Homestays, tourist boats with beds, mobile tourist vehicles with beds, and other accommodation facilities providing Hostels for Tourists accompanied by the necessary services.

Article 26 Levels of Accommodation Facilities

There are many levels of tourist accommodation facilities and the classification thereof is focused on the specification of the standards and quality of the accommodation facilities so as to provide Tourists with multiple options [to choose from].

Article 27 Accommodation Services

Accommodation services must ensure quality, cleanliness, convenience and comfort, and safety.

Accommodation service providers must have received specialized training in accommodation services at a definite level, possess good interpersonal skills and good manners, be honest and cheerful, and so forth for the satisfaction of the Tourists.

Article 28 Specification of Accommodation Costs

Accommodation costs must be reasonable and well suited to the level and standards of the accommodation facility in question. Tourists and the parties concerned must be informed in advance of any changes to accommodation costs at a suitable time and with the grounds therefor.

Chapter 5

Food and Beverages

Article 29 Food and Beverage Services (amended)

Food and beverage services for Tourists must ensure quality, standards, safety, and cleanliness and compliance with the hygiene principles specified in the Law on Food.

Food and beverages to be served to Tourists must come in many forms so that Tourists have multiple options and services at appropriate locations.

Food and beverage service providers must have received specialized training in services at a definite level and possess good interpersonal skills and good manners, be honest, amicable, and cheerful, and so forth for the satisfaction of the Tourists.

Article 30 Food and Beverage Service Facilities (new)

Food and beverage service facilities comprise Eateries, Restaurants, Food Gardens, food rooms, dining rooms, and Food and Beverage Venues,

Food and beverage service facilities must be situated at an appropriate, convenient and comfortable, clean, and safe location.

Article 31 Classification into Levels of Food and Beverage Service Facilities (new)

The classification into levels of food and beverage service facilities refers to the specification of standards, food and beverage quality and services to cater to Tourists and ordinary persons for safe consumption with multiple options [to choose from].

Article 32 Food and Beverage Prices (new)

Food and beverages must be reasonably priced, appropriately to the type of food, the level of services, and the location of the Eatery.

Eateries must have a food and beverages menu specifying the prices thereof clearly.

Chapter 6

Entertainment and Health Promotion

Article 33 Entertainment

Entertainment comprises musical performances, arts and cultural performances, traditional dance, song, traditional recitals, international music, and so forth, which shows the fine traditional and customary identity of the Lao nation and the magnificence and advancement of the world.

Entertainment is organized at accommodation facilities, Eateries, or specific venues.

Article 34 Types of Entertainment Services (new)

Entertainment services comprise karaoke, pubs, discotheques, bars, snack bars, concerts, and so forth.

Article 35 Entertainment Venues (new)

Entertainment can be organized at specific entertainment venues and accommodation facilities, Eateries, Restaurants, Food Gardens, Food and Beverage Venues, and so forth.

Article 36 Levels of Entertainment Venues (new)

The classification of levels of Entertainment refers to the specification of standards for the lighting, color, audio, apparel, cleanliness, safety, and service quality to be provided to users of the entertainment services to be happy, enjoy [them], have fun, and be safe.

Article 37 Entertainment Services (new)

Entertainment services must ensure quality, safety, convenience and comfort, and cleanliness and be free of noisy disturbances from other persons outside or in areas near to the entertainment venue.

Entertainment service providers must have received specialized training in entertainment services to a definite level, possess good interpersonal skills and good manners, and be honest, cheerful, and in good health.

Article 38 Health Promotion (amended)

Health promotion comprises physical exercise, traditional massage, traditional herbal saunas, bathing in hot springs, sunbathing, and so forth as appropriate,

Health promotion can be organized at accommodation facilities or at specific facilities.

Article 39 Health Promotion Services (new)

Health promotion services must ensure quality, safety, cleanliness, convenience and comfort, and be relaxing for persons using the service.

Persons providing health promotion services must have received specialized and proper training in health promotion services, hold a certificate, possess good interpersonal skills, dress politely and tidily, be honest, amicable, and cheerful, and be in strong health.

Chapter 7

Souvenirs

Article 40 The Importance of Souvenirs

Souvenirs are items which create positive memories in Tourists concerning Lao arts, culture, history, and traditional customs, and show the fine arts, beauty, and skills of the multiethnic Lao people

Article 41 Types of Souvenirs

There are many kinds of souvenirs, such as silver and gold decorations, basketry, tapestries, woven silk, embroidery, ornaments and jewelry, carvings, paintings, earthenware, musical instruments, and so forth, which have fine artistry and shed light on the traditional customs, fine culture, and ways of life of the multiethnic Lao people.

Article 42 Places for the Display and Sale of Souvenirs

Souvenirs must be displayed and sold at accommodation facilities, markets, and community stores where tourists tend to visit and which are decorated appropriately and attractively.

Souvenirs must be mostly domestic products.

Chapter 8

Safety

Article 43 Ensuring Safety (amended)

Tourist services must ensure the safety of the health, lives, and possessions of Tourists. Tourist service providers must have methods and technical measures in place concerning safety and which comply with the legal regulations of the sectors concerned.

In the event of an emergency, the tourist service provider or a person witnessing the incident must assist the Tourist(s) and coordinate with the parties concerned in good time.

Article 44 The Tourist Police (new)

The Tourist Police and emergency assistance units have been set up at central and local levels to facilitate matters and assist Tourists and tourism entrepreneurs.

The rights and duties of the Tourist Police and emergency assistance units are specified in specific regulations.

Article 45 Insurance (amended)

In order to ensure the payment of damages to Tourists [for incidents] which might occur, tourism entrepreneurs must have insurance as specified in the Law on Insurance of the Lao PDR.

Chapter 9

Tour Services

Article 46 Types of Tour Services

Tour services are divided into the following three types:

1. International tours;
2. Domestic tours; and
3. Tours of a specific area.

Article 47 International Tour Services

International tour services are services to take Tourists into or out of the country for the purpose of tourism.

Article 48 Domestic Tour Services (amended)

Domestic tour services are services to take Tourists in the Lao PDR to visit various sites domestically.

Article 49 Services for Tours of Specific Areas

Services for tours of specific areas refer to services to take Tourists to visit tourist sites in a given location in the Lao PDR.

Article 50 Tour Management and Administration

Tour management and administration must take place according to plans, itineraries, schedules, and the standards and quality specified.

Article 51 Tour Service Fees

Tour service fees must be reasonable for the itineraries, schedules, standards, and quality of the tours.

Changes to the price or itinerary which have been agreed for a given reason must be subject to the agreement of the Tourist(s).

Chapter 10

Tour Guides

Article 52 Types and Levels of Tour Guides

Tour guides comprise two types – tour guides under the authority of a tourism company and tour guides not under the authority of a tourism company.

These two types of tour guides comprise three levels – national-level tour guides, provincial-level tour guides, and tour guides of a level for a specific area.

Article 53 Standards for Tour Guides (amended)

Tour guides must meet the following standards:

1. Be a Lao national aged eighteen years or over and have residence in the Lao PDR;
2. Never have been sentenced by a court to deprivation of freedom¹;
3. Possess a tour guide card issued by the relevant body;
4. Possess a certificate or affirmation for tour guide training domestically or overseas and which is officially recognized as being valid;
5. Have specialized knowledge and skills, such as geography, history, foreign languages, and/or first aid;
6. Possess political virtues, positive qualities, honesty, good interpersonal skills, good manners, and a polite and tidy [appearance]; and
7. Be in strong health and free of any severe communicable diseases.

Article 54 Rights and Duties of Tour Guides (amended)

Tour guides have the following rights and duties:

1. To escort Tourists to visit natural, cultural, and historical tourist sites which are legally open for service;
2. To ensure safety and facilitate matters for and assist [their] Tourist(s) as necessary;
3. To respect their service users, legal regulations, and local traditional customs at tourist sites;
4. To notify of and explain the history and background of the tourist sites;

¹ This term essentially refers to a custodial sentence but it does not say that and theoretically, could refer to house arrest or other form of deprivation of freedom.

5. To coordinate with the parties concerned over the performance of their duties; and
6. To exercise other rights and perform other duties as specified in legal regulations.

Part IV

Tourists and Entry into and Exit out of the Country

Chapter 1

Tourists

Article 55 Types of Tourists

Tourists are divided into the following two types:

1. Domestic Tourists; and
2. International Tourists.

Article 56 Domestic Tourists

Domestic Tourists are Tourists of Lao nationality, aliens, stateless persons, or foreigners in the Lao PDR traveling as tourists within the country.

Article 57 International Tourists

International Tourists are Tourists of foreign or Lao nationality [residing] in a foreign country and traveling into and touring the Lao PDR or Lao or foreign nationals, aliens, or stateless persons residing in the Lao PDR and traveling overseas for tourism.

Article 58 Rights and Obligations of Tourists (amended)

Tourists have the following main rights:

1. To tour, using the services of a tourism company, or to tour independently;
2. To select universal or partial services from a tourism company;
3. To receive facilitation when entering and exiting the country and traveling for tourism;
4. To receive permission and exemption from customs tariffs on their personal effects brought into taken out of the Lao PDR in accordance with legal regulations; and
5. To complain about wrongful actions which incur losses on their part.

Tourists have the following main obligations:

1. To comply with legal regulations and respect the fine traditional customs of Laos;

2. To act in strict accordance with plans and schedules concerning tourism;
3. To preserve Tourism Resources and natural and social environments; and
4. To report to officials when coming across instances of social ills which could have an impact on society and/or the environment.

Chapter 2

Entry into and Exit out of the Country by Tourists

Article 59 Permission to Enter and Exit the Country (amended)

Tourists traveling into the Lao PDR must comply strictly with the entry and exit regulations of the Lao PDR.

The relevant officials responsible must facilitate matters and provide simple and streamlined services for the entry into and exit out of the country for Tourists.

Article 60 Entry and Exit Border Crossings (amended)

Tourists entering the Lao PDR must enter and exit via a specified border crossing and comply correctly with the entry and exit regulations.

The responsible officials at border crossings must manage the inspection, coordination with the parties concerned, the allocation of appropriate locations to facilitate matters, [provide] streamlined services, and serve with a good and amicable disposition towards the Tourists entering and exiting the country.

Article 61 Domestic Travel (amended)

Tourists traveling into the Lao PDR for the purpose of tourism can travel to tourist sites within the country in accordance with regulations.

All parties concerned must facilitate matters for Tourists to travel domestically and amend and rectify any inconsistent regulations which create difficulties for Tourists to travel and visit tourist sites.

Part V

Tourism Development

Chapter 1

Tourism Development Plan Development

Article 62 Levels of Tourism Development Plans

Tourism Development Plans can be short-, medium-, or long-term and are classified into the following levels:

1. National Tourism Development Strategic Plans;
2. Regional-Level Tourism Development Plans;
3. Provincial-Level Tourism Development Plans;
4. District-Level Tourism Development Plans; and
5. Tourist Attraction Development Plans.

Article 63 Principles for Planning (amended)

The putting in place of Tourism Development Plans must take place in accordance with the following fundamental principles:

1. Being based on hidden potential and consistent with NSEDPs and local Socio-Economic Development Plans;
2. Proceeding according to the directions of Ecotourism and Cultural and Historical Tourism with community participation;
3. Ensuring sustainability associated with the preservation of natural and social environments and the fine traditional customs of Laos;
4. The support and promotion of domestic production to cater to the demand of Tourists;
5. The promotion of domestic tourism hand-in-hand with international tourism;
6. Focus being placed on prominent target areas, including the creation of new tourism products which can compete regionally and globally; and
7. The development and creation or training of tourism facilities and personnel.

Article 64 Content of Tourism Development Plans

Tourism Development Plans must specify the main content, objectives, expectations, development goals, the assessment and analysis of hidden potential, tourism market conditions, the results yielded, and impacts on the economy, society, culture, and the environment while also specifying methods, regulations, and standards for implementation.

Chapter 2

Tourist Attraction Development

Article 65 Stages of Tourism Attraction Development

The stages of Tourist Attraction development comprise surveying, planning, demarcation of area(s), designation, design, construction investment, and the arrangement of the history of the Tourist Attraction.

Article 66 Categorization of the Development Zone(s) for the Tourist Attraction

The categorization of the development area(s) for the Tourist Attraction must be based on the potential of the Tourism Resources and the conditions conducive to tourism.

The development of Tourist Attractions must be categorized into three zones – “**Preservation Zones**”, “**Conservation Zones**”, and “**Tourist Service Zones**”.

Article 67 Preservation Zones (new)

Preservation Zones refer to areas which are officially not permitted to be damaged, for construction, changes, extensions, land clearance and so forth to take place which would alter it from its original condition within the preserved area of the Zone with only renovation or restoration to keep it in its original condition [being allowed].

Article 68 Conservation Zones (new)

Conservation Zones refer to areas which are officially specified for the development of a given business activity for communal benefit and public use in terms of tourism, such as scenic spots, Campsites, places where tourists like to visit, and footpaths.

The specification of a Conservation Zone is subject to the agreement of the relevant body and must be certified correctly.

Article 69 Tourist Service Zones (new)

Tourist Service Zones refer to areas which have been specified for the systematic construction of various facilities, where business activities can be developed to support tourism, such as accommodation, food, commercial, or other service business activities.

Article 70 Regulations for the Management of Tourist Attractions

Regulations for the management of Tourist Attractions fall into two categories – general management regulations and specific management regulations.

General management regulations have a main area associated with the preservation and protection of a Tourist Attraction and/or environment, the protection of peace and order, and/or the use of land and construction.

Specific management regulations have an area concerning each of the Tourism Resources and must be consistent with general management regulations.

Chapter 3

Tourist Cities

Article 71 Conditions for “Tourist Cities”

The conditions for Tourist Cities are as follows:

1. [They must] be extremely popular towns to visit;
2. [They must] have Ecotourism of Cultural or Historical Tourism Resources within or in the area outside a town which attracts Tourists;
3. [They must] be orderly, peaceful, and safe;
4. [They must] have basic convenient infrastructure and the next stage of development must be possible; and
5. [They must] consider Tourism Businesses to be important in the economic structure of the town, the majority of income coming from tourism.

Article 72 Tourist Town Development (amended)

The socio-economic structure of a Tourist Town must be considered to be tourism as the first priority.

Tourist Town development must focus on promoting investment, building basic infrastructure and facilities, human resource development (“HRD”), the raising of awareness about tourism amongst the people and the use of land, and the development of the town to be clean, beautiful, and orderly so as to attract Tourists.

Article 73 Tourist Town Management (amended)

A Tourist Town must have specific management regulations for its protection, preservation, and HRD concerning Ecotourism and/or Cultural and/or Historical Tourism.

Chapter 4

The Tourism Fund

Article 74 Objectives of the Tourism Fund (amended)

The Tourism Fund was created to develop, promote, and manage, tourism, such as HRD, the development of facilities for tourism, publicity to promote and market tourism, and the specification of tourism standards and tourism management regulations.

Article 75 Sources of the Fund (amended)

The Tourism Fund is sourced from:

1. The State Budget;
2. Contributions from domestic and foreign natural and juridical persons and organizations;
3. Tourist activities, such as culinary Customary Events, tourism exhibitions, and Tourism Resources; and
4. Other legal income.

Article 76 The Use and Management of the Tourism Fund (amended)

The use of the Tourism Fund must be consistent with the objectives specified in Article 74 hereof.

The management of this Fund is provided for in specific regulations.

Part VI

Tourism Businesses

Article 77 Tourism Business Activities

Tourism Business Activities comprise:

1. Tourism Resources businesses;
2. Tour businesses;
3. Tourist transport businesses;
4. Tourist Accommodation Businesses;
5. Tourist Restaurant and Eatery businesses;
6. Tourism training businesses;
7. Tourism consulting businesses;
8. Entertainment businesses; and
9. Businesses for souvenirs and so forth.

Article 78 The Establishment and Operation of Tourism Business Activities

Domestic and foreign natural and juridical persons who are to establish an enterprise for the operations of Tourism Business Activities must comply with the Law on Enterprises and the Law on Investment Promotion and meet the following conditions:

- A. Natural persons [must]:
 1. Be aged eighteen years or older;
 2. Be of sound mind; and

3. Never have been sentenced by a court to deprivation of freedom.

B. Juridical persons:

1. Hold a legally valid enterprise registration certificate (“**ERC**”);
2. Perform their obligations to the State correctly and in accordance with legal regulations; and
3. Must not be undergoing court bankruptcy proceedings.

The State reserves certain business activities and occupations exclusively for Lao nationals, such as tour guides, domestic tour businesses, tour businesses for a specific area, Guesthouses, and Hostels.

The relevant sectors have the duty to promote and facilitate the establishment and operation of Tourism Business Activities as specified in legal regulations.

Article 79 Rights and Duties of Tourism Enterprises (amended)

Tourism enterprises have the following main rights:

1. To operate their business freely and in accordance with the law;
2. To receive protection of their legitimate rights and interests in accordance with legal regulations;
3. To participate in the activities of Tourism Business associations; and
4. To specify the price of tourism services consistently with the conditions and standards of their business.

Tourism enterprises have the following main obligations:

1. To respect and comply herewith and with other relevant legal regulations;
2. To preserve the natural environment, fine traditional customs of the nation, cleanliness, safety, and social order; and
3. To keep enterprise accounts and comply strictly with their obligations to the State².

Part VII

Tourism Business Associations

Article 80 Establishment of Tourism Business Associations (new)

The State permits the establishment of Tourism Business associations to strengthen the organization and activities of businesses to be effective and to protect the legitimate rights and

² This is mainly referring to taxation.

interests thereof based on the implementation/enforcement of the relevant legal regulations of the Lao PDR.

Article 81 Mandate of Associations (new)

Tourism Business associations have the mandate to bring together both State and private sector and both domestic and foreign Tourism Businesses operating in the Lao PDR into steadfast networks with the power to contribute, support, promote, and develop tourism for it to expand quantitatively, qualitatively, and highly effectively and to enable tourism connectivity with tourism in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (“ASEAN”), the subregion, the region, and the world.

Article 82 Rights and Duties of Tourism Business Associations

Tourism Business associations have the following rights and duties:

1. To study and create their own rules and regulations, to disseminate legal regulations concerning tourism to their members and the public at large to get to grips with, know about, and implement/enforce them equitably and effectively;
2. To create and amend their own organizational structure to grow strong and to incorporate science and modern techniques and technologies into their tourism operations;
3. To support Tourism Businesses to become members of their associations, to assist and promote their members to build their own careers, prosper, and advance, and to manage and protect the legitimate interests of their members based on legal regulations;
4. To act as a representative for Tourism Business operators in interaction and cooperation, participation in meetings, and the making of requests to the tourism sector concerning domestic and foreign tourism;
5. To monitor operations, provide guidelines, and resolve disputes among their members over the performance of tourism activities within their own scope of rights;
6. To provide data and information to their members concerning tourism and domestic and foreign tourism markets;
7. To cooperate and coordinate with the relevant State sectors to consult and exchange ideas concerning the development, publicity and promotion, and management of tourism;
8. To organize the dissemination of concepts, policies, and training to build capacities in the specializations of their members;
9. To summarize and report on their operations, including statistical figures, to the information, culture, and tourism sector on a regular basis; and
10. To exercise other rights and perform other duties as specified in legal regulations.

Part VIII

Rules

Article 83 Rules for Tourism Business Operators (amended)

Tourism Business operators are prohibited from the following behavior:

1. Operating a Tourism Business which affects the sovereignty, stability, and/or peace of the nation or social order;
2. Creating and implementing tourism projects inconsistently with Tourism Development Plans or harming Tourism Resources, the environment, or scenery;
3. Seeking illegal personal gain from Tourists;
4. Operating Tourism Businesses without having received permission;
5. Operating Tourism Businesses in contravention of legal regulations or the fine traditional customs of the nation;
6. Trafficking in persons (“TIPs”), prostitution, sexual exploitation, child abuse, forced labor, child labor, or meeting up for unlawful gambling or sexual activities;
7. Producing, trading in, being addicted to, being in possession of, or distributing all forms of addictive substances;
8. Transferring or allowing another person to rent a Tourism Business License incorrectly;
9. Publicizing distortions of the truth or the libel of individuals or organizations; or
10. Exhibiting other behavior in breach of legal regulations.

Article 84 Rules for Natural and Juridical Persons, Tourists, and Other Organizations (amended)

Natural and juridical persons, tourists, and other organizations are prohibited from the following behavior:

1. Harming Tourism Resources, the beauty of the environment, and/or the fine traditional customs of the nation in association with tourism;
2. Creating obstacles, noisy disturbances, holding events and activities, and/or dirtying tourist or public sites in various ways without having been granted permission from the relevant body;
3. Encroaching into, appropriating, or engaging in construction in prohibited areas or Tourism Resources areas without having received permission;

4. Dressing in or wearing clothes and/or exhibiting behavior which is impolite and/or disorderly at sacred places, temples, religious, Historical Tourism, and/or ancient sites and in other such places;
5. Publicizing distortions of the truth or the libel of individuals or organizations; or
6. TIPs, prostitution, sexual exploitation, child abuse, forced labor, child labor, or meeting up for unlawful gambling or sexual activities;
7. Producing, trading in, being addicted to, being in possession of, or distributing all forms of addictive substances; or
8. Exhibiting other behavior in breach of legal regulations.

Part IX

Dispute Resolution

Article 85 Forms of Dispute Resolution (new)

Dispute resolution can be handled in any of the following ways:

1. Compromise;
2. Administrative resolution;
3. Resolution by the Organization of Economic Dispute Resolution (“OEDR”);
4. Court judgement; or
5. Resolution of an international nature.

Article 86 Compromise (new)

In the event of a dispute over the operation of a business associated with tourism, the litigants must discuss and negotiate to seek a solution amicably and through compromise.

Article 87 Administrative Resolution (new)

In the event that a dispute over the operation of a business associated with tourism, the litigants have the right to propose the matter to the relevant sector where permission was received to establish and operate a business for consideration and resolution in accordance with legal regulations.

Article 88 Resolution by the OEDR (new)

In the event that a dispute over the operation of a business associated with tourism, the litigants have the right to propose the matter to the OEDR for consideration and resolution in accordance with legal regulations.

Article 89 Court Judgment (new)

When a dispute arises over the operation of a business associated with tourism, either litigant can petition the People’s Court to consider and adjudicate in accordance with legal regulations.

Article 90 Resolution of an International Nature (new)

In the event of a dispute over the operation of a Tourism Business between a Tourism Business operator and tourism service user or litigant, a proposal can be made to a domestic or foreign dispute resolution organization as mutually agreed or an international convention or agreement to which the Lao PDR is party can be invoked.

Part X

Tourism Management and Inspection

Chapter 1

Management Organizations

Article 91 Tourism Management Organizations (amended)

The Government manages tourism in a centralized and uniform manner nationwide by delegating direct responsibility and also autonomous responsibility over coordination with other ministries, organizations, local government organizations concerned to the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism (“**MICT**”).

Tourism management organizations comprise:

1. The MICT;
2. Provincial and City Departments of Information, Culture, and Tourism (“**DICTs**”);
3. District and Municipal Offices of Information, Culture, and Tourism; and
4. Village authorities.

Article 92 Rights and Duties of the MICT (amended)

In tourism management, the MICT has the following rights and duties:

1. To study policies, strategic plans, and laws concerning tourism nationwide for proposal to the Government for consideration;
2. To adopt policies, strategic plans, and laws into plans, programs, and projects for publicity, dissemination, and implementation;
3. To coordinate with other parties concerned over the specification of plans for the protection, conservation, maintenance, development, and publicity and promotion of tourism nationwide;
4. To specify standards and conditions concerning the demarcation of the hierarchy of each type of Tourism Business to ensure that each possesses quality, meets international

standards, and has an organizational structure and operations which are consistent with legal regulations;

5. To lead, support, and monitor the organization and operations and the implementation of policies, plans, projects, and legal regulations concerning tourism by the sectors under its authority;
6. To organize and promote, strengthen, train, build the capacities of, and teaching of State and private sector personnel working in tourism to possess knowledge and skills at a definite level concerning tourism;
7. To improve the organizational systems of the tourism sector to be close-knit and to manage and use employees and civil servants by ensuring the quantity, quality, and effectiveness thereof so as to cater to the needs of such work for each period;
8. To manage and use the Tourism Fund through the use of plans, effectively, and consistently with the goals and objectives thereof and the principles and regulations of the Ministry of Finance (“**MoF**”);
9. To coordinate with other relevant parties concerning tourism work, such as surveys, data collection, studies, the designation of Tourist Attractions, the approval of Tourism Businesses, and the facilitation of matters for Tourists;
10. To consider issuing licenses appraisals, warnings, fines, suspensions, and dissolutions of Tourism Business Activities through coordination with other parties concerned;
11. To liaise and cooperate with foreign entities, the region, and the world concerning tourism;
12. To summarize and report on the performance of duties concerning tourism to the Government on a regular basis; and
13. To exercise other rights and perform other duties as specified in legal regulations.

Article 93 Rights and Duties of Provincial and City DICTs (amended)

In tourism management, Provincial and City DICTs have the rights and duties according to their scope of responsibilities, as follows:

1. To study and create plans and projects concerning tourism development for proposal to superior levels for consideration;
2. To implement plans, legal regulations, and orders concerning tourism;
3. To act autonomously over coordination with other parties concerned over field surveys, data collection, and listings while also putting in place plans for the protection, conservation, maintenance, and development of Ecotourism and Cultural and Historical Tourist Attractions;

4. To study and consider the licensing and termination of the Tourism Business Activities specified herein;
5. To consider the issuance of licenses, appraisals, warnings, fines, suspensions, and dissolutions of Tourism Business Activities through coordination with other parties concerned;
6. To strengthen, train up, and organize the teaching of personnel associated with tourism;
7. To manage and use the Tourism Fund through the use of plans, effectively, and consistently with the goals and objectives thereof and with the principles and regulations of the MoF;
8. To liaise with foreign entities concerning tourism as assigned by superior levels;
9. To summarize and report on the performance of duties concerning tourism for the MICT and the Provincial or City Administration Office on a regular basis; and
10. To exercise other rights and perform other duties as specified in legal regulations or as assigned by superior levels.

Article 94 Rights and Duties of District and Municipal Offices of Information, Culture, and Tourism (amended)

In tourism management, District and Municipal Offices of Information, Culture, and Tourism have the rights and duties according to their scope of responsibilities, as follows:

1. To study and create plans and projects for tourism development for proposal to superior levels for consideration;
2. To implement/enforce plans, legal regulations, and orders concerning tourism;
3. To take autonomous responsibility for coordination with other parties concerned over field surveys, data collection, and listings while also putting in place plans for the protection, conservation, maintenance, and development of Ecotourism and Cultural and Historical Tourist Attractions;
4. To study and consider the licensing or termination of the Tourism Business Activities specified herein;
5. To consider the issuance of licenses, appraisals, warnings, fines, suspensions, or dissolutions of Tourism Business Activities through coordination with other parties concerned;
6. To propose the strengthening, training up, and organization of teaching for personnel associated with tourism;
7. To summarize and report on the performance of duties concerning tourism to the DICT and District or Municipal Administration Office on a regular basis; and

8. To exercise other rights and duties as specified in legal regulations and as assigned by superior levels.

Article 95 Rights and Duties of Village Authorities (new)

In tourism management, village authorities have the right and duty to cooperate with and assist the District or Municipal Office of Information, Culture, and Tourism over the development, inspection, publicity, and promotion of tourism in their respective village areas.

Article 96 Rights and Duties of Other Sectors (amended)

In tourism management, other sectors have the right and duty to preserve, develop, publicize, and promote tourism and Tourism Resources within their respective scopes of rights as specified in legal regulations.

Chapter 2

Inspection Organizations

Article 97 Tourism Inspection Organizations (amended)

Tourism inspection organizations comprise:

1. Internal inspection organizations, which are the same organizations as those specified for tourism management in Article 91 hereof; and
2. External inspection organizations, which comprise the NA, the Government Inspection Agency, the State Audit Organization, the Lao Front for National Construction, mass organizations, the public, and the mass media.

Article 98 Rights and Duties of Inspection Organizations

Inspection organizations have the following main rights and duties:

1. To inspect the implementation of strategic plans, policies, plans, projects, and legal regulations concerning tourism;
2. To inspect the operations of Tourism Businesses, such as their documentation and the field inspection of the true operations onsite;
3. To inspect and resolve requests made by individuals and organizations concerning tourism;
4. To request the parties concerned to implement penalties for the violation of legal regulations concerning tourism; and
5. To coordinate with other parties concerned over inspections concerning tourism.

Persons being inspected must provide their cooperation and facilitate matters for the inspection officials

Article 99 Types of Inspections

The types of inspections are as follows:

1. Regular inspections;
2. Announced inspections; and
3. Surprise inspections.

Regular inspections refer to inspections of a regular nature which have definite specified times and which must take place at least once annually.

Announced inspections refer to inspections which take place as deemed necessary by notifying the person to be inspected at least twenty-four hours in advance.

Surprise inspections refer to inspections which take place as deemed necessary and without informing the person to be inspected in advance.

Part XI

Policies for Outstanding Achievers and Penalties for Violators

Article 100 Policies for Outstanding Achievers

Individuals and organizations making outstanding achievements in the implementation/enforcement hereof will receive an appraisal and [benefit from] other policies in accordance with regulations.

Article 101 Penalties for Violators

Individuals and organizations acting in violation hereof will be subject to reeducation, warnings, disciplinary [measures], fines, damages for losses incurred, and/or punishment in accordance with the law, depending on the severity of the case.

Part XII

Final Provisions

Article 102 Implementation/Enforcement

The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic will implement/enforce this Law.

Article 103 Entry into Force

This Law will enter into force thirty days after the National President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic issues a Presidential Decree for its promulgation.

This Law replaces Law 10/NA, dated 9 November 2005, on Tourism.

Any specifications or provisions which conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

President of the National Assembly

*[SEAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND SIGNATURE]*

Pany Yathotou