

11-404

Project Name:	<i>Data Collection Survey on Economic Development of the Southern Region in Lao PDR</i>		
Country:	Laos		
Status:	Leading Firm	Associate 1: KMC; Associate 2: ICNet; Associate 3: OC	
Project Duration:	Current Year	Start Date:	End Date:
FY 2011	Single Year (Final)	2012.2.3	2012.10.31
Assignment Description			
<p>People’s Republic of Laos (hereinafter referred as “Lao PDR”) experienced rapid economic growth in recent years. Annual average GDP growth rate recorded 7.1% from 2001 and 2010. Challenges for the Lao PDR Government are narrowing development gap between urban and rural, and making a balance between economic development and environmental conservation.</p> <p>The southern region of Lao PDR (Savannakhet, Saravane, Sekong, Champasak and Attapue Provinces), which occupies of 30% of the national population and 28% of the GDP, has development potentials represented by National Road No. 9 and Bolaven Plateau. However, these potentials have not been fully utilized to date. The region has the same development issues as the nation: lack of quality and quantity of human resource, gaps between developed area and undeveloped area, insufficient infrastructure development.</p> <p>Japanese Government has been assisting social development programs such as improvements of rural economy, primary education and maternal and child health, and it also has been supporting infrastructure projects: 2nd Friendship Bridge, Lao–Nippon Bridge (Pakse Bridge), improvement of National Road No. 13 bridges, National Road No. 9, and so on.</p> <p>In recent years, economic activity of the southern region of Laos has been increasing as Foreign Direct Investments, which intend to utilize the rich natural resources are growing gradually. Such situation is recognized as a momentum to accelerate economic development and to expand benefit of the economic development to residents in the rural area, by use of economic linkage between urban and rural.</p> <p>Under such circumstances, JICA also intends to assist Lao PDR government in achieving inclusive economic development in the southern region of Laos.</p>			