

MEDIA RELEASE  
AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY  
VIENTIANE



---

---

6 July 2015

**Australia supports mining sector reform in Lao PDR**

Australia is providing AUD 1.17 million to strengthen the capacity of the Lao Ministry of Energy and Mines to evaluate development proposals in the mining sector. The Australian support will be used to prepare guidelines on how to undertake inter-ministerial review of new mining development proposals and train government staff to successfully negotiate mineral development agreements with mining enterprises. The support will be managed by a grant through the World Bank.

“We have learnt from the experiences of Australia and others that if the mining sector is well managed, it can be a driver for long term sustainable growth and development. A streamlined process to appraise new investments will ensure that Lao PDR can maximize the benefits from its natural endowment without compromising environmental and social safeguards,” said Andreas Zurbrugg, Chargé d’Affairs of Australian Embassy in Lao PDR.

Australia’s new commitment builds on top of a previous AUD 3 million contribution that developed new mining licensing and operation guidelines, supported teaching programs at the National University of Laos, improved procedures for community consultation and engagement in areas affected by mining and hydropower development as well as a streamlined inspection and monitoring system.

Media Contacts:

**Australian Embassy:**

Ounheuan Saiyasith  
Senior Program Officer, Water Resources  
Phone: 021-353 800 ext. 145  
Email: [Ounheuan.saiyasith@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Ounheuan.saiyasith@dfat.gov.au)