

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN AND AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE LAO
PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, THE KINGDOM OF
THAILAND, AND THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
ON
THE INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
AND AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE KINGDOM OF
CAMBODIA, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, THE LAO
PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, THE UNION OF MYANMAR,
THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND, AND THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
VIET NAM
FOR THE FACILITATION OF CROSS-BORDER TRANSPORT OF
GOODS AND PEOPLE (IICBTA)
AT
LAO BAO, THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
AND DANSAVANH, THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC,
AND
AT SAVANNAKHET, THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
AND MUKDAHAN, THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND**

Referring to the Agreement Between and Among the Governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for the Facilitation of Cross-Border Transport of Goods and People, originally signed on 26 November 1999 at Vientiane, The Lao People's Democratic Republic, amended at Yangon, Myanmar on 29 November 2001, acceded to by the Kingdom of Cambodia at Yangon, Myanmar on 29 November 2001, acceded to by the People's Republic of China ("PRC") at Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 3 November 2002, acceded to by the Union of Myanmar at Dali, PRC on 29 September 2003, and amended at Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 30 April 2004, hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement",

Recognizing that some Annexes and Protocols of the Agreement have yet to be ratified, and, consequently, interim measures should be undertaken to allow early implementation of the Agreement until such time that these Annexes and Protocols are ratified,

Referring to Article 5 (c) of Annex 4 of the Agreement calling expressly for the implementation of single-stop customs inspection procedure through a Memorandum of Understanding between the bordering country pairs, in order to specify the modality,

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Now that the Transport Ministers of the Lao PDR, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, which have been assigned by their respective Governments, met in Savannakhet on the 23rd of August 2007, and decided to undertake the IICBTA at the Dansavanh-Lao Bao and at Savannakhet-Mukdahan border crossing points, but not limited to the following actions.

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Traffic Rights

1. allow the operation of cross border road transport of goods and people between and among the Parties to the MOU along the East-West Economic Corridor as specified in Attachment 1 of Protocol 1 of the Agreement, at the Dansavanh-Lao Bao and at the Savannakhet- Mukdahan border crossing points.
2. recognize transport operators properly licensed by respective competent authorities of the Parties to the MOU and allow them to provide international transport services through Dansavanh-Lao Bao and Savannakhet- Mukdahan border crossing points.

Facilitation of Frontier Crossing Formalities

3. adopt single-window inspection (SWI) and single stop inspection (SSI) at the Dansavanh-Lao Bao border crossing point, and adopt SWI and gradually move towards the implementation of SSI at the Savannakhet- Mukdahan border crossing point.
4. cooperate with each other to allow for advance exchange of information and clearance of goods and people; and to dispatch the relevant border crossing documents to the authorities of the other Parties to the MOU, using all appropriate means of communication (e.g., courier, mail, facsimile, telex, electronic means).
5. conduct a review and execute a comparative survey of the documents, procedures, and formalities, and evaluate their absolute necessity, and eliminate any documents or formal requirements that are now superfluous or do not serve any particular purpose.
6. streamline and limit documents, procedures, and formalities, as well as harmonize the declaration/clearance documents.

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7. periodically jointly carry out a study of border crossing times to monitor the effectiveness of cross-border facilitation measures.

8. provide facilities, equipment and personnel required for modern border management at the Dansavanh-Lao Bao and Savannakhet- Mukdahan border crossing points.

Cross-Border Movement of People

9. comply with the International Health Regulations, the Code of Practice of the World Health Organization (WHO) on Border Health Quarantine. When a traveler is upon medical examination found to be infected with a dangerous communicable disease, offer appropriate medical care and treatment in isolation/quarantine to the individual, and notify promptly the WHO and the Ministry of Health of the other Parties to the MOU via the appropriate channels in accordance with applicable rules.

10. continue to exempt from customs duties and taxes, personal effects carried by people not engaged in cross-border transport operations (e.g., clothes and necessities for personal hygiene in reasonable quantities, luggage, currency for living expenses); and enforce their respective national regulations concerning personal effects carried by people engaged in cross-border transport operations.

11. jointly establish cross-border passenger transport services between and among the Parties to the MOU.

Cross-Border Transport of Goods

12. continue to exempt, unless an irregularity is suspected, sealed goods including sealed containers in international transit from

- a) routine physical customs inspection at the border, and
- b) customs escorts in the national territory.

13. continue to exempt goods in transit from any customs duties and taxes.

14. continue grant freedom of transit through its territory for transit traffic to or from the territory of the Parties to the MOU.

15. recognize issuing/guaranteeing organizations/institutions approved by other Parties to the MOU to provide guarantees for cargo in transit in the territories of the Parties to the MOU.

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16. for the cross-border movement of dangerous goods permitted on a case-by-case basis, endeavour to implement the applicable measures under Part 2 of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods/Model Regulations and/or the European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR).

17. grant priority border crossing clearance for perishable goods.

Admittance of Road Vehicles

18. continue to mutually recognize the vehicle registration certificate, registration plate, and inspection certificate of the other Parties to the MOU.

19. continue to disseminate updated information on the Host Country weight, axle load, and dimensions standards for vehicles through local newspapers, periodic publications, and/or other forms of media.

20. disseminate information on location(s), the cost, the documents, and time required to apply for third-party motor vehicle liability insurance coverage and its period of validity through local newspapers, periodic publications, and/or other forms of media in the English language, make available third-party motor vehicle insurance contracts in the English language.

21. continue to mutually recognize domestic driving license(s) issued by the Issuing Authority of the other Parties to the MOU.

22. continue to grant for a period of **30 days**, temporary admission to its territory Motor Vehicles (and the fuel contained in its original supply tanks, its lubricants, maintenance supplies, and spare parts in reasonable quantities) registered in the other Parties to the MOU, without payment of import duties and taxes and free of other prohibitions and restrictions, subject to re-exportation.

Miscellaneous Provisions

23. take other actions necessary to establish transit and inland customs clearance regime.

24. continue to have the price setting for its cross border transport services determined by market forces.

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25. hold trilateral meetings, as deemed necessary, between respective officials, with the participation of their respective Competent Authorities at the Dansavanh-Lao Bao and at the Savannakhet - Mukdahan border crossing points to monitor progress of implementation of this MOU and report as well as to bring any outstanding issues to the attention of their respective National Transport Facilitation Committees for guidance and resolution.

26. staff the contact points, where possible, with personnel proficient in English and/or in the national language of the other Parties to the MOU.

27. where necessary, conform its relevant national legislation (and regulations) with the contents of the MOU.

28. conduct training, individually and jointly with the other Parties to the MOU, for relevant Competent Authorities at the Dansavanh-Lao Bao and at the Savannakhet-Mukdahan border crossing points on the implementation of the Agreement and its Annexes and Protocols.

29. prepare or revise, as necessary, manuals of procedures for all relevant Competent Authorities, for the implementation of this MOU.

30. any other matters arising from the implementation of this MOU which are not covered by this MOU shall be subject to the Agreement.

31. set up a Joint Lao-Thai-Viet Nam Task Force to:

- a) coordinate with all respective relevant Competent Authorities for the implementation of this MOU;
- b) carry out all necessary actions to ensure the smooth and orderly implementation of this MOU;
- c) assist and advice their respective Competent Authorities at the border crossing points in the performance of their duties in compliance with the MOU; and
- d) monitor and follow up the implementation of the MOU and make a quarterly report to their respective relevant authorities, as deemed necessary.

32. any Party to the MOU may propose amendment(s) to the MOU. Such amendment(s) shall be subject to the mutual consent of the Parties to the MOU, and shall be effected by the signing of an addendum to the MOU by the duly authorized representatives of their National Transport Facilitation Committees.

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This Memorandum of Understanding becomes effective on the date of its signature, bringing into effect the implementation of the Agreement at the Dansavanh-Lao Bao and at the Savannakhet- Mukdahan border crossing points.

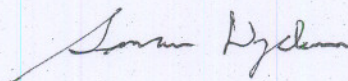
Done at Savannakhet on 23 August, 2007, in three originals in the English language.

For the Government
of the Lao People's
Democratic Republic



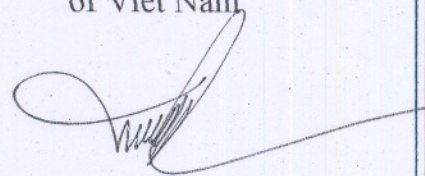
Sommad Pholsena
Minister of Communication
Transport Post and Construction

For the Government
of the Kingdom of
Thailand



Sansern Wongcha-um
Deputy Minister of
Transport

For the Government of
the Socialist Republic
of Viet Nam



Ho Nghia Dung
Minister of Transport