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**Working Party on the
Accession of the Lao PDR**

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ACCESSION OF THE LAO PDR

Action Plan on the Legislative Work and Implementation of the WTO Agreement
on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)

Revision

The following submission, dated 9 April 2009, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR).

Issues	Actions	Implementation Timeframe	Technical Assistance Provided/Sought
1. Food Safety	Regulation on Bottled Drinking Water, No. 585/MOH, dated 12 May 2006	Adopted in 2006	Recommendations received from FAO and WHO.
	Regulation on Production, Exported-Imported Safe Food, No. 586/MOH, dated 12 May 2006	Adopted in 2006	Recommendations received from FAO and WHO.
	National Policy on Food Safety, No. 028/PM dated 3 February 2009	Adopted in 2009	Recommendations received from FAO and WHO. Technical Assistance (TA) requested for publication and training implementing officers.
	Regulation on Basic Principles in Application of Sanitary and Technical Measures in Food Safety Management in accordance with the SPS Agreement (formerly referred to as Decree on Implementation of Food Law)	Adopted in 2009	Recommendations received from FAO and WHO. TA to be requested from Trade Development Facility (TDF) for publication and training implementing officers.
	Regulation on Labelling of Pre-Package Food	Adopted in 2009	TA received from WHO on drafting.
	Regulation on Food Inspection (formerly referred to as Regulation on Food Control System)	To be drafted by 2009	TA to be requested from TDF and WHO for drafting the regulation and guidelines, training.
	Regulation on Food Additives	To be drafted by 2009	TA to be requested from TDF for drafting the regulation.
	Adopting Codex Alimentarius Standards for Lao PDR	Ongoing	TA to be requested for selecting necessary standards and training.
	Establishment of an independent food laboratory	2010	TA to be requested for design, training, and equipment.
Improving food processing by introducing food hygiene practice, GMP	Ongoing	TA to be requested for training and developing guidelines.	
2. Animal Health	Livestock Production and Veterinary Law No. 03/NA, dated 25 July 2008 (formerly referred to as a Veterinary Law)	Adopted in 2008	Recommendations received from FAO and EU. TA to be requested for publication and training implementing officers.
	Law on Fisheries	To be submitted to National Assembly in December 2009	TA to be requested for publication and training for implementing officers.
	Decree on Meat Inspection (formerly referred to as Decree on inspection of live animals at import and transit)	To be drafted by 2009	TA to be requested from TDF for drafting the Decree.

Issues	Actions	Implementation Timeframe	Technical Assistance Provided/Sought
	Decree on Animal Epidemic Diseases	To be drafted by 2010	TA to be requested from TDF for drafting the Decree.
	Decree on Livestock Production Management	To be drafted by 2010	TA to be requested from TDF for drafting the Decree.
	Decree on Animal Quarantine	To be drafted by 2009	TA to be requested from TDF for drafting the Decree.
	Establishment of a diagnostic laboratory	2010	TA to be requested from World Bank and FAO for design, training, and equipment.
	Decree on Zoonotic Diseases Control	To be drafted by 2009	TA to be requested from TDF for drafting the Decree.
	Adaptation to animal disease free areas	2010	TA to be requested for planning and execution.
3. Plant Health	Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine (formerly referred to as Law on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine)	Adopted in 2008	Recommendations received from FAO legal experts, practices of neighbouring countries. TA to be requested for publication and training implementing officers.
	Regulation on Plant Quarantine to be updated	To be drafted by 2011	TA to be requested from TDF for drafting the update.
	Regulation on Plant Inspection and Certification	To be drafted by 2011	TA to be requested from TDF for drafting the regulation.
	Establishment of a laboratory on plant diseases and pests	2010	TA to be requested from TDF for design, training, and equipment.
	Adaptation to pest and disease free areas	2010	TA to be requested from TDF for planning and execution.
4. Information Procedures	Decree on the establishment of SPS and TBT enquiry point and notification point	To be adopted by 2010	TA received from EU on drafting.
	Establishment of SPS enquiry point at the Department of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Operational upon accession	TA to be requested for training and equipment.
	Establishment of the SPS and TBT notification point at the Foreign Trade Policy Department, Ministry of Industry and Commerce		

Note: The above transition strategy for the implementation of Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures is expected to be achieved by 2012 based on technical assistance and national capacity.

Technical assistance on SPS is being elaborated under a multi-donor trust fund, the Trade Development Facility, under the Integrated Framework. The key components of the project are the strengthening of SPS capacity, focussing on:

- (i) Strengthening SPS institutional, legal and regulatory framework;
 - (ii) Determining risk-based policies and control measures for SPS; and
 - (iii) Strengthening the role of the private sector in the SPS regime.
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