



UNITED NATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
STATISTICS DIVISION

**International workshop on country practices in compilation of international merchandise trade statistics, Bangkok, Thailand,  
12 – 15 December 2006**

## **Country Paper**

PRESENTED BY VIXAY SANTIVONG  
NATIONAL STATISTICS CENTRE  
LAO PDR



# **Coverage and time recording of Local border trade**

National Statistics Center,  
Lao PDR

# The Lao PDR



- Area : 236,800 sq km
- More then 60% of land area is mountains
- 16 provinces and
- 1 capital city
- Population: 5.5 million
- Foreign trade has prevailed for many years



# Trade practices

---

- Laos international trade is more closely to border trade
- 70 check points, including 15 international
- Most goods transaction has done with neighboring countries, e.g. Thailand, Vietnam and China
- The value of trade with these three countries has accounted for about 90% of the total international trade
- Of which, 30% flows through local check points



# Main exports from Lao PDR

---

- Garment
- Electricity
- Wood and wood products
- Mining



# Main imports to Lao PDR

---

- Machines and transport equipments
- Manufactured goods
- Fuels, lubricants, and others



# Laos-Thailand border trade

---

- Trade value between Laos and Thailand was about 70% of total trade with neighboring countries
- 80% is Import, while export growth rate is 13.4 % annually

# Goods across Laos-Thailand border

- To Lao PDR, mostly are manufactured goods such as fuels, textiles, iron and steel, motor vehicles and parts, chemical products, machineries and construction materials
- To Thailand are raw materials or semi-raw materials such as logs, woods, mineral ores, coal, agricultural and forest products

---

	2003	2004	2005
Trade value in mill. \$US	561	695	996
Through local check point, %	17.2	18.5	....





# Across the Laos- Vietnam border

---

- The main export from Laos is agricultural and forest products (wood, rattan, flour, and bastard cardamom), equipment and crude materials (except fuels) and consumer goods
- The main import to Laos is machineries and equipment, manufactured goods, production materials, chemical products, and others



# Laos-China border trade

---

- In 2005, the total trade value was 128.9 mill. \$us, increased 13.6%
- 32.1% of total trade value was with Yunnan province
- Laos exports to Yunnan has jumped up to 77% in 2005, it's number has covered more then half of total export to China

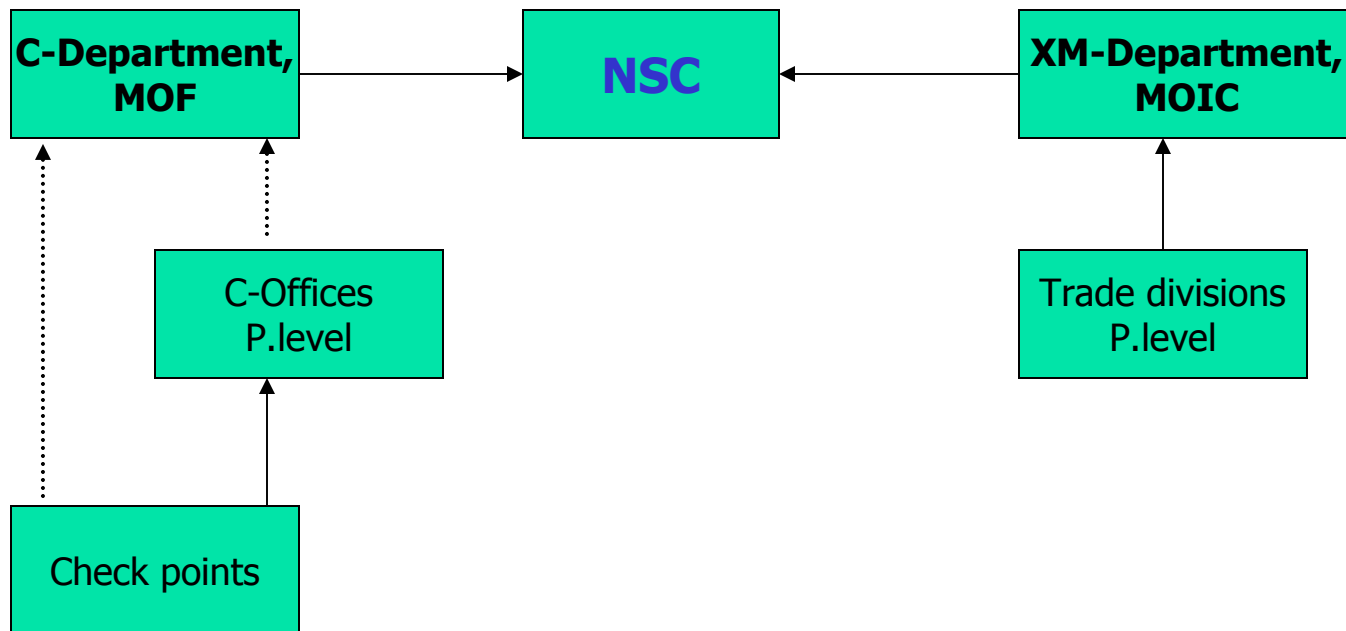


# Across Laos-China border

---

- Main export to China:
  - Agriculture products, 45.4%
  - Mining, 26.5%
  - Wood and wood products, 16.6%
- Main import from China:
  - Materials and supplies for industry, 37.3%
  - Clothing, 11%
  - Inputs for agriculture and other goods

# Main players involve in data collection





# the data collection

---

- From customer
  - Using computer software, C-2000
  - Data was entered at the check points for the checkpoint where has computerize system
  - The check point with no computerize system, the data was sent to entry at the provincial customer office, then forward to customer department in Vientiane. The process takes about one or/to two months late
  - The customer department is responsible for tabulation and dissemination
- While ministry of commerce collects data base on annual plan of export/import of enterprises



# Recording

---

- Cover
  - All type of formal trade across border check point
- Non-cover
  - Goods for re-export/ transit
  - Informal trade, e.g. Every day transaction by villagers with small amount of goods and illegal activities
- Record when declaration was done
- Valuation is based on min-price and general agreement on trade and tariff



# Publication

---

- Once a year publication
- By country where goods are from/to
- By check point
- By group of commodity



# Problems

---

- Less cooperation with NSC
- Data forward to NSC not electronically
- Under report in custom data
- Less quality control
- More times for processing
- Not enough staff and frequently changed





---

Thank you for your attention