

*Methodology and Data Compilation of  
International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS),  
Phnom Penh, 2 -5 February, 2010*

**Current practices  
in the collection, compilation and dissemination  
the IMTS**

*February 2010*

# Data collection

- Technology usage:
  - Lao Customs Department is the main section, who provides the data of import and export information to the Lao Department of Statistics.
  - The preliminary producer is Customs Department (CD) by using a developed/designed system, called “ Custom 2000 or C-2000 ” since 2000
  - The system was settled in most of the checkpoints around the country. There are 33 checkpoints in total: 19 international checkpoints, 6 local checkpoints and 8 traditional checkpoints. and now there are 9 international checkpoints connected directly with the head-quarter through the fibre optic cable.

# Data collection

- Data coverage:
  - All goods, except the electricity and Mining (Gold, Copper).
- Data contains
  - Custom checkpoint codes
  - Date and time
  - Products classification (AHTN 2002 in eight digits)
  - Commodity Detail
  - Country codes in two alpha digits
  - Supplement of quantity unit (Liter, etc)
  - Quantity
  - Net weight in kilograms
  - The trade value are both in national currency (kip) and US dollar (CIF for Import and FOB for export)

# Data compilation and quality control

- Data compilation:
  - The CD compiles trade data from the main system linked with checkpoints
  - Department of Statistics (DoS) has received the trade data in raw pattern (Spreadsheet format) in each period of time, and using Spreadsheet and SPSS 12 for setting up databases and analyzing
- Data quality control:
  - DoS check the consistency between value and quantity, national currency with US dollar, country codes with the full name and products classification that mention in the received data with the indicated name of products.
  - DoS does check data by comparing with trade partner (other source as ITC website)

# Data dissemination

- The agency that respond to disseminate trade data are DoS and Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT).
  - DoS is responsible for summarizing and distributing the data through its data dissemination system and publish this data once a year in Statistics Yearbook (calendar year) in aggregated level (excluded electricity and mining (gold and copper)), included trade value by Group of 2digits of Harmonized System (HS2002) and trade value by trade partners
  - MOIT also disseminates this data once a year in aggregated level, included trade value by groups of products in its website, [www. moic.gov.la](http://www.moic.gov.la)

# IMTS Development Plan

- This plan is included
  - IMTS roles
  - Capacity building
  - Create and develop the IMTS compilation and analyzing system (software)
  - Database creation
  - Create and develop the IMTS dissemination and report system (online/internet)

**Thank you**

