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Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

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Prime Minister's Office
National Authority for Science and Technology

No. 1199/PMO-NAST
Vientiane Capital, dated 22 June 2011

Decision on the Organization and Operation of the Technical Barriers to Trade Enquiry Point

- x Pursuant to Prime Minister's Decree on the Notification and Enquiry of Trade Related Information of the Lao PDR, No. 363/PM, dated 19 August 2010.
- x Pursuant to Prime Minister's Decree on the Organization of the National Authority for Science and Technology No.444/PM, dated 24 December 2007.
- x Pursuant to Proposal of the Department of Intellectual Property, Standards and Metrology No.150, dated 16 June 2011.

The Minister to the Prime Minister's Office
Head of the National Authority for Science and Technology issues a regulation:

Section I General Provisions

Article 1. Objectives

This regulation establishes a Technical Barriers to Trade Enquiry Point and provides procedures and authorities for information sharing among relevant sectors at the central and local levels in order to respond effectively to questions from domestic and foreign individuals and organizations, and to provide information with regard to standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment.

By increasing transparency and access to regulatory and technical information, the effective operation of the TBT Enquiry Point will improve the business environment and competitiveness in the Lao economy and will promote exports and imports. This regulation will also ensure that the Lao PDR complies with international agreements and treaties, specifically the requirements of the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.

Section III Rights and Duties of the TBT Enquiry Point

Article 5. Rights of the TBT Enquiry Point

The TBT Enquiry Point shall have the following rights:

- 1) To coordinate with central and local government agencies and other relevant organizations to provide information and documents, and receive and answer questions from domestic and international parties regarding all national and local standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures;
- 2) To participate in meetings, seminars, trainings and dissemination activities that are related to TBT enquiry and notification activities;
- 3) To report on problems involving the Enquiry Point to its higher level; and,
- 4) To coordinate with the SPS-TBT Notification Unit to seek funding and technical assistance from WTO members in order to improve its operation and coordination.

Article 6. Duties of the TBT Enquiry Point

The TBT Enquiry Point has the following duties:

- 1) Receive and respond within a reasonable time to all enquiries from domestic and foreign individuals and organizations regarding the following:
 - a) Any technical regulation, standard or conformity assessment procedure proposed or enacted in the Lao PDR;
 - b) The membership and participation of the Lao PDR in international, regional and bilateral standardizing bodies, conformity assessment systems, mutual recognition agreements, and reasonable information on the provisions of such international and regional systems and arrangements for which Laos is a member; and,
 - c) The location and availability of notices published pursuant to this regulation, or the provision of information as to where such information can be obtained.
- 2) Coordinate effectively with the SPS-TBT Notification Unit, the TBT Contact Points, the SPS Enquiry Point and other relevant organizations to carry out the duties of the TBT Enquiry Point and to support the SPS-TBT Notification Unit to respond to WTO notifications.
- 3) Develop and maintain a database for relevant legislation and materials on the areas listed in section (1) of this Article, serving as a research library for TBT-related materials by providing up-to-date, comprehensive information in one central location and making documents available to the public for consultation or reproduction, both in terms of hard and soft copies and on a website. A reasonable service charge can be applied to cover all costs for the material being supplied.

particularly the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.

Section IV

Establishment of TBT Contact Points

Article 7. TBT Contact Points at the Central and Local Levels

Relevant central and local government agencies are responsible to establish a contact point and assign staff to coordinate with the TBT Enquiry Point and SPS-TBT Notification Unit regarding the preparation, adoption and implementation of standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures on a timely basis as defined in Article 3 of the Decree on the Notification and Enquiry of Trade Related Information of the Lao PDR, No. 363/PM, dated 19 August 2010.

Relevant central and local government sectors are as follows:

- 1) Industry and Commerce sector;
- 2) Water Resource and Environment sector;
- 3) Agriculture and Forestry sector;
- 4) Energy and Mining sector;
- 5) Public Works and Transportation sector;
- 6) Post and Telecommunication sector;
- 7) Public Health sector; and,
- 8) other relevant sectors shall be responsible for cooperating with the TBT Enquiry Point to answer questions and provide relevant materials and information.

Article 8. Rights and Duties of Contact Points at Central and Local Levels

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