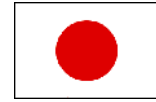


Press Release
Embassy of Japan in the Lao PDR



A Solid Waste Transfer Station Handed over by Japan

Vientiane Capital,
January 29, 2016

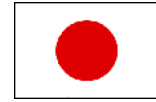
Vientiane, 29 January 2016- New Solid Waste Transfer Station was officially handed over by H.E. Takeshi Hikiyama, Ambassador-designate of Japan to the Lao PDR, to Vientiane at the waste transfer station, Vientiane Capital. This is part of Japan's Project for Improvement of Solid Waste Management in Environmentally Sustainable Cities (Vientiane Capital, Luang Prabang and Xayaboury), based upon the Exchange of Notes concluded in March 2014, with a grant of 1.4 billion Japanese yen [equivalent to 13.5 million USD at the exchange rate at the time of signing]. The ceremony was attended by H.E. Dr. Bounchan Sinthavong, Minister of Public Works and Transport, H.E. Dr. Sinlavong Khoutphaithoun, Vientiane Governor, Mr. Yusuke Murakami, Chief Representative of JICA Laos Office and other officials.



This project has aimed to improve the urban environment by constructing a waste transfer station and providing waste collection vehicles, other related vehicles and some heavy equipment, together with a training program. Through this project, the solid waste transfer station to improve efficiency in waste management has been constructed in Vientiane and more than 70 new vehicles and items of heavy equipment have been provided for the three cities. In addition, Training program for operational staffs to acquire skill for operating and maintaining the transfer station has completed middle of this month.



Press Release
Embassy of Japan in the Lao PDR



In his speech, Ambassador Hikihara emphasized the importance of waste management to ensure a proper urban environment by saying, “I am confident that these vehicles will help the Vientiane Urban Development Administration Authority (VUDAA) substantially improve its solid waste management, and, as a result, citizens will enjoy great benefits through a clean and healthy environment.” He continued, saying, “I also hope that the solid waste station will contribute to present Vientiane as a clean, green, livable and environmentally sustainable city for receiving ASEAN delegation and foreign guests during the ASEAN meetings”. He also reminded the authorities that it was important to maintain the station in good condition so that it will serve the interests of citizens for a long time.”

Japan has been engaged with the socio-economic development of the Lao PDR for many years. Last December, H.E. Mr. Keiichi Ishii, Japanese Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Wattay international airport terminal expansion project which was implemented by Japanese concessional loan of about 9.2 billion yen [equivalent to 77 million USD at the exchange rate at the time of E/N signing]. In addition, Prime Minister Abe pledged a concessional loan of about 10.3 billion yen [approximately 90 million USD at current exchange rate] for a Vientiane Capital Water Supply Expansion Project at the meeting with H.E. Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong in Kuala Lumpur November 2015 on the margins of ASEAN meetings. The Ambassador concluded by saying, “These remarkable projects mark Japan and Lao PDR as a quality infrastructure partnership. We will continue to work with you for the socio-economic development of your country.”