

# **Strategic Priorities and Needs for GMS- Cooperation (Perspectives of Lao PDR)**

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Khone Khean, Thailand, August 29, 2016

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- Importance of GMS-cooperation for Lao PDR
- Socio-economic development priorities of Lao PDR
- Possible areas for strengthening GMS-Cooperation

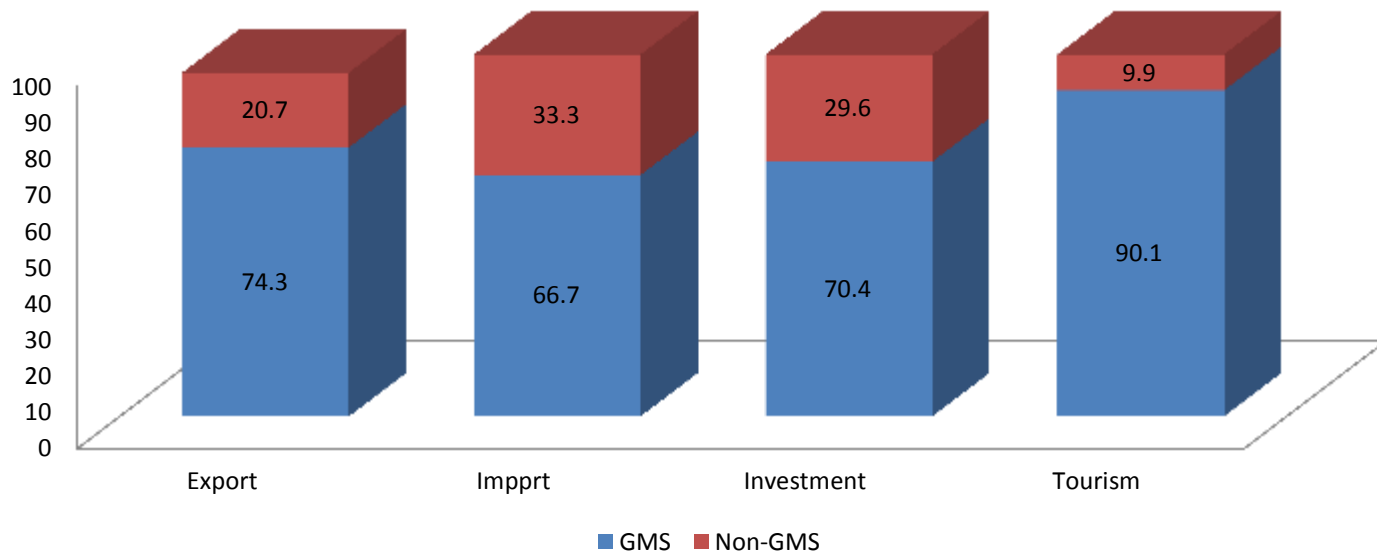
- **Role and importance of GMS-cooperation for Lao PDR**



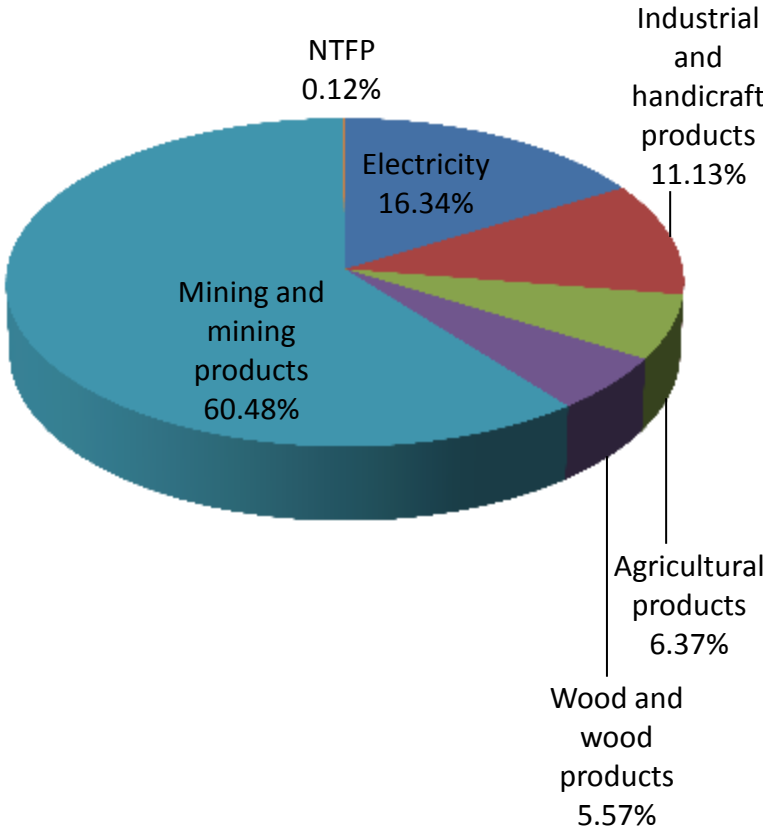
- ❖ Located in center of GMS and sharing with border with all countries in the GMS-region
- ❖ Development of number of infrastructure linking GMS-countries via Laos.
- ❖ Signing number of bilateral as well as multilateral transportation agreements to facilitate cross border movement

- ❖ **GMS-countries become most important trade and investment partners and thus they are important sources for capital, technologies, human resources for Lao PDR**

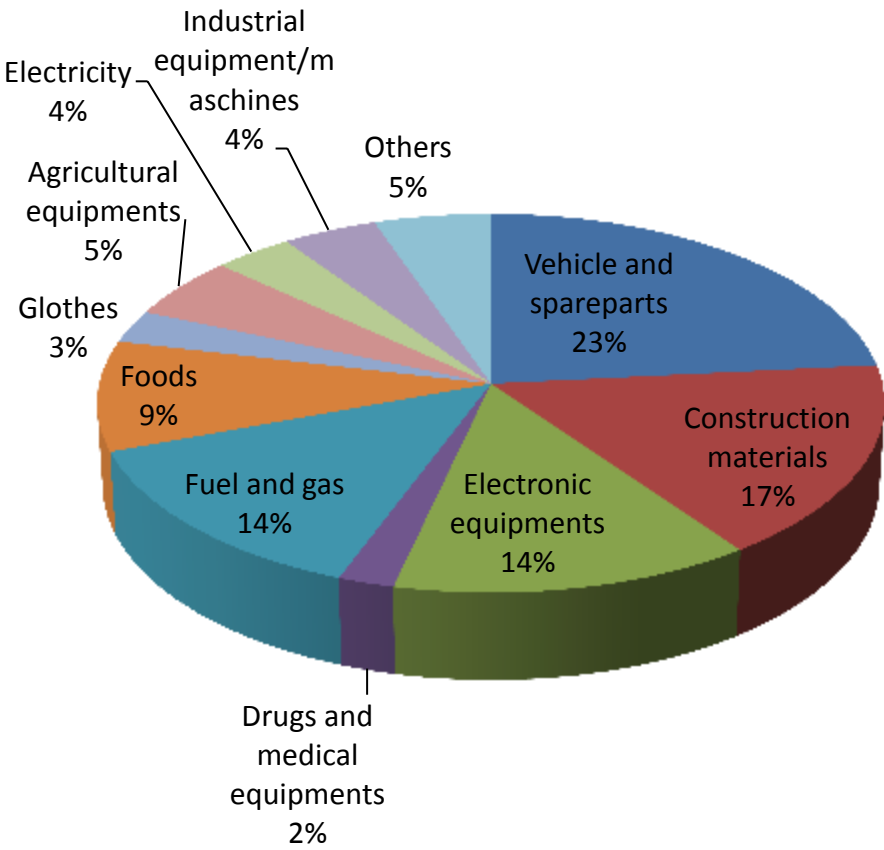
**Proportion of export, import, investment and tourism from GMS and Non-GMS-countries (2010-2014)**



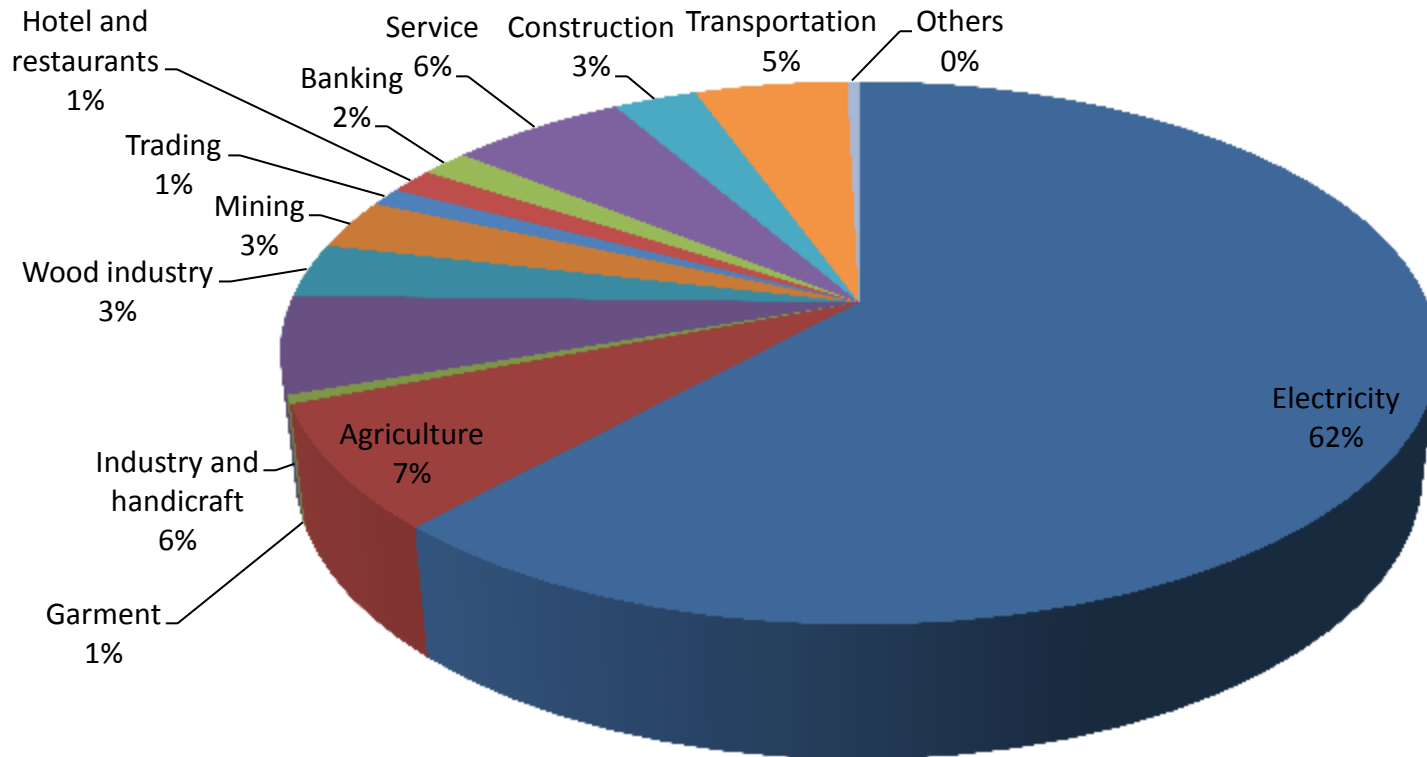
# Export structure to GMS-countries



# Import structure from GMS-Countries



## Structure of FDI from GMS-countries



-Thousands of Lao people migrant to Thailand for seeking jobs and income generation activities.

-Thousands of Vietnam and Chinese people are employed in Lao PDR.

**❖ By strong contribution from GMS-Cooperation, the Lao PDR has been experiencing high economic growth and rapid poverty reduction**

- Average GDP-growth of over 7.9% during last five years
- GDP per capita reaches USD over 1,600 in 2013.
- Poverty incidence declines gradually from 28% in 2008 to 23% in 2013.

## **❖ Some key negative impacts associated with GMS-Cooperation**

**-Negative environmental impacts.**

**-Undocumented labor migration associated with risks to be cheated and trafficked.**



- **Socio-economic development priorities of Lao PDR**

-Socio-economic development goals:

- +Sustainable LDC-status by 2020

- +Avoiding middle income trap

- +Becoming high middle income country by 2030.

# **-Priority areas of socio-economic development in Lao PDR**

+Strongly promoting high sustainable green economic growth; the key driving sectors include -but not limited to- sustainable hydropower, eco-tourism, agriculture, processing industry, trade, logistics, etc.

+Focusing on human development, rural development and poverty eradication, gender, social inclusion, etc.; this should focus particularly on health, education, nutrition and food security and water and sanitation, labor force development, social protection, etc.

+Improving economic resilience/reducing vulnerability/ to climate change as well as other possible shocks by many measures, including diversifying economic sectors, trade relationships, improving agricultural production technique, technologies and infrastructure, promoting more strongly non-agriculture sectors which are less vulnerable to climate change, etc.

- **Possible areas for strengthening GMS-cooperation**

- Tourism (GMS-visa, etc.)

- Improving cross border transportation/movement (common check point, etc.)

- Capacity building and human resource development as well as technique and technological transfer. (more opportunities to get internship as well as training in Thailand and Vietnam)

-SME-development.

-Cross- labor migration. (considering and cooperating to make labor migration in this region easier and safer, etc.)

-R&D (development of green technologies, etc.)

-Sustainable management of natural resources.

**Thanks for your Attention**

