

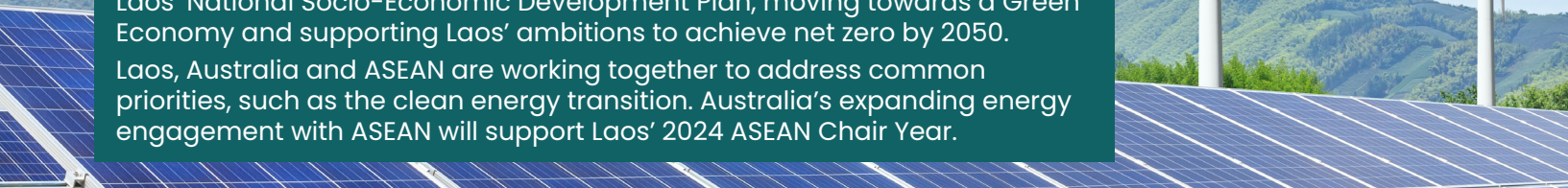


Australian Government



Partnerships for INFRASTRUCTURE

Australia - Lao PDR



Laos-Australia Sustainable Energy Partnership

The Laos-Australia Sustainable Energy Partnership (LASEP) aims to support a sustainable, reliable and profitable energy sector in Laos. This will advance Laos' National Socio-Economic Development Plan, moving towards a Green Economy and supporting Laos' ambitions to achieve net zero by 2050.

Laos, Australia and ASEAN are working together to address common priorities, such as the clean energy transition. Australia's expanding energy engagement with ASEAN will support Laos' 2024 ASEAN Chair Year.

LASEP at a glance

Australia and Laos have designed the Laos-Australia Sustainable Energy Partnership (LASEP), which focuses on the sustainable transition to clean energy and mitigating the impacts of climate change. This will build on our long-standing cooperation on sustainable hydropower development and water resource management.

LASEP addresses three challenges to support the Government of Laos' energy priorities - strengthening energy stability, maintaining reliability, and improving the profitability of the energy sector. It does this through two priority areas of engagement:

- **Improving energy sector planning** by strengthening capacity and the policy and regulatory frameworks to improve planning and decision-making
- **Accelerating the energy transition** by building understanding and uptake of new clean energy and storage technologies.

The agreement was signed on 15 May 2023, with a budget of up to AUD3 million.

LASEP activities so far

To establish strong foundations for LASEP, we have commenced several energy activities to date, including:

Knowledge sharing on the energy transition

We convened knowledge sharing events between Government of Laos officials, including MEM, EDL and MPI, and Australian partners from government, research institutions, and the private sector.

In 2022, this included an energy roundtable between MEM and the Australian Energy Regulator, a Lao delegation to the Sydney Energy Forum, and two visits to Thailand, including to meet with Australian businesses, supported by Austrade.

New low-emissions technologies - Hydrogen

Australia has been supporting Laos' long-term plans to develop a hydrogen industry, with a study on the potential to develop a green ammonia hydrogen value chain.

In February 2023, three Lao officials joined a study tour to Australia to learn about innovations in green hydrogen research, production and storage.

Capacity building on grid management and stability

In 2022, energy experts from the Australian National University delivered a 5-week short course in Vientiane on the grid integration of renewable energy. This strengthened participants' understanding of the key issues and implications of increasing solar and wind infrastructure for Laos' electricity grid.

Indicative priorities for 2023

Australia and Laos have agreed to implement activities in the following priority areas during 2023 and beyond:

- Strengthening regulation for renewable energy
- Knowledge sharing on energy system planning
- Technical assistance on solar project development
- Support on developing a hydrogen industry in Laos.

Advancing ASEAN's energy agenda

Australia and Laos are committed to working in partnership with ASEAN on issues of regional importance, including the ASEAN Power Grid, climate change and the clean energy transition. This shared commitment will also support the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Looking ahead, Australia stands ready to support Laos as it prepares for its ASEAN Chair Year in 2024, including through LASEP.

Partnerships for Infrastructure

The Australian Government's flagship infrastructure initiative for Southeast Asia, Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4I), will lead implementation of LASEP.

P4I works with partners to strengthen infrastructure decision-making and practice across the energy, transport and telecommunications sectors. Our cooperation integrates gender, disability, social inclusion, disaster risk reduction and climate change.