Early Warning System

ADB-51329-002

Northern Cross-Border Power Trade and Distribution Project

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Quick Facts

Countries	Laos
Specific Location	Luang Namtha, Bokeo, and Phongsaly
Financial Institutions	Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Status	Approved
Bank Risk Rating	U
Voting Date	2017-11-22
Borrower	Government of Laos
Sectors	Energy, Technical Cooperation
Investment Type(s)	Grant
Investment Amount (USD)	$ 0.80 million

Project Description

According to the bank website, the proposed Northern Cross-Border Power Trade and Distribution Project aims to promote regional power exchange in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) and expand access to energy in several northern provinces in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR). The project will help address Lao PDR's need to: (i) expand access to low-cost, reliable power in rural areas; and (ii) develop power interconnections between Lao PDR and Thailand and Myanmar to increase power trade. The project will support the national electric utility, Electricite du Laos (EDL), with the following outputs: (i) electricity distribution expanded in the provinces of Luang Namtha, Bokeo, and Phongsaly, including provision of at least 8,000 household electricity meters; and (ii) cross-border transmission line(s) connecting Lao PDR with Thailand and/or Myanmar constructed. The outcome will be domestic electricity consumption and cross-border electricity trade increased. The impact will be Lao PDR graduated from least developed country status, as stated in the Vision 2030 and National Ten-Year Socio-Economic Development Strategy, 2016–2025.

Project due diligence will (i) evaluate the feasibility of one or more high-voltage cross- border connections between Lao PDR and Thailand and/or Myanmar, consisting of the following options:
(a) from Ban Tonpheng (Bokeo Province, Lao PDR) to Mea Chan (Thailand),
(b) from Ban Tonpheng (Bokeo Province, Lao PDR) to Shan State (Myanmar), and
(c) from Meung Long (Luang Namtha, Lao PDR) to Shan State (Myanmar)

(ii) conduct a system study of cross-border interconnector options of 115/230/500 kilovolt as may be determined and evaluate the feasibility of using high-temperature low-sag conductors; (iii) determine the optimal combination of on-grid and/or off-grid solutions for rural electrification in three northern provinces (Luang Namtha, Bokeo, and Phongsaly) through a least-cost electrification planning approach; and (iv) develop an investment plan for the various electrification options.

Investment Description

- Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Contact Information

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ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM OF ADB

The Accountability Mechanism is an independent complaint mechanism and fact-finding body for people who believe they are likely to be, or have been, adversely affected by an Asian Development Bank-financed project. If you submit a complaint to the Accountability Mechanism, they may investigate to assess whether the Asian Development Bank is following its own policies and procedures for preventing harm to people or the environment. You can learn more about the Accountability Mechanism and how to file a complaint at: http://www.adb.org/site/accountability-mechanism/main

Bank Documents

- Northern Cross-Border Power Trade and Distribution Project: Technical Assistance Report [Original Source]
- Project Disclosure PDF [Original Source]
- Terms of Reference for Consultants [Original Source]