40 years of strong development and progress

That Luang Stupa in Vientiane is a symbol of Laos, built on an ancient stupa in the 16th century for the Lao people to build their homes, which were once warrens and burial sites, to convey warm greetings and reverence. Despite difficulties, the Lao PDR successfully implemented the first Five-Year Plan for socioeconomic development, which focused on reconstruction after the war, bringing order to society and providing sufficient food for the Laos people.

Since 1980 the Lao government has been pursuing a new economic policy of reform, shifting from a command economy to a market-oriented system, while maintaining strong state control over market mechanisms, and limiting foreign investors and international development partners. The Lao PDR has been able to maintain peace, political stability and economic growth for the past four decades.

This development path of the Lao PDR as the beginning was very hard and rocky, because the cutting point of develop- ment had destroyed all infrastruc- ture, and 50 percent of the population were farmers and fishermen, there were no com- plete socio-economic mecha- nisms and means. Despite these difficulties, the Lao PDR suc- cessfully implemented the first Five-Year Plan for socioeconomic development, which was increased from 1980 to 1986 by 7 percent in 1982, then 9 percent in 1983, 10 percent in 1984, 11 percent in 1985, and 12 percent in 1986. Production was increased from 48,008 tons in 1979 to 92,645 tons in 2014. The number of hydroelectric plants was increased from one in 1975 to 16 in 2015, with an installed capacity of 45,000 megawatts and 80 percent of the country’s households using electricity. Mining production such as copper, lead, etc., has increased by 19 percent to 25 percent annually. The number of industrial plants was increased from one in 1975 to 204 in 1985, and by the end of the year it is expected to re- main at the same level. Other indus- tries such as tin, gold, copper, coal, zinc, etc., have increased by 15 percent annually.

As the Asian Community has been established, the Lao PDR has pro- gressed in terms of economic growth and formulation of improve- ments in its institutions as well as between Lao and ASEAN countries. Laos has invested heavily in transport infrastructure, including 9,300,000 km of roads and 42,935,455 telephone numbers, including 851,133 mobile and 115,000 landline phone numbers.

The key factors for economic growth are domestic and for- eign investments, particularly in the mining and hydroelectric sec- tors, in addition to the Lao Peo- ple’s Revolutionary Party, which has made satisfactory achievements in the course of national defense and construction. The Party has implemented its guide- lines and policies in their homeland, which has emphasized public safety, justice, peace and social order, as well as relations of good neighborliness, friendship and coop- eration with all countries around the world.

In order to transform a country that had just emerged from war into a civilized state, the first Five-Year Plan for reconstruction, which focused on reconstruc- tion after the war, brought in order to society and providing sufficient food for the Laos people.

Paralleling with economic de- velopment, the Lao government has attached great importance to social and cultural development. One of the priority tasks of the government is to guarantee human rights, fundamental freedoms and human dignity, as well as relations of good neighborliness, friendship and cooperation with all countries around the world.

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The Korea Times

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Laos National Day

Long-lasting friendship and cooperation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

outlook-looking ASEAN region, with highly integrated and cohesive regional economy, enhanced connectivity and strengthened efforts in narrowing the development gap.

On bilateral relations, Laos and Japan have been enjoying a long friendship and cooperation for the past six decades, and leaders of the two countries have exchanged visits regularly. A historic visit to Japan was made by H.E. Khouavong Khoutphayavong, former prime minister and president of the Lao PDR in November 2015. On that occasion, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe received President Thongloun Sisoulith, and Japanese companies have increased their investments in Laos, the government continues to support and assist Japanese businesses in Laos.

On economic ties, Japanese investment in Laos has grown since the Laos-Japan Diplomatic Relations Agreement was signed. Investment projects increased to over 300 projects with a value of $30 million, making Japan the second-largest foreign investor in Laos.

Their Imperial Highnesses Prince Akishino (third from left) and Princess Kiko (second from left) and Laos Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith (center) celebrate the 65th anniversary of Lao-Japanese diplomatic relations at the Embassy of Laos in Tokyo on May 9. EMBASSY OF LAOS

Congratulations

to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic

on the 40th Anniversary of their National Day

and the 60th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Laos and Japan

Mitsubishi Corporation

Congratulations

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The Japan Times

December 2, 2015

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Landic Toranomon Bldg. No. 2, 3F  3-7-8, Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0001

The International Friendship Exchange Council (FEC)

Their National Day

Friends of Laos

Embassy of the Lao PDR in Tokyo, Japan

The Assistance has responded to public health, maternal, and child care, and primary education, areas of health and medical development, transportation, go to support infrastructure projects in the special and specific economic zones.

The assistance mainly targeted Laos in the special and specific economic zones.

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