

FIRST ECONOMIC CENSUS OF LAO PDR

THE 12TH EAST ASIAN CONFERENCE, 13-15

NOVEMBER 2008

TOKYO, JAPAN

By: Phonesaly Souksavath

Deputy Director General

Department of Statistics

Outline of Presentation



- Introduction
- Objectives and scope of the census
- Preparation Process of Census
- Distribution of Establishment: Findings of the survey
- Lessons learned and future direction

Introduction

- Economic Census 2006 is the first census on establishment in Lao PDR
- The census cover wide ranges of economic units including non-profit institutions operate in economic related sector regardless of the registration status
- EC 06 is a significant for providing information updated status of structures, employment, distribution of localities, activities etc..

Objectives and scope of the census



- To precisely record all the economic units which are currently operating in Lao PDR.
- To build the data base of all economic units which will be used as an accurate sampling frame for any related future surveys.
- To provide supplementary data for the estimation of national income and labor force in each sector
- To analyze the distribution of the economic units with respect to geographical location as well as different size of the industry.

Scope of the survey



- Cover all economic entities operated during the time of the survey
 - including public, private, foreign investment and joint venture production units of all sizes; formal and informal units;
 - the entities that involved with management work, association and non-profit. except the embassies, international organizations and
 - temporary as well as permanent closed down entities.

- All primary economic units and non-profit institutions and non-government organizations.

The survey does not cover:

- Households engaged in agriculture productions including raising animals like chicken, pig and fish for small scale and for own hh consumption (animal farms are however included in the survey)
- International organizations and representative offices such as embassy or some projects of embassies)
- Schools, hospitals and other primary economic units located inside military camps and police departments
- The economic units and shops that are temporary closed down for renovations

Preparation of Census



- Listing
- Pre-testing the survey
- Training
- Field survey implementation

Distribution of Establishment: Findings of the survey

- Covers = 126 913 economic units
 - 99 %: produce for domestic market
 - 1 %: produces for exports.
- The distribution of the economic units: based on economic activities under the classification ISIC revision 4.
 - Trading: 65%
 - Manufacturing : 19%
 - Agriculture : 3%
 - Other service sectors (transportation and warehouse/storage, accommodation and restaurants): 3% for each
 - Other sectors: less than 1%

Distribution of Establishment: Findings of the survey

- Most of economic units in Laos are small and medium enterprises with less than five employees.
- The survey economic result:
 - 93 percent of the survey economic units are small enterprises.
 - 4 percent has 5-9 employees
 - and other 2 percent employs between 10-99 employees.
 - Only 196 units or 2 percent employs more than 99 employees.
- The economic units are more concentrate in big cities.
 - 55 percent are located in Vientiane Capital, followed by Savannakhet, Champasack, Sayabury and Luangprabang
 - Phongsaly, Luangnamtha, Sekong and Attapeu mainly hold small size enterprises

Lessons learned and future direction



- Time lag between listing date and survey date should not be large
- Training of enumerators need some time and careful selecting the enumerators to ensure the quality of data captured.
- Upgrading the staff capacity in analysis have to pay more attention
- Closed collaboration with tax department, Ministry of finance and tax unit at local level is essential for future updating this frame.

Lessons learned and future direction

- Business register system need to be set up and should able to use for statistical purpose and census of economic is plan to conduct every 5 year.
- Updating business register need to be done on annual basis
- A n annual and quarterly sample survey should will continue to implement in order to provide data for SNA compilation
- In medium and long term need to improve data collection approach to minimize to cost for census or survey



Thank you for your attention