

Stakeholders review implementation of procedures to start businesses, obtain operating licences

Times Reporters

Officials from line ministries, the private sector and development partners met in Vientiane recently to review the streamlining of procedures for starting a business and the issuing of business operating licences.

The meeting was organised by the Department of Enterprise Registration under the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and Jacobs, Cordova & Associates (JC&A), with the support of the Lao Competitiveness and Trade Project (LCT Project).

During the meeting, an international regulatory expert reported on efforts streamline the procedures to start a business, issuing of business operating licences and the introduction of the Inventory of Business Licence website.

The meeting concluded the work on streamlining procedures to start a business should be continued with the line ministries and related sectors, especially the streamlining of the first indicator on “Starting of Business and the Business Operating Licence” by using the “risk-based approach”.

The line ministries and related sectors are expected to come together with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce to begin the work for streamlining procedures to start a business and obtaining business operating licences with transparency in line with the Prime Minister’s Order No 02/PMO (on the improvement of regulations and coordination mechanism for doing business in Laos) and the Prime Minister’s Order No 03/PMO (on the improvement of services related to issuance of investment and business licences), said the Deputy Director General of the Enterprise Registration Department,



Mr Aphisid Sengsourivong chairs the meeting.

Mr Aphisid Sengsourivong, who chaired the meeting.

With the support of the LCT Project, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce began streamlining procedures through two substantial projects under the Department of Enterprise Registration. This is being done under the supervision and assistance of JC&A.

These major reforms to ease doing business include streamlining the process to register a business and obtain business operating licences under four clear principles – Enterprise Registration Certificates (ERCs), business licences that will be risk-based and issued by line ministries, ICTs should be the backbone for managing the relationship between businesses and public administration, and better regulators to continue reforming and easing the process the start and run businesses.