



Investment Promotion and Management Committee Office

INVEST IN LAOS

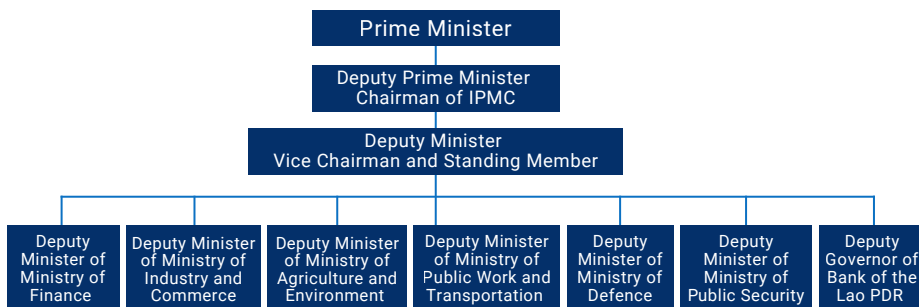


Invest in Laos

The Government of the Lao PDR has adopted an amended Law on Investment Promotion, which entered into force on 1 October 2024. This new legislation replaces the 2016 law and its 2019 amendment, offering enhanced incentive framework, clarifies procedures for general and concession businesses, strengthens investor protections, and introduces a more structured approach to special and specific economic zones (SEZs), including industrial parks and high-technology zones.

At the same time, the Government established the Investment Promotion and Management Committee (IPMC) on the 11th August 2025, as a governmental organization, reporting directly to the Prime Minister. The Investment Promotion and Management Committee Office (IPO) was established on the 18th August 2025. Equivalent to a government department, IPO serves as the central One-Stop Investment Service, coordinating all investment activities across Lao PDR.

The Central Investment Promotion and Management Committee Structure



Investment Procedure

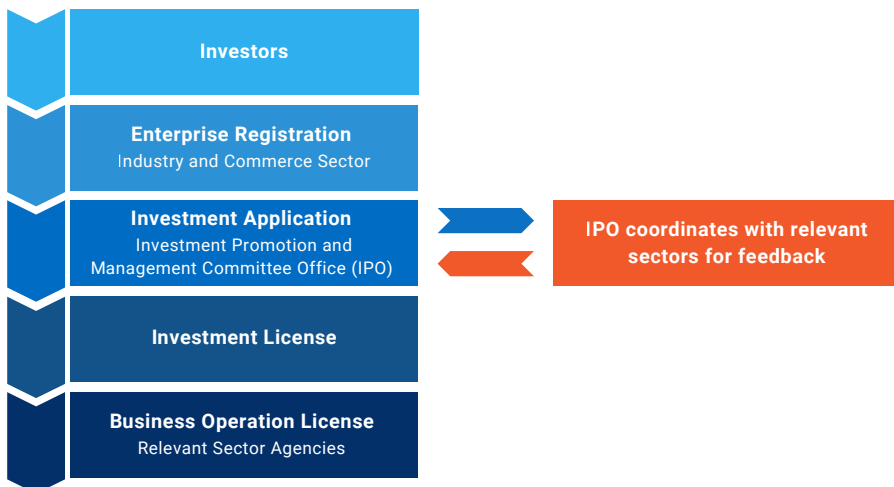
One-Stop Investment Service streamlines the investment process from initial inquiry to operational commencement. Our team coordinates with government agencies, reviews applications, and ensures compliance with all regulatory requirements while protecting investors' interests.

GENERAL BUSINESS

(1) For Non-Controlled Business List, investors apply for enterprise registration directly with the Industry and Commerce Sector, then apply for business operation license with the relevant sector agencies.



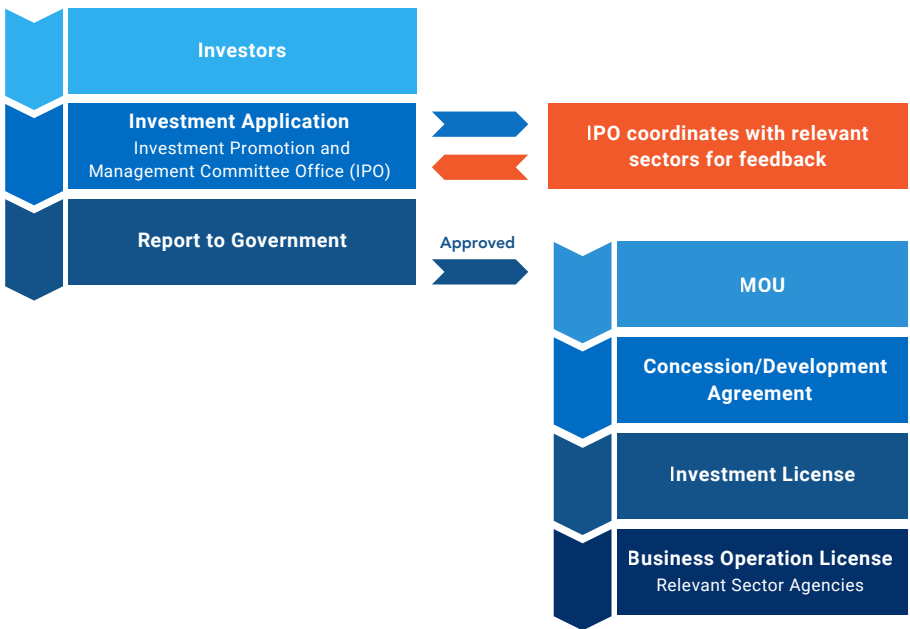
(2) Controlled Business, investors register enterprise with the Industry and Commerce Sector, then submit an investment application to the Central or Provincial Investment Promotion and Management Committee Office (IPO) in accordance with delegated authority, who will liaise with relevant government agencies for investment approval and issue the investment license. Then investors apply for business operation license with the relevant sector agencies.





CONCESSION BUSINESS

Investors submit an application to the Central or Provincial Investment Promotion and Management Committee Office (IPO) in accordance with delegated authority, which gathers feedback from relevant sectors and submits the results to the Government for approval. If the application is approved, the next steps involve negotiating and signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with IPMC, collecting data, creating a feasibility study, completing an environmental impact assessment, and other requirements. Once the steps are finalized, the IPO will report to the Government to negotiate and sign a concession/development agreement and issue an Investment License. Then investors apply for a business operation license with the relevant sector agencies.



INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

The Law on Investment Promotion (2024) offers a comprehensive incentive framework to attract quality investments aligned with the national socio-economic development plan along a green and sustainable pathway, combining sector-based with zone-based incentives in strategic areas. Incentives include profit tax holidays, income tax reductions for experts, customs duty and VAT exemptions, and preferential land lease rates. Additional facilitation measures including supporting foreign investors along with their family members, foreign specialists, or experts to obtain residence permits and multiple-entry business visa.

Promoted Sectors Eligible for Incentives



Clean agriculture, seed production, animal breed production, industrial crop production, forestry development, environmental and biodiversity protection;



Environmentally friendly industrial processing and agro-processing, animal feed production, natural fertilizer production, bio-fertilizer production, scientifically formulated fertilizer production, manufacturing of agricultural production inputs, and production of handicrafts depicting the unique national identity, "One District, One Product" or import substitute and export potential goods;



Hospitals, pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturing plants, production of herbal medicines and traditional medicine practices;



Education, sports-gymnastics, skill development, and a manufacturing of educational and sports equipment;



Adoption of digital technology, scientific research and development, and an application of an environmentally-friendly, natural resource and energy efficient innovation;



Development of the natural, cultural and historical tourism industry that is environmentally friendly and sustainable;



Public infrastructure development, operation and maintenance such as construction of national roads, railways, water supply, wastewater treatment, and solid waste management;



Special or specific economic zone infrastructure development to support other investments in such a zone;



Logistics services, freight transport, warehousing systems for goods in transit and dry port, transit service and cross-border connecting road operation, passenger and freight transport by road, water, rail, and air.

INVESTMENT INCENTIVE APPLICATION

Investors eligible for investment incentives may submit an application for investment incentives to the Central or Provincial Investment Promotion and Management Committee Office (IPO) in accordance with delegated authority.



RIGHTS OF INVESTORS

The Law on Investment Promotion protects the legitimate rights, interests and equal rights of both domestic and foreign investors ensuring investment security, operational flexibility, and financial repatriation rights. These protections create a stable, predictable environment for long-term business planning.

PROTECTION OF INVESTMENTS



Lawful investments are fully protected under Lao PDR law, treaties that Lao PDR is a state party to, and relevant international agreements with guarantees against nationalization or expropriation without due process and fair compensation. This protection covers business assets, intellectual property, and operational rights.

RIGHT TO EXPAND



Investors have the right to expand, modify, or diversify their projects under approved procedures, ensuring flexibility to seize market opportunities, scale efficiently, and drive sustainable growth.

PROFIT REPATRIATION



Foreign investors can freely repatriate profits, dividends, and capital through the formal banking system upon fulfillment of tax obligations. This includes earnings from operations, proceeds from asset sales, and principal and interest from loans, ensuring financial flexibility and investment liquidity for international stakeholders.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

Investors in Lao PDR must comply with national laws and regulations, ensuring responsible, sustainable operations that benefit both business and community. Key compliance areas include:

TAX OBLIGATIONS



Timely payment of corporate income tax, VAT, and other applicable taxes including timely payment of project deposits.

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS



Proper declaration and documentation for all imports and exports, maintaining accurate records for auditing purposes.

SOCIAL OBLIGATIONS



Fair employment practices, compliance with minimum wage requirements, worker safety standards, social security contributions, compensation for affected parties, respect local traditions and support local businesses.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Environmental impact assessments, pollution control measures, and sustainable resource management according to approved environmental management plans.

LAND USE



Adherence to approved land use purposes, lease payment obligations, and zoning regulations.

REPORT



Timely submitting progress report on business operation to IPO and the relevant sectors.



Investment Promotion and Management Committee Office

For more information, contact

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