

**MALAYSIA PRODUCTIVITY CORPORATION (MPC)  
PROPOSAL FOR BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

<b>TITLE</b>	:	High-level Workshop: Knowledge Exchange between Malaysia and Lao PDR
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To exchange knowledge between Malaysia and Lao PDR on conducting successful and sustainable doing business reforms.</li> <li>• To exchange knowledge on structuring the institutional mechanisms for reform including developing and monitoring of action plans, ensuring effective implementation and communication;</li> <li>• To share experience in developing Good Regulatory Practices (GRP) and PEMUDAH initiatives in driving GRP implementation.</li> </ul>
<b>EXPECTED OUTCOME</b>	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn experiences on reform mechanism and private sector's engagement method conducted in other country;</li> <li>• Build networks with high-level officials who are among the decision makers and policy makers for future collaboration; and</li> <li>• Promote PEMUDAH initiatives in encouraging the adoption GRP in the country.</li> </ul>
<b>DURATION</b>	:	10 -11 October 2019; Vientiane, Lao PDR
<b>TEAM</b>	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dr. Izhar Che Mee [MPC Associate &amp; Technical Expert of PEMUDAH's Technical Working Group on Dealing with Construction Permits (TWGDCP)]</li> <li>2. Wan Fazlin Nadia Wan Osman (PEMUDAH/DMO)</li> </ol>
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	:	RM10,010.00 (Travelling expenses for Dr. Izhar Che Mee will be covered by The World Bank Group)
<b>BUDGET</b>	:	RMK 11 – MPB
<b>RECOMMENDED BY</b>	:	
<b>COMMENT/ SIGNATURE BY PCT</b>	:	

**MALAYSIA PRODUCTIVITY CORPORATION (MPC)**  
**PROPOSAL FOR BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

**1.0 Purpose**

The purpose of this paper is to request approval from Board of Management (BOM) to participate in High-level Workshop: Knowledge Exchange between Malaysia and Lao PDR on 10-11 October 2019 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

**2.0 Background**

After Malaysia transitioned to upper-middle income nation status in the 2000s, the Government has expressed an interest in forging an innovative development partnership with the World Bank to help share the country's own development experiences, produce cutting-edge policy innovations, conduct original economic research with global impact, and promote knowledge exchanges. Hence, the World Bank Group Global Knowledge and Research Hub opened in Kuala Lumpur in 2016. The Hub serves as a global platform to share and operationalize Malaysia's development expertise for developing country programs and create innovative policy research on national, regional, and global issues. Another dimension of this partnership is to support Malaysia's own development priorities as the country continues the journey toward high-income nation status and connecting the economy regionally and globally.

Recently, the World Bank Group under this Hub has invited expert from MPC to share Malaysia experience on regulatory reform towards ease of doing business with Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR). The knowledge-exchange workshop is expected to cover topics such as Malaysian reform experiences in the past two decades, how Malaysia set up the institutional mechanisms for reform, developed action plan and monitoring, and conducting communication for reforms. The tentative programme are as Appendix 1.

### 3.0 Objectives:

- To exchange knowledge between Malaysia and Lao PDR on conducting successful and sustainable doing business reforms.
- To exchange knowledge on structuring the institutional mechanisms for reform including developing and monitoring of action plans, ensuring effective implementation and communication;
- To share experience in developing Good Regulatory Practices (GRP) and PEMUDAH initiatives in driving GRP implementation.

### 4.0 Expected Outcome

- Learn experiences on reform mechanism and private sector's engagement method conducted in other country;
- Build networks with high-level officials who are among the decision makers and policy makers for future collaboration; and
- Promote PEMUDAH initiatives in encouraging the adoption GRP in the country.

### 5.0 Estimated Cost

ITEM	DETAILS	COST (RM)
Hotel Accommodation (1 room; 3-night stay)	RM800 x 3 days x 1 person	2,400.00
Transportation		
i. Air Tickets (1 economy)	RM2,000 x 1 person	2,000.00
ii. Airport Transfers		
• Vientiane: Airport - Hotel (return)	RM600	600.00
• KL: Transportation to KLIA	RM100	100.00
Meals allowance: 3-night stay	E52: RM270 x 3 days: RM1,890	810.00
Travelling Insurance		100.00
Technical Expert Fee – Slide preparation (RM2,000/man-day)	RM2,000 x 2 man-days	4,000.00
<b>Total Estimated Cost</b>		<b>10,010.00</b>

**Note:** Travel expenses for Dr. Izhar Che Mee will be covered by The World Bank Group

## **6.0 Approval from BOM**

The approval of the Board of Management (BOM) are sought on the budget of RM10,010.00 to participate in High-level Workshop: Knowledge Exchange between Malaysia and Lao PDR on 10-11 October 2019 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

Prepared by:

**Wan Fazlin Nadia Wan Osman**  
Deputy Director  
PEMUDAH/DMO  
Date: 30 September 2019

Reviewed by:

**Zahid Ismail**  
Director  
DMO  
Date: 30 September 2019

## TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

## High-level workshop – Knowledge Exchange between Malaysia and Lao PDR

<b>Day I. October 10, 2019</b> <b>Venue: Vientiane Lao PDR</b>	
<b>08:00 – 08:30</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>08:30 – 09:00</b>	<b>Welcoming remarks by H.E.Dr. Sonexay Siphandone, Deputy Prime Minister, Lao PDR</b>  <b>Welcoming remarks by Mr. Nicola Pontara, WB Country Manager, Lao PDR</b>
<b>09:00 – 10:00</b>	<b>Session 1: An overview of the “Malaysian experience”</b> Presentation by the Malaysian delegation on the country’s reform experience in the past two decades. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background on Malaysia’s reform history and regulatory framework → Improvements recorded by Malaysia in the past 10-15 years on DB.</li> <li>• How the reforms tie into the country’s economic vision</li> <li>• How reforms have led to tangible economic gains (jobs, FDI, growth)</li> </ul>
<b>10:00-10:15</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>10:15-11:15</b>	<b>Session 2: Setting up institutional mechanisms for reform in Malaysia</b> Presentation by the Malaysian delegation on setting up the institutional mechanisms for reform and ensuring accountability. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <u>Structuring the institutional framework</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring the institutional mechanisms withstand time</li> <li>• Obtaining “buy-in” from different ministries</li> <li>• Identifying and supporting champions for reform</li> </ul> </li> <li>2) <u>Ensuring accountability</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tracking reform progress</li> <li>• Dealing with underperformance</li> <li>• Setting up KPIs</li> <li>• Setting up a reform implementation timeframe</li> </ul> </li> <li>3) <u>Engaging the private sector</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting up a feedback loop with the private sector</li> <li>• Encouraging the private sector to voice concerns</li> <li>• Collecting input from private firms on reform design and implementation</li> </ul> </li> <li>4) <u>Promoting a reform agenda at the subnational level</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaging with provinces and incentivizing them to reform</li> </ul> </li> <li>5) <u>The Dos and Don’ts</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What worked according to plan and what did not?</li> <li>• Lessons learned</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>11:15-12:15</b>	<b>Questions and Answers for Session 1-2</b>
<b>12:15-12:30</b>	<b>Closing remarks by Chair</b>
<b>12:30 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14:00-14:30</b>	<b>Lao Reform Secretariat will update Malaysia delegation on the Lao Reform Plan</b>
<b>14:30-15:30</b>	<b>Open discussion</b>

<b>Day II. October 11, 2019</b> <b>Venue: Vientiane Lao PDR</b>	
<b>08:00 – 08:30</b>	<b>Registration</b> Participation will be from the Reform Committee and Technical Secretariat
<b>08:30 – 09:00</b>	<b>Welcoming remarks by H.E. xxx, Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment and Chairman of the DB Reform Committee of Lao PDR</b>
<b>09:00 – 10:00</b>	<b>Session 1: Developing an action plan and monitoring</b> Presentation by the Malaysian delegation on some of the key lessons learned to developing an action plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key factors for making a successful action plan</li> <li>• Identifying short term vs long term goals.</li> <li>• Engaging the private sector in setting objectives. What are the approaches to putting in place a sector-specific dialogue framework to address issues of the investment climate?</li> <li>• Once goals are identified, how should an action plan be structured? What tools can be used to prioritize reform areas at national level, at the ministry level etc.</li> <li>• How to monitor the action plan implementation? Tools to monitor</li> </ul>
<b>10:00-10:30</b>	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
<b>10:30 – 10:45</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>10:45 – 11:30</b>	<b>Session 2: Communicating reforms</b>  Presentation by the Malaysian delegation on how to successfully communicate reforms. The questions/items below should be covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to communicate reforms both within government and with the public?</li> <li>• How to determine who is your target audience?</li> <li>• How to use different communication channels?</li> <li>• How to encourage the use of new online systems with the public?</li> <li>• Key lessons learned from communication campaign: what works and what does not?</li> </ul>
<b>11:30-12:00</b>	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
<b>12:00 – 13:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>13:30 – 14:45</b>	<b>Session 3: Lao PDR's current reform strategy</b> Presentation by the Lao delegation on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current institutional set-up</li> <li>• Lao PDR structure for monitoring implementation of reforms</li> <li>• How the private sector is engaged</li> </ul>
<b>14:45-15:00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>15:00-15:45</b>	<b>Questions and feedback from the Malaysian delegation on Lao's current reform strategy and institutional setup</b> (note: It would be great if an organic discussion occurs. If not, wrap up session will be earlier).
<b>15:45 – 16:00</b>	<b>Wrap up: summary of the "dos and don'ts" of reforming the business environment.</b>  Recap by World Bank team on the key lessons shared. Session should be open to comments and further discussion if need be.