About HDWG

The Hydropower Developers’ Working Group (HDWG), is an innovative platform for the private sector to influence policy, network, and identify solutions to improve sustainability and business operations in Lao PDR.

Specifically, the Hydropower Developers’ Working Group aims to:

1. Improve environmental and social management practices among hydropower companies

2. Provide a platform for hydropower companies to comment on policies, share knowledge, and improve their management

3. Raise sector-wide issues to the government of Lao PDR
What We Do

Hold meetings between the private sector and relevant government authorities to exchange knowledge and offer the private sector’s perspective on improving sustainability.

Collect and disseminate information relevant to the sector for members.

Organize dialogues and share experience between private sector members and other stakeholders such as civil society.

Provide private sector perspective on laws and regulations to help unlock barriers to private sector development.

The HDWG will focus on sector-wide issues facing the hydropower sector in Lao PDR. Members will determine which sector-wide issues and priorities the HDWG will focus on. These may be in the environmental, social, legal and regulatory, or economic sphere.

The pursuit of the HDWG is to improve the sustainability of hydropower in Lao PDR, and all issues set forth by members may be considered in this respect.
Who Can Join?

The HDWG needs private sector stakeholders who are well placed to identify and locally work on issues facing the sector in Lao PDR. Companies that meet the following criteria are welcome to join the HDWG:

1. You are a Lao-owned or foreign owned hydropower company currently or soon to be present in Lao PDR (“Developers”); or

2. You are a vendor in the technical, environmental and social or legal field with experience in the Lao PDR hydropower sector, currently present or soon to be present in Lao PDR (“Vendors”).

In addition, you need to apply and be admitted by the Executive Committee (Excom) and pay the membership fee of US$500 annually.

The Excom may evaluate whether an applicant is a hydropower company or has experience in the Lao PDR hydropower sector. The Executive Committee reserves the right to decline applications if it feels the applicant would not be in a position to contribute to the purpose of the HDWG.

How Do Non-members Participate?

The HDWG is open to input from non-members in a wide range of ways. Our Annual General Forum is open to everyone to learn about the work of the HDWG. In addition, the HDWG may create subcommittees for working on specific issues which would be open to non-member participation, for example by academia, civil society, lenders and financial consultants. Furthermore, the HDWG may host seminars on a wide range of issues inviting external resource persons to contribute.
HDWG Organization

HDWG members appoint the Executive Committee. The HDWG holds quarterly member meetings.

The Excom will consist of at least 70% Developers and a maximum 30% Vendors. All appointments are personal, not for companies. Excom members need to be based in Lao PDR.

The IFC is the general secretary and the secretariat of the HDWG, and as such part of the Excom.

Meet the Excom

Bounleuth Luangpaseuth  
CEO and President,  
Luangpaseuth Construction

Volker Sobetzko  
Founder,  
Ourworld Rural Development

Phetsamone Luangaphay  
Director, Generation Department,  
EDL-Gen Public Company

Robert Allen  
General Manager,  
Theun-Hinboun Power Co., Ltd.

Michael Simcock  
General Manager and Business Development,  
Whessoe Lao Limited

Kate Lazarus  
Environmental and Social Governance,  
IFC
STEP 1
Contact details

Company Name: ........................................................................................................

Registered Address in Laos ......................................................................................
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Person nominated to attend HDWG events:

Name: ......................................................................................................................

Position/Job Title: ..................................................................................................

Email: .....................................................................................................................

Phone Number: .....................................................................................................

Billing Information

Contact name ..........................................................................................................

Email .....................................................................................................................

Phone Number .....................................................................................................

Please submit your completed membership form to:
Ms. Teo Saimoungkhoun
P: +856 21 266 304
E: tsaimoungkhoun@ifc.org
STEP 2
About your company

*Please attach your company profile.

Our company is:

- A developer (a Lao owned or foreign owned hydropower company currently or soon to be present in Lao PDR)
- A Vendor: (currently present or soon to be present in Lao PDR) with experience in:
  - Environmental and social
  - Legal
  - Technical

We Are:

- Lao owned
- A foreign owned company registered in Lao PDR. Our parent’s jurisdiction is: ______________
- A joint venture company registered in Lao PDR. The foreign partner’s jurisdiction is: ______________
- A foreign company, registered overseas in: ______________

REQUIRED FOR VENDORS: We are experienced in the Lao PDR hydropower sector, and we have attached a company profile highlighting our experience in that specific area.

STEP 3
Share Your Interests

We think the following issues should be the top three priority of the HDWG (indicate only three, in order of importance – 1, 2, 3):

- Water Resources Law and Electricity Law
- Model project documents (MOU, PDA, PPA, CA, SESO, etc)
- Environmental impact and water rights
- Small size hydro
- Social issues and resettlement
- High-end value manufacturing
- Financing
- Land use rights
- Tariff structure

If you have other interests you would like the HDWG to address, please list them here:

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