



A workshop is held in Vientiane to build understanding of illicit financial flows.

Illicit financial flows hindering development: study

Times Reporters

Curbing Illicit Financial Flows is a severe challenge in the development process, with the government losing large amounts of revenue from unpaid taxes.

In Laos, Illicit Financial Flows take the form of mispricing by export companies and transfer pricing between related companies, which means that a large part of the profits made by multinational companies is channelled out of Laos without taxes being paid.

Researchers from the Macro-economic Research Institute of the Lao Academy of Social and Economic Science last week reported on the situation and gave a summary of their findings at a workshop held in Vientiane aimed at improving resource governance for financing development through enhanced understanding of Illicit Financial Flows.

At the same time, the

researchers suggested policy guidelines to avoid and limit the loss of revenue in this way.

The workshop was held at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, National University of Laos, and attended by officials from relevant government organisations, students, and teachers.

Workshop participants learnt about the meaning, importance and possible impact on the Lao economy due to Illicit Financial Flows and heard a detailed summary of the situation as it affects Laos.

The study took place under Research for Development - a research framework titled “Curbing Illicit Financial Flows from Resource-rich Developing Countries: Improving Natural Resource Governance to Finance Sustainable Development Goals”.

The study was carried out by the Macroeconomic Research Institute and

supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Swiss National Science Foundation.

The research will provide the government with valuable information that can be used to strengthen public finance management and curb the loss of revenue lawfully owed to the government.

In the past, much of this money has been lost due to trade and transfer mispricing in natural resource rich countries.

In the 2010s, developing countries lost US\$106 billion of revenue from taxes due to Illicit Financial Flows, of which African countries lost around US\$50 billion a year from 2000-2008 – an amount that is higher than the Official Development Assistance provided to Africa.

Researchers predict that payment and transfer mispricing account for over 70 percent of Illicit Financial Flows.

Microsoft completes US\$69 billion takeover of Activision Blizzard

ISTANBUL (AA) -- US-based global tech firm Microsoft has completed the US\$69 billion acquisition deal of video game company Activision Blizzard, according to a filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on Friday.

Activision Blizzard will be a wholly owned subsidiary of Microsoft, pursuant to the terms of the agreement and plan of merger dated as of Jan. 18, 2022, said the SEC filing.

“I’ve long admired the work of Activision, Blizzard, and King, and the impact they’ve had on gaming, entertainment, and pop culture,” Microsoft Gaming CEO Phil Spencer wrote in a blog post published on Microsoft’s Xbox Wire.

The acquisition was approved by the US in July, after the Federal Trade Commission in June applied for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction seeking to block the acquisition, arguing that the deal would enable Microsoft to suppress competitors against its Xbox gaming consoles, its subscription content and cloud-gaming business.

Spencer, however, soothed such worries in his post and extended an olive branch to other gaming platforms.

“We are intentional about inclusion in everything we do at Xbox – from our team to the products we make and the stories we tell, to the way our players interact and engage as a wider gaming

community,” he said. “Whether you play on Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo, PC or mobile, you are welcome here – and will remain welcome, even if Xbox isn’t where you play your favorite franchise. Because when everyone plays, we all win. We believe our news today will unlock a world of possibilities for more ways to play,” he

added. The deal was completed after the UK’s Competition and Markets Authority cleared the deal earlier Friday, saying it would “preserve competitive prices and better services.”



off, preserving competitive prices and services for UK cloud gaming customers,” the watchdog said in a statement.

The European Commission approved the acquisition in May. Activision Blizzard has popular video game franchises, including Call of Duty, Guitar Hero, Diablo and Warcraft.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Country: Lao People’s Democratic Republic
Project: Global Partnership for Education III Project: Learning and Equity Acceleration Project (LEAP)
Sector: Education
Description: 01 International Consultant for Development of Additional Play-based Contents, Activities and Materials for Children Ages 3-4 year old (C-11) for Global Partnership for Education III Funded: Credit No.: 6854-LA

The Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES) is implementing the “GPE III Learning and Equity Acceleration” Project (P173407) or the Project with financing support from the World Bank (WB) and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). The Project’s main objective is to *improve learning outcomes in primary grades, and strengthen teacher practices, education sector equity and accountability in the Lao PDR*. The Project activities are being implemented through the following 3 components: (1) Prepared and Motivated Learners; (2) Prepared and Motivated Teachers; and (3) Effective School Governance for Improving Teaching and Learning.

Component 1: Prepared and Motivated Learners is aimed to provide early learning opportunities for children ages 3-5 years to be prepared and motivated for entering primary education grade 1. Lao PDR has different modalities for delivering early childhood education, depending on the age group, remoteness of the community, and availability of caregivers/teachers. The World Bank-financed Early Childhood Education Project (2014 – 2020) piloted Community Child Development Groups (CCDGs) in one set of villages, which cater to 3- and 4-year-olds. CCDGs are located in the village with existing pre-primary classrooms.

The objective of consultancy: Given that CCDG and MAT programs have been implemented in the ECE Project for several years and are continuing under the GPE III – LEAP, there are demands from existing CCDG caregivers and MAT teachers to have the new contents and activities as well as new teaching and learning materials to support both programs. The objectives of this consultancy are to (i) develop additional play-based contents, activities and materials for children ages 3-4 years old that can be used for both CCDG and MAT programs to supplement the existing ones, (ii) provide training on the new contents, activities, materials and to core RIES, DECE and DTE officials, (iii) review the existing CCDG and MAT child monitoring tools and revise them as appropriate, and (iv) provide training on the revised CCDG and MAT child monitoring tools to core officials from RIES, DECE, DTE and other relevant departments.

Specific Tasks: Review background documents for CCDG and MAT programs, including but not restricted to the Lao ECE Curriculum, CCDG Implementation Manual, CCDG Training Manual Books 1 and 2, CCDG Manual (pilot version), Monitoring Record Book for CCDG Caregivers, Teacher Training Guide for CCDG, Additional Teaching Guide for Caregivers, Manual on the Use of Teaching and Learning Materials and Toy Box, MAT Implementation Manual, MAT Teacher Training Manual and MAT Classroom Monitoring Book;

Deliverables (could include the following based on the suggested tasks above)
 1. An inception report, highlighting the plan and timeframe to complete the specific tasks,
 2. Draft additional play-based contents, activities and materials for children 3-4 years old to be used in CCDG and MAT programs; Final additional play-based contents, activities and materials for children 3-4 years old;

Criteria and qualification:
 1. Knowledge of child developmental milestone and child stimulations, particularly for children for 3-4 years old;
 2. Experience of developing play-based learning activities for 3-4-year-old children; Experience of providing instructions on teaching and learning, especially through play-based learning for children ages 3-4 years old;
 4. Experience of training of trainer on through play-based learning for children aged 3-4 years;
 5. Experience of problem solving and adjusting activities according to each locality;
 6. Experience of developing tools to monitor through play-based learning for 3-4-year-old children.

Duration of the Consultant will be 100 working days from November 2023 – June 2024.

The attention of interested Consultant is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank’s Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers, January 2011 (“Consultant Guidelines”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest. The Consultant will be selected based on Individual Consultants selection method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Interested eligible candidates in this position may obtain further information and the detailed TOR from the **Ministry of Education and Sports, Education Coordination Unit (ECU)** at the address below during office hours 08:00 to 16:00 hours or by e-mail. Please submit CVs and a letter of interest by **09 - 23 October 2023** to the address below. Only short-listed individual candidates will be contacted for an interview.

To: Ministry of Education and Sports
 Department of Planning
 Lane Xang Avenue, P.O Box 67, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Attn: Mr. Anoupheng Keovongsa
 Deputy Director General of Department Planning/GPE III Project Director
 Tel/Fax: 021 243672; e-mail: ecudp.laopdr@moes.edu.la ; cc: anoupheng.kvs@hotmail.com and amphamay@gmail.com

TACDO Consulting Center

ແຜນຝຶກອົບຮົມ ປະຈຳເດືອນ 10/2023

Public Training Schedule October 2023

01

ການເປັນໂຊເຟີທີ່ດີ ແລະ ຂັບຂີ່ປອດໄພ

ລາຄາ: 95 \$ ວັນທີ: 10-11/10/2023, 2ມື້

02

ທັກສະການບໍລິຫານເວລາ ແລະ ແກ້ໄຂບັນຫາ

ລາຄາ: 1,650,000 ກີບ ວັນທີ: 12-13/10/2023, 2ມື້

03

ຄວາມຮູ້ 5ສ ແລະ ການຈັດເກັບເອກະສານ

ລາຄາ: 1,450,000 ກີບ ວັນທີ: 16-17/10/2023, 2ມື້

04

“ການເປັນຜູ້ນຳທີ່ດີ ແລະ ຜູ້ຈັດການທີ່ເກັ່ງ” ພາກ 1 (How to be a good leader and Manager)

ລາຄາ: 185 \$ ວັນທີ: 19-21/10/2023, 3ມື້
ແລະ ວັນທີ: 26-28/10/2023, 3ມື້

05

ການບໍລິຫານໂຄງການຍຸກໃໝ່ໃຫ້ສຳເລັດ

ລາຄາ: 240 \$ ວັນທີ: 23-27/10/2023, 5ມື້

ຫຼັກສູດອື່ນໆ: ທີ່ໜ້າສົນໃຈ

- ການບໍລິຫານທີ່ດີເລີດ
- ການຝຶກອົບຮົມໃຫ້ເປັນຄູຝຶກ (TOT)
- ການເຈລະຈາຕໍ່ລອງ ແລະ ເກັບໜ້າໃຫ້ສຳເລັດ

ຂໍ້ມູນເພີ່ມເຕີມ: ໂທ: 030 5516372, 020 55824448, 020 55767006, www.tacdocenter.com, tacdocenter@yahoo.com