

# **First Stakeholder Consultations**

## **Developing a Policy Recommendations Report on Open Waste Burning (OWB) in Lao PDR**

3 October 2025, at Double Tree by Hilton Vientiane, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR

### **Background and Rationale**

Open Waste Burning (OWB) remains a persistent challenge in the Lao PDR, driven by limited finance to develop necessary infrastructure on waste collection services, disposal, and treatment. For many communities, particularly in peri-urban and rural areas, burning waste in open spaces is often the most convenient option. This practice, however, poses serious threats to both public health and the environment.

OWB contributes to air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, releasing fine particulates and toxic substances that deteriorate air quality and exacerbate climate change. Health risks are substantial, with respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses disproportionately affecting children, the elderly, and vulnerable groups. At the same time, OWB reflects systemic weaknesses in waste management. In Vientiane, 700 tons of waste are generated daily. However, only 450-500 tons of waste are appropriately collected, leaving the rest to be dumped or burned<sup>1</sup>.

Beyond environmental and health concerns, OWB undermines opportunities for recycling, composting, and resource recovery that could support a more circular and sustainable economy while strengthening the economy of Lao PDR. Addressing this issue is therefore crucial for Lao PDR's progress toward its Waste Management Strategy 2021–2030, its Sustainable Development Goal commitments, and its obligations under the Paris Agreement.

The draft Policy Recommendations Report on OWB provides practical, context-specific guidance to reduce and eventually eliminate OWB. This consultation meeting offers the opportunity to validate and refine the report, foster consensus among stakeholders, and establish a clear roadmap for action.

### **Objectives of the Meeting**

The consultation meeting aims to:

1. Present the draft Policy Recommendations Report on OWB.
2. Gather feedback and validation from policymakers, technical experts and development partners.
3. Ensure alignment of recommendations with national waste management strategies and international environmental commitments.
4. Build consensus on feasible policy measures and implementation pathways.

### **Expected Outcomes**

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<sup>1</sup> The Laotian Times; [https://laotiantimes.com/2025/07/14/vientiane-approves-strict-waste-management-rules-with-fines-for-violators/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://laotiantimes.com/2025/07/14/vientiane-approves-strict-waste-management-rules-with-fines-for-violators/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

1. Validated the Policy Recommendations Report on OWB that reflects national priorities and stakeholder perspectives.
2. Strengthened multi-stakeholder collaboration among government, academia, the private sector, and communities on activities on OWB.
3. Enhanced awareness of the health and environmental impacts of OWB and the benefits of sustainable waste management practices.

## I. Participants.

The event will bring together government agencies, international organisations, academia and private company representatives, including:

No.	Name of Organisations	Number of participants	Sectoral Representation
1.	Director General of the Biotechnology and Ecology Institute (BEI)	1	
2.	Staff of the Biotechnology and Ecology Institute (BEI), Haze Monitoring Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE)	4	Air Pollution
3.	Department of Environment, Environmental Promotion and Climate Change Division & Pollution Control Division of MAE	2	Climate Change and Waste Management
4.	Department of Hygiene and Health Promotion, MoH	2	Health
5.	Faculty of Public Health	2	Health
6.	Lao Women's Union & Lao Youths Union	2	Gender & Youth
7.	Vientiane Capital Administration Office	2	Waste Management
8.	Vientiane City Office Management and Service	2	Waste Management
9.	Department of Agriculture and Environment, Vientiane capital	2	Climate Change, Air Pollution
10.	National University of Laos: Faculty of Social Science (2p) & Faculty of Environment (1p)	3	Gender & Youth Climate Change Air pollution
11.	Zero Waste Laos	1	Waste Management
12.	Swisscontact Lao	1	Waste Management
13.	Small-B	1	Waste Management
14.	GGGI	1	Climate Change
15.	Consultation team	4	

	Total	30	
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Sector	No. of Representatives
Air Pollution	05
Climate Change	04
Waste Management	07
Health	04
Gender and Youth	03

### Expected Date and Venue

- **Date:** 3 October 2025
- **Venue:** Double Tree by Hilton Vientiane, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR

### Draft Agenda

	Description	Facilitator/Presenter
08:30 – 09:00	Registration	
	<b><u>Opening Session</u></b>	
09:00 – 09:20	• Welcome Remarks	Khamsene Ounekham, Director General of BEI, MAE
	• Opening Remarks	Lakshitha Paranagamage, Program Coordinator, IGES
	• Objectives of the Consultation Meeting	Bounmany Soulideth, BEI, MAE
	<b><u>Technical Session</u></b>	
09:20 – 09:45	Keynote Presentation <i>“The State of Waste Management and Open Waste Burning in Lao PDR”</i>	Lonkham Atsanavong, Consultant
09:45 – 10:10	Presentation <i>“Draft Policy Recommendations Report on OWB”</i>	Lonkham Atsanavong, Consultant
10:10 – 10:20	Q & A	Lonkham Atsanavong, Consultant
10.20 -10.35	Coffee / Networking Break	

10.35 – 11.15	Brainstorming of policy gaps on OWB in Lao PDR	Lakshitha Paranagamage, Program Coordinator, IGES
	<b><u>Group Discussions</u></b>	
11.15 – 12.30	SWOT Analysis of Sectors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air Pollution</li> <li>• Climate Change</li> <li>• Waste Management</li> <li>• Gender &amp; Youth</li> </ul>	Dr. Champathong Phochanthilath, Lonkham Atsanavong and Lakshitha Paranagamage
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch Break	
13.30 – 14.30	Group Presentations	Dr. Champathong
14.30 -15.30	Q & A and Way Forward	Phochanthilath
	<b><u>Closing Session</u></b>	
15.30 – 15.45	Summary of main outcomes	Bounmany Soulideth, BEI, MAE
15.45 -16.00	Closing remarks	Khamsene Ounekham, Director General of BEI, MAE