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Lao PDR

Telecommunication/ICT Policy and Regulation in Lao PDR

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Outline

- ❖ Country profile
- ❖ Lao Social and Economic Development plan 2011-2015 in ICT sector
- ❖ National Policy and Regulation
- ❖ Operators information's
- ❖ subscriber Statistic
- ❖ Challenged and way forward

Country profile



- ❑ Area: 236 800 sq km
- ❑ ¾ of the area is mountainous
- ❑ Capital City: Vientiane
- ❑ Provinces: 18
- ❑ Districts: 149
- ❑ Population: 6,8 million
- ❑ Urban population % of total = 34.3% (2014)
- ❑ GDP: USD 1600 (2014)
- ❑ Currency: Kip
- ❑ Tele-density: 85 per 100 inhabitants (Q1 2015)
- ❑ Export: Electricity, Timber, and Mining , etc.)
- ❑ Economic growth rate: 8.1% (2014)
- ❑ Currency: Lao Kip (LAK)
- ❑ Exchange rate: 8 130.00 LAK per 1 USD

Lao Government Development Plan

Lao National Socio-Economic Development plan 2011-2015

Some of the related ICT development goal

Direction

Promote infrastructure development, telecommunications and high-speed Internet in order to modernize this sector for augmenting socio-economic development as well as be a link-point in the region and the world

Target

Expand telecommunication network and services to rural areas to cover 90% of all villages, and install fiber-optic cables to the districts

Measures

- Create a favorable environment for telecom operators/ entrepreneurs in the sectors of telecommunication and Internet through the provision of necessary infrastructure, and advanced technology.
- Regularly disseminate policies and strategic plans on telecommunication, and Internet development.
- Develop the capacity of personnel in telecommunication and Internet sectors to meet international standards.

The current policies and laws in ICT are as follows:

- ICT Strategic Plan towards 2025 (Drafting)
- Telecom Infrastructure Sharing Regulation (Drafting)
- Pricing Regulation for Data; Voice/Data Bundle/Package/Plan (Undergoing study)
- National Broadband Policy (Undergoing study with ITU)
- Telecommunications Law (2001/2012)
- Cybercrime Law (2014), E-transaction Law (2013)
- Internet Resource Management Regulation (2014)
- Radio Frequency Management Regulation (2013)
- Promote Wireless/Mobile Broadband Network in rural areas
- Promote localized Lao content, e-services, applications with Lao language

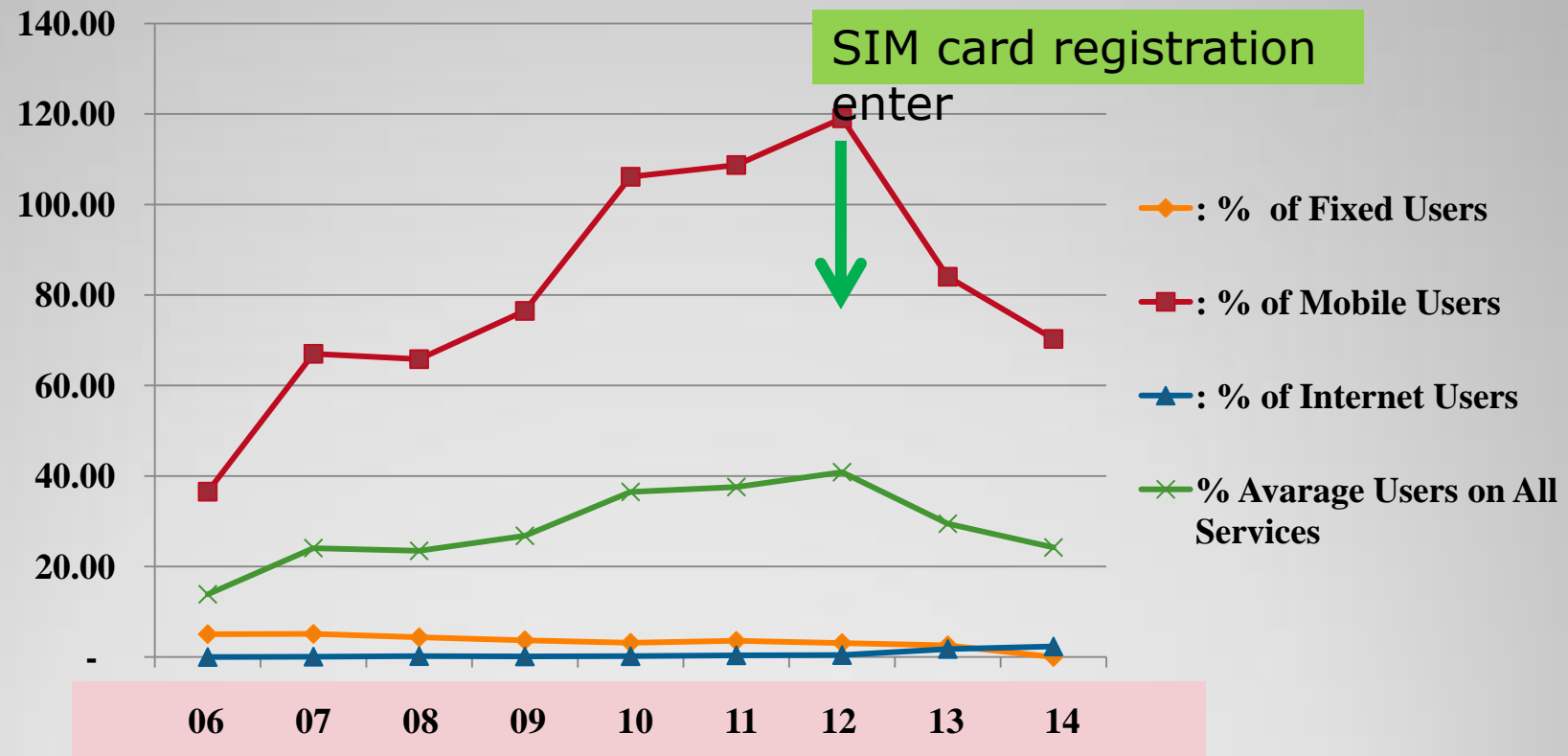
Information on the operators in Lao PDR

Telecom operators/ISPs	services	shareholders
Enterprise Telecommunication Lao (ETL) Public Company	PSTN (Fixed line), GSM900/1800, GPRS, ISP - 3G (WCDMA) - Dial-up, ADSL, HIL, VPN	100% Government
Lao Telecommunication Company (LTC)	- PSTN (Fixed Line), GSM900/1800, CDMA (WLL), ISP - 3G (WCDMA), 4G (LTE, 1800 MHz) - Dial-up, ADSL, IP Star	- 51% Government - 49% Foreign ownership
Star Telecom(Unitel)	- PSTN (Fixed Line) - GSM 900/1800, 3G (WCDMA) - 3G (WCDMA) service in 2010	- 51% Government - 49% Viettel Global
Vimpelcom (Beeline)	- GSM 900/1800, EDGE, WiMAX - 3G (WCDMA) - FTTH	- 22% Government - 78% Vimpelcom
Planet Online	- Broadband Wireless Internet at 700MHz, WiMAX - ISP-	Leading private ISP, 100% Planet Online net Co., Ltd
Lane Xang Internet	- Broadband Wireless Internet at WiMAX-	100% Lane Xang Internet Co.,Ltd

Current status

- PSTN&2G cover 85% of total areas
- 3G cover 115 district of 18 Provinces
- 4G deployed in Capital and major cities: Pakse, Luangprabang, Savanakhet, etc.
- Fiber optic cable 40.000 Km long cover 140 districts
- Number of total BTS is 6000
- Internet penetration 15% of total Population

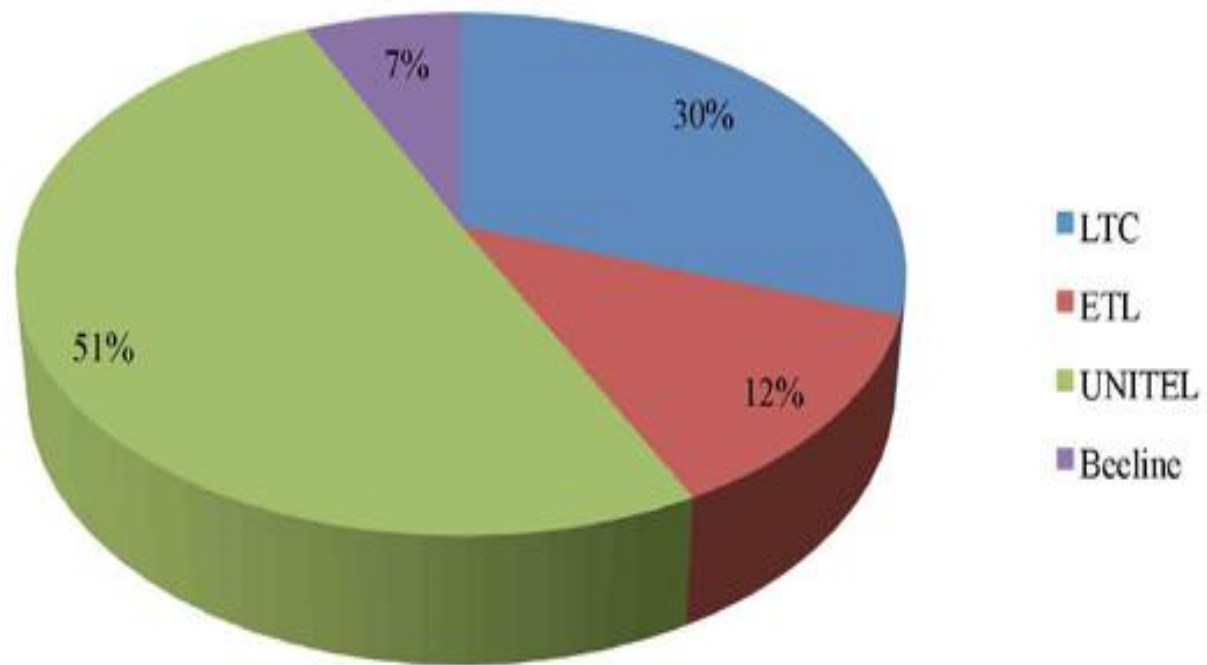
Subscribers Statistic



Note: Due to SIM card registration enforce in 2011, the number of subscribers is under control.

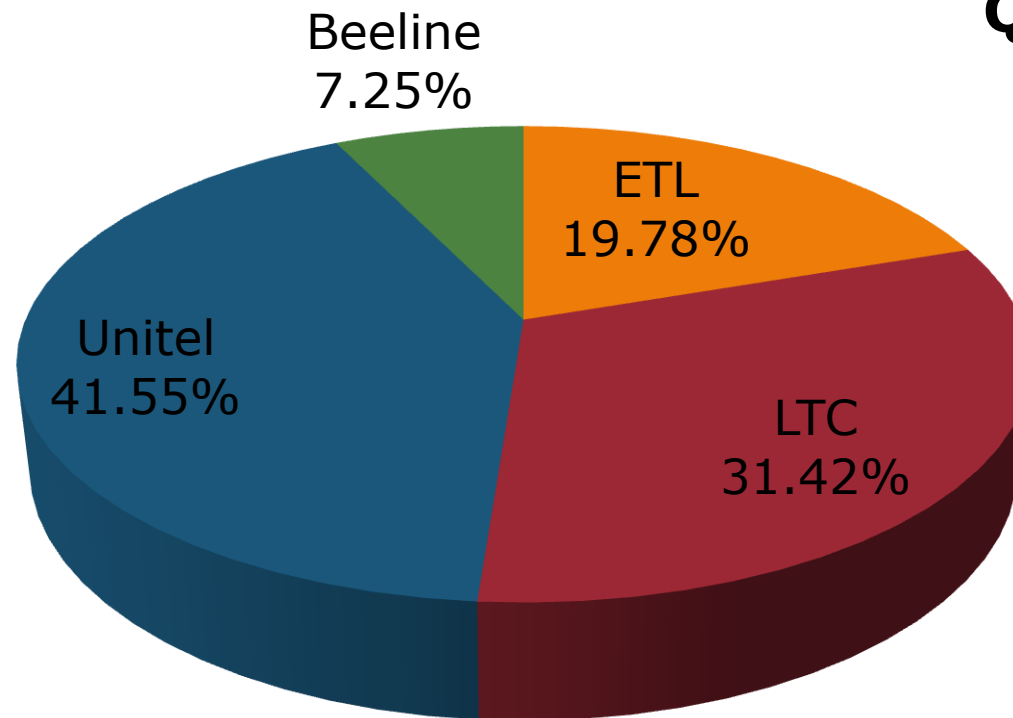
INTERNET	Q1 2015 Total Sub
fixed(wired) internet subscriptions	3,697.00
FIXED (WIRED) BROADBAND BY TECHNOLOGY/SPEED	
fixed(wired)-Broadband subscriptions	5,885.00
cable modem internet Subscriptions	-
DSL Internet subscriptions	15,895.00
Fiber-to-the-home/ building internet subscriptions	1,500.00
other fixed (wired)-Broadband Subscriptions	7.00
256 kbit/s to less than 2 Mbit/s subscriptions	9,114.00
2 Mbit/s to less than 10 Mbit/s subscription	1,258.00
Equal to or above 10 Mbit/s subscriptions	4,090,052.00
WIRELESS BROADBAND	
Wireless-broadband subscriptions	181,935.00
Satellite Broadband subscriptions	-
Terrestrial fixed wireless broadband subscriptions	513.00
Active mobile-broadband subscriptions	181,422.00
Active standard mobile-Broadband subscription	-
dedicate Mobile-Broadband Subscriptions	87,106.00

Fixed and mobile market share, Q1 2015



Market Share of Mobile Services by Subscribers

Q1 2015



Challenges

- Broadband Policy is not yet in place, thus difficult to come out with the regulation and development framework.
- Laos geographical location is mostly hilly and mountainous, network expansion and infrastructure development is more difficult and costly.
- Lack of human resources especially in ICT technical lines.
- Lack of funding for capacity building, necessary facilities and infrastructure development.
- Establishment regulatory framework compliance with Lao's WTO commitments for the Telecommunication Sectors.

Thank you