

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE
BETWEEN
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL TRADE
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
AND
OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER PROTECTION BOARD, KINGDOM OF THAILAND

Department of Internal Trade, Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Lao People's Democratic Republic and Office of the Consumer Protection Board of the Kingdom of Thailand, hereinafter referred to as the "Parties",

Taking into account the technical cooperation and consumer protection mechanism of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Thailand;

Aware of the importance of compliance with legislation in the sphere of consumer protection for the economic and social development of the States of the Parties;

Admitting the mutual benefits of joint actions in solving issues of mutual interest in the sphere of consumer protection;

Aware of the importance of bilateral and international cooperation in the sphere of consumer protection;

Wishing to promote better mutual understanding and strengthen relations in the sphere of consumer protection between the Parties in the future;

as well as acting in accordance with the laws of their States;

have come to an understanding of the following:

Article 1: The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to develop and strengthen cooperation between the Parties in the sphere of consumer rights protection in accordance with the following general principles:

- cooperation will be based on equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit;
- cooperation within the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding will be aimed at maintaining and strengthening relations in the sphere of consumer rights protection between the Parties.

Article 2: In 2017, Department of Internal Trade, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Lao People's Democratic Republic and Office of the Consumer Protection Board of the Kingdom of Thailand has made a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to cooperate in the exchange of information, knowledge and training, whereas the Kingdom of Thailand provided support on study visit and knowledge documents from time to time. In this occasion, the Kingdom of Thailand and Lao People's Democratic Republic have agreed to amend the aforementioned MoU by adding some scopes of cooperation covering current situation and needs as follows;

2.1 Office of the Consumer Protection Board of the Kingdom of Thailand shall support the press releases in the sphere of consumer protection including the manuals and laws in Thai language to the Department of Domestic Trade Lao People's Democratic Republic. In this regard, a joint action plan will be determined in the future.

2.2 Office of the Consumer Protection Board of the Kingdom of Thailand shall support the advisory team to the Department of Internal Trade Lao People's Democratic Republic in necessary and relevant spheres. In this regard, a joint action plan will be determined in the future.

2.3. The Parties will endeavor to create conditions for ensuring the exchange of the following information:

- on national legislation governing relations in the sphere of consumer rights protection and the safety of consumer products and services provided, including through electronic trade;

- on research and subordinate to the Parties' organizations that implement the functions of protecting consumer rights;

- on the interaction of the Parties with non-governmental (public) consumer organizations at the national level;

- on practical experience of law enforcement activities of the Parties in order to ensure the corresponding rights of citizens of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Thailand;

- on products withdrawn from the market of the Parties' States in circulation on the market of both countries;

- on international public events (conferences, seminars, etc.) on issues of consumer protection held on the territory of the Parties' States;

- on world experience in issues of consumer protection.

Article 3: The Parties will independently bear the costs associated with the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding. This Memorandum of Understanding will create neither financial obligation and rights for the Parties.

Article 4: If it is necessary and by agreement, the Parties may make amendments and additions drawn up in separate protocols to this Memorandum of Understanding.

Article 5: This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect on the date of its signing and will remain in force for period of three (3) years and be automatically extended for subsequent three-year periods until such time as one Party requests its termination, by giving ninety (90) days written notice in advance.

Article 6: Any difference of opinion that may arise from the interpretation, application or implementation of this MoU will be settled through amicably by consultation or negotiation between the Parties.

Article 7: This Memorandum of Understanding is not an international treaty and does not create any rights and legally binding obligations governed by international law.

Signed at...Bangkok..., On...31 May 2023..., in two (2) originals in the English language.

Department of Internal Trade,
Ministry of Industry and Commerce,
Lao People's Democratic Republic



Mr. Phouvieng Phongsa
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Mr. Thasornatt Thanittipun
Secretary General of the Consumer
Protection Board