Dear Mr. Roland Mollerus,

I would like to thank you for the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) to visit and propose the cooperation Project on “Strengthening national policy capacities for jointly building the Belt and Road towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”. We had a very fruitful discussion on the implementation of the Project with the DESA project team during the scoping mission to Lao People’s Democratic Republic, 28 June – 8 July 2018.

The Belt and Road Initiative is a significant initiative aiming to deepen cooperation between Lao PDR, China and other countries in a plethora of fields such as infrastructure, investment, trade, finance, culture and social integration.

While Lao PDR is actively involving in the cooperation activities under the Initiative, we also seek to better understand the potential economic, social and environmental implications of the B&R Initiative and how we can harness the activities for the acceleration of the SDGs.

On behalf of Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), Center for Development Policy Research (CDI), which assign by the Minister to be your counterpart on this project, is willing to coordinate and provide a support on the implementation of this activities. We do hope that the utilization of macroeconomic modelling tools in analyzing input of BRI on SDGs will build up much-needed national capacity in data collection and analysis, so that we can better assess various policy options that may impact national goals and development priorities.

We expect the Project to deliver user-friendly modelling tools catering to the Lao national context, and sustainable capacity building activities though online platforms even after the completion of the Project.
However, we are not clear on your work plan and the way we can further cooperate with your side. Therefore, we are appreciated if UNDESA can provide the detail of your work plan that you will undertake the project for Lao PDR in this coming year.

Ideally, it’s going to benefit for the government if you can arrange the Training Crouse on How to develop and use the Macroeconomic Model tool so that our researcher can use for our policy analysis.

Please, feel free to let us know if we can provide any facilitation in the Project implementation.

Look forward to working closely with you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Sithiroth RASAPHONE
Acting Director General
Center for Development Policy Research
Ministry of Planning and Investment
Lao People’s Democratic Republic

cc: Mr. Roland Mollerus
Chief of Development Policy Branch
Economic Analysis and Policy Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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