

# The World Bank

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August 19, 2004

Khun Premrudee Daoroung  
Director  
TERRA  
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Huay-Khwang, Bangkok 10320  
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Dear Khun Premrudee,

## ***Re: Nam Theun 2 Technical Workshop, Bangkok***

Thank you for your letters to Mr. Porter, dated August 6 and August 18, seeking clarifications about the technical workshop on the proposed Nam Theun 2 Hydroelectric Project (NT2) in Laos, scheduled to take place on August 31 at the Asian Institute of Technology. Allow me to address each of your questions.

1. Regarding your request for the list of workshop invitees, as noted in our earlier letter to you, it is not our practice to share such lists. The lists includes individuals and organizations who have given us their names through many years of engagement and through email subscription services on the understanding that they will receive information from the Bank on specific issues. Out of respect for their privacy, we are not at liberty to use their names for other purposes or to disclose them to third parties. The names of participants can only be disclosed following registration on the morning of the workshop, with their consent that the list of participants be published together with the workshop proceedings.

We note your concern about the need for independent views and substantive discussion at the workshop. We have invited a range of stakeholders drawn from non-governmental organizations, academia, international organizations and embassies, government agencies, media and private sector. If there are any individuals or organizations you believe should be present at the workshop, please let us know so we can send them the registration forms promptly. The registration form was attached to the invitation letter and also can be downloaded directly on [www.worldbank.org/lao](http://www.worldbank.org/lao) and sent to us. You may also want to consider informing organizations, who may have not received invitation letters, but are interested in attending this workshop to send us a completed registration form available on our website.

As the international workshops in Bangkok, Tokyo, Paris, and Washington—to be followed by a wrap-up workshop in Vientiane—are intended to provide an opportunity to engage in open discussion about the proposed NT2 project, all participants will have a chance to articulate their views, concerns, and independent analyses during the discussions or Question-and-Answer sessions.

2. Regarding the scope and substance of the workshop discussions, let me assure you that the multi-focus nature of the workshops—the safeguards due diligence undertaken for the proposed project, development framework, project economics, and revenue management—is intended to allow a broad range of critical issues to be raised during the discussion. As you will see from the attached agenda, these include issues as diverse as the role of the

international financial institutions; the development framework in Lao PDR; the social and environmental impacts of the proposed project; its economic rationale; and the local consultations underway with project-affected communities in Lao PDR.

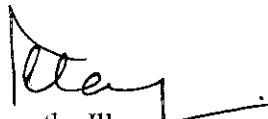
Moreover, per your request, we are pleased to attach the Terms of Reference for the international stakeholder workshops to be held in Bangkok, Tokyo, Paris and Washington, which outline measures to promote open, balanced, and meaningful workshops, including an emphasis on shorter presentations and lengthier discussions; the process for summarizing and publishing feedback from the discussions; and the relationship of the workshop to the World Bank's decision framework.

3. Regarding the due diligence process undertaken for the proposed NT2 project to comply with the World Bank's environmental and social safeguards, this is an important topic that will be addressed during the workshop. As requested, please find attached the 'Seventh Report of the International Environmental and Social Panel of Experts for the Nam Theun 2 Hydroelectric Project'. Earlier Panel reports could be obtained from the Ministry of Industry and Handicrafts of the Government of Lao PDR or from [www.namtheun2.com](http://www.namtheun2.com) in a few days time.
4. Regarding your request for a copy of the economic analysis undertaken by the World Bank for the proposed project, the summary report will be posted on [www.worldbank.org/lao](http://www.worldbank.org/lao) shortly, and mailed to you. In addition, other non-safeguards documents are planned to be released over the next ten days to promote informed debate among interested stakeholders on other project-related issues. These include a study of possible macroeconomic impacts of NT2 on the economy of Lao PDR and the Bank's analysis of alternative options for Lao PDR's sources of growth and poverty reduction (the Country Economic Memorandum).

The World Bank, in its commitment to ongoing engagement with local and international stakeholders on the proposed NT2 project, will hold subsequent meetings to the workshops as and when requested by interested stakeholders. At these meetings, we would also provide an update on the changes being introduced to the safeguards documents which have resulted from the local consultations and the international workshops.

I hope these points respond to your concerns. If there are any other issues you would like to discuss, we would be happy to meet with you at your convenience. The World Bank believes it is critical that stakeholders such as yourselves are able to participate in a process that contributes to an informed decision about the proposed project.

Sincerely,



Patchamuthu Illangovan  
Senior Environmental Specialist  
The World Bank Office, Bangkok