

Sub-Program	1. Improving Administrative Ability and Institution Building
Component	1-2. Improvement of Legal System
Accepting University (Number of Scholars)	Nagoya University (2) Graduate School of Law LL.M. (Comparative Law) in Law and Political Science/ Department of the Combined Graduate Program in Law and Politics “The Human Resources Development Program to Contribute to the Asian Technical Legal Assistance Projects” -Master of Laws (Comparative Law)
Target Organizations:	Ministry of Justice (Managing Organization) People’s Supreme Court, Public Prosecutor’s Office, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, National Assembly
Purpose of the Study:	
<p>Since the establishment of the constitution in 1991, Laos has been promoting legal and judicial development to become a law-governing state. As Laos did not focus on the development of legal human resources for the decade after the revolution in 1975, it has not enough legal experts, and lack of human resources has become a grate problem. Laos has been rapidly proceeding with the transition to market economy and has accomplished relatively stable economic growth since Laos joined ASEAN in 1997. Further activation of economic activities, however, requires addressing two major issues. The first issue is expansion of domestic and foreign investment and the construction of the law for trade and investment. It is also necessary to train legal practitioners capable of settling economic disputes fairly at government agencies in charge of investment and trade as well as at the Ministry of Justice and its affiliated organizations. The second issue is to enact new laws and revise the existing ones in the commercial and civil codes as required by the ongoing economic development.</p> <p>To cope with these issues, since 2005 the Lao government has tried to enact and revise laws, according to social and economic changes, including the Enterprise Law, the new Budget Law, the Commercial Bank Law, and the Value-Added Tax Law. Yet the confidence both at home and abroad in the legal stability and the legal system is still low, especially in the context of facilitating a market economy, promoting investment, and developing private enterprises. These contexts highlight the urgent need for improving the legal system and strengthening the judicial mechanism in Laos.</p> <p>JDS Fellows are expected to acquire knowledge useful for policymaking and institution building in the context of improving the legal system with focus on the commercial and civil codes, and trade and investment for economic development, as well as of settling economic disputes.</p>	