Institute for Legal Support and Technical Assistance

ANNUAL REPORT

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2023
2024

with the support of :

LUXEMBOURG
AID & DEVELOPMENT

THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE GRAND-DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG
Ministry of Finance

LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Fonds de lutte
contre certaines formes de criminalité

Page of Contents

Forword	05
About	06
Focus 2023 / 2024	07
Operations	08
Enhancing Legal and Judicial Capacities - Long - Term Training and Development in Lao PDR	10
Demand-Driven Technical Assistance and Promoting Awareness of Key Issues	12
Strengthening Regional Cooperation – Adressing Transnational Crime in the Mekong Area	13
Advancing Regional Prosecutor Coordination – Supporting the Development of an ASEAN Prosecutor/Attorney General Entity	15
Driving FATF Compliance and Transparency – Advancing AML/CFT Standards to Combat Financial Crime	16
Equipping Institutions with International Public Law Expertise	18
Strengthening International Public Law through ILSTA and MOFA Partnership	20
Engaging with Detention Facilities and Prisons – Towards improving the criminal justice system	21
Empowering Engagement – English Language Programme for Regional and International Communication	22
Inspiring The Next Generation – Public Lectures and the Ethics & Integrity Course for Students	24
Practical Tools for Legal Capacity – Technical Guides, Training Resources, and Public Outreach	26
Finance and Audit	27

Forword



Dear Reader,

I am pleased to present ILSTA's Annual Report for 2023–2024, highlighting our collective efforts in strengthening the rule of law, governance, and legal capacities in Lao PDR, advancing international compliance, and fostering regional cooperation in the Mekong region. Over the past two years, we have worked closely with our partners to address critical challenges and support the country's progress toward alignment with international standards.

Alongside our extensive training programmes and technical assistance to partner agencies, we have placed strong emphasis on combating organised crime, enhancing judicial capacity, and deepening regional cooperation to tackle shared challenges across the Mekong region. Strengthening legal cooperation with neighbouring countries remains a key priority in addressing transnational organised crime, illicit financial flows, and mutual legal assistance.

A key pillar of our work has been assisting Lao PDR in achieving compliance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards. Compliance is not merely a regulatory obligation but a fundamental driver of governance reform—enhancing transparency, strengthening institutions, and building trust, all of which are essential for sustainable development.

This report reflects the dedication and effective collaboration of all our partners. I extend my sincere gratitude to the Government of Luxembourg and LuxDev for their steadfast support and trust, which have been instrumental in enabling us to deliver results and drive meaningful change. I also wish to thank our Lao partner institutions for their unwavering commitment and active engagement in pursuing our shared objectives. Their ownership and collaboration have been crucial in advancing reforms and strengthening the rule of law over the past two years.

As Lao PDR continues its journey toward stronger governance and international engagement, ILSTA remains committed to providing targeted technical assistance, supporting international compliance with FATF standards, enhancing capacity building, and fostering partnerships across sectors and borders. Together, we will continue working toward a future where good governance, transparency, and the rule of law are firmly established.

To all who have contributed to this journey, thank you for your invaluable support and collaboration. It is through these collective efforts that meaningful progress is achieved.

Richard Philippart
President

About

ILSTA operates under the Lao-Luxembourg Development Cooperation framework and is a core implementing partner of the LAO/037 programme "Rule of law, access to justice and good governance (ROLAG)". This collaboration integrates governance reform, capacity-building, and legal assistance into a cohesive strategy to enhance the Rule of Law in Lao PDR as compliance with international standards.

Additionally, ILSTA's activities are supported by Luxembourg's Ministry of Finance through the "ILSTA AML/CFT Phase III" project and the Fonds de lutte contre certaines formes de criminalité. These partnerships empower ILSTA to deliver impactful interventions, particularly in addressing transnational organized crime and AML/CFT compliance.

ILSTA is open to receive support from other donors to partner with Luxembourg development cooperation in common objectives.



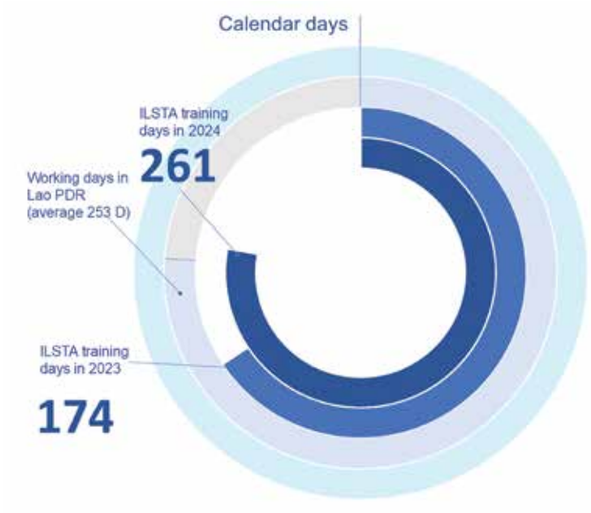
Values

ILSTA is guided by the values of sustainability, collaboration, and excellence, aligning with the Lao-Luxembourg Development Cooperation priorities and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It strives and promotes international norms, including FATF standards, into domestic frameworks, fostering compliance with global anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing measures. By promoting good governance and the rule of law, ILSTA supports sustainable development and the harmonisation of international and local legal systems.

Focus

2023

2024





2023 - 2024
at a GLANCE

435
days of training

4203
Officials attended training

15
long term training

612
Officials attended

2784
hours AML/CFT mentoring

Operations



ILSTA's approach to enhancing the rule of law is rooted in consistent engagement with government institutions. Through regular interaction and ongoing activities, ILSTA fosters collaboration that aligns with national priorities and drives progress toward Lao PDR's transformation into a rule of law state and international compliance.

Over 2023 and 2024, ILSTA advanced its mission under the Lao/037 project, Enhancing the Rule of Law, Access to Justice, and Good Governance in Lao PDR. Activities focused on AML/CFT compliance, delivering demand-driven technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives to address critical needs in the justice and governance sectors, including long-term training programmes, fostering regional cooperation. By aligning its work with international norms, such as FATF standards, and supporting sustainable reforms, ILSTA contributes to strengthening Lao PDR's legal framework and governance systems. This report highlights ILSTA's achievements over the past two years under the Lao/037 programme.

The following chapters outline ILSTA's key areas of activity in 2023 and 2024.

1 Enhancing Legal and Judicial Capacities – Long-Term Training and Development in Lao PDR

2 Demand-Driven Technical Assistance and Promoting Awareness of Key Issues

3 Strengthening Regional Cooperation – Adressing Transnational Crime in the Mekong Area

4 Advancing Regional Prosecutor Coordination – Supporting the Development of an ASEAN Prosecutor/Attorney General Entity

5 Driving FATF Compliance and Transparency – Advancing AML/CFT Standards to Combat Financial CrimeHighlighting the role of adherence to FATF standards for stronger governance.



6 Equipping Institutions with International Public Law Expertise

7 Strengthening International Public Law through ILSTA and MOFA Partnership

8 Engaging with Detention Facilities and Prisons – Towards improving the criminal justice system

9 Empowering Engagement – English Language Programme for Regional and International Communication

10 Inspiring The Next Generation – Public Lectures and the Ethics & Integrity Course for Students

11 Practical Tools for Legal Capacity – Technical Guides, Training Resources, and Public Outreach



1. Enhancing Legal and Judicial Capacities – Long-Term Training and Development in Lao PDR

ILSTA's modular training programme provides a structured framework for capacity building across Lao PDR's legal and law enforcement sectors. Designed to progress gradually, the programme begins with foundational knowledge and advances to specialised skills. This approach equips participants to address increasingly complex challenges in criminal investigations while aligning their practices with international standards.

As part of its technical assistance, ILSTA operates on a demand-driven basis, supporting Lao partners in implementing activities tailored to their specific needs. This collaborative approach ensures that ILSTA's efforts directly align with the priorities and requirements identified by Lao institutions.

The basic training courses, introduced by ILSTA, address critical gaps in skills such as crime investigation techniques, financial investigations, legal principles and national legislation, evidence collection, and the fundamentals of AML/CFT (Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism). These courses combine theoretical lectures with practical, problem-based learning, equipping participants with the knowledge and experience necessary for their work.

Building on this foundation, advanced training modules cover topics such as human trafficking, counter-narcotics, wildlife crime investigations, and financial investigations into illicit money flows. By 2024, ILSTA integrates strategies for cross-border collaboration into its advanced modules, addressing both regional and transnational organised crime. This step-by-step progression aligns with ongoing reform efforts and increases the capacity of Lao institutions to meet international standards and requirements.

Central to ILSTA's methodology is its "All Agency Approach", which ensures that training initiatives involve representatives from all relevant authorities. This holistic approach fosters inter-agency coordination by bringing together law enforcement officers, prosecutors, customs officials, judiciary officers, and other key stakeholders in the same learning environment. By doing so, ILSTA promotes a deeper understanding of each agency's roles and responsibilities, encouraging seamless collaboration and improved operational efficiency in addressing complex challenges.

ILSTA's focus on practical, scenario-based exercises enables participants to apply their knowledge to real-life situations adapted to their needs. This consistent, long-term approach strengthens participants' confidence and improves the effectiveness of law enforcement and the judiciary. By fostering inter-agency coordination and ensuring representation from all relevant authorities, ILSTA's training programmes create a strong foundation for sustainable development, institutional progress, and international compliance.

612 trainees

2023
9 Long term trainings
335 participants
263 male / 72 female

2024
6 Long term trainings
277 participants
204 male / 73 female





2. Demand-Driven Technical Assistance and Promoting Awareness of Key Issues

Since 2015, ILSTA has worked closely with its key partners in the Lao government, including the Office of the Supreme People's Prosecutor (OSPP), the People's Supreme Court (PSC), the State Inspection Authority, and the Ministry of Public Security, to provide demand-driven technical assistance tailored to their specific needs. This approach ensures that ILSTA's efforts are directly aligned with immediate priorities, addressing capacity gaps, strengthening governance frameworks, and supporting partner organisations at both central and provincial levels.

This commitment has been sustained throughout 2023 and 2024, reflecting ILSTA's dedication to advancing Lao PDR's justice sector. During this period, ILSTA has delivered a series of targeted workshops, training sessions, and seminars across the country. These initiatives have addressed a diverse range of topics, including anti-corruption, consultation processes for drafting manuals, law monitoring and inspection, single-judge practices, international cooperation, and AML/CFT compliance. Delivered in partnership with national institutions, these activities have engaged a wide audience of prosecutors, judges, law enforcement officers, and other key stakeholders.

The demand-driven nature of ILSTA's assistance ensures flexibility and relevance, enabling activities to adapt to the evolving needs of its partners. By fostering close collaboration, trust, and engagement with national authorities, ILSTA continues to strengthen institutional capacity and promote sustainable improvements in line with international standards. These events also provide opportunities to address other critical agendas at the provincial level, such as AML/CFT compliance and long-term training needs, ensuring alignment with ILSTA's core activities.





3. Strengthening Regional Cooperation – Adressing Transnational Crime in the Mekong Area

The Mekong region, with its porous borders, remains a hotspot for organised crime, underscoring the urgent need for stronger regional cooperation. In partnership with the Office of the Attorney General of Thailand, ILSTA has actively fostered collaborations with regional authorities to address complex transnational challenges.

Recognising the vital importance of a coordinated regional approach to law enforcement, ILSTA has prioritised initiatives aligned with ASEAN objectives to combat organised crime effectively. As part of these efforts, ILSTA has in 2023 , 2024 organised thematic joint meetings on critical issues, including counter-narcotics, cross-border cash smuggling, cybercrime, and cyber fraud. These events, conducted in collaboration with authorities from Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines, have facilitated dialogue and joint problem-solving on transnational threats.

In addition to joint meetings, ILSTA has implemented specialised training programmes and workshops targeting organised crime, money laundering, and illicit trade. These initiatives have brought together law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and customs officers, creating opportunities for knowledge exchange, harmonisation of practices, and trust-building. Working closely with the Office of the Attorney General of Thailand, ILSTA has established a robust platform for regional cooperation, intelligence sharing, and case file discussions.





A core focus of these initiatives is fostering regular exchanges to develop a shared understanding of criminal patterns, emerging threats, and underlying dynamics. These efforts also aim to harmonise knowledge of national criminal legislation and procedures, enhance mechanisms for Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA), and improve information exchange processes. By emphasising shared frameworks and best practices, participants are better equipped to dismantle complex criminal networks, ensuring timely and coordinated responses to transnational crimes.

A significant achievement has been the facilitation of regular bilateral meetings between the Office of the Attorney General of Thailand and the Supreme People's Prosecutor of Lao PDR. These meetings have strengthened cross-border cooperation, particularly in addressing illicit narcotics, organised crime, wildlife trafficking, asset recovery, and MLA. Beyond bilateral engagements, ILSTA has contributed its expertise to regional dialogues on transnational crime at ASEAN forums, advocating for enhanced frameworks to address emerging threats such as cybercrime, financial crimes, and online scams.

By fostering collaboration, trust, and a shared commitment to combating organised crime, ILSTA continues to support the development of an integrated and effective regional response. Expanding these training programmes and thematic meetings in partnership with ASEAN authorities will further enhance the efficiency and adaptability of regional efforts to counter organised crime.





4. Advancing Regional Prosecutor Coordination – Supporting the Development of an ASEAN Prosecutor/Attorney General Entity

ILSTA has been actively engaged in strengthening regional cooperation to address transnational organised crime, supporting the groundwork for the creation an ASEAN Prosecutors/ Attorney General Meeting/ Body. This initiative seeks to enhance judicial collaboration by streamlining mutual legal assistance processes, developing standardised protocols for handling transnational cases, and facilitating the swift exchange of information among prosecutorial authorities. With growing threats such as narcotics trafficking, human trafficking, wildlife crime, and cyber-enabled offences, the establishment of a structured prosecutorial network is essential to bolster regional responses.

Over 2023 and 2024, ILSTA has contributed to facilitating discussions and preparatory efforts aimed at shaping the mandate of this future body. The ASEAN Prosecutors Meeting/Body will serve as a critical platform for enhancing legal cooperation, strengthening prosecutorial capacities, and ensuring a more coordinated response to cross-border crime. By working towards the establishment of a formalised mechanism, this initiative seeks to reinforce regional security and legal cooperation, ensuring that ASEAN's justice sector is well-equipped to tackle the evolving challenges posed by transnational crime.

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS





5. Driving FATF Compliance and Transparency – Advancing AML/CFT Standards to Combat Financial Crime

Compliance with FATF standards against money laundering and the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) is a cornerstone of ILSTA's work in Lao PDR. Following deficiencies identified in the Asia Pacific Group (APG) 2023 Mutual Evaluation Report, ILSTA, with support from the Government of Luxembourg, was called upon by the National Coordination Committee on Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism to provide critical technical assistance.

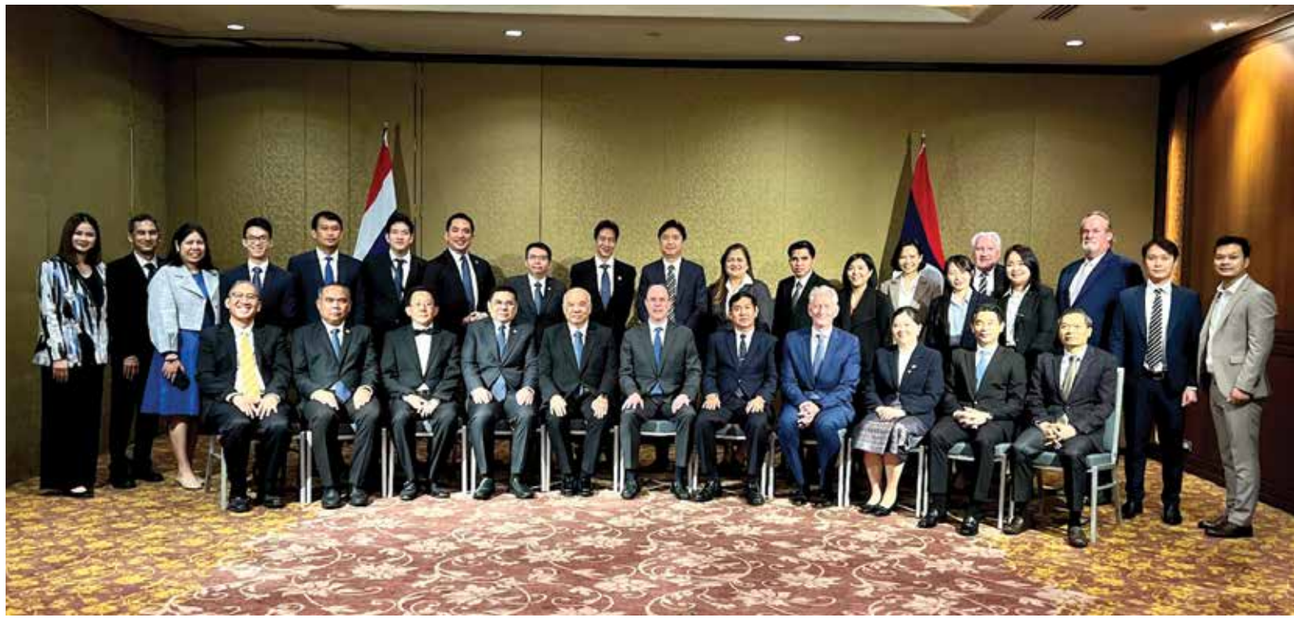
ILSTA's efforts focus on legislative reform, mentoring, and capacity building, as well as developing tools and instruments to bridge gaps and address loopholes, ensuring compliance with international standards set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The organisation has guided Lao authorities through processes such as the National Risk Assessment (NRA) in partnership with the World Bank, identifying vulnerabilities and enabling targeted, risk-based compliance. Support for drafting the Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) manual, developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and preparing the Post Observation Period Report (POPR) has been pivotal supporting the Lao PDR towards progress toward FATF requirements.

Training initiatives are at the heart of ILSTA's contributions, equipping the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), AMLIO, law enforcement, financial institutions, and Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs) with essential knowledge of FATF's 40 Recommendations and 11 Immediate Outcomes. Over 2023 and 2024, ILSTA delivered approximately 2,784 hours of AML/CFT mentoring to Lao authorities, reflecting the organisation's sustained commitment to capacity building and responsiveness to requests from the National Coordination Committee for technical assistance. These initiatives aim to foster interagency collaboration, improve operational efficiency, and strengthen enforcement mechanisms to strive for FATF compliance. As the first evaluation of its kind in the country, the Mutual Evaluation process has required Lao authorities to adopt innovative new approaches to address the identified challenges effectively.



ILSTA has been instrumental in developing comprehensive didactical materials for various authorities, explaining the Mutual Evaluation process, Immediate Outcomes, and the 40 Recommendations. Additionally, ILSTA has played a key role in fostering regional collaboration by connecting Lao authorities with Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) in ASEAN countries such as Thailand, Cambodia, and the Philippines. These efforts have facilitated knowledge exchange on FATF standards, Mutual Evaluation processes, and compliance needs. To support the effective implementation of AML/CFT measures, ILSTA has established coordination and information exchange mechanisms among the line authorities of the National Coordination Committee. These mechanisms facilitate structured communication, timely data sharing, and a unified approach to compliance and enforcement efforts. By fostering regular interactions and collective problem-solving among key stakeholders, ILSTA has contributed to building a cohesive framework for AML/CFT operations, enhancing both strategic planning and operational responses.

ILSTA's active participation in regional forums, including the Asia Pacific Group Meeting, fostering regional meetings between Lao and Thai policymakers, and collaborating with relevant international bodies underscores the importance of shared strategies to address AML/CFT challenges and support Lao PDR. Additionally, ILSTA organises regular Donor and Embassy Information Group meetings to keep stakeholders informed about developments, fostering transparency and alignment in AML/CFT efforts.





6. Equipping Institutions with International Public Law Expertise

A comprehensive and long-term course on International Public Law have been designed and delivered to key officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other senior government authorities in Lao PDR. This initiative aimed to enhance participants' understanding of international public law, with a specific focus on areas critical to Lao PDR's engagement in the global arena, such as international treaties, international institutions, and procedures. By equipping participants with the tools to navigate complex legal challenges, the course serves as a cornerstone for fostering greater compliance with international norms.

The programme is structured to blend theoretical knowledge with practical application. Through interactive sessions, case studies, and facilitated discussions, participants explored topics including treaty obligations, international human rights law, and the role of multilateral organisations. These learning methods provided participants with both a broad understanding of international legal principles and the ability to apply them effectively within a domestic context. Such skills are vital for strengthening Lao PDR's capacity to uphold its commitments and engage meaningfully on the international stage.

Given the critical importance of having legal experts in international public law within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this programme represents a significant investment in the professionalisation of government officials. Legal expertise in this field is essential to ensure that Lao PDR can effectively navigate complex international agreements, protect national interests, and contribute to global dialogue with confidence and authority.

A key feature of the course was its practical orientation, designed to bridge the gap between theory and practice. For instance, participants engaged in simulations of treaty negotiations, analysis of case law, and scenario-based exercises that mirrored real-world challenges faced by government officials. This hands-on approach not only deepened their understanding but also built confidence in their ability to interpret and implement international agreements effectively.

Recognising the evolving needs of Lao PDR's governance and international obligations, plans are underway to develop further modules tailored to specific professional demands. These advanced modules will address areas such as environmental law, trade law, and the legal dimensions of international cooperation. By responding to these critical needs, the programme ensures that government officials are well-prepared to address emerging challenges and align their work with international standards.

Building on the success of this initiative, ILSTA is committed to scaling up the programme. Future iterations will include expanded training sessions, increased frequency, and a broader scope to encompass additional aspects of international law. This expansion will also leverage partnerships with regional and global institutions, enabling participants to gain diverse perspectives and access to specialised expertise.

ILSTA's efforts to enhance the technical capacity of Lao officials through this initiative reflect a broader commitment to supporting Lao PDR in aligning its governance with international standards. By fostering a deeper understanding of international law, the programme not only contributes to the professional growth of participants but also strengthens Lao PDR's active participation in regional and global legal frameworks. Over time, these efforts will help establish a governance structure that is robust, internationally compliant, and capable of addressing the complex legal challenges of an interconnected world.



7. Strengthening International Public Law through ILSTA and MOFA Partnership

In 2024, ILSTA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Lao PDR formalized their collaboration through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), marking a significant step in fostering compliance with international norms and facilitating the transposition of these norms into domestic law. This partnership underscores the shared commitment of both parties to strengthening the Rule of Law, enhancing governance, and aligning Lao PDR's legal and institutional frameworks with global standards. By focusing on key areas such as international law, human rights, and treaty implementation, the MoU aims to equip Lao officials with the skills and knowledge needed to fulfill the country's international obligations effectively.

A critical aspect of the MoU is its emphasis on capacity building and practical application. Through targeted workshops, training sessions, and seminars, ILSTA and MOFA work together to ensure that international treaties—such as those addressing transnational organized crime, human trafficking, and AML/CFT measures—are not only understood but also effectively implemented within the domestic legal framework. By integrating these global commitments into actionable domestic practices, the collaboration strengthens Lao PDR's ability to address pressing challenges while reinforcing its role as a responsible member of the international legal community. This MoU highlights the transformative potential of partnerships in fostering sustainable legal reforms and advancing good governance.



8. Engaging with Detention Facilities and Prisons – Towards improving the criminal justice system

Under the framework of LAO/037 "Enhancing the Rule of Law, Access to Justice and Good Governance in Lao PDR" (ROLAG), ILSTA is initiating work to support detention facilities and prisons in Lao PDR, a domain that has not previously been addressed by development actors. This initiative aligns with the broader objectives of strengthening the rule of law and governance while addressing key issues such as overcrowding, resource limitations, and the management of juvenile detainees. It also aims to align this sector with international standards, including the Nelson Mandela Rules and related guidelines, integrating these principles into operational frameworks. Over 2023 and 2024, ILSTA has actively disseminated the Mandela Rules as part of its broader engagement and advocacy efforts.

Given the sensitive nature of this work, ILSTA is adopting a cautious, step-by-step approach. Building trust and fostering collaboration with the Lao authorities are central to this process. To formalise the partnership and ensure clear operational guidelines, ILSTA is advocating for a technical assistance protocol that will lay a solid foundation for future activities.

Modernising the criminal justice system and aligning it with international standards will not only enhance the efficiency of justice delivery but also strengthen the integration of a human rights-based approach. By supporting these reforms, ILSTA contributes to fostering humane and effective justice processes, ensuring that detention practices uphold the principles of dignity, accountability, and fairness.

This work represents a vital component of the criminal justice sector. By addressing critical gaps and focusing on detention facilities and prisons, ILSTA supports the broader objectives of the LAO/037 programme, promoting sustainable legal reforms and reinforcing governance in Lao PDR.



9. Empowering Engagement – English Language Programme for Regional and International Communication

The English Language Programme is a cornerstone of ILSTA's mission to enhance governance and legal capacity in Lao PDR. Recognising the importance of English as the working language of ASEAN and its role in fostering international cooperation, the programme is designed to equip Lao officials with the linguistic skills necessary to navigate complex regional and global frameworks effectively.

Since its inception in 2016, the programme has addressed a critical need for tailored language instruction in the legal and governance sectors. Unlike traditional English courses, ILSTA's curriculum focuses specifically on legal and administrative contexts. The programme combines theoretical lessons with practical exercises, to simulate international meetings and conferences.

In 2023 and 2024, the programme reached a wide audience, delivering thousands of hours of instruction to officials from ministries, law enforcement agencies, and provincial administrations. Classes were held in Vientiane, Pakse, and Luang Prabang, with online sessions ensuring accessibility for participants in remote areas. For senior officials, the programme offered personalised, one-on-one training to address specific professional needs, such as preparing for international conferences or reviewing complex legal documents.

The impact of the English Language Programme extends beyond individual skill development. By empowering officials to communicate effectively in English, ILSTA contributes to Lao PDR's ability to engage with ASEAN partners, comply with international obligations, and participate actively in global dialogues.

This programme exemplifies ILSTA's holistic approach to capacity building, bridging the gap between technical expertise and effective communication. The benefits of the English Language Programme are not confined to the immediate participants; they ripple outward, strengthening institutions and fostering a culture of professional development. As Lao PDR continues to integrate more deeply into ASEAN and the international community, the ability to communicate and collaborate in English will remain a vital asset.

2023
42730 hours of English
833 civil servants
participants attend
424 male / 377 female

One-to-One classes Senior Officials
183 Days
17 male / 15 female

2023
45590 hours of English
855 civil servants
participants attend
459 male / 364 female

One-to-One classes Senior Officials
184 Days
10 male / 22 female

Looking to the future, ILSTA is committed to expanding the programme, with plans to develop advanced modules tailored to emerging needs, such as financial crime compliance and judicial communication. These efforts will ensure that Lao officials are not only equipped to meet today's challenges but are also prepared for the demands of an increasingly interconnected world. Through the English Language Programme, ILSTA continues to support Lao PDR in building the foundations for effective governance and international cooperation.





10. Inspiring The Next Generation – Public Lectures and the Ethics & Integrity Course for Students

ILSTA recognises the importance of fostering a strong foundation of legal knowledge, ethical understanding, and general awareness among the younger generation. To this end, public lectures, the Ethics and Integrity Course, and initiatives like the annual University Challenge Quiz have become central components of ILSTA's outreach efforts, targeting students from universities across Lao PDR.

The public lectures, delivered both in person and online, provide students with insights into topics critical to the legal and governance landscape. Subjects such as the principle of legality, wildlife crime, human rights, and the role of AML/CFT compliance are presented by experts, offering students the opportunity to engage with real-world challenges and practical solutions. These sessions aim to bridge the gap between theoretical education and practical application, encouraging critical thinking and deeper engagement with the role of law in society.

The Ethics and Integrity Course takes this engagement further, equipping students with the tools to navigate complex ethical dilemmas they may encounter in their future careers. Delivered over a two-week period, the course focuses on key topics such as accountability, judicial ethics, and transparency. Through interactive workshops, case studies, and group discussions, students develop a deeper understanding of the importance of ethical conduct in promoting good governance and the rule of law. This initiative fosters a culture of integrity among participants, empowering them to become responsible and ethical leaders in their respective fields.

2023
Ethics and Integrity Course
22 participants
7 male / 15 female

2024
Ethics and Integrity Course
19 participants
7 male / 12 female



In addition to fostering legal and ethical knowledge, ILSTA also nurtures students' curiosity in general knowledge through the annual University Challenge Quiz, a highlight of its engagement efforts. For the past seven years, including in 2023 and 2024, ILSTA has supported this vibrant competition, which challenges students from universities across Lao PDR to expand their understanding of diverse topics. The quiz not only promotes teamwork and critical thinking but also inspires a passion for lifelong learning and curiosity among the participants.

These initiatives collectively empower students with the knowledge, skills, and ethical grounding to contribute meaningfully to Lao PDR's development. By engaging with the next generation, ILSTA invests in future leaders who are well-prepared to uphold integrity and strengthen the nation's legal and governance frameworks.





11. Practical Tools for Legal Capacity – Technical Guides, Training Resources, and Public Outreach

ILSTA prioritises the development of comprehensive technical guides, didactical training materials in Lao language, and outreach resources to strengthen legal capacity and promote awareness in Lao PDR. These resources address key aspects of domestic law, explain core legal principles, and provide practical tools to enhance the effectiveness of legal and law enforcement professionals. A wide array of technical guides has been developed, covering topics such as wildlife crime investigations, AML/CFT compliance, mutual legal assistance. These guides attempt to simplify complex legal systems into practical, accessible formats tailored to the needs of Lao officials. Among these, the Rapid Reference Guide (RRGs) offer concise summaries and actionable steps for use in the field, providing critical support.

ILSTA's didactical training materials include detailed manuals, and scenario-based modules designed to complement formal training programmes. These materials equip participants with the knowledge and skills to apply legal principles in their daily work, fostering both technical proficiency and practical understanding.

To broaden outreach, ILSTA integrates posters, infographics, video resources, and social media platforms into its awareness campaigns. The widespread use of social media in the region presents a valuable opportunity to enhance awareness and capacity building. ILSTA leverages its Facebook page, which has approximately 7,700 followers, to share substantive legal information and updates. In 2023 and 2024, ILSTA's Facebook content received an impressive 2,505,000 views (707,259 in 2023 and 1,796,663 in 2024). These figures highlight the platform's significant reach and its role in disseminating critical legal knowledge and promoting engagement with legal and governance issues in Lao PDR.



Short, engaging video clips cover topics like the principle of legality, anti-corruption measures, and judicial guarantees, delivering impactful messaging in an easy-to-understand format. Posters and infographics further reinforce key messages, providing visual reminders in offices, training venues, and community spaces. By combining technical guides, training materials, and innovative outreach resources, ILSTA ensures that its capacity-building efforts are comprehensive and far-reaching. This multifaceted approach supports the professional growth of legal and governance professionals while fostering a broader culture of legal awareness and accountability in Lao PDR. These resources are a vital part of ILSTA's commitment to strengthening the rule of law and promoting good governance across the country.

Finance and Audit

ILSTA maintains robust financial management practices, ensuring clarity, accuracy, and transparency in its operations. The organisation implements an internal control system for its purchasing process, complying with the International Standard of ISA 500 for Audit Evidence. This system comprises four key steps: **Preparation, Approving, Paying, and Booking,** which collectively provide a structured approach to managing financial transactions.

To uphold financial accountability, ILSTA undergoes two independent annual audits conducted by a "réviseur d'entreprises agréé" from Grant Thornton Luxembourg:

1. **ISRE 2400 (Revised):** An audit conducted in accordance with the International Standard on Review Engagements, covering all ILSTA activities and operations to ensure compliance with financial and operational standards.
2. **ISRS 4400:** An audit conducted in line with the International Standard on Related Services for agreed-upon procedures engagement, specifically reviewing all activities and operations related to the LAO/037 project between ILSTA and Luxembourg Development.

ILSTA's accounting practices are based on the **Standard Chart of Accounts of Luxembourg** and adhere to the L**uxembourg Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (Lux GAAP).** These rigorous practices ensure compliance with international standards and reflect ILSTA's commitment to financial transparency and accountability in all aspects of its operations.



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