



ທະນາຄານແຫ່ງ ສປປ ລາວ
Bank of the Lao PDR

NEWS

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BOL

IMF Staff completes 2021 Article IV Consultation for Lao PDR



On December 21-22, 2021, the Bank of Lao PDR (BOL) led by Mr. Sonexay Sittphaxay, Governor of Bank of the Lao PDR together with the managements of economic concerned ministries attended concluding meetings under the 2021 International Monetary Fund (IMF) Article IV Consultation for the Lao PDR.

This year's Article IV Consultation was conducted through a video conference on December 6-21, 2021. Mr. Alasdair Scott, the IMF mission chief for Lao PDR and his team met with several economic concerned ministries namely the Bank of Lao PDR, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Planning and Investment, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Ministry of Energy and Mines and a few commercial banks to inquire their views on economic development.

The IMF concluded that the Lao economy as well as many countries around the world has experienced slower growth due to a spread of COVID-19 outbreak. In 2021,

real GDP of the Lao PDR is forecasted to grow by 2.1% and rebound to 3% in 2022, driven by strong performance of agricultural and industrial sectors. Nonetheless, the Lao Economy is bearing a number of domestic and external risks such as rising inflation and exchange rate fluctuation which could further render GDP growth in the long run.



On this occasion, Governor of the BOL also affirmed the Lao Government's strong intention to tackle various risks, most importantly in the forming of a National Agenda to address financial and economic difficulties amid the Covid-19 pandemic. In the agenda, measures, timeframes for priority schemes and the responsibilities of various sectors are outlined in response to the nation's fiscal concerns and are designed to ensure robust and sustainable economic development.

At the end of the meeting, the Governor of the Bank of Lao PDR expressed his appreciation to the IMF Article IV team for their attention in monitoring and advising on Lao macroeconomic development. He also highly valued the IMF's continuous technical assistance provided to the Lao PDR for the past several years.

The IMF Article IV Consultation is a critical agenda which is conducted annually to evaluate the economic development of its member countries. At the same time, it also provides valuable policy recommendations on the development of tools and policies to strengthen the country's macroeconomic performance and development.

Source: International Cooperation Department