

Workshop in Laos on Doha Round, mega-regionals and e-commerce

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On 4 November 2016 in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, IDEAS Centre held a workshop for government officials from relevant line ministries. Subjects covered went from the state-of-play in the multilateral Doha Round negotiations to other trade-related issues of relevance to Lao PDR. The topics addressed included: possible outcomes at the Eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2017; issues of relevance to least-developed countries and Lao PDR; the impact of plurilateral agreements and mega-regional trade agreements on Laotian economic integration policy; and the issue of e-commerce and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), as a topic increasingly gaining prominence in international trade talks.

The workshop was opened by the Deputy Director General of the Foreign Trade Policy Department, Ministry of Industry and Commerce. IDEAS Centre animated the workshop, which was attended by over 40 participants from various Laotian line ministries.



Nicolas Imboden, Partner at IDEAS Centre, presenting on the risks of mega-regional trade agreements, Lao Plaza Hotel, Vientiane.

The workshop took place in the framework of a week-long mission of IDEAS Centre to Lao PDR. The main objective of the mission was to discuss issues of relevance in trade negotiations and the implementation of Lao PDR’s obligations and commitments as a recently-acceded member to the World Trade Organisation. The mission took place within the phase IV of Post-WTO Accession Project for Lao PDR, funded by SECO.

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