

SUPITCHA PUNYA

Sustainable Development Goals in Laos

GALDA VERLAG



Insights from Southeast Asia
Multiple Approaches towards the Region

สำนักหอสมุด มหาวิทยาลัยเชียงใหม่

616627933
012557958
122614370

SUPITCHA PUNYA

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN LAOS



INSIGHTS FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA
MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TOWARDS THE REGION

Volume 7

GALDA VERLAG 2022

CONTENTS

About the Series v

Foreword vii

Dedication

ix

Photos xv

Tables xvii

Graphs xix

Diagrams xxi

1	Introduction	1
	Post-socialist approach	4
	Post-socialist in Asia	5
	Post-socialist dilemmas and the regime legitimation in Laos	6
	Process tracing and elite interview as a method	9
	Limitation of the study	12
	Book outline	13
2	Development in Laos and its debate	15
	The construction of Lao modernity	15
	The interplay between the development partners and the Lao government under the Round Table Meeting	20
	The Party-led development in Laos under the Party Congress	23
	Long-term development aspiration and development debates in Laos	24
	Concluding remarks	32
3	Regime Legitimacy in Post-Socialist Laos	35
	Ideological legitimacy	36

Ideological legitimation for nation-building and the socialist transformation (1975–1985).....	39
The socialist dilemma: How the Party re-constructs the ideology to deal with capitalism and globalization (1986–present).....	42
Pragmatic acceptance: development legitimation in post-socialist Laos	48
Developmental legitimation: economic development and graduation from the least developed country status under the Party's supervision	49
Political stability in the one-state party	52
Revolutionary potential: the middle class, civil society and intellectuals in Laos	54
Socialist consolidation in Lao political structure	62
Institutional overlap between the Parties, the Lao government, the National Assembly, and the People's Court.....	63
Central and local relations in the political structure of Laos.....	66
Elite cohesion and co-optation in the Party	70
Concluding remarks.....	74
 4 The politics of development in Laos under the Sustainable Development Goals	75
The controversy of the international development norms: from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals.....	76
The standardization of the state: The development assistance from the development partners under the SDGs.....	80
The development agendas of the development partners in Lao development	84
Are principles of democracy hidden in the SDGs?	96

Is Lao state power being transformed under the international development norms?	99
Lao-style development.....	102
The fourth pillar of the SDGs in Laos.....	104
Restructuring Lao domestic institutions under the SDGs in Laos	106
Economic development: sustainable and inclusive growth to bring the country out of LDC status.....	106
Social Inclusion: Narrowing the development and gender inequality gaps	110
Environmental Sustainability: Green-growth development.....	113
Good Governance: rule of law, people's participation, and tackling corruption in nominal democratic institutions	115
The SDGs as a source of regime legitimacy: How do the SDGs work in Laos?	120
Concluding remarks.....	122

5

When expectations meet reality: Lao state capacity to graduate from the LDC status	125
How to investigate Lao state capacity.....	127
Financial management capacity: Centralized fiscal management and an unbalanced distribution.....	129
Human capital capacity: Degree of professionalization and the patronage system.....	139
Institutional capacity and autonomy	142
How can the state capacity support the SDGs in the country?	144
When expectations meet reality: Debates on Lao development.....	146
Hydropower dam development: Are things really flowing smoothly?	146

	Laos under the global pandemic: Can Laos really graduate from its status as a Least Developed Country by 2026?	150
	After graduation from the Least Development Country status: What comes next?	153
	Concluding remarks.....	157
6	Conclusion.....	159
	Post-socialist Laos: development as another source of the regime legitimacy	160
	Sustainable Development Goals under the Party-led development in Laos.....	162
	Lao state capacity	165
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	169