

Press Release

SURBANA JURONG, MEKONG GROUP AND PHONGSAVANH GROUP COLLABORATE TO SUPPORT LAOS' GROWTH JOURNEY

Surbana Jurong to provide expertise in Urban Development and Strategic Planning

Vientiane, Laos, 1 September 2017 – In a move that will see Singapore companies share their expertise to support Lao PDR's growth, Singapore's Surbana Jurong Consultants Pte. Ltd., Mekong Group Pte. Ltd. and Lao's Phongsavanh Group today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to jointly pursue business opportunities there.

Under this MOU, the partners aim to support the government's plan to transform land-locked Laos to a land-linked one through infrastructure projects and to attract investments through strategically planned townships and industrial growth clusters.

Phongsavanh Group is the master developer for an industrial zone development project covering 1300ha in capital city Vientiane.

Surbana Jurong will provide its expertise in Urban Development Studies and Strategic Planning. For a start, it will develop the Concept Master Plans for Phongsavanh Group's Vientiane project, which it aims to complete by the end of the year. Surbana Jurong has successfully completed many internationally renowned industrial parks, townships and city planning, such as Singapore's Jurong Island Petrochemical Hub, Suzhou Industrial Park, Tianjin Eco-City, Vietnam-Singapore Industrial Park, Kigali City in Africa and Amaravati Capital City in India.

Mekong Group will provide its expertise in sourcing international talents and firms to support the project. It is advising Phongsavanh Group on starting new businesses and improving current processes.

The MOU signing ceremony was attended by Singapore's Ambassador to Laos, Mr Dominic Goh, as well as senior representatives of Laos' government agencies.

During Lao Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith's official visit to Singapore in May this year, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said that Singapore hopes to be part of Laos' growth story. Today's MOU is testament that both countries are taking that step forward together.

"Laos is one of the fastest growing economies in the region and Surbana Jurong is excited to partner Laos on its growth journey. Beyond masterplanning, Surbana Jurong's design and engineering capabilities in various sectors also complement Laos' development priorities. We have over fifty years track record in township, industrial and infrastructure development and are pleased to contribute our expertise for Laos' development success," said Surbana Jurong's Group CEO Wong Heang Fine.

Wong added, "This collaboration with Mekong Group and Phongsavanh Group will allow us to leverage each partner's strengths as we explore other areas of cooperation, with the ultimate aim to help Laos and her people grow and prosper in a sustainable way."

Mekong Group's CEO, Michael Aw said, "Laos has remodelled itself into a safe, stable and peaceful nation with big ambitions. Lao PDR today is counted among the world's fastest growing economies and is set on a course of full regional and international integration. We are excited to start this journey together with Surbana Jurong and Phongsavanh Group, to be the advisor for this project with Phongsavanh Group as the master developer and Surbana Jurong as the master planner. The goal is to eventually build a township and industrial park which is strategically located near the high-speed rail station in Vientiane, a China's Belt Road Initiatives (BRI)."

He added, "Mekong Group's focus in Laos is to tap BRI opportunities. We will act fast to secure our first-mover advantage in Laos. We will collaborate with international and Singapore firms to form a consortium to engage these opportunities."

Mr Thedlakhone Douangsonthi, Vice-Chairman of Phongsavanh Group said, "The Group really wanted to develop the Vientiane Industrial Zone and make it an area for both local and international level of industry, trade, services, schools, hospital care, sport fields, apartments and theme parks."

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About Surbana Jurong Private Limited

Surbana Jurong Private Limited (SJ) is one of the largest Asia-based urban, industrial and infrastructure consulting firms. Leveraging technology and creativity, SJ provides one-stop consultancy solutions across the entire value chain of the urbanisation, industrialisation and infrastructure domains.

Headquartered in Singapore, the SJ Group has a global workforce of 13,000 employees in 113 offices across 44 countries in Asia, Australia, the Middle East, Africa and the Americas, and an annual turnover of around S\$1.3 billion.

SJ has a track record of over 50 years, and has built millions of homes, crafted master plans for more than 30 countries and developed over 50 industrial parks globally.

SJ's motto 'Building Cities, Shaping Lives' reflects its belief that development is more than just steel and concrete. SJ creates spaces and designs infrastructure where people live, work and play, shaping cities into homes with sustainable jobs where communities and businesses can flourish.

About Mekong Group Pte Ltd

Mekong Group is a Singapore based company with a focus in Lao PDR. It plays an advisory role and manages strategic partnerships for Lao PDR companies and state-owned enterprises. In Singapore, it is renowned for their 3T approach (Talent, Technology and Trust), which is also reflected in Mekong Group's core values. It believes that good management and transparency, being the Singapore branding will help to build Trust with its clients. It aims to bring the best in class practice & technology to improve its clients' business.

The Group strives to bring in the regional resources to tap on the growth story in Laos, be it:

1. Investors,
2. Joint Venture(JV) partners to start new business/partnership,
3. Consultants to improve a process/project and
4. Talents (people).

About Phongsavanh Group

The Phongsavanh Group (PSVG) is a leading group of companies in Lao PDR with successful pioneering enterprises in banking, insurance, oil distribution, airline, logistics, trading, food & beverage, timber and telecommunications. PSVG has played a great and important role in the economic growth story of Lao DPR and this new collaboration reaffirms their commitment to further promote the development of the economy and support for the community in Lao PDR.

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