



Contract Signing Ceremony
on the cooperation project to develop the system to collect the passenger and vehicle fees via electronic service (Smart VAT Phase 2) at the first friendship bridge between Tax Department and Banque Pour Le Commerce Extérieur Lao Public

At Vientiane Capital, 17/08/2018

On 17th of August, 2018 at the office of the Tax Department, Ministry of Finance, there was a contract signing ceremony on the project to develop the system to collect the passenger and vehicle fees via electronic service (Smart VAT Phase 2) at the first Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge between Tax Department and Banque Pour Le Commerce Extérieur Lao Public (BCEL). The contract was honorably signed by **Mr. Bounpaseuth Sikounlabout**, Acting Director General of Tax Department and **Mr. Phoukhong Chanthachack**, General Director of BCEL. The ceremony was witnessed by Director Generals, Chief of Divisions from Tax Department, Ministry of Finance along with Directors, Chief of Divisions, Chief of Centers and Branches of BCEL as well as the media from many channels.



Image: The signing of contract for cooperation was signed by Mr. Bounpaseuth Sikounlabout (Left hand side) and Mr. Phoukhong Chathachack (Right hand side).

The Bill payment Service of BCEL has been launched since 2009 and the service has now become widely used. Recently, BCEL has cooperated with 24 parties including companies, microfinance institution, commercial banks and especially in this cooperation with Tax Department. The offered services are the payment of electricity bills, water bills, telephone bills, tax payment, cable rental fees, oil card top up, bridge crossing fee for the first Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge and the payment of lease installment fees.

After signing the contract on the development the system to store the database of valued tax of the stuff that the passengers bought from overseas and the collection of the passenger and vehicle

fees which cross the Custom Office at the first friendship bridge since 19 September 2017, it has been almost 1 year. The result is that the collection of the valued tax from the stuff bought by the passengers can be seen effective; it has provided convenience to the custom staff and the passengers. It helps generating incomes to the government budget, increases transparency and fast service. Moreover, Tax Department of the Ministry of Finance and BCEL are conducting the feasibility study on the development of the system to collect the passenger and vehicle fee via electronic service at the first friendship bridge and to focus on the drafting of the subcontracts on the setting of the regulations, scope of the content and the details of the cooperation.

From the fruitful cooperation in the past months, Tax Department and BCEL agreed to hold today's contract signing ceremony on the development of the system to collect the passenger and vehicle fee via electronic service (Smart VAT Phase 2) at the first Friendship Bridge between Tax Department and BCEL.

The developing system will use the Kiosk machines in the number of 10 machines to calculate and receive the payment of the passenger and vehicle fees that cross the first Friendship Bridge automatically. The machines will be able to scan the border pass, passport, and vehicle certificates to calculate of the service fee and to collect the payment in cash, via ATM, BCEL One application and via Kiosk machine automatically. The pilot project will start in October and the official launch of the project will be on November 2018.

This signing ceremony is the continuous cooperation between Tax Department and BCEL in the work of managing the fee collection for the government, especially the collection of the passenger and vehicle fees for the vehicles that cross borders in-out Lao P.D.R to be more convenient, quick, modern and helping the collection of the government income to be more effective.

BCEL would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to Tax Department, the Ministry of Finance for the trust and the selection of BCEL's services. The bank also thanks to all valued customers for all time use of BCEL's products and services. BCEL will continue developing a modern service system and cooperating with other parties to facilitate the payment for customers in the era of digital banking services.



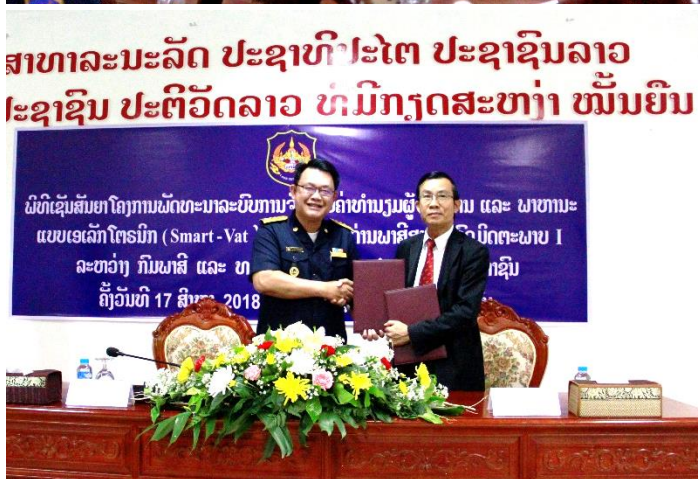


Image: The contract signing ceremony between Tax Department, Ministry of Finance and Banque Pour Lec Commerce Exterior Lao Public