Arrangement between and among the Governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

On the Operation of the Tourism Road Transport

The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, referred to hereinafter as the "Contracting Parties";

Considering the Agreement Between and Among the Governments of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for the Facilitation of Cross-Border Transport of Goods and People (GMS Cross Border Transport Agreement) originally signed at Vientiane by the Lao PDR, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on 26 November 1999;

Desiring to promote tourism between and among the Contracting Parties, to harmonize road vehicle control of the Contracting Parties and to facilitate the movement of tourists by road vehicles between and among the Contracting Parties.

Have agreed as follows:

Chapter I: General Provisions

Article 1: Scope of application

This arrangement shall be applied to the operation of tourism road transport between and among the Contracting Parties including the admittance of tourism road vehicles into the territory of the Contracting Parties through pairs of border check points and transport routes which appear in Annex I as designated by Contracting Parties.

Cabotage shall, however, only be permitted on the case by case basis supported by the authorization from the competent authority of the host country.

Article 2: Grant of Traffic Rights

The Contracting Parties shall grant to each other the rights to transport tourists by roads according to the provisions specified in this Arrangement.

Article 3: Definitions of Terms Used in this Arrangement

For the purpose of this Arrangement, the following meanings shall apply to the underlined terms:

(a) Road Vehicle means any mechanically propelled road vehicle that is normally used for carriage of passengers and registered in the territory of one Contracting Party. It does not cover vehicles used for carriage of goods such as truck, trailer, semi-trailer or vehicles that are incidentally used for carriage of passengers by road, or vehicles with less than four wheels.

(b) Tourism Road Vehicle means Commercial Tourism Road Vehicle and Non-Commercial Tourism Road Vehicle.

(c) Commercial Tourism Road Vehicle means road vehicle operated by transport operator or tour operator under this Arrangement which carries tourists from the place of origin in the territory of the one Contracting Parties to the territory(ies) of other contracting Party(ies) in the following manners:

i. as part of package tour organized by tour operators

ii. for hire by independent travelers.

(d) Non-Commercial Tourism Road Vehicle means road vehicle operated by its registered owner or by the person authorized by its owner on non-profit basis.

(e) Transport Operator means any natural or juristic person duly licensed to provide international road transport service according to its relevant national laws and regulations.

(f) Tour Operator means any holder of due license to provide international tourism service according to its relevant national laws and regulations.

(g) Annex means an attachment to this Arrangement that will contain technical details. Each annex forms an integral part of this Arrangement and will be equally binding.

(h) International Transport Permit or Pass-Border Permit means a permit issued by the competent authority of a Contracting Party to a Road Vehicle registered in its territory for cross border transport operation.

(i) Distinguishing Sign means a sign of a Contracting Party to be displayed at the rear of a Road Vehicle, in accordance with Annex 2 of the GMS Cross Border Transport Agreement (Registration of Vehicles in International Traffic) signed on 30 April 2004.

(j) Cabotage means internal transport between two points situated within the territory of one Contracting Party performed by a Transport Operator established in another Contracting Party.

Article 4: Promotion of Tourism Operation

The Contracting Parties shall promote the development of tourism operation to serve the tourism industry of the host country for mutual and fair benefits.

Article 5: Passport

Tourists entering the territory of a Contracting Party shall hold their valid passports. They shall comply with national laws and regulations in force in the host country as well as international conventions to which the Contracting Parties concerned are the parties.

Article 6: Documents for Vehicle Drivers

Vehicle drivers shall be required to submit to the competent authorities at the border check-points relevant documents in conformity with the laws and regulations of the host country as appear in Annex 2.

Article 7: Use of Language

Relevant documents related to the inspection and control requirements as specified in this Arrangement shall be translated into English or language of the host country.

Chapter II: Requirements for Tourism Road Vehicles and Drivers

Article 8: Registration

Tourism road vehicles under this Arrangement shall be registered in a Contracting Party and bear identification marks. A Contracting Party shall recognize the tourism road vehicles registered in the other Contracting Parties, in accordance with the rules set out in the Annex 2 of the GMS Cross Border Transport Agreement (Registration of Vehicles in International Traffic).

The Contracting Parties agree to provide a flexible implementation for the using of English language in vehicle registration plate according to Annex 2 of GMS Cross Border Transport Agreement.

Article 9: Tourism Road Vehicle Documents

A tourism road vehicle of a Contracting Party when entering the territory of the other Contracting Parties shall display Distinguishing Sign of its country and carry valid international transport permit or pass-border permit and other documents for cross border operation as appear in Annex 2.

Article 10: Transport Operator

Subject to the conditions set out in Annex 3 of this Arrangement, a Contracting Party shall recognize Transport Operators duly licensed by the other Contracting Parties and allow them to provide international transport service according to the provision of this Arrangement.

A Contracting Party shall provide a list of Transport Operators and Tour Operators and promptly notify the other Contracting Parties when there is any change.

Article 11: Traffic and Transport Safety Regulations

The tourism road vehicles of a Contracting Party when entering the territory of the other Contracting Parties shall comply with traffic laws and safety regulations of the host country. Any violation shall be subject to laws and regulations of the host country.

Article 12: Technical Requirements

The tourism road vehicles of a Contracting Party when entering the territory of the other Contracting Parties shall comply with the technical and specification requirements regarding vehicle dimensions and related matters of the host country as appear in Annex 4.

Article 13: Recognition of the Vehicle Inspection Certificates

Each Contracting Party shall recognize vehicle inspection certificates, issued by the competent authorities of other Contracting Parties. For the commercial tourism road vehicles, the Contracting Parties shall comply with the "Agreement on the Recognition of Commercial Vehicle Inspection Certificates for Goods Vehicles and Public Service Vehicles Issued by ASEAN Member Countries" signed at Singapore on 10 September 1998.

Article 14: Compulsory Third-Party Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance

The tourism road vehicles of a Contracting Party when entering the territory of the other Contracting Parties shall comply with the compulsory third-party motor vehicle liability insurance required by the host country. Limits of the liability insurance, including of premium and sum insured, shall be

agreed upon by the designated insurance companies and shall comply with the relevant Insurance Laws and Regulations of the host country.

Article 15: Recognition of Driving License

Each Contracting Party shall recognize the domestic driving licenses and certified translation thereof issued by the competent authorities of the other Contracting Parties in accordance with the "Agreement on the Recognition of Domestic Driving Licenses Issued by ASEAN Member Countries" signed by ASEAN member countries at Kuala Lumpur on 9 July 1985.

Article 16: Temporary Importation of Road Vehicles

Temporary admission of maximum 30 days shall be granted to Road Vehicles of a Contracting Party without payment of import duties and taxes and Customs' guarantee deposit. Fuel and lubricant contained in original tanks of vehicles, maintenance tools and spare parts in reasonable quantities are also exempted from import duties and taxes.

Upon the entry at the border-check points, vehicle drivers shall be requested to submit the documents required by the host country as appear in Annex 2 to the host country's authorities.

In the unavoidable circumstances, vehicle drivers may, in compliance with the Customs Law of the host country, file a request for an extension of the re-exportation period before its expiry.

Chapter III: Institutional Arrangements

Article 17: Joint Committee

(a) The Contracting Parties agreed to establish a Joint Committee consisting of the chairpersons of their National Transport Facilitation Committee under the GMS Cross-border Transport Agreement or their representatives.

(b) The Joint Committee shall

(i) Monitor and assess the functioning of this Arrangement;

(ii) Be focal point for cooperation and coordination in the matters relating to this Arrangement;

(iii) Serve as a platform for discussion and a forum for interpretation of the provisions in this Arrangement;

(iv) Serve as a forum for amicable settlement of disputes which may arise out of the implementation of this Arrangement;

(v) Address advice to the Contracting Parties and formulate proposals for amendments of this Arrangement, as appropriate.

(c) The Joint Committee shall meet once a year in Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam alternatively. The Joint Committee shall also meet upon request by any Contracting Party who will be the host of such meeting.

Article 18: Sub-committee(s)

1. There shall be Sub-committee(s) to assist the Joint-Committee in performing its duties under Article 17 as follows:

(a) Sub-committee on Transport who shall assist the Joint-Committee in matters relating to transport;

(b) Sub-committee on Promotion of Tourism Transport Operation who shall assist the Joint-Committee in setting up appropriate measures to promote mutual benefits of transport operators from the Contracting Parties;

(c) Other Sub-committee(s) to be appointed by the Joint-Committee who shall assist it in the matter(s) as assigned by it, such as Sub-committee on Customs, Immigration, etc.

2. Each Sub-committee shall be composed of the relevant representatives from the Government and private sectors of the Contracting Parties. It shall meet as often as necessary but at least once a year, in Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam alternately.

Chapter IV: Final Provisions

Article 19: Amendments

Any Contracting Party may propose amendments to this Arrangement and its Annexes via the designated focal points.

Article 20: Application of National Laws

Any other matters arising from the implementation of this Arrangement which are not covered by this Arrangement shall be subject to the National laws and regulation of the Contracting Parties.

Article 21: Suspension of the Arrangement

Each Contracting Party may temporarily suspend wholly or partly the application of this Arrangement with immediate effect in the case of emergencies affecting its national safety and security. The Contracting Party will inform the other

Contracting Parties as soon as possible of such suspension, which will end as soon as possible after the situation returns to normal.

Article 22 : Other Agreements in force

This Arrangement shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Contracting parties under bilateral and/or international Agreements to which they are Contracting Parties.

Article 23: Entry into Force and Termination of this Arrangement

This Arrangement shall enter into force ninety days from the date of signature and shall remain in force for a period of one year. It shall be renewed automatically from year to year unless one Contracting Party has given the other Contracting Parties three months notice in writing, prior to the date of expiry of this Arrangement, of its intention to terminate this Arrangement.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Arrangement.

Done at Singapore on 2 November 2007 in 3 originals in English language.

For the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic	For the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand	For the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
Sommad Pholsena **Minister of Transport, Communication, Post and Construction**	**Admiral Thira Hao-Charoen** **Minister of Transport**	**Dr. Tran Doan Tho** **Vice Minister of Transport**

Annex 1
Designated Border Check-points and Transport routes

1. The Lao People's Democratic Republic side

Designated border checkpoints	Designated transport routes	Suggested attraction on routes
a. Friendship Bridge, Vientiane Capital	Vientiane-Bolikhamxay Road No.13	- Kaysone Phomevihan Museum - Patuxay - That Luang temple - Sisaket and Hopakeo temples - Simuang temple - Xiengkhouan (Buddha Park)
b. Namphao Bolikhamxay Province	Bolikhamxay-Laksao Road No.13 and No.8	- Wat Phabat - Konglor Cave - Phouphaman - Hot spring - Bannong Y Handicraft Village - Thap mang kon (cave)
c. Thakhek Khammouan Province	Khammouane-Savannakhet, No.13	- Tham Pha (Buddha Cave) - Tham Nang An (Cave) - Tham Xang (Cave) - Tham Xieng Riep (Cave) - Tham Lom (Cave) - Khoun Kong Le - Stone Wall - That Sikhottabong
b. Dansavanh-Savannakhet Savannakhet Province	Savannakhet-Dansavanh No.19	- That Inghang - Heuanhin (Stone House) - Lahasin Handicraft - That Phon - Dinosaur Fossils, Dinosuar Museum - Trekking at Phouxanghae, Dong ; Phouvieng Forest - Gold Factory - Hochiminh Trail

Note: It is understand that the transport routes as mentioned above include the road linkage to tourist attractions along the designated routes city tour.

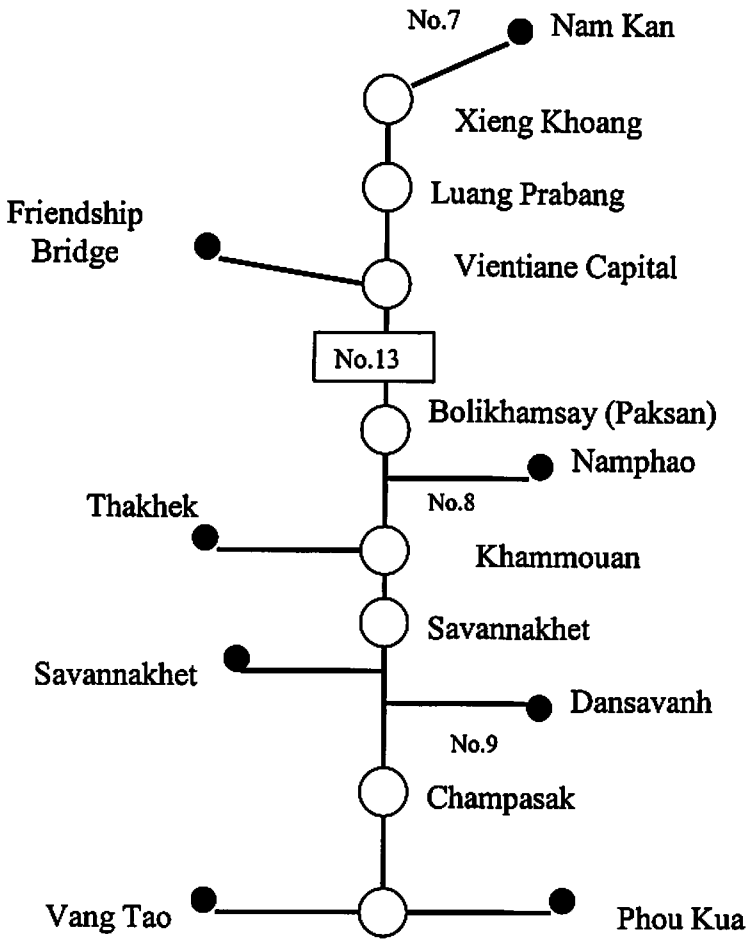


Diagram 1: Lao designated routes and border checkpoints

2. The Kingdom of Thailand side

Designated Border Check-Points	Designated TranspoRt. Routes	Suggested Attraction en route
a. Nong Khai Province b. Nakhon Phanom Province c. Mukdahan Province	Nong Khai (Hwy.Rt. 2) – Udon Thani	Nong Khai City - Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge - Wat Pho Chai (Hwy.Rt. 212) - Tha Sadet Market - Sala Kaew Ku (Hwy.Rt. 212) Udon Thani City - Ban Na Kha
d. Chong Mek, Ubon Ratchathani Province e. Tha Li, Loei Province f. Chiang Khong, Chiang Rai Province	Udon Thani (Hwy.Rt. 22) – Sakon Nakhon	Udon Thani City - Nong Prachak - Udon Saeng Tawan Orchid Garden Nong Han District - Ban Chiang World Heritage site of prehistoric civilization Sakon Nakhon City - Nong han - Phra That Choeng Chum Phanna Nikhom District - Achan Fan Acharo Museum - Phra That Phuphek
	Udon Thani (Hwy.Rt. 2) – Khon Kaen	Udon Thani City - Wat Pha Ban Tad - Phu Phoi Rom (Hwy.Rt. 2315) Ubonrat District - Ubonrat Dam (Hwy.Rt. 2109) Nam Pong District - Pha That Khàm Kaen - King Cobras Village - Nam Pong National Park
	Khon Kaen (Hwy.Rt. 209) – Kalasin	Khon Kaen City - Pra Ma Ha That Kaen Nakon - Bung Kaen Nakhon Sahat Sakhan District - Dinosaur Museum (Hwy.Rt. 227)
	Kalasin (Hwy.Rt. 2213) – Sakon Nakhon	Kalasin City - Pong lang, Phrae Wa & Red Cross Extravaganza Phu Phan District - Nam Phung Dam - Museum of Achan Man Phuritatto - Phu Phan Palace

	Sakon Nakhon (Hwy.Rt. 22) – Nakhon Phanom	Nakhon Phanom City - Historical site at Ban Najog - Viewpoint of Laos'Mountainous scenery - Illuminated Boats Races (from 2-8 October)
	Sakon Nakhon (Hwy.Rt. 223, 212) – Mukdahan	Sakon Nakhon City - Phra That Choeng Chum - Nong Han - Wax Castle Festival (From 1-7 October)
	Nakhon Phanom (Hwy.Rt. 212) – Mukdahan	That Phanom District - Pra That Phanom Wan Yai District - Wat Song Khon - Wat Manopirom - Kaeng Kabao Mukdahan City - Ho Khaew Mukdahan Towel (Hwy.Rt. 2034) - Idochina Goods Market - Boats Races Festival (From 7-8 October)
	Chong Mek (Hwy.Rt. 217,24) – Ubon Ratchathani	Sirindhorn District - Sirindhorn Dam Phibun Mangsahan District - Kaeng Saphu Warin Chamrap District - Wat Pa Na Na Chat (Hwy.Rt. 226) - Wat Nong Pa Pong
	Ubon Ratchathani (Hwy.Rt. 212) - Amnat Charoen	Ubon Ratchathani City Grand Candle Festival Amnat Charoen City - Buddha Utthayan - Phra Mongkhon Ming Mang - Wat Tham Saeng Phet (Hwy.Rt. 202)

	Amnat Charoen (Hwy.Rt. 212) – Mukdahan	Loeng Nok Tha District - Pu Tham Pra Don Tan District - Pu Sradokbua National Park (Hw.Rt. 2277)
	Chong Mek (Hwy.Rt. 217, 2173, 2134,2112,2242 and 2034) - Mukdahan	Khong Chiam District - Kheng Tana National Park - Two Coloured River - Pha Team National Park - Soi Sawan Waterfall - Pa Dong Na Tham Na Tan District - Salhueng Beach - Wat Pak Saeng - Pa Dong Na Tham Don Tan District - Ban Nong-Lom Ecotourism Village
	Udon Thani (Hwt.Rt. 210) - Nong Bua Lamphu	Udon Thani City - Wat Pra Ban Tad - Huai Luang Resorvoir Nong Bua Lamphu City - Fossil Shell - Wat Tham Klong Phen - Ban Khong Sawan Pottery Village
	Nong Bua Lamphu (Hwy. Rt. 210-201) - Loei	Nawang District - Erawan Cave
	Loei (Hwy. Rt. 201, 2115) – Tha Li	Tha Li District - Phra That Satcha (Hwy. Rt. 2099) Dan Sai District - Phi Ta Khon Festival (From 23-24 June)
	Khon Kaen (Hwy. Rt. 12,228) - Nong Bua Lamphu	Phu Wiang District - Phu Wiang National Park (Hwy. Rt. 2038) Chum Phae District - Non Muang Ancient City
	Khon Kaen (Hwy. Rt. 12,201) - Loei	Phu Pa Man District - Phu Pa Man National Park Phu Kradueng District - Phu Kradueng National Park
	Khon Kaen (Hwy. Rt. 12,203) – Tha Li	Phu Ruea District - Phu Ruea National Park (Hwt.Rt. 2399)

	Khon Kaen (Hwy. Rt. 12) – Tak	Tak City - King Taksin the Great Shrine - Loi Krathong Sai Festival (From 8 October – 3 November) Ban Tak City - Chedi Yutthahatti (Hwy. Rt. 1107)
	Tak (Hwy. Rt. 1) - Lampang	Sam Ngao District - Phumiphon Dam (Hwy. Rt. 1107) Koh Ka District - Wat Phrathat Lampang Luang
	Lampang (Hwy. Rt. 1) – Chiang Rai	Ngao District - Pha Tai Cave Chiang Rai City - Wat Longkhun
	Chiang Rai (Hwy. Rt. 1152, 1020) – Chiang Khong	Thoeng District (Hwy. Rt. 1020,1155) - Doi Phamon Wiang Kaen District - Doi Phatang - Phu Chee Fah Chiang Saen District - Golden Triangle (Hwy. Rt. 1290)
	Khon Kaen (Hwy. Rt. 12,11) - Phrae	Phrae City - Phrathat Chohae
	Phrae (Hwy. Rt. 103, 1) – Chiang Rai	Phrae City - Phae Muang Phi - Ban Tung Hong (Hwy. Rt. 101)
	Tha Li (Hwy. Rt. 203, 12) – Tak	Tak City -Doi Musur Hilltribe Development & Welfare Centre (Hwy. Rt. 105); - Hilltribe Market (Hwy. Rt. 105) - Mae Sot – Thai - Myanmar (Hwy. Rt. 105)
	Tha Li (Hwy. Rt. 203, 12, and 11) - Phrae	Long District - Kaeng Luang - Erawan Cave Wang Chin District - Wiang Kosai National Park

Note: - It is understood that the transpoRt. routes as mentioned above include the road linkage to tourist attractions along the designated routes and city tour.

- Hwy.Rt.. means Highway Route.

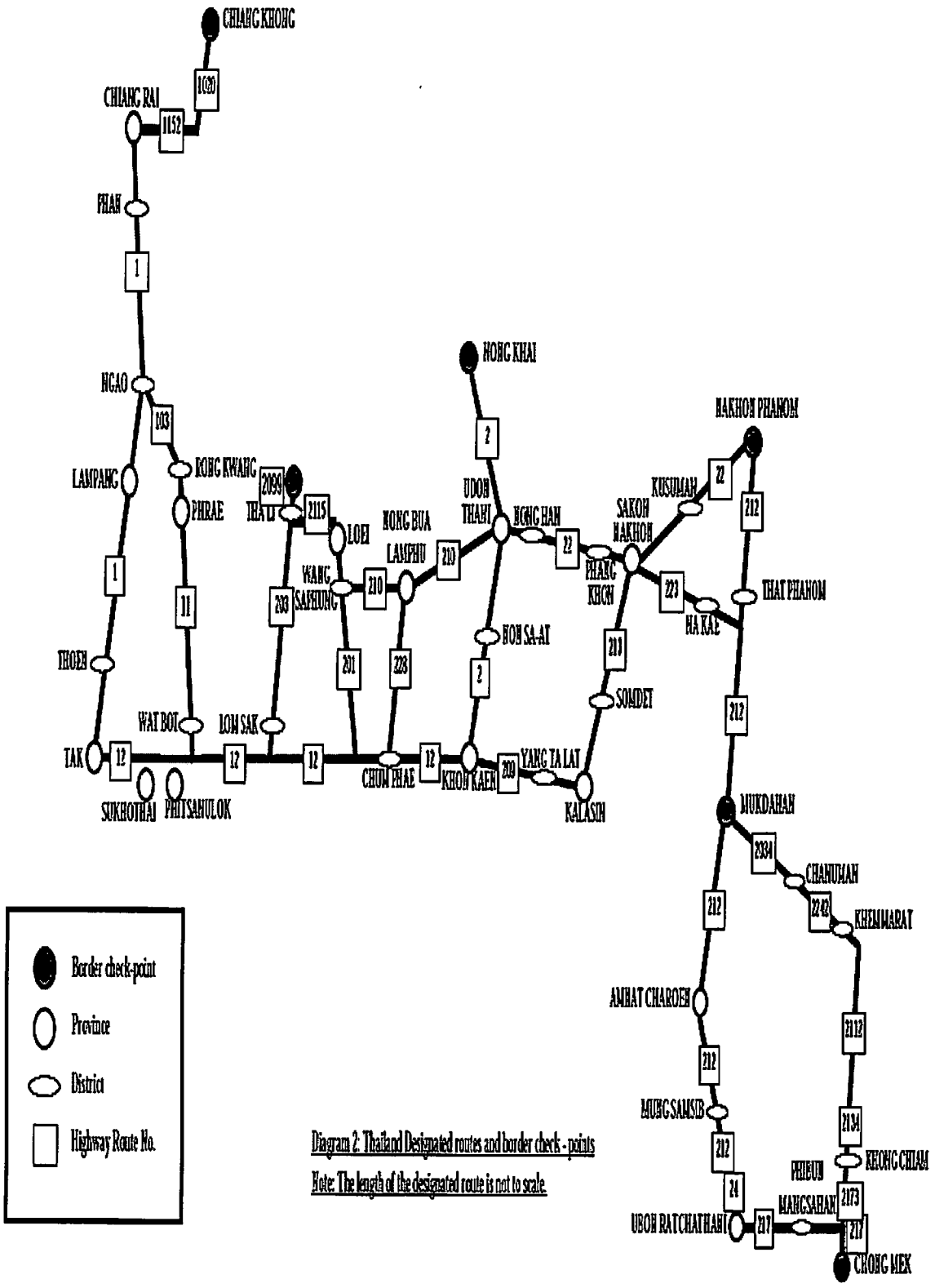


Diagram 2: Thailand Designated routes and border check - points

Note: The length of the designated route is not to scale

3. **The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam side**

Designated Border Check-points	Designated Transport Routes	Suggested Attraction en route
a. Cau Treo, Road No.8 (link to Road No.1) b. Lao Bao, Road No.9 (link to Road No.1)	Nghe An - Ha Tinh (Road No. 1)	**Nghe An** - Ho Chi Minh Village - Cua Lo beach - Vinh City Tour **Ha Tinh** - Thien Cam beach - Nguyen Du memorial house - Dong Loc War Memorial
	Ha Tinh - Quang Binh (Road No.1)	**Quang Binh** - Phong Nha Cave (World Heritage) - Da Nhay Beach - Bao Ninh, Dong Hoi - General Vo Nguyen Giap House
	Quang Binh - Quang Tri (Road No.1)	**Quang Tri** - Cua Tung beach - Vinh Moc tunnel - Hien Luong brigde - Macnamara electric barrier - Ta Con Military Airport (former) - Truong Son National Graveyard
	Quang Tri - Thua Thien Hue (Road No. 9, Road No.1)	**Hue** (Hue heritage group) - Dai Noi - Nguyen's Emperor tombs - Hue museum - Pagodas, - Hue Royal music - Lang Co beach
	Hue - Da Nang (Road No. 1)	**Da Nang** - Cham Museum - Ngu Hanh Son - Non Nuoc beach
	Da Nang - Quang Nam (Road No.1	**Quang Nam** - Hoi An World heritage - My Son World Heritage - Cua Dai beach

c. Bo Y, Road 40 and Road 14 to Da Lat City, Lam Dong Province	Road 40, Road 14 from Kon Tum Province via Gia Lai and Dac Lac Provinces to Da Lat City, Lam Dong Province	Kon Tum Gia Lai Dac Lac Da Lat City, Lam Dong

Note: It is understood that the transport routes as mentioned above include the road linkage to tourist attractions along the designated routes and city tour.

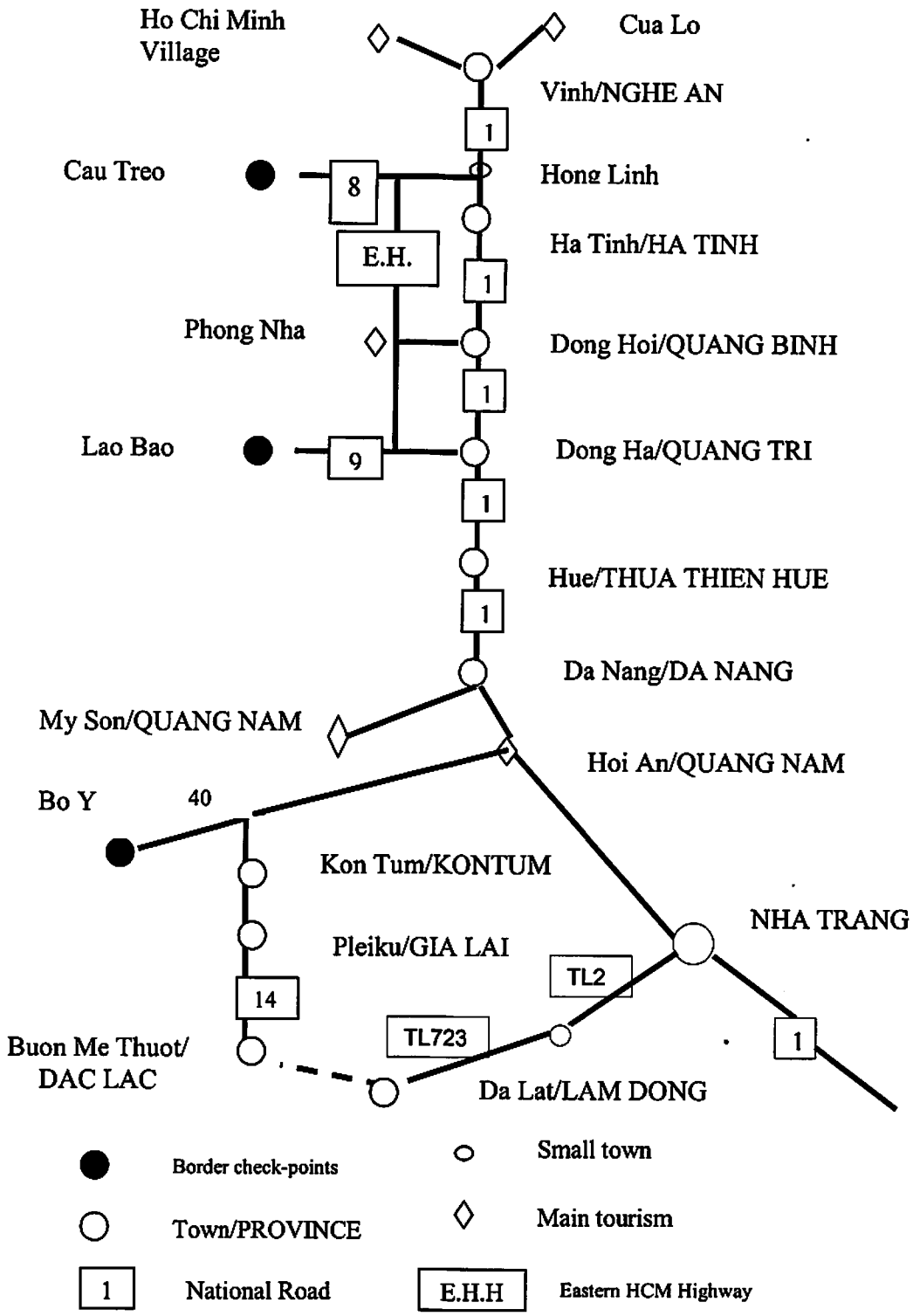


Diagram 3: Vietnamese designated routes and border check-points

Annex 2

The documents to be submitted to the competent authorities at the border check-points shall include:

Documents required when entering Lao territory

For Drivers:

1. Passport
2. Domestic Driving license and its certified translation/international driving license
3. Custom form
4. Lao Arrival-Departure card
5. Passenger manifest
6. Other relevant documents in accordance with the laws and regulations of the host country.

For Vehicles:

1. International Transport Permit or Pass-Border Permit
2. Vehicles registration certificate
3. Vehicle Inspection Certificate
4. Compulsory third party liability insurance

For Passengers (Visitors)

1. Passport
2. Lao Arrival-Departure Card
3. Other relevant documents in accordance with the laws and regulations of the host country.

<u>Documents required when entering Thai Territory</u>

For drivers:

1. Passport
2. Domestic Driving License and its certified translation/International Driving License

3. Customs form
4. Thai Arrival-Departure Card
5. Passenger manifest
6. Other relevant documents in accordance with the laws and regulations of the host country

For vehicles:

1. International Transport Permit or Pass-Border Permit
2. Vehicle Registration Certificate
3. Vehicle Inspection Certificate
4. Compulsory third party liability insurance

For passengers (visitors):

1. Passport
2. Thai Arrival-Departure Card
3. Other relevant documents in accordance with the laws and regulations of the host country.

<u>Documents required when entering Vietnamese Territory</u>

For drivers:

1. Passport
2. Domestic Driving License and its certified translation
3. International Driving License
4. Vietnamese Arrival-Departure Card
5. Other relevant documents in accordance with the laws and regulations of the host country

For vehicles:

1. International Transport Permit
2. Vehicle Registration Certificate
3. Vehicle Inspection Certificate
4. Compulsory third party liability insurance

For passengers (visitors):

1. Passport
2. Vietnamese Arrival-Departure Card
3. Other relevant documents in accordance with the laws and regulations of the host country

Annex 3

Transport Operators who perform international transport operations under this arrangement shall comply with the following requirements.

(a) Substantial Ownership and control

- More than half of the transport operation enterprise's capital must be owned by national citizens of the home country.

- The enterprise must also be directed by a majority of national citizens of the home country.

(b) Reliability

The Transport Operator must not have been convicted for serious breaches of relevant laws or regulations of the home country; or divested from the capacity to exercise the profession of road carrier as a sanction for breach of applicable laws or regulations in the field of road carriage; or declared bankrupt unless the Transport Operator was rehabilitated according to the laws or regulations of the home country of the Transport Operator.

Annex 4

Technical requirements regarding the road vehicle dimensions of each contracting party are defined as follows:

For Vehicles Entering Lao Territory

1. Maximum Length	not exceeding	12.00 meter
2. Maximum Width	not exceeding	2.50 meter
3. Maximum Height	not exceeding	4.00 meter

For Vehicles Entering Thai Territory

1. Maximum Length	not exceeding	12.00 meter
2. Maximum Width	not exceeding	2.50 meter
3. Maximum Height	not exceeding	4.00 meter

For Vehicles Entering Vietnamese Territory

1. Maximum Length	not exceeding	12.20 meter
2. Maximum Width	not exceeding	2.50 meter
3. Maximum Height	not exceeding	4.00 meter

The over maximum of dimension for road vehicles shall based on the special authorization of the competent authority of the Contracting Parties.

However, application to use vehicles with exceeding maximum dimensions shall be forwarded to other Contracting Parties 15 days before the intended date of entry for consideration. That application shall be considered and decided within 10 days.