

December 9, 2016

Statement on Annual Meeting of the Advisory Committee for the Technical Assistance Office for Lao PDR and Myanmar (TAOLAM)

The beneficiary countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam) of the IMF's Technical Assistance Office for the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (TAOLAM) continue to use capacity development resources highly effectively under projects aimed at strengthening their macroeconomic frameworks, monetary and fiscal operations, and macro-statistics in support of their reform priorities.

TAOLAM's Advisory Committee made these observations at its annual meeting on December 8, 2016 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The meeting, which brought together representatives from the beneficiary countries, development partners (Japan and Thailand), and the IMF, was hosted by the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) and chaired by the CBM Deputy Governor Daw Khin Saw Oo. Opening remarks were delivered by her, Deputy Minister of Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win, and Mr. Odd Per Brekk, Deputy Director, IMF Asia and Pacific Department.

Committee members welcomed progress made in strengthening technical and institutional capacity in the region. They broadly endorsed an overall strategy and country plans in support of further capacity development. Members appreciated the flexible and dynamic nature of TAOLAM in tailoring its engagement with the beneficiary countries to meet their needs.

The Advisory Committee highlighted the important link between training and hands-on technical assistance (TA) as an effective means of building capacity. The beneficiary countries sought frequent interaction with the TAOLAM technical advisors to help drive results and encouraged more high level contact in support.

The Committee recognized that capacity development by TAOLAM should be well integrated with surveillance work at the IMF to ensure beneficiary countries have the necessary tools to drive reforms. They also placed much value on TAOLAM's close collaboration with the IMF-Singapore Regional Training Institute (STI), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (OAP), and TA departments at IMF headquarters, as well as with other training and TA providers in the region.

Lastly, beneficiary countries and TAOLAM were urged to continue ensuring strong accountability in the use of resources provided by the development partners and clear local ownership of work programs in order to maintain the momentum of their capacity development efforts.

Background

TAOLAM, located in Bangkok, Thailand, was established in 2012. It provides capacity development in several core areas of expertise at the IMF: public financial management, monetary policy and operations, macroeconomic management, and external sector and government finance statistics. TAOLAM's activities are supported by the Government of Japan and Bank of Thailand.