



**Title** The Japanese Role in Economic Development in Laos from 1955 – 2009  
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### **Abstract**

This research examines the Japanese Role in economic development in Laos from 1955 – 2009. The Thomas U. Berger's concept of liberal adaptive state has been applied to use as a framework of analysis. There are two hypotheses which this research base on. Firstly, Japan has a significant role in Laos' economic development from 1955-2009. Secondly, Japan has close relations with the government of Laos that can be reflected from the Japanese foreign policy and the recognition of Laos as a comprehensive partnership.

The study finds that Japan, as the important donor, plays a significant role in Laos' economic development through the bilateral cooperation and the official development assistance (ODA) including grants, technical assistance, and loans. The supports from the Japanese government consist of three main areas. These are the construction of infrastructure, human resource development, and investment in electric hydropower. In addition, there is cooperation between the Japanese Government and the Japanese NGOs in the Laos' local community with the aims to enhance human security and to arrange the ODA more effectively. Therefore, Japan represents as a liberal adaptive state whose foreign policy has been formulated under the concept of liberalism promoting human security as well as international cooperation.

Furthermore, close relationship between Japan and Laos, as a comprehensive partnership, provides Japan with the positive balance of trade. Also, the Japanese investment in Laos is likely to increase. The Japanese policy implementation, based on the concept on national interest, is harmonized with the framework of liberalism.