



<b>1. Project Data :</b>
<b>OEDID:</b> C2001
<b>Project ID:</b> P004185
<b>Project Name:</b> National Polytechnic Institute Project
<b>Country:</b> Laos
<b>Sector:</b> Higher Education
<b>L/C Number:</b> C2001
<b>Partners involved :</b> SCD
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<b>Date Posted :</b> 06/30/1998

**2. Project Objectives, Financing, Costs and Components :**  
(a) Increasing capacity to supply engineers; (b) improving the planning, management, and quality of existing engineering training programs; (c) promoting the integration and coordination of higher technician training programs, and (d) initiating analysis of issues in the education sector . The main component was the construction of the National Polytechnic Institute. Project cost was US\$21 million equivalent, of which IDA financed US\$3.5 million and the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) provided US\$13 million.

**3. Achievement of Relevant Objectives :**  
The objective of increasing engineer supply was achieved, as was the improvement in quality of training and integration of training programs. However, the analyses of issues in the education sector were not carried out .

**4. Significant Achievements :**  
The building was built, technical assistance was excellent, and made a major contribution to the academic and administrative dimensions of the institution . Learning materials also made a major contribution to the quality of teaching. Despite many delays and problems, equipment was successfully provided .

**5. Significant Shortcomings :**  
Implementation was problematic throughout, marred with litigation by a contractor who lacked implementation capacity. IDA staff had heard rumors that bribery was involved, but they were powerless to act since it was not documented. IDA and SDC were often in disagreement regarding issues, such as building design costs and the performance of a technical advisor . The polytechnic institute was completed after much delay . Most planned studies on the education sector were not carried out .

<b>6. Ratings:</b>	<b>ICR</b>	<b>OED Review</b>	<b>Reason for Disagreement /Comments</b>
<b>Outcome:</b>	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	
<b>Institutional Dev .:</b>	Substantial	Substantial	
<b>Sustainability :</b>	Likely	Likely	
<b>Bank Performance :</b>	Deficient	Unsatisfactory	
<b>Borrower Perf .:</b>	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	
<b>Quality of ICR :</b>		Satisfactory	

**7. Lessons of Broad Applicability :**  
Institutional development at the tertiary education level requires sustained assistance beyond the scope and time limitations of typical Bank/IDA financed projects. When IDA agrees to cofinance a project, agreement with other donors regarding sector strategy and procurement is very important . Frequent change of task management can be detrimental to project progress.

8. Audit Recommended? ☐ Yes ☒ No

**9. Comments on Quality of ICR :**

ICR was satisfactory. However, it offered no details of the undocumented problems of the project, such as the substance of disagreements between IDA and the Swiss .