

## China-Laos Railway Boosts Trade, Connectivity and Everyday Life in Laos



Published on August 21, 2025

Document Date: Sat, Jun 20 2026 01:44:16 am

Category: ,English,International - ,Snippets

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Sources Xinhua

VIENTIANE, Aug. 21 – The China-Laos Railway is emerging as a cornerstone of Laos’ economic transformation, enhancing trade, transportation, and livelihoods while fostering deeper regional connectivity.

Since its launch, the railway has transported over 14 million tons of goods, becoming a lifeline for

Laos' exports. In the first seven months of 2025 alone, cargo volumes reached 3.47 million tons, up 6.8 percent year-on-year. Agricultural exports have seen particular growth, with fruit shipments climbing to 171,000 tons, a surge of 62.8 percent.

Local farmers say the improved logistics have opened doors to international markets and increased incomes. "The railway encourages higher production, creates jobs, and brings more people back to farming," said Saiynoy, a fruit vendor from Savannakhet.

The Laos-China Railway Co., Ltd. (LCRC) is planning further service expansion in the second half of 2025, with a focus on boosting agricultural exports and streamlining customs procedures to ensure timely deliveries. Officials emphasized their commitment to prioritizing Lao goods and improving service quality.

Beyond trade, the railway has transformed domestic travel. Journeys that once took up to 12 hours by road, such as from Vientiane to Luang Prabang, now take just two hours, saving time and improving safety. "It has made work easier and tourism stronger," said Phouphet, an office worker from Vientiane.

For many citizens, the railway is also strengthening family and community ties. Residents note easier travel for visits and broader infrastructure improvements around stations. "It's a symbol of progress, bringing lasting benefits to our country," said Pao, a 32-year-old worker.

As Laos looks ahead, the China-Laos Railway stands as both an economic engine and a bridge connecting people, markets, and opportunities across the region.