

People-to-People Connectivity between Central Vietnam, Lao PDR and Thailand

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Today's Topic

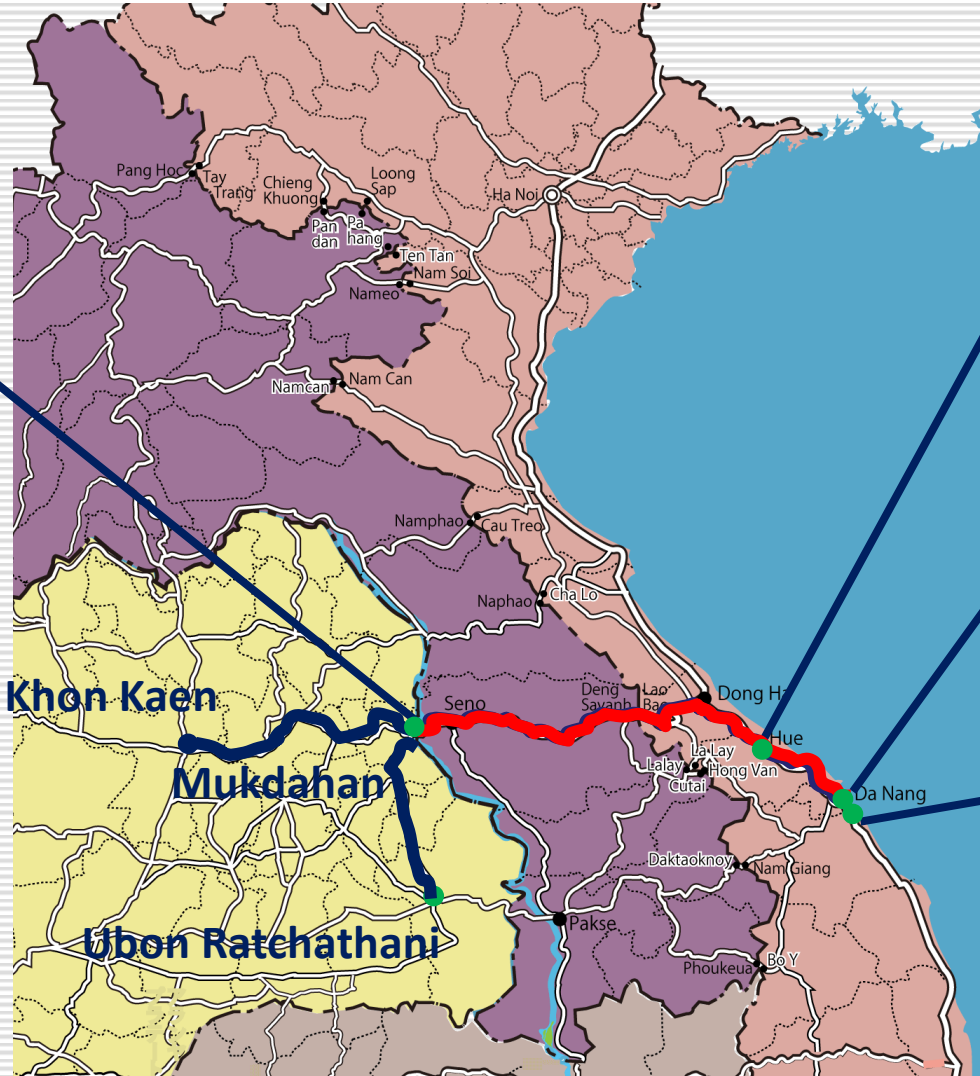
- I. Exchange through Tourism
- II. Cooperation in Education
- III. Sister – City Relations
- IV. Background of Deepened Relations

I. Exchange through Tourism

Thai Tourists Visit Central Vietnam

From 2004 or 2005 Thai tourists who visit Central Vietnam Had Increased.

**3 Nights
4 Days
Trip**



Hue 1st 3rd



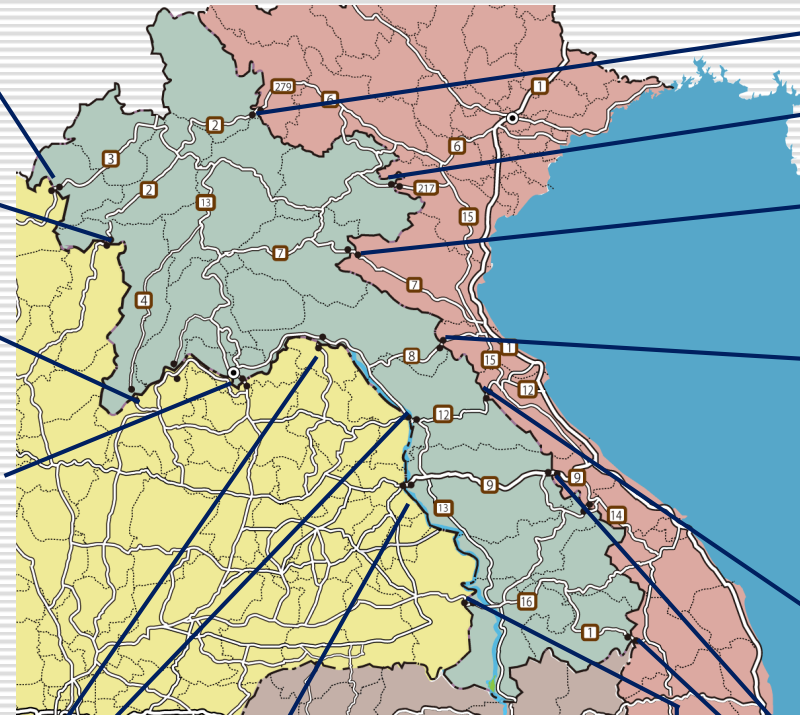
Da Nang 2nd



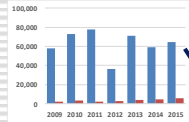
Hoi An



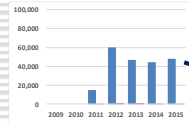
Arrivals to Laos by Vietnamese and Thai



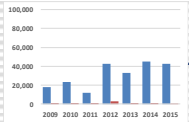
Huay Xai – Chiang Kohn 2.8 – 8.5%



Nam Ngeun – Huay Kon 0.8 – 1.7%



Nam Heuang – Nong Phur 0.8 – 9.0%



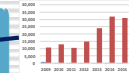
Tay Trang – Pang Hok 2.7 – 4.8%



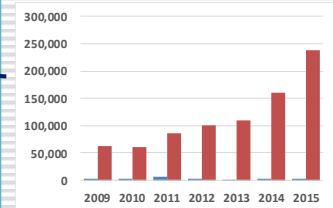
Na Meo – Nam Xoi 0.2 – 1.8%



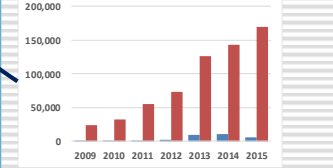
Nam Can – Nam Khan 0.2 – 2.1%



Cau Treo – Nam Phao 1.1 – 7.4%

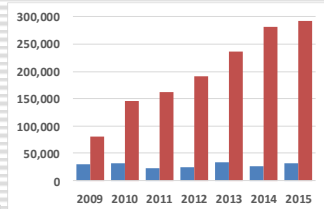
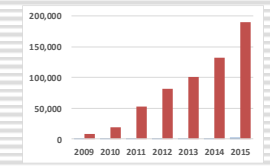


Cha Lo – Naphao 0.9 – 7.0%

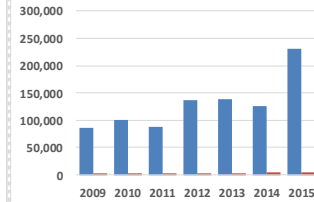


Lao Bao – Den

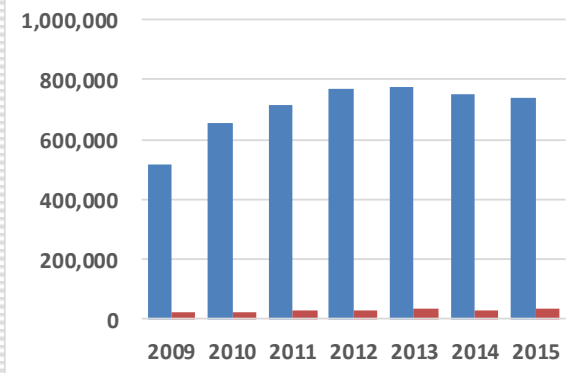
Bo Y – Phou Keua 0.5 – 5.0%
Savanh 8.6 – 27.3%



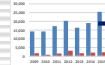
Vang Tao – Chong Mek 1.7 – 3.1%



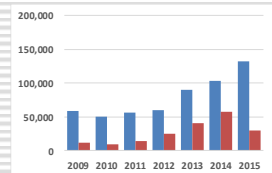
Savannakhet – Mukdahan 3.3 – 4.5%



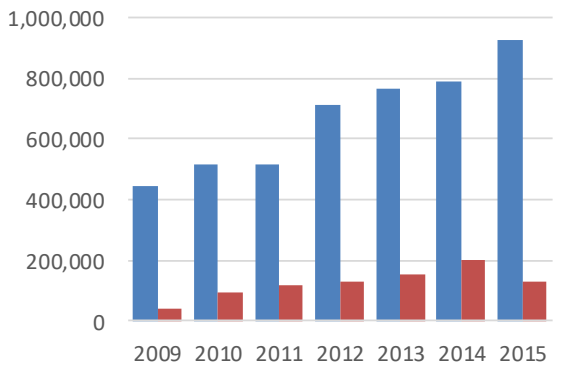
Pakxan – Bueng Kan 5.6 – 13.5%



Thakhek – Nakhon Phanom 16.2 – 35.6%

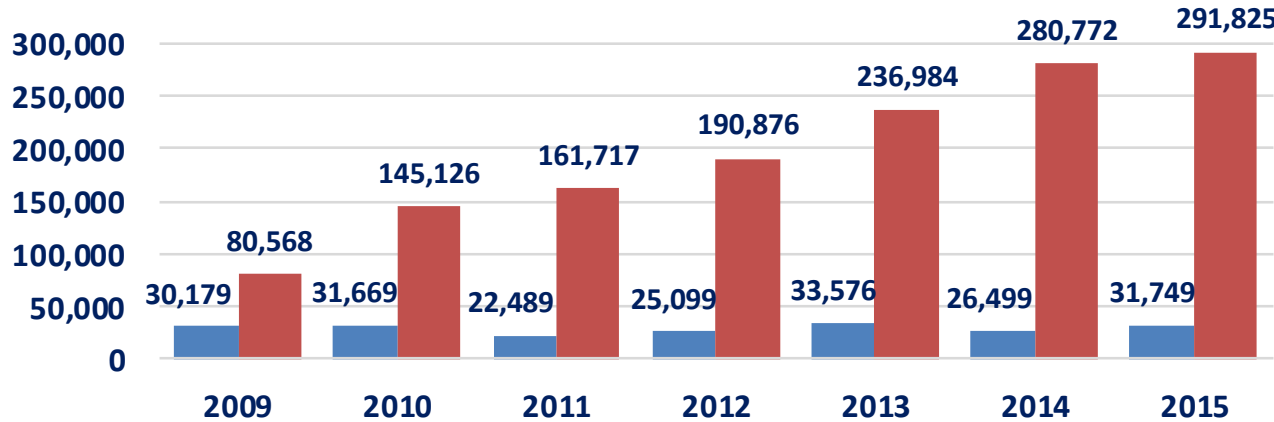


Vientiane – Nong Khai 8.4 – 20.4%



Legend:
■ : Entry by Thai people.
■ : Entry by Vietnamese people.

Tourist Arrivals at Den Savanh Border



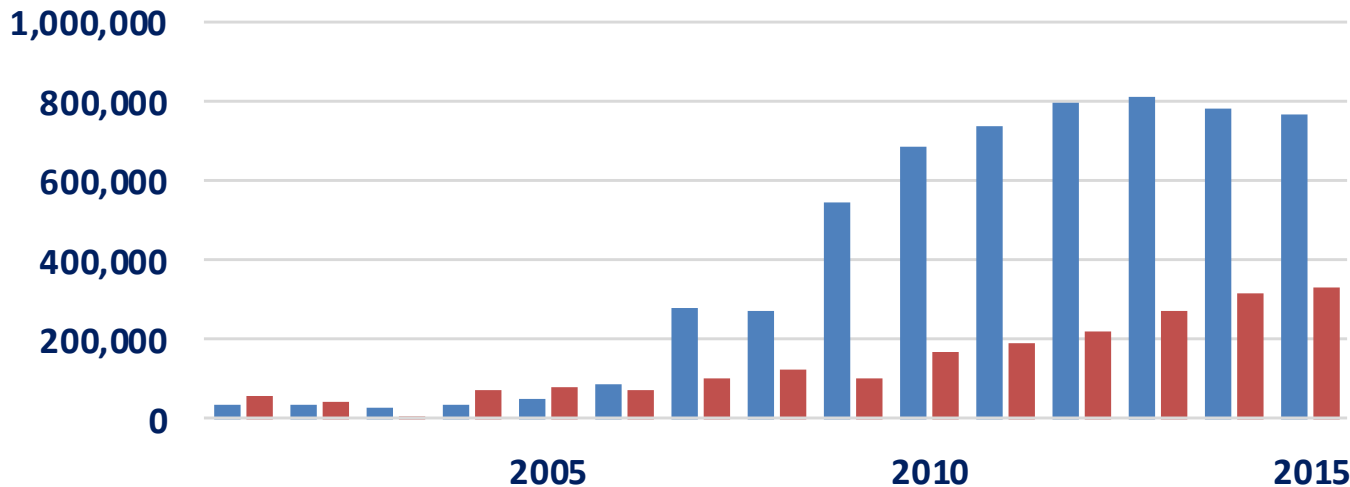
Thai tourists created the new trend of people-to-people connectivity. But the number of Thai tourist show sluggish Trend recently.

1. Thai government regulation to government officials business tour has become tight.

2. Competition between LCC and bus tour has become tough.

3. Thai tourists do not repeat visits to the same spot Central Vietnam.

Savannakhet + Den Savanh Border

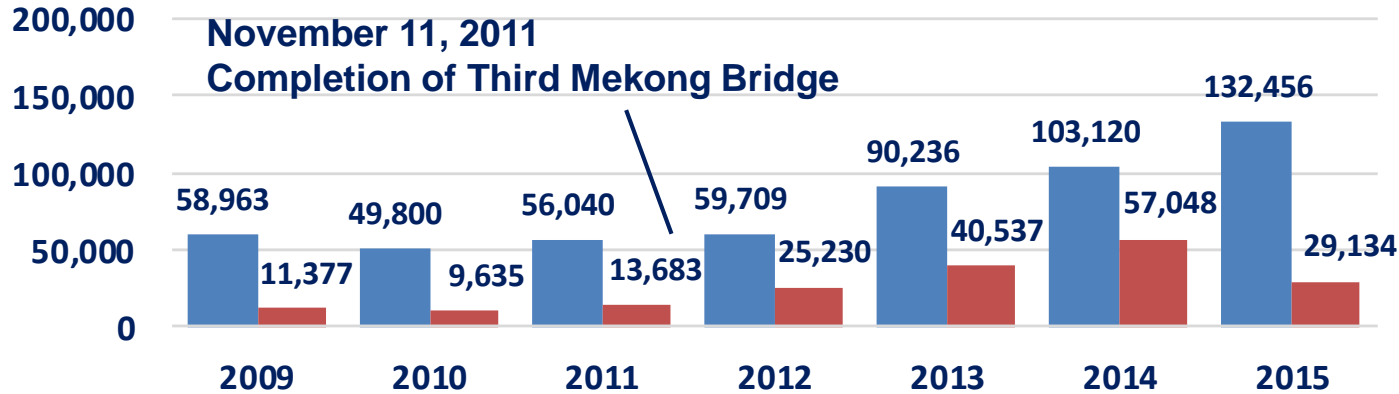


■ : Entry by Thai people.

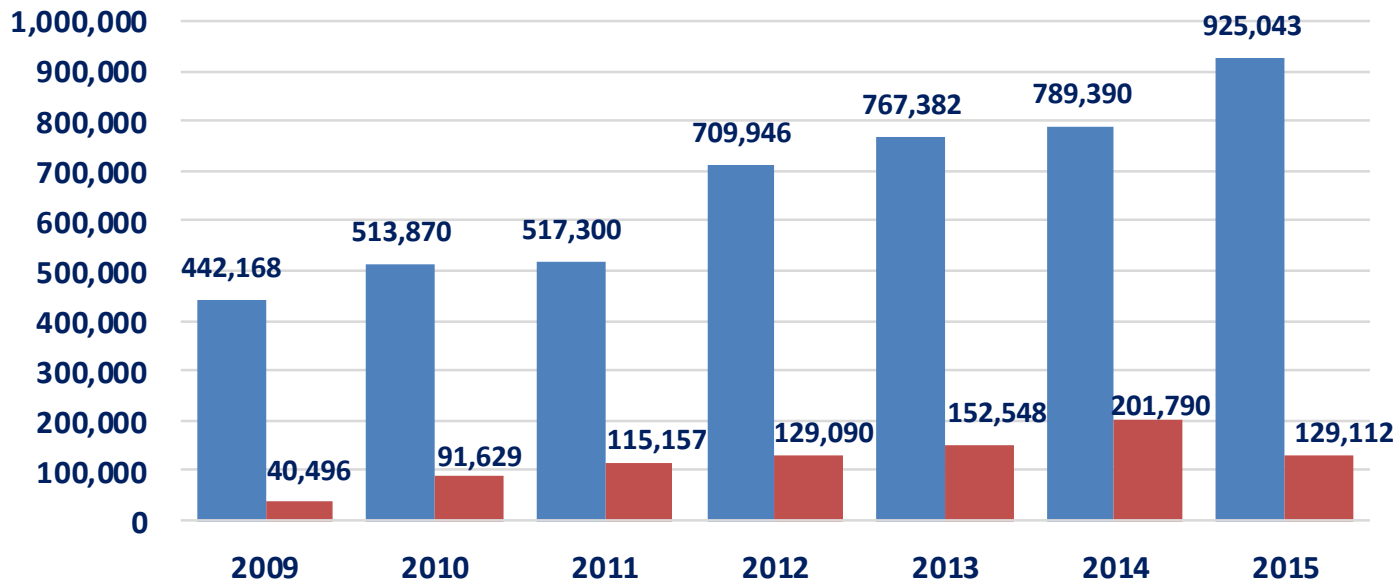
■ : Entry by Vietnamese people.

Source: Statistical Report on Tourism in Laos.

Tourist Arrivals at 3rd Mekong Bridge & Thakhek



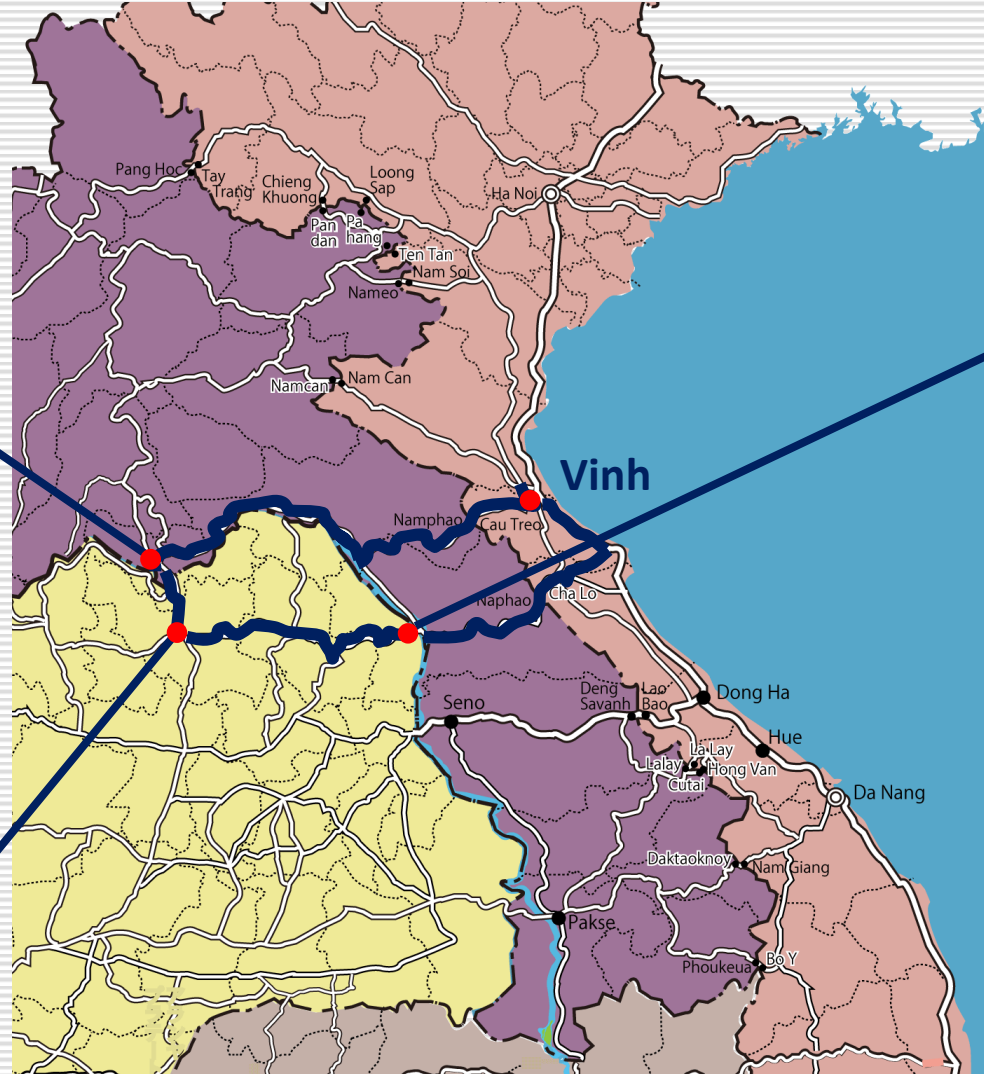
Tourist Arrivals at 1st Mekong Bridge (near Vientiane)



Vietnamese people who moves from Nong Khai to Vientiane and from Nakhon Phanom to Thakhek have increased.

Vietnamese Tourists Visit Thailand & Laos

Vientiane 1st



Nakhon Phanom 2nd



Udon Thani



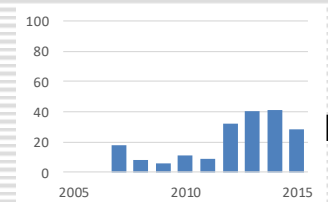
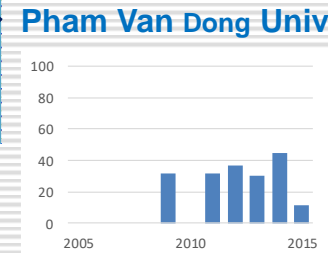
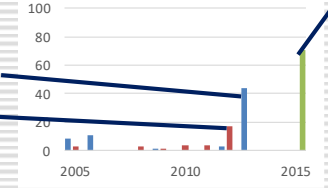
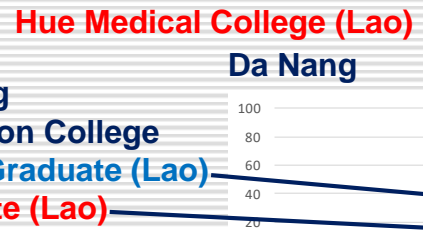
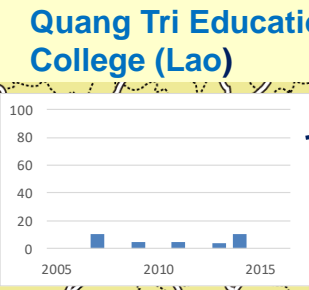
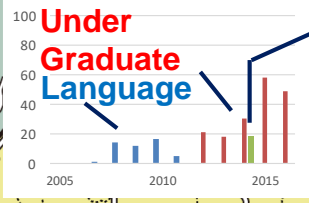
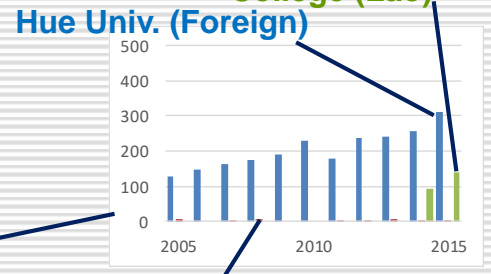
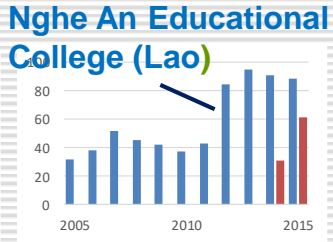
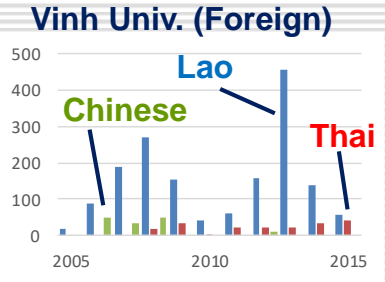
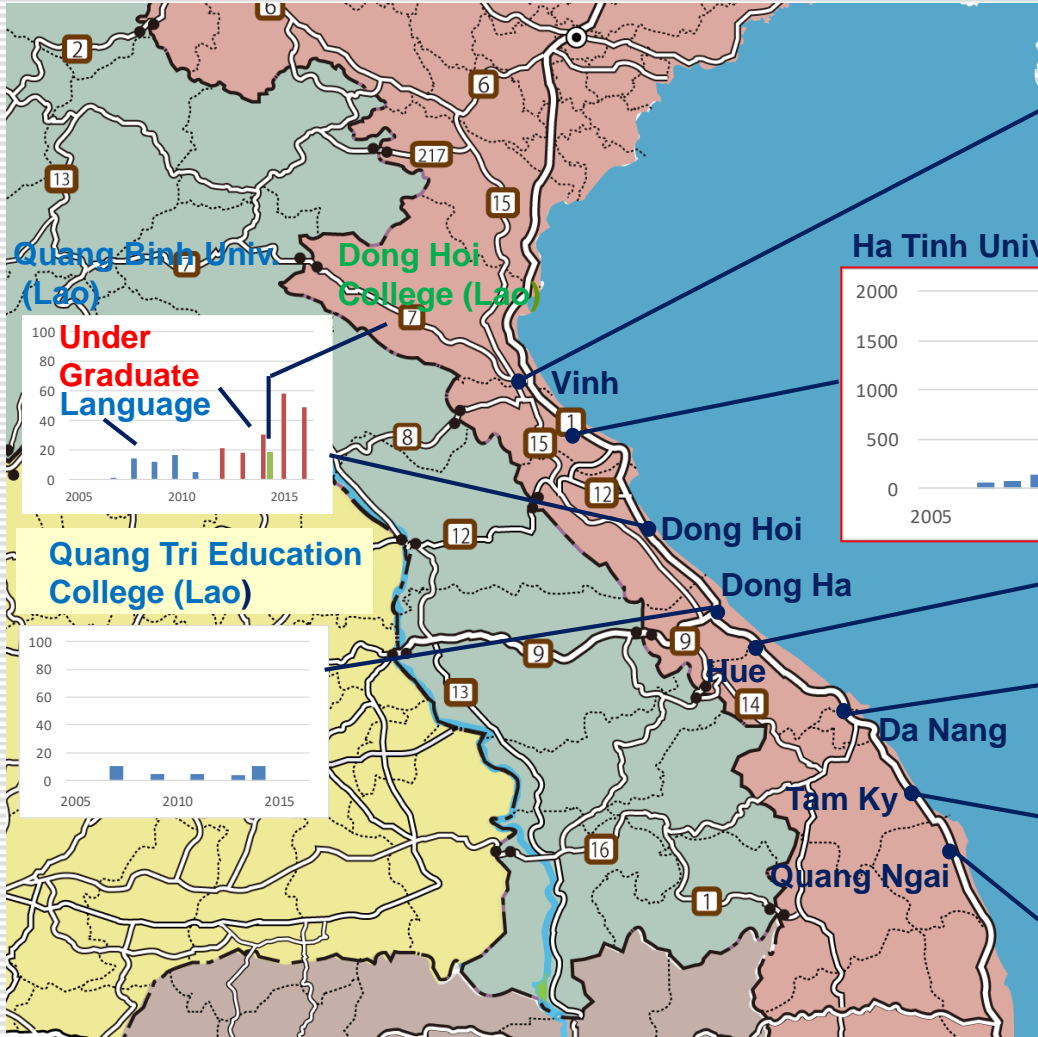
Shopping



2 Nights 3 Days
Tour

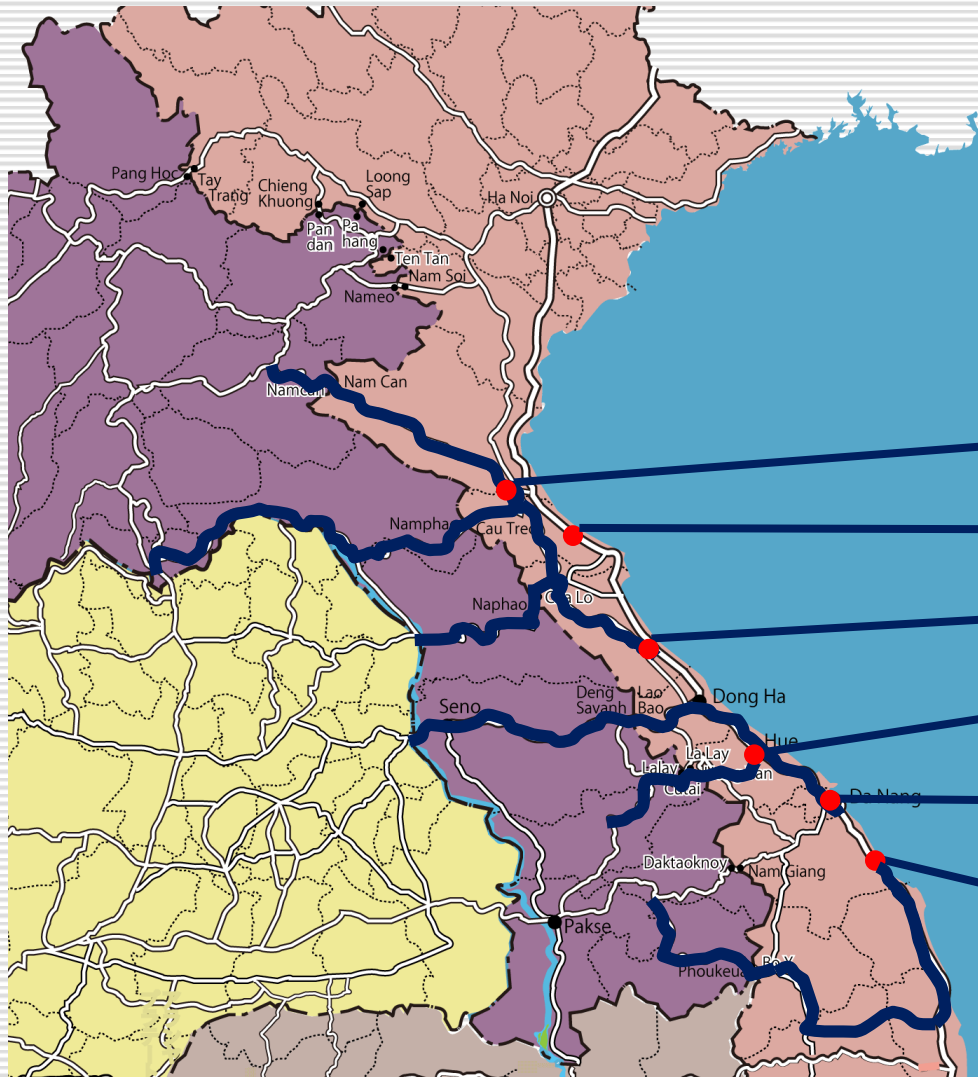
II. Cooperation in Education

Foreign Students Enroll in Central Vietnam



Source: Graphs are based on data collected by Vietnam Institute of Economics from Ministry of Education in Vietnam.

The Number of Lao Students in Vietnam



Students do not have to use air plane. They can move to the cities from their home towns by bus. This is an effect of cross-border road infrastructure development

- Vinh Univ. 642 Students**
- Ha Tinh Univ. 1900 Students**
- Quang Binh Univ. 140 Students (2015)**
- Hue Univ. 310 Students**
- Da Nang Univ. 517 Students**
- Quang Nam Univ. 179 Students**

Source: Interviews with the universities conducted in October 2016 and in December 2015.

Other Examples of Exchange of Students

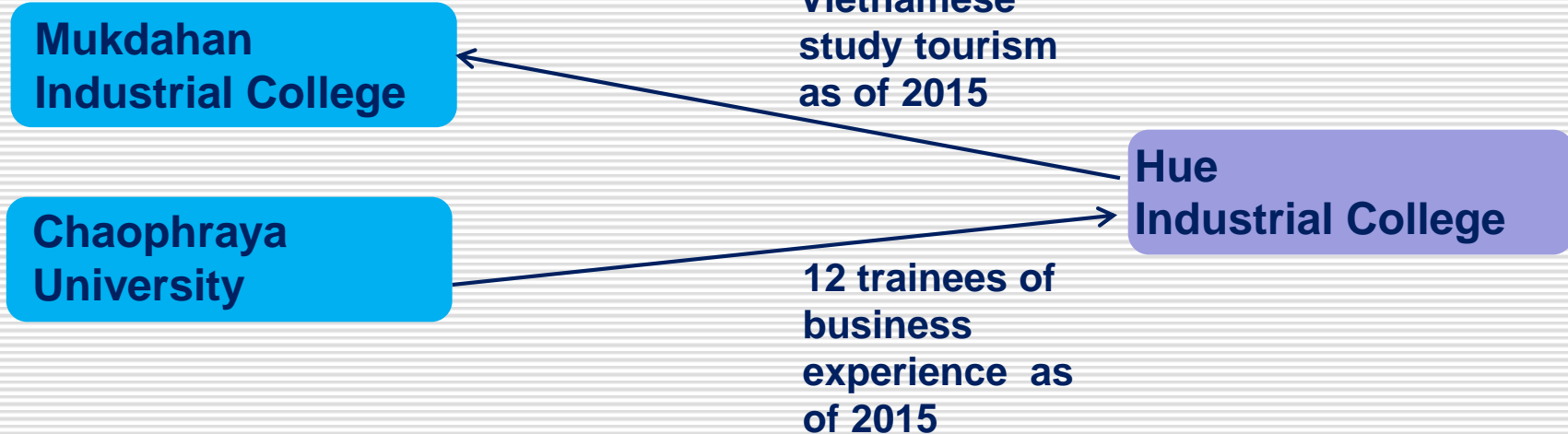
/// Increase in the number of foreign students at Khon Kaen Univ.

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Science & Technology	177	202	236	213
Health	182	219	250	225
Humanities & Society	364	435	401	480
Total	723	856	977	918

Many of them are from CLMV countries including Laos

Source: Survey conducted by Khon Kaen Univ.

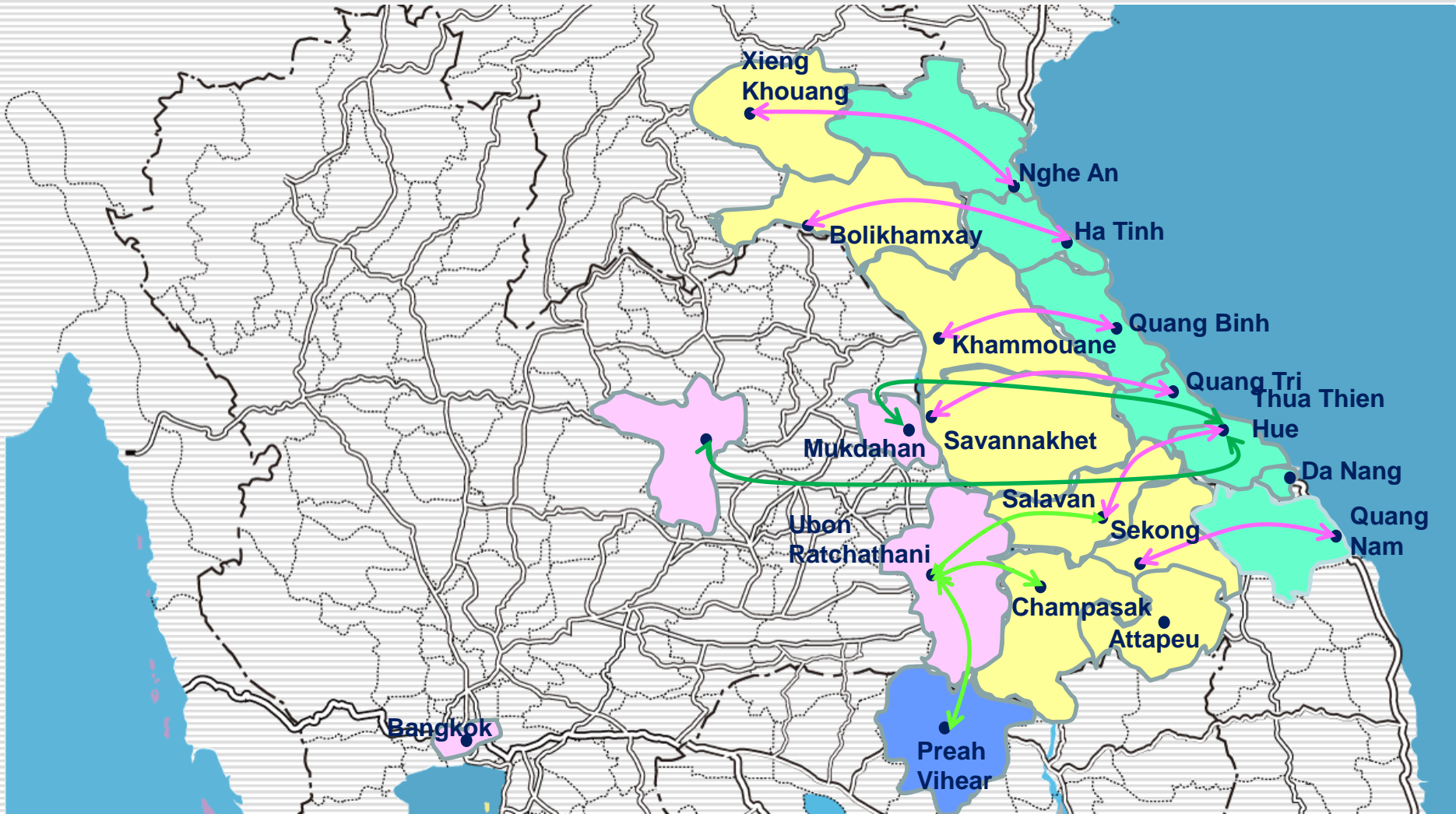
/// Another case study



Source: Survey conducted by Khon Kaen Univ and Vietnamese Institute of Economics.

III. Sister-City Relations

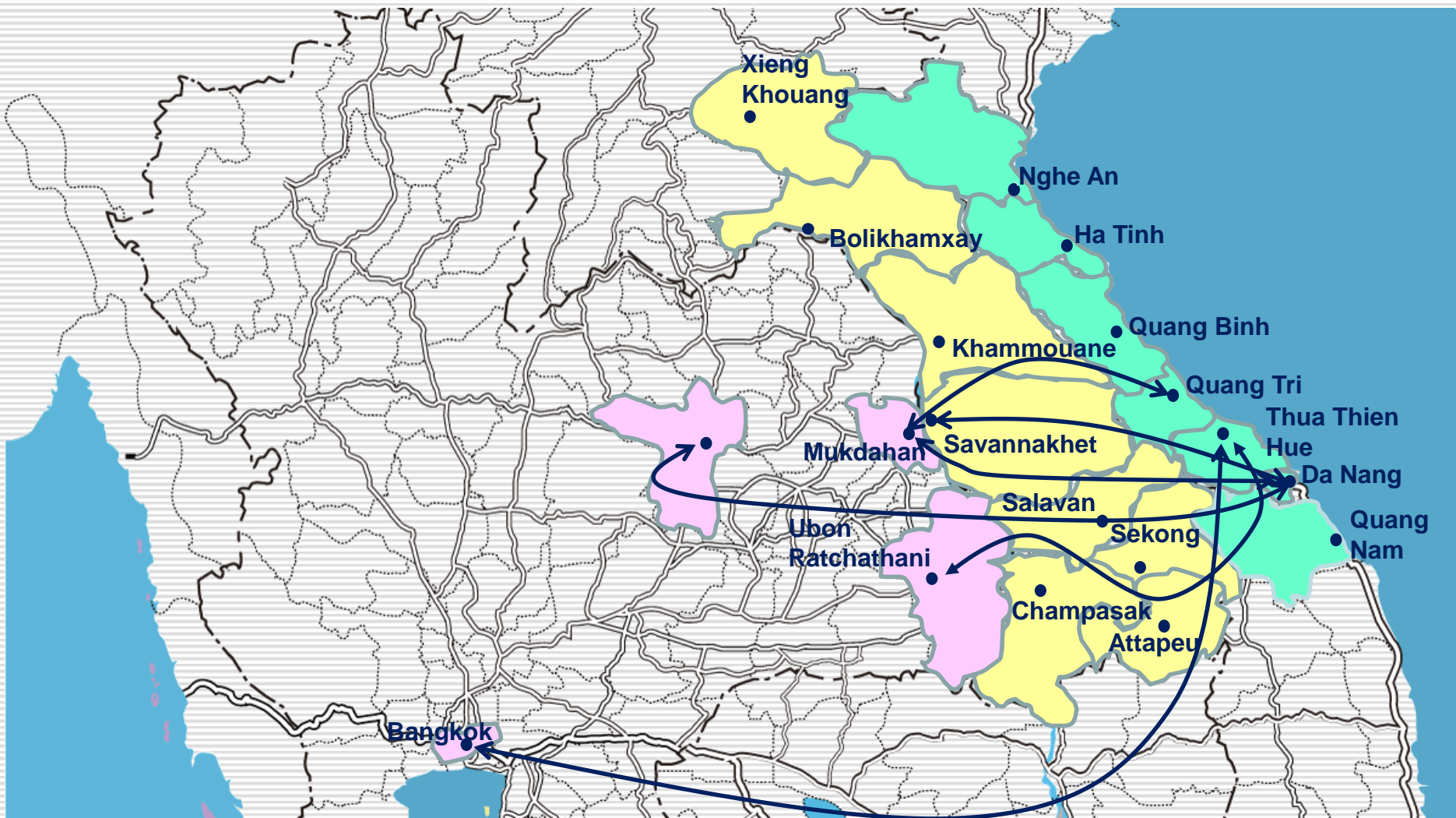
MOUs between Neighboring Provinces



Source: Interview at People's Committees and DPI of Vietnamese provinces and commercial department of Ubon Ratchathani province in 2015 and 2016

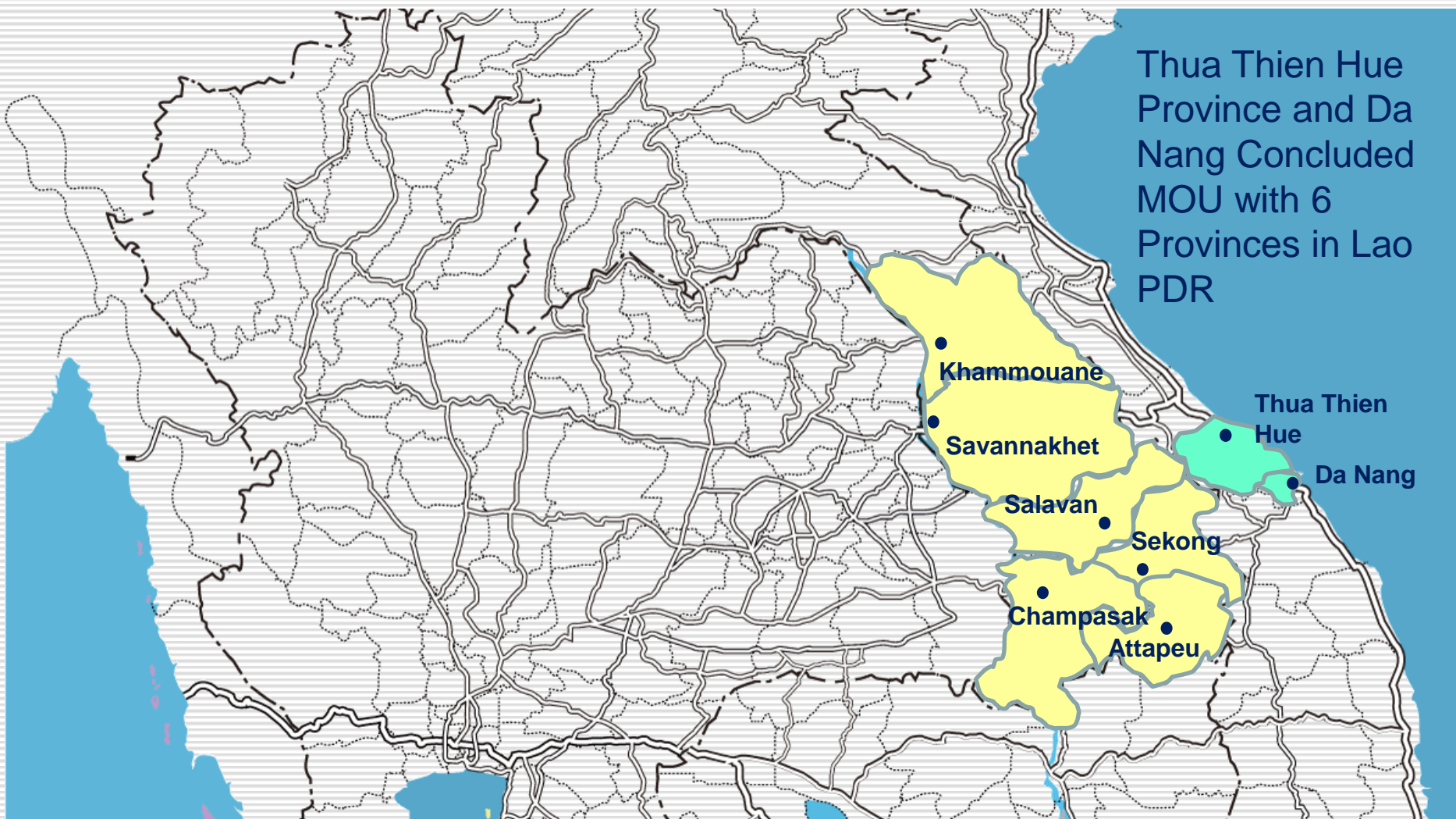
- ↔ : A Sister – City Relation between neighboring provinces.
- ↔ : Cooperative relations based on Emerald Triangle.
- ↔ : Cooperative relations based on MOUs on education and tourism.

Sister City Relations and MOU in General



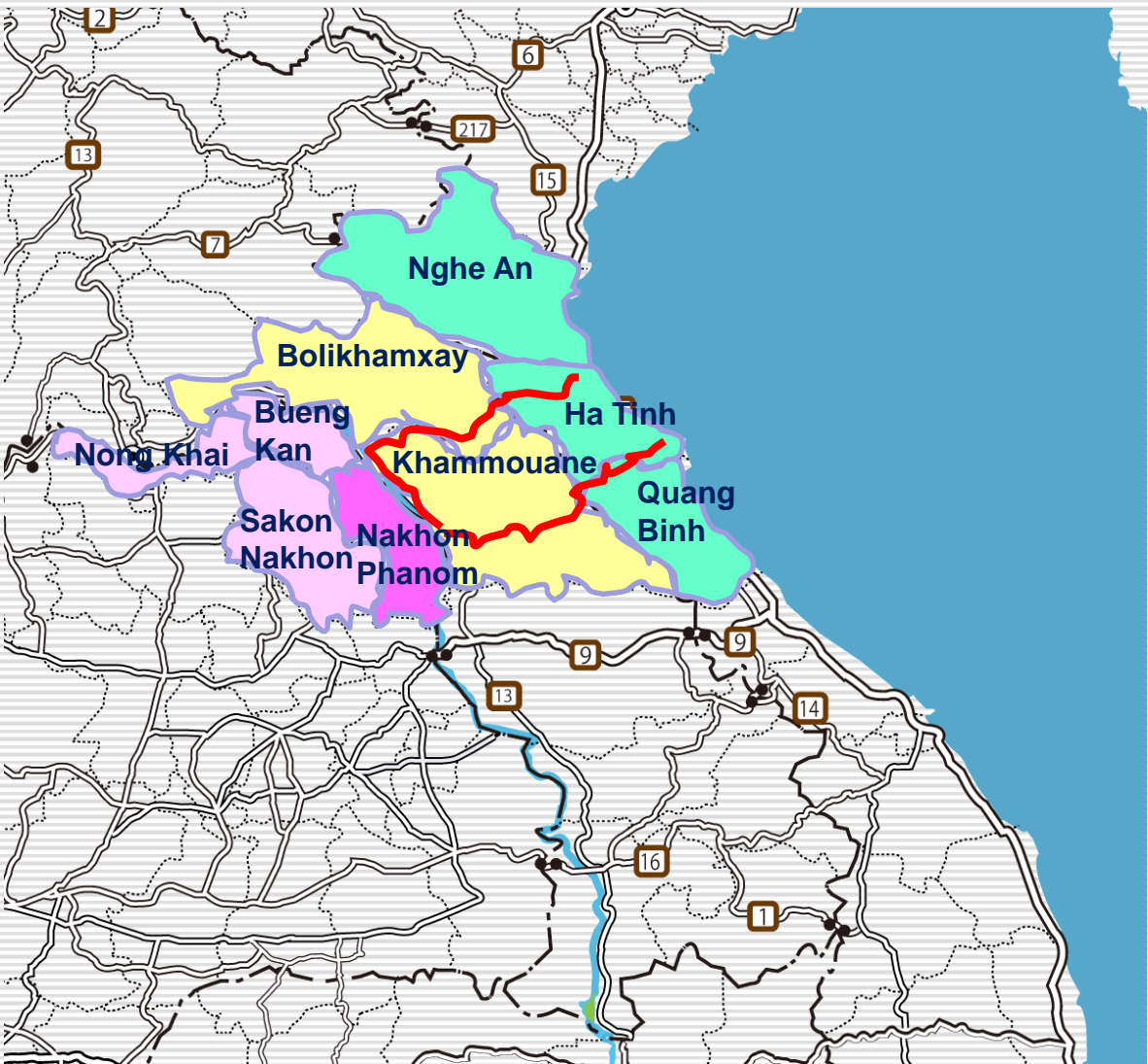
Source: Interview at DPI in Thua Thien Hue Province and Department of Foreign Affairs of Da Nang City in December 2015, and at DPI of Quang Tri Province in October 2016.

MOUs between Vietnam and Lao PDR



Source: Interview at DPI in Thua Thien Hue Province and Department of Foreign Affairs of Da Nang City in December 2015.

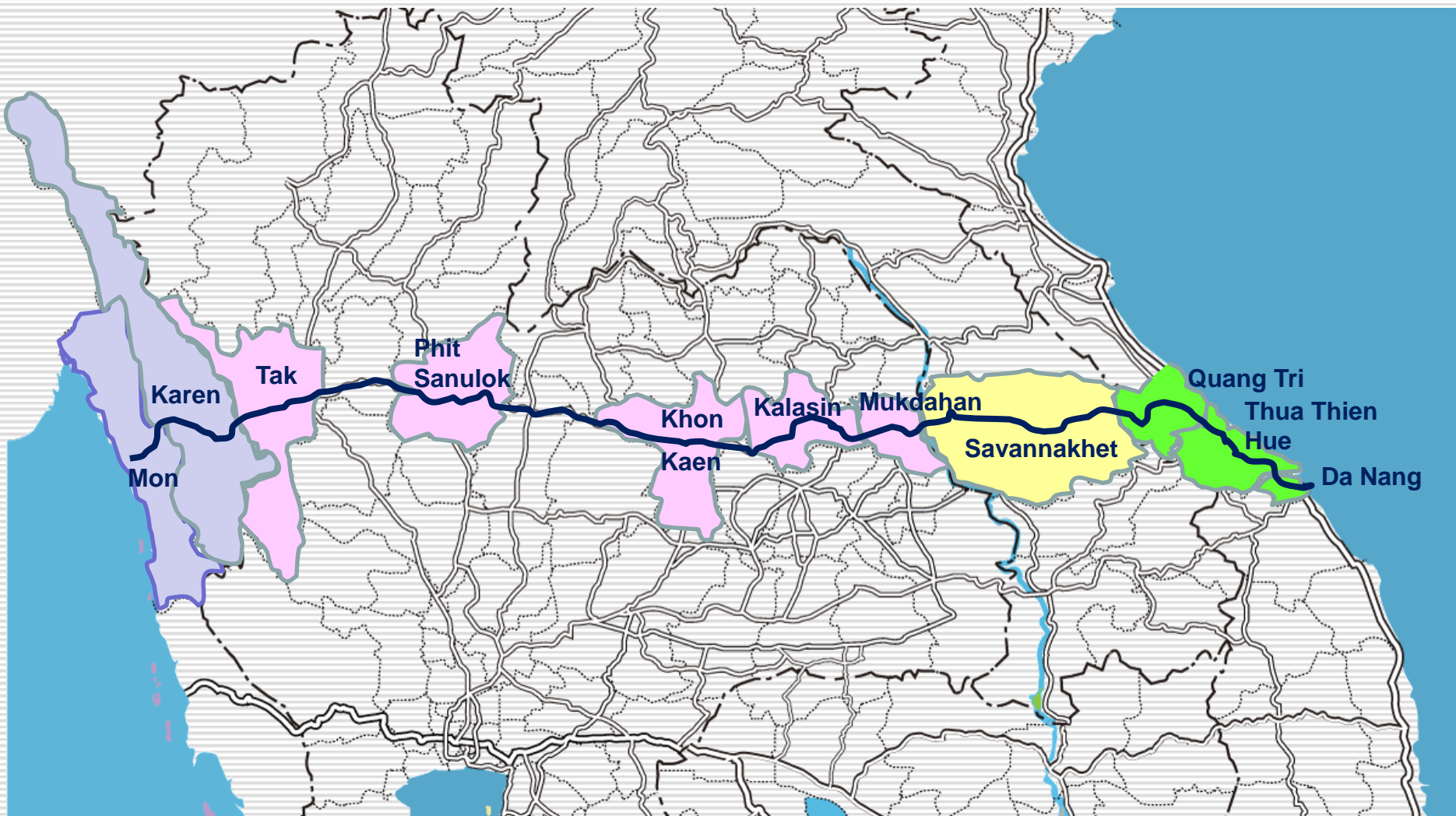
Nine Provinces' Cooperative Relations



- 1996 Plan of Vietnam – Thailand Friendship Village was started in Nakhon Phanom
- 1996 Sister – city relation of 2 Lao Provinces, 3 Vietnamese provinces and Nakhon Phanom
- 2011 The third Mekong Friendship Bridge was completed
→ 3 Thai provinces added
- Meeting twice in a year
- Promoting trade, tourism and road development

Source: Interviews at People's Committee of Ha Tinh Province and DPI of Nghe An Province in October 2016.

EWEC Business Database Project



Source: Based on my experience of working for Mekong Institute as a consultant in 2012.

IV. Background of Deepened Relation

Overseas Vietnamese in Thailand

◆ First Generation (18 – 19 century)

- 1) Vietnamese who accompanied with Nguyen Phuc Anh (later called as Gia Long, the First Emperor of Nguyen Dynasty) when escaped to Bangkok in 1783 and continued to live in Thailand.
- 2) Vietnamese Christians who escaped to Thailand from oppression under the Nguyen dynasty since Emperor Minh Mang rejected French missionaries in 1825

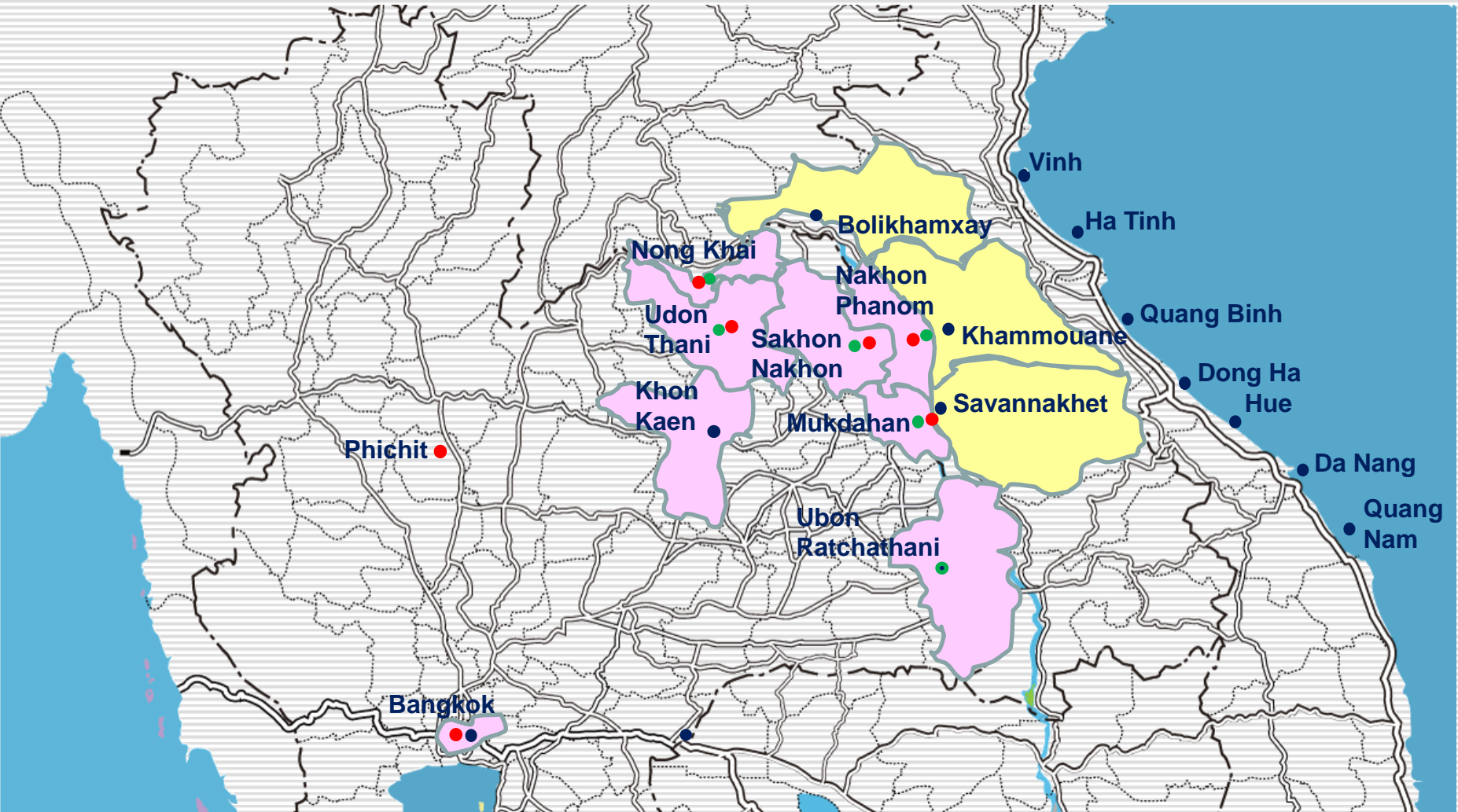
◆ Second Generation (1890s – 1930s)

Vietnamese nationalists who utilized Thailand as a safe place to escape from French police from the end of 19 century to 1930s. The leaders of pro-independence movement such as Mr. Phan Boi Chau and Mr. Ho Chi Minh also visited Thailand.

◆ Third Generation (1975 – 80)

People called as “boat people” who escaped from Southern and Central part of Vietnam.

Overseas Vietnamese in Thailand and Laos



- : Cities where Association of Vietnamese People exists.
- : Cities where Mr. Ho Chi Minh stayed between 1928-31.

Tourist Spots as Connector



Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park



Nguyen Dynasty Palace at Hue, 11 Apr. 2010.



Japan Bridge at Hoi An, 13 Apr. 2110.



My Son Sanctuary, 9 Sep. 2009.



Anousavary Patuxay at Vientiane, 18 Jul. 2013.



Ho Chi Minh's House at Nakhon Phanom, 22 Jul.. 2015.

**World Cultural
and Natural
Heritages
of UNESCO**

Before & After 2nd Friendship Bridge

December 26 2006
Completion of 2nd Mekong Bridge
between Mukdahan – Savannakhet
(1,600m)



27 August 2006



23 July 2015



5 September 2016

Before & After 3rd Friendship Bridge

November 11, 2011
Completion of 3rd Mekong Bridge
between Mukdahan – Savannakhet
(780m)



Ferry before the completion December 19, 2012



Opening Ceremony on November 11, 2011



Third Mekong Friendship Bridge on July 22, 2015

Short Distance (Highway No. 9, 8, 12)



Note: The distance is measured when I passed road (except roads to Na Meo - Nam Suoy, Huaykon - Nam Noeun, Nong Phur - Nam Heuan Bridge and Lalay - Lalay). These sections' distances are measured by maps sold at book shops.

Source : Created by presenter.

Conclusions

- ◆ **People-to-people connectivity between Central Vietnam, Laos and Northeastern Thailand have been deepened:**
 - 1) in tourism (started with Thai tourists' visits and the number of Vietnamese tourists' visits to Thailand and Laos)**
 - 2) in education (Lao students who study in Central Vietnam and in Thailand have increased)**
 - 3) in sister – city relations and MOUs between local governments**
- ◆ **Backgrounds of the deepened connectivity are:**
 - 1) Overseas Vietnamese people who live in Central Laos and in Northeastern Thailand as a connector**
 - 2) Tourist's spots as a connector**
 - 3) Infrastructure development including bridges over Mekong River**
 - 4) Especially short distance between borders with Thailand and with Vietnam in Laos (Highway No. 9, Highway 12 and Highway 8)**

Thank you !