

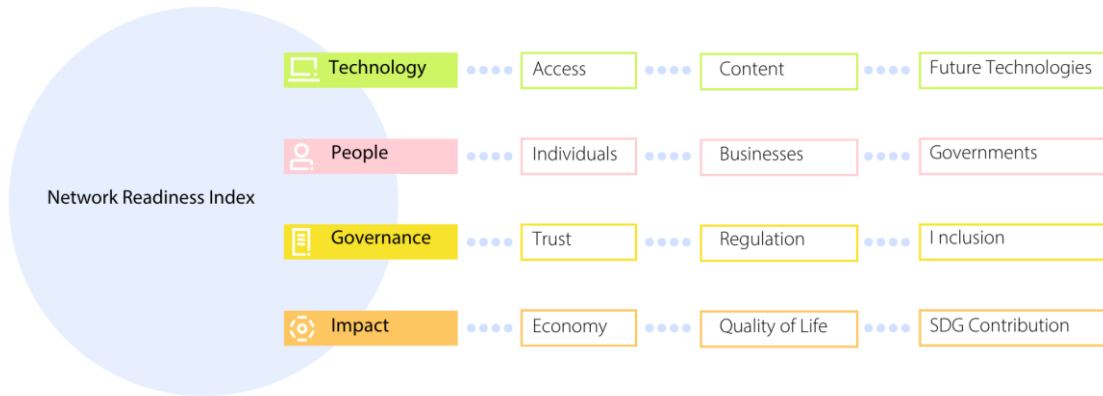
Network Readiness Index 2024



Lao PDR

The Network Readiness Index (NRI) is one of the leading global indices on the application and impact of information and communication technology (ICT) in economies around the world. In its latest version of 2024 the NRI Report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 133 economies based on their performances in four different pillars: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact. Each of these pillars is itself comprised of three sub-pillars (see Figure 1) that have been populated by a total of 54 variables.

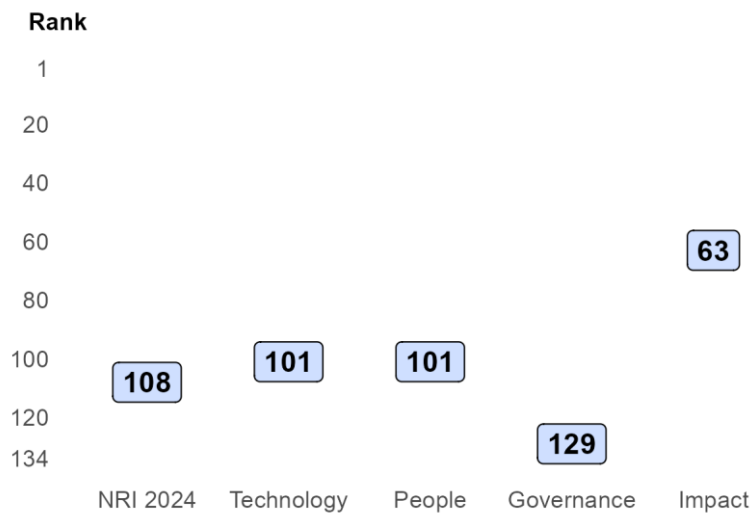
Figure 1: The NRI 2024 model



Global NRI position of Lao PDR

Lao PDR ranks 108th out of the 133 economies included in the NRI 2024 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to Impact. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns Governance.

Figure 2: Lao PDR global ranking, overall and by pillar



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Performance at sub-pillar level

When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Lao PDR relate to Future Technologies, Governments and Economy, among others (Table 1). More could be done, though, to improve the economy's performances in the Content, Regulation and Businesses sub-pillars.

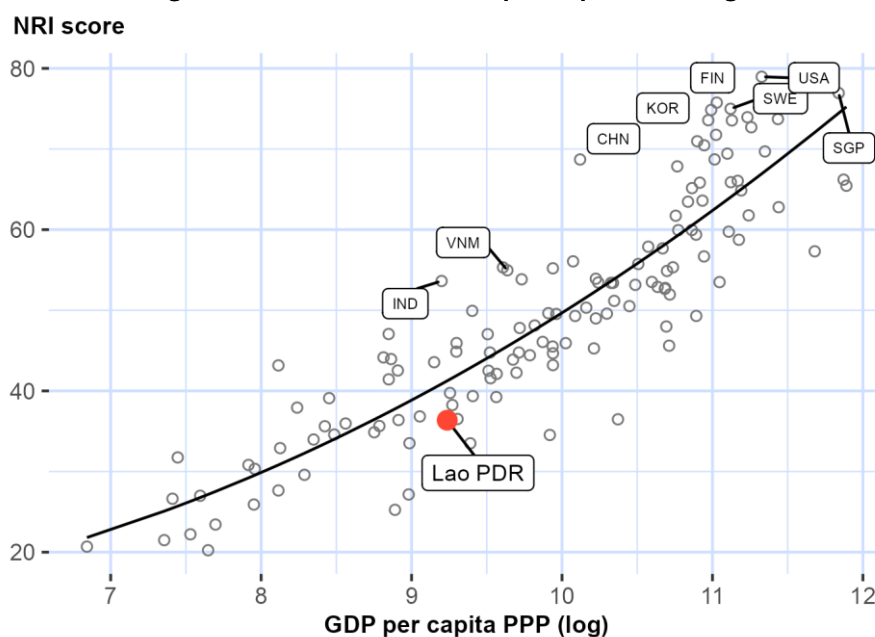
Table 1: Lao PDR rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Future Technologies	31	Access	105
Governments	62	Trust	117
Economy	64	Inclusion	123
SDG Contribution	66	Content	129
Quality of Life	74	Regulation	130
Individuals	76	Businesses	131

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Lao PDR in terms of both NRI score and GDP per capita (PPP). The trend line shows the expected NRI score given an economy's income level. As can be seen, Lao PDR is well below the trend line, which suggests that it is underachieving and that one would expect it could raise its network readiness in view of its income level.

Figure 3: NRI score and GDP per capita PPP (log)



Note: USA = United States (rank: 1), SGP = Singapore (rank: 2), FIN = Finland (3), SWE = Sweden (4), KOR = Republic of Korea (5), CHN = China (17), and IND = India (49). Lao PDR belongs to the group of lower-middle-income countries, where the best performer is Viet Nam (VNM). The top performer of its region-Asia & Pacific-is Singapore (SGP).

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Performance against its income group and region

Lower-middle-income countries

Lao PDR is ranked 21st in the group of lower-middle-income countries (Figure 4, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a score higher than the income group average in one of the four pillars: Impact. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms lower-middle-income countries in six of the twelve sub-pillars: Future Technologies, Individuals, Governments, Economy, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

Asia & Pacific

Lao PDR is ranked 19th within Asia & Pacific (Figure 4, right panel). It lags behind its region in each of the four pillars. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Asia & Pacific in two of the twelve sub-pillars: Future Technologies and SDG Contribution.

Figure 4: Performance of Lao PDR against its income group and region, overall and by pillar

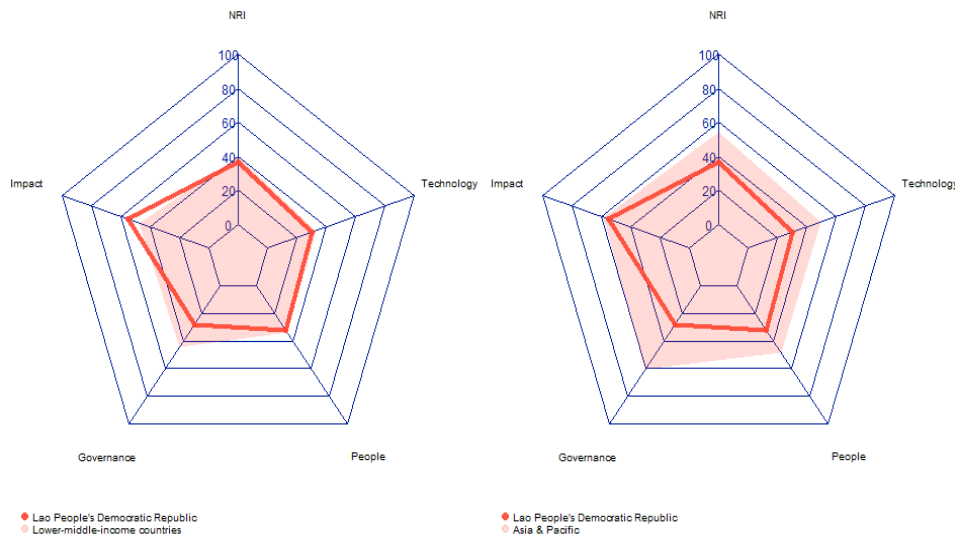


Table 2: Lao PDR scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar

Dimension	Lao PDR	Lower-middle-income countries	Asia & Pacific
NRI	36.36	39.67	54.25
Technology	30.32	32.71	49.31
People	32.12	34.14	48.55
Governance	28.23	44.34	60.88
Impact	54.79	47.49	58.26

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Strongest and weakest indicators

The indicators where Lao PDR performs particularly well include 4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices, 2.3.3 Government promotion of emerging technologies, and 1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies (Table 3). By contrast, the economy's weakest indicators include 3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content, 3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment, and 1.2.4 AI scientific publications.

Table 3: Highlight of Strengths and Opportunities for Lao PDR

Strongest indicators	Rank	Weakest indicators	Rank
4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	22	2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale	112
2.3.3 Government promotion of emerging technologies	27	3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	113
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	35	1.2.1 GitHub commits	118
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	42	3.2.1 Regulatory quality	121
4.1.3 Prevalence of gig economy	42	2.2.3 Annual investment in telecommunication services	123
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	52	2.3.1 Government online services	126
1.3.4 Computer software spending	56	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	127
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	62	1.2.4 AI scientific publications	129
3.3.3 Availability of local online content	74	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	130
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	75	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	133

Note: For the full list of strengths and weaknesses, see At-A-Glance table.

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NRI 2024 At-A-Glance: Lao PDR

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Rank: 108 (out of 133)

Score: 36.36

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	101	30.32	C. Governance pillar	129	28.23
1st sub-pillar: Access	105	41.75	1st sub-pillar: Trust	117	20.13
2nd sub-pillar: Content	129	1.03	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	130	34.51
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	31	48.17	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	123	30.05
B. People pillar	101	32.12	D. Impact pillar	63	54.79
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	76	47.38	1st sub-pillar: Economy	64	32.55
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	131	7.24	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	74	65.73
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	62	41.75	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	66	66.10

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score		
A. Technology pillar	101	30.32	C. Governance pillar	129	28.23		
<i>1st sub-pillar: Access</i>	105	41.75	<i>1st sub-pillar: Trust</i>	117	20.13		
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	95	48.04	3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	112	31.56		
1.1.2 Handset prices	84	51.76	3.1.2 Cybersecurity	116	20.33		
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	104	14.53	3.1.3 Online access to financial account	96	18.12		
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	108	33.91	3.1.4 Internet shopping	90	10.48		
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	115	60.49	<i>2nd sub-pillar: Regulation</i>	130	34.51		
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	NA	NA	3.2.1 Regulatory quality	121	24.85	○	
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Content</i>	129	1.03	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	130	25.83	○	
1.2.1 GitHub commits	118	0.56	○	3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	70	46.85	
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	75	2.36	●	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	87	75.00	
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	NA	NA	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	133	0.00	○	
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	129	0.18	○	<i>3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion</i>	123	30.05	
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies</i>	31	48.17	3.3.1 E-Participation	112	24.42		
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	35	74.46	●	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	127	14.18	○
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	52	46.25	●	3.3.3 Availability of local online content	74	56.49	●
1.3.3 Robot density	NA	NA	3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	NA	NA		

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Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score		
1.3.4 Computer software spending	56	23.81	●	3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	113	25.09	○
B. People pillar	101	32.12	D. Impact pillar	63	54.79		
<i>1st sub-pillar: Individuals</i>	76	47.38	<i>1st sub-pillar: Economy</i>	64	32.55		
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	105	2.86	4.1.1 ICT patent applications	NA	NA		
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	42	63.88	●	4.1.2 Domestic market scale	99	40.99	
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	89	40.82	4.1.3 Prevalence of gig economy	42	54.36	●	
2.1.4 Adult literacy rate	70	81.96	4.1.4 ICT services exports	114	2.29		
2.1.5 AI talent concentration	NA	NA	<i>2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life</i>	74	65.73		
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Businesses</i>	131	7.24	4.2.1 Happiness	85	50.97		
2.2.1 Firms with website	108	18.51	4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	22	89.72	●	
2.2.2 Number of venture capital deals invested in AI	NA	NA	4.2.3 Income inequality	80	62.21		
2.2.3 Annual investment in telecommunication services	123	0.00	○	4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	99	50.79	
2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale	112	3.20	○	<i>3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution</i>	66	66.10	
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Governments</i>	62	41.75	4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	107	37.10		
2.3.1 Government online services	126	22.69	○	4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	NA	NA	
2.3.2 Data Capabilities	NA	NA	4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	62	80.34	●	
2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging technologies	27	60.82	●	4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	82	76.90	
2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education	NA	NA	4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	103	45.00		

NOTE: ● a strength and ○ a weakness.

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