Bridge construction workers in Laos



Overview

Construction started on the Thai side in June 2020 and on the Lao side in January 2021, with the final concrete connection completed in June 2025.

Key Takeaways

Bridge construction in Laos involves a combination of local labor, skilled engineers, and international support, with workers participating in both large-scale infrastructure projects and community-driven initiatives.

Local Workforce and Community Involvement

Bridge construction in Laos often engages local villagers and community members alongside professional engineers. For example, in submersible bridge projects, village men actively participate in construction tasks while women support the workforce by preparing meals and managing rest areas, creating a collaborative environment that integrates the community into the project. This approach not only provides labor but also strengthens local ownership and maintenance of infrastructure.

Major Projects and Skilled Workers

Significant projects, such as the 5th Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge over the Mekong River, involve highly skilled construction workers, engineers, and project managers. On this project, Lao construction teams are responsible for building access roads, checkpoint buildings, and the main bridge structure, with progress closely monitored by government officials and international partners. Workers on these projects are trained in modern construction techniques, including reinforced concrete, prestressed concrete, and steel-concrete hybrid structures.

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International Collaboration and Support

Many bridge projects in Laos receive international funding and technical assistance, which influences the workforce composition. For instance, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) have funded bridge upgrades and road safety improvements, providing resources for hiring skilled labor, supervising construction, and ensuring compliance with technical and environmental standards. Workers often collaborate with international consultants and contractors to implement best practices in bridge construction.

Types of Bridges and Construction MethodsLaos' bridge projects include prestressed concrete bridges, submersible bridges, and large-scale international bridges. Workers are involved in tasks ranging from foundation work, concrete pouring, steel reinforcement, and assembly of bridge spans, to road access construction and slope stabilization. These projects typically follow strict timelines, with supervision to ensure safety and quality standards.

Summary

Bridge construction workers in Laos are a mix of local laborers, skilled engineers, and international collaborators, participating in projects that range from small community bridges to major international crossings. Their work is supported by government agencies, international funding, and community involvement, ensuring both technical quality and local engagement in infrastructure development.

Article Content

Fifth Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge Officially Opens,

Construction started on the Thai side in June 2020 and on the Lao side in January 2021, with the final concrete connection completed in June 2025.

Last beam of longest bridge along China-Laos railway erected

The last T-shaped beam was laid between two piers of the Nam Khone super major bridge, the longest bridge along the China-Laos railway, on Saturday in Lao capital Vientiane,

Construction progress of China-Laos Railway on schedule despite ...

In the southern end of the railway in Vientiane, the China Railway No. 5 Engineering Group (CREC-5) has completed the construction of the main structure of the longest bridge along the

The Project for Construction of Sekong Bridge on NR16B in the ...

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The objective of this project is to resolve the missing link of National Road 16B which is the main road for the Southern region in Laos, by building Sekong Bridge, thereby contributing to economic and social

First Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge Marks 31st Anniversary

Looking ahead, both countries are preparing for the construction of a sixth bridge, which will connect Ubon Ratchathani in northeastern Thailand with Salavan Province in southern Laos.

Fifth Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge

In Phase I, 55.5 percent of construction work has been completed, exceeding the target by 2.67 percent. In the second phase, construction of the access road to the bridge and immigration and customs

THE PROJECT FOR CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ON BRIDGE

This manual was prepared under the JICA sponsored Project for Capacity Development on Bridge Maintenance and Management in Lao PDR for the purpose of mainstreaming preventive bridge

Handover Ceremony and 7th and Final Joint Coordinating Committee,

JICA commenced the Project for Capacity Development on Bridge Maintenance and Management (JICA-BMM) in November 2020 and will complete the Project by April 2024.

Chinese Constructors Complete Foundations Of Mekong River Rail

The concrete casting for the last pier understructure of LuangPrabangrailway bridge has been successfully completed, laying down all the foundation construction work of the two cross

A New Path to Prosperity: Laos-China Railway Spurs

Since its inauguration in late 2021, the Laos-China Railway has become a cornerstone of socio-economic growth in the Lao PDR, symbolizing

Construction begins on fifth bridge linking Laos, Thailand

VIENTIANE (XINHUA) - Work on a fifth bridge linking Laos and Thailand across the Mekong River has begun after a construction agreement

Laos Labor Shortage Plagues Local Industries, Hurts Foreign

Lao workers are leaving the country in large volumes, searching for employment opportunities abroad amid the skyrocketing cost of living.

Fifth Lao-Thai Mekong bridge on track for completion by year end

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The new 1,350-metre bridge will boost travel between Laos and Thailand and spur trade with other countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion. An official in charge of the project on the Lao side said

New Lao-Thai friendship bridge nears completion, set to boost

VIENTIANE – The fifth Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge linking the two countries across the Mekong River, with construction now almost complete, is expected to significantly enhance trade,

The Project for Capacity Development on Bridge Maintenance and

In order to improve the situation, the Lao government requested Japan to implement the Project to establish a bridge maintenance management cycle and to improve the capacity of engineers for

5th Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge is 80% complete

The construction of 5th Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge Construction Project is seen delayed due to the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak, which has made some Thai contractors and workers

Construction of fifth Lao-Thai Mekong bridge 23 percent

Construction of fifth Lao-Thai Mekong bridge 23 percent complete Work on the fifth Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge across the Mekong River, linking

Laos–China Railway

A section of the Kunming–Singapore Railway, the Laos–China Railway is a fundamental component of China''s vision for the Pan-Asia Railway

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This document is for preliminary research. Verify specifications against current standards, product documentation and project requirements.

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