



Press Release

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Round Table Implementation Meeting

The Government and development partners meet to co-ordinate and improve the effectiveness of international assistance to the Lao PDR

The Round Table Implementation Meeting was held today in the Lao Plaza Hotel. The Meeting, opened by H.E. Mr. Bouasone Bouphavanh, Prime Minister of the Lao PDR, was chaired by H.E. Mr. Soulivong Daravong, Minister of Planning and Investment and co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific

This day-long event is the annual forum for the Round Table Process (RTP). Led by the Government of Lao PDR, the RTP promotes in-depth dialogue with development partners to improve the effectiveness of international assistance in line with the Vientiane Declaration. The aim is to support what matters most for the country's development; improving the health and education of Lao people, expanding their income opportunities and contributing to sustainable development.

In his initial remarks, H.E. Mr. Ajay Chhibber highlighted some of the more notable achievements since the last RTIM and the related opportunities and challenges facing Lao PDR given the rapidly changing global and regional context and the ongoing global financial crisis, and he outlined what the participants might hope to achieve from today's important dialogue.

Priority areas under discussion at this RTIM reflected its timing with regard to current international and national events. The potential impacts of the current global financial insecurity upon the economy and development of the Lao PDR were explored. Discussions reviewed progress on financial management, disaster management, nutrition and food security and trade development.

With this RTIM being held at the midpoint of the global campaign towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015, the newly released mid-term reports analyzing progress towards National Social and Economic Development Programme (NSED) and MDGs achievement provided valuable inputs. The outcomes of this RTIM will feed into the formulation of the next Government 5-year plan, coinciding with the dates for achieving the global MDGs targets.

The closing remarks by H.E. Mr. Soulivong Daravong, Minister of Planning and Investment, emphasized the valuable nature of such discussions and co-ordination and their important contribution to the Government planning and implementation.

For more information please contact Janet Pontin at the UN Public Information Office
Tel 267777 ext: 715, janet.pontin@undp.org
or Viengsompasong Inthavong in the Office of the Resident Coordinator
Tel 267777 ext: 753, viengsompasong.inthavong@undp.org

Notes for editors:

The United Nations Country Team in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) is committed to supporting the efforts of the Government to improve the life of all citizens, especially those most vulnerable. We shall continue to work closely with the Government and all development partners for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Our collective endeavour is to assist the people of Lao PDR to achieve progress and better standards of living for all.