

**Press Release**

23 OCTOBER 2008

For Immediate Release

UN DAY SECURITY COUNCIL SIMULATION EVENT**Lao Students stage "Cluster Munitions" debate**

As part of the commemorations of UN Day, and in order to promote understanding of the United Nations System and its relationship with the Lao PDR among young people, the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator today held a United Nations Security Council Simulation on the subject of cluster munitions. This day long event, held at the Lao Plaza Hotel, was chaired by Mr Saleumxay Kommasith, Director-General, Department of International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Participating delegations consisted of 54 students from the National University of Laos: Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, Department of International Relations. The delegates represented the current members of the Security Council. The opening address was made by Ms Laila Ismail Khan, UN Resident Coordinator a.i., followed by a 'Secretary-General's Report'.

Over the past weeks of preparation the students, mentored by staff from the United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator, have worked hard to research the positions of the country they are representing. They have written position papers and prepared to debate the issue of cluster munitions from that country's point of view. Over the course of the day the delegates vigorously debated many aspects of the subject including the effects of cluster munitions and the possibility of a ban or restriction on their use, production or trade.

It is hoped that their preparation, research and participation in this event can serve as a valuable experience for the students not only for their current studies but for their future careers.

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