



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



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Lao PDR joins international fight against corruption

UNODC and UNDP congratulate the Government of Lao PDR on ratifying the United Nations Convention Against Corruption

On 25 September 2009, the Government of the Lao PDR deposited the instrument of ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Lao PDR together commended the Government of the Lao PDR for taking this vital step towards combating the devastating effects of corruption.

“UNODC congratulates the Government of Lao PDR on the ratification of the UNCAC, which is the first legally binding international anti-corruption instrument. UNODC provides Member States with practical assistance and builds the technical capacity needed to implement UNCAC. UNODC looks forward to further assisting the Government of Lao PDR in fully complying with the UNCAC to strengthen the fight against corruption.” stated Mr. Leik Boonwaat, UNODC Representative for Lao PDR.

Corruption in any country has the worst impacts on the poorest and most vulnerable people, limiting their ability to develop and realize their full potential. The effects of corruption also limits a country’s development, distorting the economy and restricting its capacity for progress.

The UNCAC obliges state parties to implement an extensive range of anti-corruption measures, focusing on the legal framework, core anti-corruption institutions and practices. Measures are aimed to prevent, detect and criminalize corrupt acts, to enable assets to be recovered and to engage in international co-operation to fight corruption.

The ratification of the UNCAC sends a clear message that the Government of Lao PDR takes the issue of corruption seriously and intends to address its root causes. The Lao PDR has already gone some way to

strengthening its anti corruption measures, including the establishment of the State Inspection Authority as the national authority supervising the fight against corruption, an Anti-Corruption Law and amendments to the Penal Code.

Nevertheless, much remains to be done to fully realize the provisions of the UNCAC in the Lao PDR, and UNODC and UNDP are ready to jointly increase their assistance to the Government to further strengthen its capacity to fight against corruption.

As Ms Sonam Yangchen Rana, Resident Representative for UNDP Lao PDR, emphasized, “UNDP congratulates the Government of Lao PDR on the ratification of this key instrument to fight corruption. Fulfillment of the articles of the UNCAC is not an easy process, but it is one that is fundamental to the development of Lao PDR. In particular, UNDP hopes that additional support made available as a result of the ratification of the UNCAC will enable an UNCAC compliance review; strengthen judicial integrity as part of the Legal Sector Master Plan; and improve budget oversight through our support to the National Assembly. ”

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UNDP is the UN’s global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

UNODC is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime. The agency operates in all regions of the world through an extensive network of field offices. UNODC is mandated to assist Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism.