



Press release:

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL TO VISIT LAO PDR

Vientiane – April 9 2009: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon arrives in Vientiane on Friday for a short official visit, during which he will hold talks with His Excellency Choummaly Sayasone President of the Lao PDR as well as other government leaders and open a new UN headquarters in the capital, Vientiane.

Mr Ban's visit to Laos comes ahead of the summit meeting in Thailand of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United Nations, which the Secretary General will co-chair.

During his stay, the Secretary-General will speak at the official opening of UN House, a compound in central Vientiane housing several UN agencies who are part of the UN Country team.

He will also launch the second Millennium Development Goals Progress Report detailing Laos' progress towards achieving the eight MDGs.

Before leaving on Saturday, the Secretary-General will visit a centre providing health and other services to young people.

Mr Ban will be the third UN Secretary-General to visit Laos, following Mr Dag Hammarskjöld, who visited in November 1959, and Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar who visited Vientiane in January 1985.

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