

PRESS RELEASE



United Nations Development Programme

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To further support the implementation of the Vientiane Declaration, DIC and UNDP enter new partnership to build and develop national capacities for management of development programmes

On Friday 15 May 2009, the Department for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Planning and UNDP signed a new 3-year agreement at a ceremony in Vientiane. The *Capacity Development for National Implementation 2009 – 2011* agreement was signed by Mr Somchit Inthamith, Director General of DIC/MPI, and Ms Sonam Yangchen Rana, UNDP Resident Representative in the Lao PDR.

Attended by representatives of the Government, UNDP-supported projects, bilateral donors and International Financial Institutions, and witnessed by representatives of UN agencies in the country, the ceremony marked the beginning of a new initiative, to which UNDP will allocate USD 1.5 million over three years.

This new 3-year partnership will draw upon lessons and achievements from a previous initiative supported by UNDP, which was officially closed at the same ceremony. The objective is to develop the capacities of various ministries and institutions in key areas, including results-based management, monitoring and evaluation, financial management, human resources management (with a gender perspective), procurement and asset management. This will allow national institutions to implement ODA-funded programmes effectively and efficiently, and development partners to increasingly use national systems in line with the Vientiane Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

Ms Yangchen Rana emphasized that the continuing UNDP support to building national capacities was based on UNDP's core strengths in this field, and that the project's ambitious targeted goals and outputs demonstrated continuing UNDP support to the achievement of the national development goals including the MDGs.

Notes:

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