

Joint Press Release
For immediate release

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LAO Delegation ready for COP 15 Negotiations in Copenhagen



From 19 to 20 November 2009 the climate change office of Department of Environment, WREA, with support from UNDP/UNEP and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and with technical assistance from SNV Netherlands Development Organisation and SUFORD (World Bank), has conducted a Special Briefing Meeting of the Lao delegation for COP15; the upcoming UN Climate Change Negotiations in Copenhagen in December 2009.

The aim of the meeting was to assist the Lao delegation from WREA, MAF, MOFA and development partners, which will be led by The Deputy Prime Minister Mr Asang Laoly, in developing negotiating positions and skills, to provide them with necessary

information sessions on climate change and UNFCCC negotiations in order to have impact on COP15 negotiations. Very skilled and experienced international resource persons focused on specific technical topics that are most relevant to Lao PDR such as Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), Adaptation, Financing, Technology transfer, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs). The meeting also gave the Lao delegation an opportunity to coordinate and align their activities and to agree on which important events they should participate in at COP 15 in Copenhagen, Denmark in December this year.

H.E. Mme. Khempheng Pholsena, Minister to the Prime Minister's office and Head of WREA, Lao PDR, stated at the opening of the meeting that Climate change is an important and pressing issue for the GOL and stressed that the GOL is determined to participate and join force with other countries to combat climate change and implement various initiatives. She noted that climate change challenges will be addressed within the framework of the 7th National Social Economic Development Plan. She added that forest coverage target is to reach 65% by 2015 and 70% by 2020.

The COP 15 on climate change will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark, between December 7 and December 18, 2009. The conference includes the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on climate change and the 5th Meeting of the parties (COP/MOP 5) to the Kyoto Protocol. Success in Copenhagen is essential and can facilitate a fundamental transformation of the global economy, strengthening climate resilient development, and, assisting the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The two day briefing meeting in Thalat, Vientiane Province has assisted the Lao delegation to have a better prepared and aligned delegation to COP 15. The delegation will, therefore, be able to effectively communicate and negotiate the Lao positions and actively join with climate change allies at COP 15 this year.

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