

Consultative Workshop on
the Leadership Development Website
28th of June 2010
Opening Remarks by Mr. Dirk Wagener
UNDP Deputy Resident Representative (P) a.i.



Mr. Nisith Keopanya Director General of Civil Service Department and Project Manager of the of the GPAR SBSB project;
Prof. Dr. Kikeo Khaykhamphitoune, President, National Academy of Politics and Public Administration;
Ms Nicolette Matthijsen, Country Director SNV and Honorary Consul of the Netherlands;
Distinguished representatives of Ministries and Government Departments of the Lao PDR;
Private sector and Civil Society representatives;
Esteemed development partners; Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to have the opportunity to make some remarks at the opening of this workshop. We are here today on the one hand for the presentation of the film and website of the recent leadership forum as tools for promoting leadership development, learning and coordination. On the other hand we would like to hear your ideas and views on the possibilities of coordination of future leadership development initiatives in Laos.

Today's workshop is the logical follow-up of the initiatives, which have been undertaken around leadership development since 2007 in partnership with the Public Administration and Civil Service Authority (PACSA), the National Academy of Politics and Public Administration (NAPPA) and the Netherlands Development Organization, SNV as well as UNDP.

As highlight, I would like to recall the forum held earlier this year, where discussions were held on the enhancement of inclusiveness, quality, and sustainability of leadership development. Indeed, leaders from different backgrounds shared best practices and case studies and expanded their networks with the aim of 1) creating a joint vision on

leadership development in Lao PDR and 2) identifying priority areas for leadership development for the coming five years.

As Dr. Khammoune, Vice Chairperson of PACSA pointed out during the forum in March, “Developing human resources is crucial”. I am also pleased to note that this insight has been reflected in the 7th NSEDP in which the government addresses strategies across sectors to ensure that leaders in both the public and private sectors play their role in the development of Laos. A recent international assessment based on evidence from 50 countries, including Lao PDR, concludes that the Millennium Development Goals can be achieved. To do so, the report highlights the links between the MDGs and the importance of such a cross-sectoral approach.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At UNDP, we are proud to support the leadership development initiative. We strongly believe that leadership development across sectors based on the principles of inclusiveness, sustainability and quality will be a catalyst for the country to graduate from the Least Developed Country Status by 2020. We have gathered here today to address the challenge of translating into practice the initiatives around leadership development. The tools, which will be presented today are instrumental for the promotion of leadership development, improved coordination and alignment.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Still too many citizens live under the poverty line in Lao PDR and inequalities are increasing. Leadership is of crucial importance when addressing poverty, inequality, environmental and sustainability issues, gender equality, and access to public services such as health and education services. The international assessment on MDGs underlines the importance of leadership by arguing that real progress on the MDG's can only be made through, ‘country-led development and effective government’ for which leadership is needed at all levels.

I am confident that this workshop will contribute to these efforts, strengthen the existing dynamics and renew the determination to take forward the cooperation of all partners involved in leadership development and I would like to reaffirm UNDP’s support to these efforts.

I wish this workshop and follow-up activities all success and I wish you good health. Chob Chai.