



**Opening Remarks
Mr. Dirk Wagener
UNDP Deputy Resident Representative (P) a.i.**

**GPAR Fund launch and agreement signing ceremony:
28 December, 2010**

Dear Dr. Khammoune Viphongxay, Vice Chairperson, Public Administration and Civil Service Authority and Executive GPAR SBSB

Mr. Nisith Keopanya, Director General, Department of Civil Service Management and Project Manager, GPAR SBSB

Distinguished representatives of Ministries and offices of the Government of Lao PDR

Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

I am very glad to be here for the signing ceremony today. On behalf of UNDP, I would like to congratulate all 10 government offices who have been awarded the GPAR Fund grant this year. This GPAR fund is a well designed initiative to support wide implementation of innovative governance practices under the leadership of the government. The approach of the GPAR Fund mainstreams a wide range of better governance practices that have emerged in recent years, and bring solutions to development challenges at national and sub national level.

First, allow me to acknowledge the high number of applications received for the initiative from the different government agencies. The increased number of the applications cycle by cycle demonstrates great relevancy of the funding initiative. Being one of 10 grantees out of 300 applications received is great achievement for all of you here. Given its relevance and high level of interests of the government agencies, we will certainly consider including a new GPAR funding initiative within the next phase of the national GPAR programme.

We recognize that mainstreaming of reforms and good practices by different offices of the government cannot wait till large programmes or projects like the GPAR SBSB or others come forward. Many offices are interested to pilot some related reform ideas as soon as possible. If their innovative ideas and practices are supported and piloted, the successful experiences contribute significantly to the national effort to improve governance and make a major impact.

As you are already aware, the GPAR Fund provides opportunities as well as a sound platform for all government organizations, nationwide, to come up with practical innovative ideas to address issues they encounter in providing better service delivery and improving governance in Lao PDR. I am sure that good achievements and innovations through GPAR fund so far, and in the future, will motivate development partners to use this modality to continue to support this approach on a growing scale in the years ahead.

I would also like to request all offices, who have been awarded the GPAR Fund grant this cycle, to ensure that the fund is used effectively and efficiently to achieve the targets. We all look forward to positive changes and improvement as the result of the GPAR Fund support, and good sharing of the experience to encourage other offices to take up similar efforts.

Since this is the final cycle of GPAR Fund grants in the current phase of the GPAR SBSB project, it is very important that lessons learnt and best practices of the previous two cycles are drawn, as we plan the strategy for the next phase of the GPAR Programme for the period 2011-15.

I would like to express my appreciation for efforts of the GPAR fund technical support team and committee, including all the Ministry and development partner representatives. Last but not the least I would like to congratulate GPAR SBSB team and PACSA for their effective guidance and leadership.

Once again I welcome you all for this event and wish you success and good health.

Thanks you