



***Remarks on World Blood Donor Day by Ms Sonam Yangchen Rana,
UN Resident Coordinator in the Lao PDR
14 June 2010***

It is my great pleasure to wish you all a warm welcome to celebrate the World Blood Donor Day and I am very happy to be hosting this event here at UN House.

Every minute of every day, someone needs blood. You may not think about it, but your donation might be life-saving. It could be your neighbor, your friend, or a family member. Volunteering to donate blood is a small gesture that carries far.

Today, the 14th of June 2010, the world celebrates voluntary blood donors. This date has been dedicated by the World Health Organization to all those who, with their generosity, save thousands of lives every single day across the globe.

The United Nations Volunteers Programme contributes to peace and development through volunteerism and has organized this event today, not only to collect blood donations for a good cause, but also to remind the staff of the United Nations and of other international organizations about the spirit of volunteerism.

Everybody can contribute to saving a life, either by becoming a regular donor or - if health reasons prevent it - by volunteering to help on blood donation days.

Today is a good day to start, if you have not already donated blood earlier.

I would like to express my thanks to the Lao Red Cross for being here with their staff and equipment to make today possible. I hope that we can organize this event again in the coming years and, from our part, give hope to many Lao people who need blood to survive.

And of course let me extend a very warm thank you to all of you, voluntary blood donors, for giving “the gift of life”. I encourage all of you to show your generosity regularly in the future as well.

Let me now give the floor to Mr Sramany Snivourast, President of Lao Red Cross.

Thank you.