



**Remarks by Ms Mieko Yabuta,**  
*Speaking on behalf of the UN*

**at the 26<sup>th</sup> Asian Parliamentarian's Meeting on Population and  
Development,  
25 to 26 April 2010**

*Your Excellency Mr. Thongsing Thammavong, President of the  
National Assembly,*

*Your Excellency Ms. Khampheng Pholsena, Minister of Water  
Resources and Environment,*

*Hon. Yasuo Fukuda, Chair of the Asian Population Development  
Association,*

*Hon. Mr. Duangdy Outhachak, President of the Lao Association of  
Parliamentarians on Population and Development*

*Distinguished Participants*

Let me start by warmly congratulating the Lao Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development for hosting the 26<sup>th</sup> Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development in Lao PDR. Having this meeting here in Vientiane is again another indicator of the commendable and growing regional leadership of Lao PDR.

It is also my pleasure to welcome members of parliament from other countries. Representing the United Nations family in the Lao PDR,

allow me to emphasize the importance of the role of parliamentarians in shaping the vision and creating forward-looking policies of the country and international community.

Responding to the needs of people and laying foundation for sustainable development is a key responsibility of parliamentarians, and your leadership in finding common ground to the questions at hand in this meeting, namely population and adaptation to climate change, is crucial.

As we, the UN family in Lao PDR, understand and appreciate the role of the National Assembly in achieving sustainable growth and development, we are jointly working under the framework of the so called SELNA programme – Support to an Effective Lao National Assembly.

This programme, bringing together development partners and six UN agencies, was introduced to help strengthen the capacities of members of the National Assembly, and to improve legislative oversight and representational capacities. The overall aim is an efficient, effective and accountable parliament supporting development and poverty reduction for the citizens of the Lao PDR.

Lao Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development has been contributing to the capacity development of their fellow parliamentarians through awareness-raising and advocacy of population and development issues. Hosting this event is another important opportunity for such advocacy to keep this prominent global issue on the agenda in Lao PDR as well as in the

region and to take actions to mitigate its negative impact on our population, especially the vulnerable population.

Let me reaffirm the United Nations Country Team's commitment to continue working together to further provide support to integrate Population and Climate Change issues in the work of the National Assembly in Lao PDR.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development for being given the United Nations Population Award. Your work in informing, motivating and involving parliamentarians on Population issues and programmes ranging from reproductive health, maternal health and family planning to the aging of population and climate change is truly outstanding, and worthy of the UN Population Award.

I wish you a very fruitful meeting and I hope you will enjoy your stay in this beautiful country. Thank you.