

Opening remarks
By Dr. Kikeo Chanthaboury
Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment
Meeting of Chairs and Co-Chairs of SWGs, Sub-Working Groups and other
related stakeholders
29th June 2017

- Dr. Juliet Fleischl, WHO Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator a.i.
 - Mr. Murali, UNDP Resident Representative, a.i
 - Director Generals/Deputy Director Generals
 - Ambassadors/Head of International Agencies
 - Distinguished Guests
 - Ladies and Gentlemen
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- On behalf of Ministry of Planning and Investment, it is my great pleasure to chair this meeting of Chairs and Co-Chairs of Sector Working Groups – almost three months after the Round Table Process retreat in March this year.
 - This is an important meeting to brief each other on all the preparation done so far and what to do next to ensure that we share common understanding on the Round Table Implementation Meeting to be organized toward the end of November this year.
 - I am in particular delighted to share with you that our National Steering Committee met at the beginning of this month to review and give guidance on various activities leading up to this year RTIM.
 - The National Steering Committee on the Round Table Process approved the 2017 RTIM concept and roadmap and stressed the importance of greater partnership for development results including ensuring that national development agenda is effectively translated into concrete actions at local level.
 - The Committee has tasked DIC/MPI and Line Ministries to work closely with all national and international partners to ensure the success of this year's RTIM as a follow-up from the RTIM organized last year.
 - While DIC/MPI will present the progress and update on all preparations, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of having a fruitful and constructive dialogue on how we could further strengthen our partnership and cooperation across a

broadening range of development challenges and opportunities that are of our great mutual interests.

- In this regard, it is important for all of us to work together in the spirit of the Vientiane Declaration to concentrate our focus on substance rather than process.
- Therefore, I would like to encourage all of us who are here today, and those whom you will consult with after today's meeting, to provide recommendations for key themes and focus of this year RTIM including key activities, consultations at SWG level and pre-consultations leading to the meeting itself. Key recommendations from the Round Table Meetings form a good basis for us to identify what could be the focus of this year RTIM.
- In particular, I am keen to hear from all of you in the areas needed most for the LDC graduation such as those relating to human development along side with quality growth and economic related matters.
- We also need to pay great attention to important steps to create common and coordinated work at the sectoral and provincial levels which need to have a clear link with the Round Table Implementation Meeting.
- All of our work will need to yield concrete results and impacts. I strongly believe that business as usual needs to be changed. Our Round Table Process and Sector Working Group work plans need to be more about results with clearer indicators and targets.
- In particular, we will need to find innovative ways to ensure that what we are doing are actually making a difference to life of people on the ground. At the end of day, this is all development cooperation is about.
- I will stop here and before I end my remarks, I encourage all of us today to be frank, and provide constructive feedback in a coordinated, inclusive and forward looking manner.
- On behalf of Ministry of Planning and Investment, I would like to thank all of you here today and those who provide inputs in one way or another but could not make it today. The success of this year's RTIM will depend on our active participation and I hope that today meeting will be another platform to bring all of us closer and identify various key important elements for enhancing our partnership for the achievement of the 8th NSEDP.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.