



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



Press Release

Development Partners Share Outcomes of 11th High Level Round Table Meeting With the President

Vientiane, 20 November 2013 – Heads of key Development Partner delegations were led by H.E. Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs to brief H.E. Mr. Choummaly Xayasone, President of Lao PDR, on the results of the 11th High Level Round Table Meeting (HL RTM) held on 19 November 2013, which featured what they called “a very interactive, frank and fruitful discussion.”

H.E. President Choummaly Xayasone warmly welcomed the visiting delegation, in particular to Mr. Haoliang Xu, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of UNDP’s Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. The President expressed appreciation at the briefing for the successful results of the HL RTM and the Development Partners’ constructive comments and contribution during the meeting.

Priority issues that require additional attention encompass macroeconomic management and growth, off-track Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), governance reform and development cooperation for effective results, debriefed by Mr. Haoliang Xu, who co-chaired the HL RTM and reported on behalf of the Development Partner representatives in calling on the President.

Overall, the Development Partners congratulated the Government on progress since the last HL RTM, in 2010, and the solid achievements reflected in both the Mid Term Review of the 7th National Socio Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) 2011-2015 and the 2013 national progress report on the MDGs. They also welcomed the inclusive approach to participation in the HL RTM, which involved all levels of Government as well as Non Profit Associations.

The international partners particularly encouraged the Government to ensure a balance between sustained economic growth, macroeconomic stability and quality of development to meet the needs of the most vulnerable, including women, children and ethnic groups. In particular, they noted, adjustments by the Government to reduce the current fiscal deficit can sustain a focus on equity and enable prioritization of allocations to MDG-related sectors. They further urged coordinated and sustained efforts across a range of related macroeconomic measures and structural reforms while providing adequate buffers to cope with any future shocks.

Development Partners also recommended that preparations of the 8th NSEDP 2016-2020 include reforms designed to help prioritize and accurately measure multi-year commitments and results. Several partners strongly suggested that implementing the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), an

international standard for improving transparency in the natural resource sector, represented another opportunity to increase national revenues and their predictability.

In addition, the Development Partners stressed the importance of modernizing and diversifying the economy. This could particularly be achieved, they said, through development of the private sector and small and medium enterprises, especially in rural areas and for non-resource sectors.

With regard to MDG1 targets on food and nutrition security, the Government's approval of a multisectoral approach to deal with the serious issue of undernutrition was strongly welcomed. Under MDG2, on education, priority for resources for primary education and tackling of high dropout rates were emphasized. Key issues with regard to MDG7 involved supporting national efforts to increase forest coverage target, along with more intensive engagement on land policy, including the securing of land tenure. Lastly, Development Partners encouraged the undertaking of multiple surveys to identify the precise locations of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO); in so doing, they said, this can help to reach MDG9 clearance targets while also releasing land for social and economic use.

The Development Partners strongly called for establishing a more consistent and safe environment for CSOs. They also welcomed the intention to hold a conference with international non-Government organizations (INGOs) in early 2014 to improve both coordination and the regulatory framework for these organizations.

Lastly, the Development Partners congratulated the Government for launching the public portal of the Aid Management Platform and pledged to contribute information in the interests of enhanced transparency and cooperation.

It will be vital for the Government to ensure successful implementation of the HL RTM outcomes, H.E. Mr. President Choummaly stressed and urged the relevant authority to follow up the results regularly. At the same time, he noted that a continuous inflow of Official Development Assistance (ODA), including technical cooperation, has been critical in supporting overall development of the country. In particular, he cited Development Partners' positive contributions to implementation of the 7th NSEDP and achievement of the MDGs.

In all, representatives of 12 Department Partner delegations, in addition to UNDP, called upon the President. These included the Asian Development Bank, Australia, Brunei, China, European Union (EU), France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, USA, Vietnam, and the World Bank.

For more information, please contact:

Mr. Morakot Vongxay, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Planning and Investment at rtpsecretariat@gmail.com
