

Welcoming Remarks of His Excellency, Mr. Somdy Douangdy
Minister of Planning and Investment
2012 Round Table Implementation Meeting
Don Chan Palace, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR, 23 November 2011

- His Excellency, Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy-Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Minh Pham, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative
- Excellencies, Ministers, Provincial Governors, Diplomatic Corps and Head of Delegations
- Distinguished Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, I am honored and pleasure to express our warm welcomes to His Excellency, Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy-Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, to the meeting to deliver opening remarks to the meeting today. His Excellency, the Deputy Prime Minister's leadership symbolizes the commitments and continued support of the Government of the Lao PDR to Round Table Process. In addition, I also would like to express our warm welcomes to the Ministers, Provincial Governors, Diplomatic Corps, Head of Delegations, and Development Partners and Provincial Authorities to attend the 2012 Round Table Implementation Meeting.

Distinguished guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

During the fiscal year of 2011-2012, the government of Laos as well as our Development Partners jointly carried out a number of initiatives with lots of success and achievements, particularly: consultation meetings and policy dialogues at Technical and Executive Levels of Sector Working Groups, were jointly organized between government agencies and development partners on a wider range of subjects. Importantly, Localized Round-Table Meeting was held in Xieng khouang province to review development agenda achievements and have in-dept understandings on situations, opportunities and challenges on the ground. In addition, there was an update of the Terms of Reference and scopes of work as well as capacity building for the 10 Sector Working Groups in order to enhance and escalate their roles, in line with actual development contexts. Furthermore, there was a revision of Vientiane Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and the Aid Management Platform (AMP) was also further developed, resulting in a marked improvement in the availability and quality of existing data for development financing. As a result, our Development Partners have better understandings on development aspects of the PDR in general. Most importantly, all stakeholders continue to increase support and help the Lao PDR, to the

implementation of the 7th Five-Year Socio-Economic Development Plan as well as prioritized projects and programs to achieve the goals and objectives of the Government and the Millennium Development Goals.

Distinguished guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is crucial to note that this Annual Round Table Implementation Meeting is organised under the theme of “**Partnerships for More Effective Development Results**”.

The government of Laos considers this Meeting as a crucial Consultation Forum between the Government and Development Partners to discuss on current development agendas, namely the achievements of the implementation of 7th Five-Year Socio-Economic Development Plan as well as prioritized Official Development Assistance Projects and Programs in order to achieve the Goals and Objectives of the Plan and the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Since the first Round Table Meeting, the government of Laos has paid high attentions to the meeting and expanded the scopes of work of the Round Table Process related to its agendas and improved performances as well as aid coordination mechanisms to provincial levels, so as to raise the roles and mandates and increase the participation and ownership of line agencies at provincial level in development process.

Distinguished guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

The Round Table Meeting is thus considered as a crucial consultation forum between the government of Laos and development partners on financial resources mobilization for supporting and implementation of national prioritized projects and programs to achieve development goals and objectives of the government. The government of Laos pays high attentions to this and has pleasure to welcome constructive comments as well as recommendations from all development partners. I strongly promise that all comments and recommendations to be provided will be taken into account to ensure the achievement of the implementation of the 7th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan and the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

I strongly believe that all the development partners would continue to stand side by side with the government of Laos for continued and increased support and assistance to the Lao PDR for supporting and implementation of national prioritized projects and programs.

Once again, I would like to express our sincere thanks to you and warm welcomes to 2012 Round Table Implementation Meeting and wish the meeting success with fruitful discussions and good outcomes. **Thank You**