



Government of Lao PDR



Lao PDR

# Governance & Public Administration Reform: Support for Better Service Delivery Programme

## GOVERNANCE SECTOR WORKING GROUP MEETING

SEPTEMBER 17, 2008

### MINUTES OF MEETING

Approved by:

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Dr. Chaleune Yiapaoher,  
Minister, Ministry of Justice  
Chairperson, GSWG

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Ms. Sonam Yangchen Rana  
UN Resident Coordinator  
Resident Representative, UNDP  
Chairperson, GSWG

## Minutes of Governance Sector Working Group Meeting

17 September 2008, Don Chan Palace, Vientiane

Agenda Item	Minutes
<b>Welcome and introductions</b>	Ms. Vilaythone S. Xaymongkhoun, Chief of the Public Relations and International Cooperation Division, PACSA, welcomed the participants to the meeting. She introduced the Co-Chairpersons of the meeting, Mme. Sonam Yangchen Rana, UN Resident Coordinator and Dr. Chaleune Yiapaoher, Minister of Justice. She outlined the objectives and the agenda of the meeting, and called on Dr. Chaleune Yiapaoher to deliver opening remarks.
<b>Opening remarks</b>	Dr. Chaleune Yiapaoher discussed and emphasized the importance of four pillars of the Strategic Plan on Governance of Lao PDR. He mentioned the priority areas related to Public Service Improvement, People's Participation, Rule of Law and Sound Financial Management. He commended the hard work of all members of the Governance Sector Working Group (GSWG) for their efforts to help the Govt. of Lao PDR to achieve its development goals and highlighted the commitment of the government to the GSWG.
<b>Introductory remarks by UN Resident Coordinator</b>	Mme. Sonam Rana expressed happiness at the commencement of the reorganized high level Working Group. She highlighted its relevance for the RTM, and called for open discussions. Mme. Sonam suggested that governance decisions need to respond to the fast pace of change, which needs to be supported by effective capacity development and well coordinated development assistance.
<b>Presentation and discussion: Rule of Law, People Participation and Public Service Improvement</b>	<p>The representative from the Ministry of Justice made the first presentation updating the meeting on activities related to strengthening the Rule of Law. This was followed by a presentation on People's Participation by the representative of the National Assembly. The third presentation on Public Service Improvement was delivered by the representative from the Public Administration &amp; Civil Service Authority.</p> <p>The discussion commenced with the point that the GSWG should focus on the Strategic Plan on Governance, discuss challenges and develop a joint approach. Mention was made on the need for stronger link with Financial Management. Requests were made to know more about the progress in relation to the decree on civil society. It was observed that the Strategic Plan on Governance is very broad and should be translated into actionable elements; it was also connected to the suggestion that the strategic plan should be aligned with the Vientiane Declaration. Mention was made about the support being provided to study the pay and compensation of civil service personnel. A query was raised on updates regarding corruption, and that it is not mentioned in the Strategic Plan on Governance. Other points were about findings from the citizen's report card and the results of the capacity building study. Interest was also raised about knowing details of the Mass Media Law and implications.</p> <p><u>Responses:</u> The decree on civil society has been submitted to the government meeting recently for approval. The capacity building study covered three areas, namely: institutional review, legal framework (such as new laws and regulations) and personnel such as civil service reform, and the report will be circulated shortly. The report on the Citizen Report Card study is being made into a concise version. The strategic plan on governance has been updated and is scheduled to be presented and discussed in the next two days during the government meeting. The Strategic Plan on Governance is aligned with Vientiane Declaration. Anti-corruption should be incorporated in the strategic plan on governance for better transparency. It is very important and helpful to have the Law on Mass Media. The people can use the mass media to share their feedbacks and suggestions to the government.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u> Release reports on Capacity Building Study and Citizen Report Cards; Discussion of options to include anti-corruption in Governance Strategy; Share information about Law on Mass Media</p>

<p><b>Presentation and discussion on the Terms of Reference and actions required</b></p>	<p>The representative from PACSA, on behalf of the Governance Sector Working Group presented the main elements of the Terms of Reference for the Sector Working Group, the Sub Sector Working groups and Secretariat, and followed it with a brief statement on suggested topics to take to the next Governance Sector Working Group meeting. The participants agreed with Terms of Reference presented. Some participants requested to discuss further on details TOR and the process of integrating feedback in the Sub Sector Working Group Meetings.</p> <p>One of the questions was on why there was no Sub Sector Working Group for “Sound Financial Management”. There was a comment that “People Participation” be reflected explicitly in the TOR of the Sub Sector Working Groups. The frequency of the meeting of the Sector Working Group and Sub Sector Working Groups needed more discussion. The methodology on how the members can contribute to their Sub Sector Working Group also needed to be defined with greater clarity, in subsequent meetings of the Sector Working Group. While SIDA is currently phasing out their activities in the country, they reiterated their continued interest to participate in the the Sub Sector Working Group. UNDP as a key facilitator of the process would also be Co-Chairs of the two Sub Sector Working Groups.</p> <p><u>Responses:</u> The details of the TOR of the Sub Sector Working Groups will be discussed further when these Groups are constituted. With regard to public financial management, no separate subsector working group is required; instead, representatives of the sector working group on macroeconomic management can be requested to contribute to the GSWG periodically. The same approach could be taken to deal with people participation. The frequency of the meeting of each working group will depend on the agreement among the member which will be discussed during their upcoming meetings.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u> Modality for SWG on Macro Economic Management to provide inputs Sub Sector Working Groups to meet as soon as possible and provide plan</p>
<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p>	<p>Mme. Sonam Rana summed up the points presented at the meeting. She observed that participants agreed with the Terms of Reference and appreciated the progress of each sector so far. She also noted that the Strategic Plan on Governance needs to be translated into more actionable steps, and suggested that the Sub Sector Working Group Meetings be organized soon in order to prepare for the RTM in November. She suggested that the reports need to integrate feedback of the SSWG. The other dimension was to look at the frequency of meetings, and that the meetings should go beyond information sharing. With regard to the opening up of membership, she suggested that it be addressed by the relevant lead agencies - the Ministry of Justice and PACSA. She emphasized that the roles of all partners should be translated into mechanisms where the chair and co-chair will work together.</p> <p>The meeting received fruitful discussion and was closed by Mrs. Sonam Yangchen Rana, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident and Mr. Ket Kietisak, Vice Minister of Justice with the expression of sincere thanks to all participants.</p>

## Governance Sector Working Group Meeting List of Participants

1. Dr. Chaleune Yiapaoher, Minister, Ministry of Justice
2. Mr. Ket Kiattisak, Vice Minister, Ministry of Justice
3. Ms. Sonam Yangchen Rana, UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative
4. Mr. Stéphane Vigié, Deputy Resident Representative (Programme), UNDP
5. Mr. Dirk Wagener, Assistant Resident Representative & Chief of Governance Unit, UNDP
6. Mr. Laurent Pouget, Legal Programme Specialist, UNDP
7. Mr. Thilaphong Oudomsine, Programme Officer, UNDP/UNCDF
8. Ms. Rebecca Powell, UNODC
9. Mr. Napper, T. AusAID
10. Mr. Stefan Lock, Head of Cooperate Section, EU
11. Mr. Francesco Straniero, Attaché Cooperation, EU
12. Mr. Robert Sorby, French Embassy
13. Ms. Julia Schwaoz, French Embassy
14. Ms. Kristina Jelnin, First Secretary, SIDA
15. Mr. Owe Anderson, Head of Mission, SIDA
16. Mr. Kazuhiro Fujimura, Japan Embassy
17. Ms. Vilayphone Phetsavanh, Japan Embassy
18. Mr. Roderick Soo, First Secretary, Singapore Embassy
19. Ms. Nithsa Vongphanakhone, SDC
20. Ms. Amy Archibald, Public Affair Officer
21. Mr. Christopher, H., ADB
22. Ms. Julia Iveidan, WB
23. Mr. William Rex, WB
24. Ms. Silva Danailov, Deputy Representative, UNICEF
25. Ms. Harumi Kobayashi, PO, JICA
26. Mr. Hideaki Matsumoto, ARR, JICA
27. Ms. Viengvilay, APO, JICA
28. Mr. Sida Lokaphone, Assistant to the Minister, Ministry of Justice
29. Mr. Nisith Keopanya, Director General, Department Civil Service Management, PACSA
30. Ms. Attiphone Bounnaphon, Deputy Director General, Department of Local Administration, PACSA
31. Mr. Sisavath Keomalavong, Dir. General, History & Sciences Research Dept., Min. of Public Security
32. Mr. Bounthom Lomany, Director General, Policy Department, Ministry of Finance
33. Dr. Bounleua Sinxayvoravong, Dep. Director General, Foreign Finance Dept., Ministry of Finance
34. Ms. Sousada Phoummasak, National Project Director of Capacity Building for National Assembly
35. Mr. Bounterm Kommaphab, Juvenile Division, Supreme Court
36. Mr. Nakhonexay Phimphachanh, Deputy Chief, Ministry of Planning and Investment
37. Mr. Bounma Phensanith, Deputy Chief of Cabinet, Office of the Prosecutor General
38. Ass. Prof. Bounmee Sichanh, Director of Admn. Faculty, Nat. Academy for Politics & Public Admn.
39. Mr. Salong Manivanh, Acting Dir. General, Personnel & Regulation Department, Central Committee on Organization and Personnel

### Observers

40. Mrs. Vilaythone S.Xaymongkhoun, Chief, Int. Cooperation Division, Cabinet Office, PACSA
41. Mrs. Chantha Onexayvieng, Deputy Chief, Int. Cooperation Division, Cabinet Office, PACSA
42. Ms. Thongphou, Deputy Chief of Division, PACSA
43. Ms. Bounheuang Mahavong, Deputy Chief of Division., PACSA
44. Mrs. Khonesavanh, Technical Staff, PACSA
45. Mr. Ben, Technical Staff, PACSA
46. Mr. Lattanakhone, Technical Staff, PACSA
47. Mr. Vandy Chanthalideth, Technical Staff, PACSA
48. Ms. Phonethida Saysida, Assistant Project Manager, GPAR SBSB
49. Dr. Suresh Balakrishnan, Lead Advisor, GPAR SBSB
50. Mr. Eduardo Alejandro Santos, IT Specialist, GPAR SBSB
51. Ms. Somsagouane Keovilay, GPAR Fund Coordinator, GPAR SBSB
52. Ms. Souphavone Dalavong, Governance Reform Coordinator, GPAR SBSB
53. Mr. Khingsavanh Southammavong, Admin Officer, GPAR SBSB
54. Ms. Vongdala Sirimanotham, Secretary, GPAR SBSB