

**SPEECH OF HE NOULINH SINBANDHIT
VICE MINISTER, ACTING PRESIDENT
SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
PRIME MINISTER OFFICE – LAO PDR
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Mr. Chairman, Mme Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Lao Delegation, may I join the voice of my predecessors to express deep appreciation to the People and the Government of Germany for holding this important conference and to the Secretariat of the UNFCCC for its efficiency in arranging this meaningful meeting.

The Lao PDR, formerly known as the country of Million Elephants, is a mountainous and enclave country in the South East Asia. Its large majority of population is farmers, having a subsistence living. Its economy depends virtually on agriculture, timbers and electricity production. Any climate change would directly and deeply affect the livelihood of the Lao Population and consequently the socio-economy and environment of our country. Therefore the Lao Government takes into serious consideration the implementation of the Climate Change Convention.

Government policy focuses on the promotion and the development of renewable energy schemes. By the year 2020, the majority of the population will have access to electricity, mainly from hydropower and renewable energy facilities. This source of energy production will gradually replace the usage of wood energy, which is still widespread among the rural population. Pilot projects are well under way to provide off-grid access to remote population by means of biogas, photovoltaics, wind power, micro-hydropower stations

Initial research has shown that per capita limits of greenhouse gas emissions in Laos undercut by far the global limits.

We are in the process on formulating our First National Communication under the GEF-UNDP financed project on the "National Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory" .

The Environment Protection Law, recently promulgated stresses out the precautionary approach of the environment protection; the efficient use of the energy, specifically of the renewable energy and of the clean and appropriate technology.

Mr. Chairman, Mme Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Buenos Aires Plan of Action contributes to the continuity of our national climate change activities, specifically on the efficient and appropriate use of the renewable energy, the National Capacity Building, the improvement of our data on the green-house gas emissions, the impacts to our biological diversity resources loss due to the terrestorial ecosystem changes...

Our Delegation believes that the main priorities for the International Community in achieving the goals of the Convention should be first, the early entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol by the 10th anniversary of Rio and second, assuring the success of COP5 and COP6 through political leadership.

Considering the limited time until COP6, COP5 should provide clear guidance on work program leading to COP6 and all parties should actively participate in the negotiation process with firm political determination while taking into consideration the socio economic factors in addressing climate change both domestically and internationally.

Our Delegation would like to emphasize that for the realization of the provisions of the Protocol, the rules and modalities of the Kyoto Mechanisms, namely the Clean Development Mechanism, Emission Trading and Joint Implementation, demand more intensive and broader-based discussion. This discussion should specifically be also based on the spirit of mutual interest. For this purpose, there is

a need to organize workshops related to these mechanisms, to have wider and more effective participation of developing countries in international negotiations, and to secure financial investment to the realization of the Clean Development Mechanism as a vehicle for technology transfer.

There is a crucial needs for (1) the strengthening of international cooperation, specifically at the regional level; (2) technology transfer from developed countries to developing countries and (3) capacity building in developing countries, specifically in the Least Developed Countries and the Developing Small Islands.

By its continuous improvement, the Global Environment Facility has shown its ability of becoming the appropriate financial mechanism of the Convention.

Efforts toward addressing the climate change need to be compatible with the attainment of sustainable development in developing countries and special attention should be given to the Least Developed Countries and the Small Islands adapted activities as they are indispensable for these countries in addressing the adverse impacts of climate change.

May I wish success to the COP5.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.