

**Statement to the First Session of Global Platform
On DRM, 5 – 7 Jun 2007, Geneva**

Excellency Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Lao delegation , I would like to express my deeply thanks to the UN ISDR for organizing and supporting to the First Session of Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Lao PDR is one of the country in the world has been threatened by both natural and man-made disasters. Flood and drought are the main disasters in Lao PDR which caused harmful to peoples' lives, affected to their properties and national economy, particularly agriculture production areas is huge damaged.

Government of Lao PDR recognizes disaster risk reduction as a key development priority that encompass hazard mitigation and vulnerability reduction through an effective preparedness strategy aimed at reducing the effects of natural and man-made disasters, particularly in rural areas

As the government of Laos recognize the importance of disaster risk management, the disaster management institutions had structured from National to the local and village levels with line ministries and agencies concerned involved in the committees.

Our country also developed National Strategy Plan on Disaster Risk Management from 2003 up to 2020 with the main aims to: reduce disaster risk to the communities and strengthened capacities of disaster

management body at national, local and community levels on disaster risk management.

Hyogo Framework of Action adopted in the world conference on disaster risk reduction in Kobe 2005, the government of Laos very strongly support and put into action. Many activities and programs on Disaster Risk Reduction had been implemented such as:

1. National and Provincial Disaster Management Committees had been reviewed and developed more widely involved significant agencies concerned to the committee.
2. Lots of training and workshops on disaster risk management had been conducted for local disaster management bodies and communities.
3. Strategy plan on disaster risk reduction and plan of action had been created at the provincial level, including the Flood Preparedness Plan.
4. Disaster risk reduction has been integrated into rural development plans and national poverty reduction plan in the country.
5. Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into school curriculum had been implemented in the past two years and up coming projects under project cooperation with ADPC.
6. Communities at the disaster prone and remote areas, including ethnic groups received information on disaster risk management; the disaster management system had been organized and received training; people's living conditions had been improved through livelihood and income generation activities.

7. Disaster Risk had been identified and assessed at the districts and village levels, and hazard mapping.
8. Weather forecasting and flood warning early warning and dissemination systems had been discussed and developed closely cooperated with meteorological and hydrological department.
9. The existing disaster preparedness response systems at national and local level had been assessed and giving the recommendation to improve this system supported by UN OCHA and UNDAC team.

We strongly hope that the first session of Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction are going to support and strengthen capacity of national existing disaster management system, particularly on establishment of national platform to local action.

THANK YOU.