

Lao

Remarks by
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At the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
3-5 November 2016, New Delhi, India

- Your Excellency Mr.Chair,
- Your Excellency Ministers responsible for Disaster Management from Asian Countries,
- Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure today to represent the Lao government attending the **Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in New Delhi, India**. Please allow me taking this opportunity to be on behalf of Lao delegates to express our sincere thanks to the government of India, particularly leaders of Ministry of Home Affairs and Staff for their hospitality and very warm welcome extended to Lao delegates.

Your Excellency Mr. Chair, Ministers, ladies and gentlemen

Global-economic growth combined with relatively high population growth, especially in the developing countries, has increased the degree of exposure to natural disasters caused by climate change mainly flooding, earthquake, Tsunami, hurricane and so on become our collective issues and happening globally. These natural catastrophes contribute to significant socio-economic losses severely impacted to human's livelihoods, causes the loss of lives, property, ecology and leads to the slowdown development.

Lao PDR, like other Asian countries that have been severely impacted by natural disasters due to climate change, especially flooding, windstorms, drought and pest. These natural disasters have frequency occurred and brought huge impacts to social economic, human lives and their livelihoods, obstructed and lead to slowdown the development. As the consequences, the government of Laos has spent a large amount of national budget for emergency responses, recovery and post rehabilitation whilst Lao PDR is still on the list of least

developed nations. The repeated occurrence of natural disasters even makes it more difficult for Laos to get rid of the list of least developed nations.

Currently, Lao PDR is implementing the social–economic development plan, poverty reduction plan 2020 and social welfare development plan including disaster risk management to enhance the economy growth in ensuring the development process will be in a sustainable manner, in particular is to achieve the macro social economic development goals in such a way that prevention and reduction of risk from natural disasters is universal in planning that it has achieved many key priorities, for instances, Disaster Risk Reduction has been integrated into social economic development plan and its programs at both national and local levels, enhancement of forecasting and early warning systems, disaster management institutions from national down to local and village levels have been strengthened, disaster management authorities and community where at risky or prone to natural disasters were educated and awareness of disaster risk and proper counter-measures to prepare, response, mitigate and recovery after disaster.

Even Lao PDR has made some great achievements, there are still a number of challenges including inadequate capabilities and coordination mechanism; limitation of resources whereas it needs more technical staff, specialists, disaster database system and technology to meet the needs for emergency response and disaster reduction.

Excellency, Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

In order to implement the Sendai Framework 2015 – 2030 on Disaster Risk Reduction which aims to prevent the new disaster risk, reduce the existing risk and enhancement of preparation for response these risks, Lao PDR determined our visions and goals for the year 2030, 2025, 2020 and this is the new turning points for social economic development of Lao PDR that are along with the green development direction and sustainable manner. Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation were also determined in its 8th National Social Economic Development Plan from 2016-2020 which aims to preserve the natural resources and environment and effectively used in sustainable manner and green development direction; enhancement of disaster preparedness response and climate risk mitigation more effectively. Besides that key priorities are development of disaster management and climate change adaptation law, continue to enhance and strengthen disaster management institutions from national down to local levels, improvement of disaster database and early warning systems, enhance disaster prevention measures as the flagship

application of the build back better principle into recovery and reconstruction processes. More importantly, Lao PDR will undertake efforts to prevent the destruction and further rehabilitate the natural environment, especially to preserve the forest cover and watershed areas, as the most effective measures to mitigate natural disasters and the impacts of climate change.

To conclude my remarks, I would like to reaffirm that Lao PDR will closely cooperate with ASIAN countries to implement the declaration and Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and I do hope that Lao PDR will get support and assistance.

Wish the conference comes to an end with great success.

Thank you very much!