

Statement

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

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By

Dr. Khampeng SAYSOMPHENG

Minister of Labour and Social Welfare of Lao People's Democratic Republic

- Your Excellency Madame/Mr. Chair,
- Excellency Fellow Ministers responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction,
- Delegates, Ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of the government of Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), I have a great pleasure to attend and speak at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction here today.

The government of Lao PDR acknowledges the importance of disaster risk reduction and has been trying all its efforts to reduce the risks of both natural and man-made disaster that brings about the negative effects to human life, property, natural environment and national social and economic development. To indicate such the importance, the government has put the disaster risk reduction as a priority area in its national social and economic development agenda in line with implementation of the national strategy for poverty reduction and rural development.

Over the past two years, Lao PDR has put all efforts on disaster risk management by developing the Law on Disaster Management, improving the terms of reference of and building capacity for the central and local committee on disaster management through conducting various training courses, raising community awareness and drilling on how to reduce and response to the risks of disaster as well as developing the disaster risk reduction plan inter-related with all local social and economic development agenda. In addition, the government has developed the forecasting and early warning system, implemented the strategy on disaster risk reduction in the agriculture sector to ensure food supply and commercial production, and has supported the activity for disaster risk reduction in connection with implementing activities of rural development and poverty reduction, raising awareness on safety issues for school children in school building and on how to mitigate and response disaster risks, promoting the dissemination the information on disaster risk prevention and response to the targeted groups including women, children, peoples with disabilities, elderly and the poor so they know how to get help timely in emergency cases. Additionally, the disaster risk assessment is conducted and applied for township development planning for local authorities. This risk assessment includes the study on land usage, land slide, flood. There has also been a study on a pilot disaster insurance and

allocation of annual public budget for emergency assistance and rehabilitation after the disaster through integrating the activities in the short and long term social and economic development.

Although there have been some achievement and great work done, Lao PDR faces a number of challenges. The capacity building for officials in charged on disaster management is not effective or sufficient in particularly those working for local authorities. The limited budget or fund shortage support remains a constraint for application of high technology, equipment/tool, and field experts for disaster management, prevention, response and post-rehabilitation.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in the future Lao PDR will develop the disaster management by further enhancing the existing mechanism with a focus on village and community base approach. This approach focuses on building the capacity for officials in charged, developing the information sharing and early warning system to ensure that all communities have accessed relevant information and get assistance timely when required and ensuring that rehabilitation and resettlement is quickly applied when needed. Furthermore, Lao PDR keeps on implementing the disaster risk reduction plan in line with the 8th National Social Economic Development Plan 2016-2020. There is also a requirement to review the achievement from current disaster risk reduction plan to further integrate the new plan with the upcoming 9th National Social Economic Development Plan 2021-2026 to ensure the effective implementation of the international strategy on disaster risk reduction and Sendai Indicators.

Lastly, I would like to express that Lao PDR will keep on working closely in partnership with all friendship nations and international development partners to take an action on Sendai Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction. Lao PDR will also put all its efforts and capacity to encourage the involvement and participation of both public and private sectors in developing and implementing the strategic plan for disaster risk reduction in a more effective approach. It is hopefully that all friendship nations and international development partners keep on cooperating with and supporting Lao PDR on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Thank you very much.