



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

## **CELEBRATING UN DAY IN THE LAO PDR**

### **THE UNITED NATIONS WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE LAO PDR TO ACHIEVE THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Today, on the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the United Nations, the UN Country Team and the Government of the Lao PDR celebrated their cooperation and the development achievements within the country.

At the ICTC Centre, an invited audience of national and international development partners viewed the video message of the Secretary General, Mr Ban Ki-moon and videos illustrating the progress made by the Lao PDR towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The UN Country Team was honoured by the presence of His Excellency Mr. Hiem Phommachanh, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, who delivered the opening address. Ms Laila Ismail Khan, UN Resident Coordinator a.i., then welcomed the distinguished guests and development partners, and reiterated the commitment of the UN in the Lao PDR to support the development of the country in partnership with the Government.

In his video message, Mr Ban Ki-moon noted several substantial achievements of the past year towards global implementation of the MDGs, particularly the unprecedented commitment of partnerships and pledges amounting to around 16 billion US dollars that were made in September at the high-level MDGs event. However, with the world focused on the current financial crisis, he emphasized the vital need for global leadership and partnerships to work for the implementation of the MDGs by 2015.

Continuing the ceremony, a prize sponsored by the Government of Australia was awarded to the student delegation judged to have performed best in the United Nations Security Council Simulation conducted in Vientiane on 23 October. Then followed a reception, during which guests could watch screenings of MDG slide shows and documentaries.

Here in Vientiane, as has been demonstrated today at the UN Day celebration, the UN Country team remains committed to supporting the efforts of the Government to improve the life of all citizens, especially those most vulnerable. Through programmes throughout the country, all the agencies of the UN continue to have a vital role to play in assisting the people of Lao PDR to achieve the Millennium Development Goals with better standards of living for all.

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