

**Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)
Ninth Meeting of the Working Group on Human Resource Development
(WGHRD-9)
Guilin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China
20–21 May 2009**

Statement

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Excellency,
Distinguished
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of Lao Delegation participating to the 9th Meeting of GMS WGHRD. I would like to express our deep gratitude to the People's Republic of China, particularly the people of Guilin Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and ADB for co-organizing and supporting the meeting in collaboration with GMS members countries which has made it possible for us all to meet today.

I am very appreciated that the representatives from international organizations, regional and national partners, as well as the donors are participated in this meeting which will provide us a good opportunity to share our view and exchange our information on GMS HRD Strategy Framework and Action Plan in our GMS Countries.

As you are aware that Human Resources Development is regarded as a major in developing in GMS, Lao PDR has faced with both building capacity itself as well as cooperating with among GMS countries at the same time. If we have looked back at the more 10 years ago, mainly in the staff areas, and it worth considerably in the Lao context, therefore, the Government of Lao PDR considered the Constraint Governance for Sustainable Human Resource Development is very abroad concept and large as a major threat to our social economic development and poverty eradication effort by increasing skills and knowledge as per the priority need of the Lao PDR, such as Training, Seminar, Exchange experience among youth activities, greater sense and awareness community.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the Lao PDR has lunched the new economic mechanism which change from command economy to market oriented. Men and Women are enjoying more choices to reach their full potential. Wherever, change is for the better, wherever the human condition is improving, and people point to good governance as the key. This better governance is not just national-it is local, it is regional and it is global. Few things are more sensitive and more challenging for Lao PDR today are issues a long across border of Lao territory such as labor migration, transport corridors as well as services across borders, health security/health care(HIV/AIDS), food safety, etc....

The policies of Lao PDR relating to health, education, labor and migration, and social development concerned, as follow:

- For Health Policy, the Government of Lao PDR has a comprehensive set of goals and objectives such as:

- A nation-wide health service that is fair and equal according to gender, age, social rank, tradition, region, ethnicity, and geographic location.
- Basic health services that respond to people's need and expectations and that gain people's trust.
- Substantial improvement in people's health status, especially of the poor. To achieve the public health goals, objectives and targets outlined above, the Ministry of Health focuses on implementation of 12 major strategic programs.
- For Education Policy, The 4-key areas of action are:
 - Increase the length of general education to 12 years (5+4+3);
 - Access expansion and a quality and relevance to education improvement program;
 - Implementation of the *Teacher Education Strategy and Action Plan*; and
 - The expansion of technical schools and vocational training.
- For Labor and Migration, The Government of Lao PDR have been paying attention in encouraging related Government organizations and social stakeholders in order to defining the policy on promotion the protection of right and benefit of migrant workers in national and international level.

But so far, in term of practice is not easy, because we lack budget as well as human skills. For better sub-regional cooperation, Lao PDR propose all member state GMS could be addressed and help Lao PDR how to achieve the GMS Program(PPP), especially in term of economic growth and reduce poverty through increased 3C such as connectivity, competitive improving and community sense greater; because Lao PDR is located in center of GMS countries. Other hand how good service across borders when opened transport corridors from North-South and East-West.

As you may know the theme of the Third GMS Submit in Vientiane was "Enhancing Competitiveness through Greater Connectivity". The six GMS Leaders discussed ways to deepen economic cooperation for their countries shared prosperity and talked about how connectively improvements could help expand markets, improve access to social services, and protect the environment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Economic growth does not automatically lead to sustainable human development and elimination of poverty, but only through increased integration cooperation to each other among region that the goals of GMS countries will be achieved.

We are very happy to share you that the HRD Strategy Framework and Action Plan will be successfully implemented in GMS Countries and we are delighted by our participation of the GMS Countries. I look forward to hear from all of you the lesson learnt through the project implementation how to achieve the goals and outputs as mentioned in the project document.

I am sure that the 9th Meeting of the GMS WGHRD will provide an opportunity to all concern stakeholders to share and discuss issues related to GMS HRD, roles and responsibilities of all concern agencies both at regional and national levels. I hope that during this two days meeting, we would be able to focus on identifying linkages all

outputs/activities of risk reduction with relating to health, education, labor and migration and so on.

Again, the Lao Delegation would like to thank People's Republic of China, Asian Development Bank, especially people of Guilin for its invaluable assistance and support in organizing/making 9th Meeting of the GMS Working Group on HRD and for its continued strong support for the GMS Program.

We hope that the 9th GMS WGHRD Meeting has move the GMS Programs forward in significant ways and achievement vision, goals of an integrated, harmonious, and prosperous GMS.

In conclusion, I wish you all a fruitful 9th WGHRD Meeting.

Thank you very much.