



## **Minute of Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) meeting for the Programme “Realizing the MDGs in Lao PDR – Consolidated Programme of Support to MPI for the Achievement of the Valuable Goals of the 7th NSEDP 2011-15”**

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Date: Thursday, 31 March 2011  
Venue: UN House – Lanexang Conference Room  
Time: 14:00p.m. – 16:00p.m.

Chair: Ms. Kyoko Yokosuka, Resident Representative a.i, UNDP  
Co-chair: Ms. Sisomboun Ounavong, Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Investment

The PAC meeting of the programme “Realizing the MDGs in Lao PDR – Consolidated Programme of Support to MPI for the Achievement of the Valuable Goals of the 7th NSEDP 2011-15” was organized the UN House on 31 March, 2011. The meeting was chaired by Kyoko Yokosuka, Resident Representative a.i of UNDP, and co-chaired by Ms. Sisomboun Ounavong, Deputy Director General of Department of International Cooperation (DIC) of the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) and participated by representatives from DIC, Department of Planning (DOP), Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB), National Economic Research Institute (NERI) of MPI and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Development Partner, UN agencies and UNDP staff (see annex 1 and 2 for detail list of participants and agenda).

### **1. Introduction**

The Chair welcomed all participants and stakeholders and informed that the objective of the LPAC was to reach the consensus on the programme document and proceed with the approval of the programme with the government. She expressed her gratitude for valuable comments and suggestions provided during and after the Pre-PAC, which have been incorporated into the final version of the programme document.

### **2. Overview of the Programme**

Ms. Phonevanh Outhavong, Deputy Director General of DOP of MPI, made a brief presentation of the programme document. She discussed the background of the programme, including an overview of outputs and activities proposed in the programme.

The overall objective of the programme is to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Lao PDR at central and local levels in achieving the goals of NSEDP 2011-15 and the MDGs.

The four components of the programme include:

- Component 1: Conducting consultative pro-poor planning, implementation, monitoring, assessment and reporting on the NSEDP/MDGs
- Component 2: Strengthening the Round Table Process for Achievement of NSEDP/MDGs
- Component 3: Strengthening effective monitoring and evaluating progress towards goals of NSEDP/ MDGs via Common Database (Lao Info)
- Component 4: Advancing Human Development through Policy-Informing Applied Research on Human Development Issues especially Relevant for Achieving NSEDP/MDGs

### **3. Summary of Discussion Points and Agreed Actions**

- 3.1. Ms. Vatlana Boupha, Programme Analyst of Governance Unit of UNDP, expressed her appreciation to the Poverty Reduction Unit on the preparation of the programme document, a comprehensive programme which rightly addresses the potential synergies with the next phase of the GPAR programme. She informed that the GPAR programme have generated substantive results on capacity building of service delivery, particularly in the area of participatory planning and District Development Fund (DDF) in the 5 provinces. The new phase of the GPAR programme will focus more on ownership of the representatives from kumban and district level, and will be scaled up to the national level. Therefore, she suggested a further collaboration to strengthen the linkage between the MPI and GPAR Programmes.
- 3.2. Ms. Phonevanh Outhavong agreed to the suggestion and informed that the discussion on the possible collaboration with DDF, which will strengthen the capacity of local people and contribute to the improved service delivery, has been already initiated.
- 3.3. The Co-chair added that the DoP has been included in the programme board of the GPAR programme and the MPI is pleased to continue working together.
- 3.4. Mr. Saysongkham Phanouvong from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs pointed out that the support to the implementation of the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) was not clearly indicated in the Output 5 of the Component 1. He suggested that the budget be allocated to support the implementation of the MAF. He also suggested that capacity building support to MoFA be included in the component to enable the MoFA to prepare the MDG Report and the LDC Report this year, rather than hiring a consultant to prepare such reports. In terms of the LDC report, additional support from UNDP might be necessary depending on the outcomes of the next international meeting on LDCs.
- 3.5. The Co-chair requested UNDP to incorporate the MAF and other requests under the MoFA component.
- 3.6. Ms. Phanchinda Lengsavad, Assistant Resident Representative/Head of Poverty Reduction Unit of UNDP, informed that UNDP in collaboration with MoFA is planning to translate the MAF into Lao and disseminate it broadly, since the implementation of the MAF should be undertaken by line ministries and provinces. She also informed that the MDG Report is a national report owned jointly by the Government and the UN (the MDG report is a UN-wide initiative, not just UNDP), therefore, it

would be difficult to figure out the exact cost now as the consultation with the Government and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office has not been taking place at this point, however, suggested that the budget to support the implementation of the MDG Acceleration Framework be still revisable.

3.7. Ms. Grace Wong, Senior Technical Advisor to the Poverty-Environment Initiative of UNDP, informed that the PEI has had a productive collaboration in the previous project and is hoping to continue this partnerships with the new programme. She suggested that a programme board be shared with PEI, including the ongoing initiative with Department of Investment Promotion (DIP), as PEI hasn't had the project/programme board yet. It is logical to share the programme board with PEI as PEI components are now fully integrated across the programme particularly the component 1.

3.8. The Co-chair confirmed that Director General of the DIP would be invited to the programme board. She requested UNDP to support the resource mobilization while she understands that the prioritization of the programme activities would be necessary based on the funds availability particularly after the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the programme.

### Closing Summary

The Chair reviewed the action steps identified by the PAC and forwarded the suggestion that by incorporating the above mentioned amendments and additions, the PAC deemed the programme document approved.

Some challenges were raised during the PAC. The link with other programmes such as District Development Fund would be important within UNDP and the collaboration needs to be further strengthened. The funding gap is quite large (more than US\$ 6 million) for the proposed programme. With her concluding remarks, the Chair stressed that the programme components are in line with the government's priorities, and therefore, the resource mobilization strategy will be a joint effort between UNDP and the MPI. She applauded quality of the programme document and wished successful implementation of the programme. The Co-chair confirmed that the resource mobilization would be pursued together with UNDP. She extended her sincere appreciation to participants for their valuable comments on the Programme and to UNDP for its collaborative work with MPI.

The Chair and Co-chair announced the endorsement of the Programme Document provided that the necessary and relevant comments and suggestions are incorporated in the revised document.

**End of the minutes.**



18 APR 2011

Minutes approved by:

Kyoko Yokosuka

UNDP Deputy Resident Representative (Programme)

Chair of Project Appraisal Committee (PAC)

## Annex 1: Agenda

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### Appraisal Committee (PAC) meeting for "Realizing the MDGs in Lao PDR -- Consolidated Programme of Support to MPI for the Achievement of the Valuable Goals of the 7<sup>th</sup> NSEDP 2011-15"

Date: Thursday, 31 Mar, 2011

Venue: UN house – Lanexang Conference Room

Time: 14:00 p.m. to 16: 00 p.m.

Time	What	Approximate time	Who
14:00 – 14:15	Registration	15 mins	All
14:15 – 14:20	Welcome and introduction	05 mins	Kyoko Yokosuka UNDP Resident Representative a.i.
14:20 - 15:00	Overview of the Programme	40 mins	MPI
15:00 –15:45	Q & A	45 mins	All
15:45 – 16:00	Summary and Closing	15 mins	Kyoko Yokosuka UNDP Resident Representative a.i.

## **Annex 2: Participant's List**

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### **UNDP**

- **Ms. Kyoko Yokosuka, RR a.i**
- Mr. Suresh Balakrishnan, STA, Governance Unit
- Ms. Grace Wong, STA, Environment Unit
- Ms. Silvia Jundt, Environment Specialist, Environment Unit
- Ms. Vatlana Boupcha, Programme Analyst, Governance Unit
- Mr. Laurent Pouget, Legal Specialist, Governance Unit
- Mr. Iori Kato, ARR, Policy and management Support Unit (PMSU)
- Ms. Khemphone Phaokhamkeo, Programme Analyst, PMSU
- Mr. Jonathan Zigrand, Programme Analyst, PMSU
- Mr. Khenthavy Luangpradith, Programme and Operations Financial Analyst, PMSU
- Ms. Virachit Sengsathit, Project Management Advisor, PMSU
- Ms. Phanchinda Lengsavad, ARR, Poverty Reduction Unit (PRU)
- Mr. Silavanh Vongphosy, Programme Analyst, PRU
- Ms. Makiko Fujita, Programme Analyst, PRU
- Ms. Nancy Tuohy-Tahill, Gender Advocacy, PRU
- Ms. Latsany Phakdisoth, Programme Analyst, PRU
- Ms. Khamkeung Khautisen, Programme Assistant, PRU

### **Resident Coordinator's Office**

- Ms. Eiko Narita, Head of Resident Coordinator's Office

### **UNFPA**

- Ms. Pafoualee Leechuefoung, NPO

### **Ministry of Investment and Planning**

- Ms. Sisomboun Ounavong, Deputy Director General, DIC
- Mr. Morakot Vongxay, Director for UN Division, DIC
- Dr. Arounyadeth Rasphone, Deputy Director General, DIC
- Ms. Phonevanh Outhavong, Deputy Director General, DOP
- Ms. Phonesaly Souksavath, Deputy Director General, LSB
- Mr. Vilaysook Sisoulath, STA, LSB
- Dr. Leeber Leebouapao, NERI

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

- Mr. Saysongkham Phanouvong

**Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**

- Mr. Kaysasith Sadettan
- Ms. Viengvilay, APO