



Project Launch Meeting

Operationalisation of Strategic Plan for Disaster Management

The World Bank support
to
The Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic
through the Water Resources and Environmental Administration (WREA)
and National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)

15 October 2010

Settha Palace Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR

1. Rationale

Lao PDR has made significant gains in the area of disaster risk management in recent years and presents a suitable environment to grow further DRM initiatives: National institutions at various levels are making efforts to expand their roles from disaster managers to proactive disaster risk reduction planners. A Strategic Plan on Disaster Risk Management (SPDRM) was adopted in 2003 and there is considerable presence of donors willing to support Lao PDR in the field of DRM. By managing its disaster risks more systematically, Lao PDR also has an opportunity to preserve development gains, reduce poverty and improve the living standards of rural farmers, and ultimately graduate out of its status as a Least Developed Country.

Following the serious flooding in 2008 and then the Typhoon Ketsana in late 2009, one of the bold initiative taken by the Government of Lao PDR (GoL) is to make effort to increase preparedness and early warning dissemination and public awareness. Learning from its past experiences, the Government of Lao PDR (GoL) is now very keen to move forward to start implementing the strategy on the disaster management developed in 2003 (Strategic Plan on Disaster Management, SPDM) on the ground to increase preparedness and resilience. The GoL plans to strengthen the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC), which is an inter-ministerial committee responsible for policy formulation and disaster management, and the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), which is a secretariat to the NDMC.

In order to support the Government of Lao PDR's effort in strengthening disaster management, the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR) is supporting a project named ***Operationalizing Strategic Plan for Disaster Management in Lao PDR*** through the World Bank. The Water Resource and Environment Agency (WREA) is the main implementing agency in support with other Ministries and Departments. To build capacity and support in disaster risk reduction initiatives of the GoL, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) has collaborated to provide Technical Assistance (TA) to the Water Resource and Environmental Agency (WREA) and the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Government of Lao PDR as well as the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) in implementing the above mentioned project and contribute to the institutional strengthening on disaster management in Lao PDR.

The main activities are;

- Activity 1: Analysis of Existing Institutional Capacity/Legal Framework
- Activity 2: Assisting in Implementing the SPDM Strategy National Level
- Activity 3: Strengthening the Early Warning System
- Activity 4: Institutional Strengthening through Capacity Building on DRR
- Activity 5: Mainstream DRR into Development Agenda

2. Launch Meeting Objective

The project launch meeting aims to present the scope of the OSPDM project and kick start the project activities at national and sub-national level. This will also be an opportunity to discuss with other development partners on the approach of the project implementation and harmonization of DRR interventions in Lao PDR

3. Participants (about 50)

- a. GoL Ministries as member of NDMC
- b. Selected representatives from Provinces
- c. NDMO & WREA as implementing agency
- d. Development Partners (UN Agencies, Bilateral Donors, Red Cross, National and International NGOs)
- e. Selected Embassies based in Lao PDR
- f. World Bank
- g. ADPC

List of participants is given in Annex 1.

4. Tentative Agenda

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| Time | Item | Responsible |
|---------------|---|------------------------|
| 11:30 | Registration | WREA/NDMO/ADPC |
| 11:30 – 13:00 | Welcoming Lunch | |
| 13:00-13:30 | Opening Remark <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minister, WREA 2. Minister , LSWM / Vice-Chair,NDMC 3. WB Country Director | WREA, LSWM, World Bank |
| 13:30-13:45 | Photo Session | |
| 13:45-14:30 | 1) Presentation: DRR Framework in Lao PDR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>National Disaster Management Strategy, Strategy Meeting the commitment of Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) and ASEAN agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)</i> 2) Presentation: DRR Program and Activities in Lao PDR | WREA and NDMO |
| 14:30-15:15 | Presentation: Brief overview of OSPDM Project, project components and its implementation and monitoring Mechanism | WREA and NDMO |
| 15:15:15:45 | Tea Break | |
| 15:45-16:30 | Plenary Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination and harmonization | WREA and NDMO |
| 16:30-16:45 | Closing | WREA and NDMO |

Annex 1: List of Participants

| No. | Names of Participants | Position and Organisations | Contact |
|------------|------------------------------|---|----------------|
| 1 | HE Mme Khempheng Pholsena | Minister, WREA | |
| 2 | HE Mme Onechanh Thammavong | Minister, MLSW | |
| 3 | Mrs. Monemany Nhoibouakong | Chief of Cabinet, WREA | |
| 4 | Mr. Prasith Dethphommatheth | Director General, Department of Social Welfare, MLSW, Director of NDMO, | |
| 5 | Mr. Vilayphong Sisomvang | Deputy Director, NDMO, MLSW | |
| 6 | Mr. Kindavong Luang Rath | Senior Technical Officer, NDMO, MLSW | |
| 7 | Mr. Virana Sonnasinh | Acting Deputy Director, Division of Planning and Cooperation, WREA's Cabinet, OSPDM Project Manager | |
| 8 | Mr. Boun Eua Khamphilavanh | OSPDM's Project Manager Assistance, WREA | |
| 9 | Ms Soudaphone Sayasone | Technical Staff, WREA | |
| 10 | Mr Singthong Pathoummady | Deputy Director General, DMH,WREA | |
| 11 | Mr Saysana Vongsipasom | Director of Planning and Cooperation, DMH,WREA | |
| 12 | One representative | Ministry of Planning and Investment | |
| 13 | One representative | Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry | |
| 14 | One representative | Ministry of Public Works and Transport | |
| 15 | One representative | Ministry of Public Health | |
| 16 | One representative | Ministry of Industry and Commerce | |

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| 17 | One representative | Ministry of Energy and Mines | |
| 18 | One representative | Ministry of Education | |
| 19 | One representative | Ministry of National Defense | |
| 20 | One representative | Ministry of Public Security | |
| 21 | One representative | Ministry of Finance | |
| 22 | One representative | Lao National Mekong Committee Secretariat | |
| 23 | One representative | Lao Red Cross | |
| Provincial Participants | | | |
| 24 | One representative | PDMC of Attapeu Province | |
| 25 | One representative | PDMC of Xekong Province | |
| 26 | One representative | PDMC of Saravanh Province | |
| 27 | One representative | PWREO of Attapeu Province | |
| 28 | One representative | PWREO of Xekong Province | |
| 29 | One representative | PWREO of Saravanh Province | |
| UN Agencies | | | |
| 30 | UN Resident Coordinator | UNDP | |
| 31 | Ms. Chikako Kodama | Chief, Crisis Prevention and Recovery Unit, UNDP | |
| 32 | One representative | WFP | |
| 33 | One representative | WHO | |
| 34 | One representative | UNICEF | |
| 35 | One representative | UN HABITAT | |
| Red Cross Societies and NGOs | | | |
| 36 | One representative | French Red Cross | |
| 37 | One representative | World Vision | |
| 38 | One representative | Oxfam Australia | |
| 39 | One representative | Oxfam Belgium | |

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| 40 | One representative | Care International | |
| 41 | One representative | Save the Children, Australia | |
| Embassies | | | |
| 42 | One representative | Embassy of Japan | |
| 43 | One representative | European Commission | |
| 44 | One representative | Australian Embassy (AusAID) | |
| 45 | One representative | American Embassy (USAID) | |
| World Bank | | | |
| 46 | Ms Keiko Miwa | Country Manager | |
| 47 | Mr. Toru Konishi | Task Leader, | |
| 48 | Mr. Sombath Southivong | Senior Infrastructure Specialist, World Bank, Vientiane, Lao PDR | |
| 49 | Mr. Vic Macasaquit | Consultant | |
| Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) | | | |
| 50 | Mr. Loy Rego | Deputy Executive Director, | |
| 51 | Mr. Aslam Perwaiz | Program Manager | |
| 52 | Mr. Thanongdeth Insisiengmay | Senior Project Manager | |
| 53 | Ms. Somvath Keokhamphoui | National DRR Expert | |
| 54 | Mr. Keopphet Phoumphonh | National Institutional and Capacity Building Expert | |
| 55 | Ms. Phitsamai Khammanivong | Project Assistant | |