

Govt Assesses Outcome of UN's Human Right Review



Co-Chaired: Mr. Dirk Wagener And Ms. Viengvone Kittavong,

Government officials gathered in Vientiane on 04 October 2010 to discuss the implementation of the Recommendations of the UN's Human Right Universal Periodic Review (UPR) that adopted by the government in September 2010.

On 04 November 2010, the workshop on UPR Follow Up held at ICTC, Vientiane. The International Law Project, Department of Treaties and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized the workshop. Co-Chaired by Ms. Viengvone Kittavong, Acting Director General of Treaties and Law Department and Mr. Dirk Wagener, Assistant Resident Representative, Head of Governance Unit, the United Nations.

The co-chaired noted the outcome of the UPR process from the Lao PDR was adopted at the 15th Plenary Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council on September 21 in Geneva, Switzerland. There are 107 Recommendations were

raised to the session. Of these, the Lao PDR was already actively in support of 70 recommendations and favored the support of another 15. But, does not support a further 21 of the recommendations raised.

Speaking at the meeting, Mr. Dirk Wagener congratulated the government of the Lao PDR on its participation and positive outcome from the process. The process begins with the national coordination and preparation of the report. It followed by the recommendations. However, the process does not support with the recommendation but gains more substance from what would happen afterward.

Moreover, He noted that the Lao PDR already supported 71 out of the 107 recommendation. "we have now come to the critical stage of how to implement the recommendations supported by the Lao PDR. Without effective implementation the recommendation gain no meaning and the participation of the Lao PDR in UPR process will mean little to the country and the international community"



Mr. Dirk Wagener said several of the review recommendation not the need to improve the judicial system and human rights training for the judiciary and police.

The review also recommended that the Lao PDR should take effective measures to combat the persistence of human trafficking and sexual exploitation and to continue with its efforts to eradicate poverty while promoting gender equality and gender-based violence.

Ultimately, the recommendations are aligned and pave the way to help the Lao PDR achieve its Millennium Development Goals. But, to be able to achieve these goals there has to be a coherent and a well coordinated implementation strategy.

The Lao PDR can draw on the experience and lessons learned from other countries that have also undergone the UPR process and adopt international best practice as the basis or standard for implementation of the recommendations. The UNDP stands ready to help as it has in the past to help the Lao PDR in its efforts to implement the recommendations.

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Phongsavath Boupham Who headed the Lao delegation at the Eight Session of the Human Rights Council Working Group on UPR held on May 4, 2010, in Geneva, said that against this backdrop, the Lao government has identified a number of national priorities to better promote and protect the human rights of Lao people.

The Lao government, among others, will continue its effort to achieve the country's poverty alleviation goal, he said.

Through continued reform of public administration as well as the legal system, the Lao PDR will enhance its effort and further strengthen its capacity to effectively implement domestic laws, to gradually build a state governed by the rule of law where human rights are fully guaranteed.

The Lao PDR will continue to improve its judicial system effectively ensure human rights and serve the legitimate interests of all Lao multi-ethnic people.

The Human Rights Council established in 2006 to mandate a UPR of each state's fulfillment of its human rights obligations and commitments. The UPR working group holds three sessions per year. At each session, 16 countries reviewed, resulted in

a four- year cycle to complete the review of all 192 members state of the United Nations.