

## **Informative and Preparatory Workshop on the UNCAC Self Assessment Process**



Mr. Samuel De Jaegere



Mr. Alan Doig

On 27<sup>th</sup> May 2010 a workshop on the UNCAC Self-Assessment Process was held at ICTC in Vientiane Lao PDR. The aim of the workshop is to discuss on the preparations for the UNCAC Self Assessment Process in the Lao PDR after Laos ratified the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) in September 2009. “I think the Lao anti-corruption law is good but the problem is we can not enforce it properly”, said one of officials at the workshop.

State inspectors and auditors from the Inspection Authority, Government officials and representatives from the United Nations attended the half-day event. The Workshop was chaired by Central Control Committee Member, Mr. Singphet Buasavattiphanh.

Lao official expressed a desire for the United Nations to help the Lao government to disseminate information relating to the Lao PDR’s Law on Anti-Corruption and other related decrees and regulations.

Speaking at the workshop, Mr. Leik Bounwaat, UN Resident Coordinator, a.i, UNODC Representative in Lao PDR, said “Corruption is a threat to developing and least developed nations and there are many countries in the Asia- Pacific regions are interested in becoming a signatory to the UNCAC; Laos has achieved tremendous growth over the past few decades; while economic



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growth measure in GDP has been impressive, there is still work to be done in order to achieve the goals set in the new National Social- Economic Development Plan and Millennium Development Goals; in this context, corruption is a critical issue that must be addressed in order to ensure well balanced development; Corruption affects everyone but it is the poorest and most vulnerable who suffer the most; Corruption diverts funds intended for essential public services, erodes public confidence in the Government and actively discourages private sector investment”.

Two experts from the UNODC and UNDP Regional Centre, Mr. Alan Doig and Mr. Samuel De Jaegere respectively facilitated in the workshop. The workshop was supported by the International Law Project 00062427. As part of the preparations for the UNCAC self-Assessment, an Initial Stakeholders workshop on UNCAC will be held in the near future.