



**LAO PEOPLE S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

**Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity**

Opening Remark

by

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at Bridging the Standardization Gap Workshop,

**30-31 July 2012**

Vientiane, Lao PDR

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Mr. Malcolm Johnson, TSB Director of ITU, Mr. Byoung-Moon Chin, Vice President of TTA, Delegates, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, ສະບາຍດີ, very good morning.

On behalf of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (or MPT) of the Lao PDR, I am very pleased to welcome you all to our capital city, Vientiane for the workshop on Bridging the Standardization Gap , which co-organize by MPT, ITU and TTA of Korea.

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Mr. Malcolm Johnson, TSB Director of ITU, Mr. Byoung-Moon Chin, Vice President of TTA; the organizing and coordinating teams of MPT, ITU and TTA for their effort in making this workshop possible.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I believe we all agree that we are in the era of International cooperation and integration. In particular, the Internet now connects the world. Our government also has the vision to turn Lao PDR from Land-locked to Land-linked country. MPT is working our best so that ICT could be used to help realize the Socio-Economic Development plan and for the objective of poverty reduction.

Having these objectives in mind, MPT realizes that ICT standard is one of the key indicators for such goals. More importantly, for developing countries like Laos, we have an obligation to set acceptable guideline and path the way for the sector. At the same time, we have to understand the international standard and the integration requirements. This is not a one-person task; it requires collaboration of all stakeholders including government, private sector, operator, service provider, and the academia.

I believe that this workshop would provide useful information for all delegates and specially for Lao participants. After reviewing the program, I can see that the topics and experiences that you will share in this workshop will give you more knowledge and open the floor to you all for further discussion on how we could go about developing ICT standard in our countries.

May I once again express my profound thanks and sincere appreciation to Mr. Malcolm Johnson, ITU team, Mr. Byoung-Moon Chin, and TTA team for their kind cooperation and thank you for kindly selecting Lao PDR to host this meaningful workshop.

I wish for ITU and TTA of Korea to continue cooperate with Lao PDR on concrete projects in particular for the ICT standard. I have a high hope that we

will have more opportunities to share experiences and continue to collaborate closely in the future.

Finally, I wish you all good health, a fruitful workshop. Please do find time after your busy schedule to discover Lao culture during this short stay of yours.

Thank you for your kind attention. Now, I would like to officially declare this workshop opens.

Once again, Welcome to Laos. Thank you, ຂໍຂອບໃຈ