

Statement from the Government of Lao PDR

Delivered by: Lytou Bouapao, Minister of Education

Thank you Madame Chair

Distinguished colleagues

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the government of Lao PDR, it is an honor and great pleasure to participate in this pledging conference here in Copenhagen.

We are pleased to take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that all children in our country girl and boy, especially those in the most remote and hardest to reach community are able to enjoy equitable access to quality education. In support of this commitment I would like to outline key financing and policy initiatives which the government of Lao PDR will implement over the coming years.

Lao PDR has committed to increase the budget allocation for education to 18% of total government budget. For 2011-2012 the government has allocated 17% of the budget to education in parallel implementation of the EFA FTI program jointly funded by GPE Aus Aid.

The policy of Lao PDR will be to strengthen the key policies, strategies and action plans which go with the policies of GPE and will be as follows:

- 1.) An inclusive education policy that will ensure that women, girls and people from different ethnic groups, people with disabilities and other socially disadvantage groups are able to enjoy the right to a quality education at all levels.
- 2.) A holistic school quality approach which was introduced at primary levels and will be expanded to lower secondary school.

- 3.) A home grown school meal program will provide additional incentive for poor families to keep their families in school.
- 4.) And finally a non formal education program to enable more children who live in remote communities where there is no preschool or primary school to access education opportunities.

Distinguished Colleagues

We realize the challenges are great. We would like to thank the Global Partnership for Education for their generous support of Lao PDR to meet our goal. Thank you very much for your kind attention.