



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

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OPENING SPEECH

BY

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AT THE TWENTY FIFTH SESSION OF THE ASIA AND PACIFIC COMMISSION ON
AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
VIENTIANE, CAPITAL, LAO PDR

FAO Representatives,
Development Partners
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure today to preside over the Opening Ceremony of the Twenty Fifth Session of for the year 2014.

Firstly, I would like to thank the organizers for giving me this opportunity to officiate the opening of the 25th Session of the ASIA and PACIFIC Commission on Agricultural Statistics or “ APCAS ”, on behalf of the Lao Government, I would like to express my gratitude to “FAO” for choosing Lao PDR as the venue for this round of session.

I would like to welcome all participants from the 25 participating countries to this session, jointly organized by FAO, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of LAO PDR and the Lao Statistics Bureau under the Ministry of Planning and Investment. I hope your visit here will be productive and enjoyable during your staying in Vientiane. Please take some time off to enjoy this beautiful country of ours, including our food and beverage and warm hospitality.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

The Lao Agriculture Sector records a continuous growth. But as you know the two greatest challenges the world faces today remains (1) food security and (2) climate change. Both challenges require urgent responses.

Fighting with these emerging issues requires strong coordination and cooperation among us including government institutions and local communities of our region. We need to continue to invest in farmers, connect them to market and make sure they have the needed policy and legal framework. We need to build a more competitive agriculture and forestry sectors that would ensure greater development and progress in our region.

To effectively monitor the progress of development in the agricultural sector and to carry out effective agricultural planning, Government needs good statistics.

Agricultural statistics play an important role in agriculture and rural development sectors serving for making policy, strategy and planning, as well as implementation of the agricultural activities and information-data for the society at large

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

It is hoped that during this session, participants will actively deliberate to bring about improvements and innovations in the management of agricultural statistical system which will assist in addressing issues, in light of the present challenges faced by various Ministries concerned as well as National Statistics Offices.

Since you have a very busy schedule and taking into consideration during the Session, I would urge you all to do you utmost to conclude successfully on your deliberation within the spirit of our region solidarity. At the same time, I do hope that during your staying in Vientiane you will be able to enjoy our traditional lifestyle and hospitality.

May I wish you all a very productive meeting!

Thank you.