

**Keynote address by H.E.Mr Bouasone Bouphavanh, Prime Minister of the Lao PDR
on the occasion of the commemoration of the 90th Anniversary
of the Foundation of International Labour Organization (1919-2009)
Vientiane, 28th April 2009**

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- Excellencies, Representatives of the Diplomatic Corps,
- Distinguished Lao and Foreign Guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to take part in the commemoration of the 90th Anniversary of the foundation of the International Labor Organization (ILO).

Being the oldest UN Specialized Agency, the ILO has been working tirelessly for ensuring the most vital and basic interests of the workers of all ages and colors worldwide. The fundamental principles on the promotion of labor justice and rights as well as gender opportunities for secured employment, income generation and social protection including other multifaceted activities that were initiated by the ILO, have brought about invaluable asset for mankind. Therefore, on behalf of the Government and the Lao workers, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the ILO for the remarkable successes gained over the past nine decades. Likewise, I wish to render my full support to the commemoration theme “ 90 years working for social justice “.

As a member country of the ILO, the Lao PDR has always remained true to the ILO's fundamental principles on the promotion of labor justice and rights. Furthermore, the Lao PDR has diligently fulfilled its obligations as demonstrated by its involvement in the study and adoption of 8 ILO's treaties related to labor and social welfare activities including the on-going study and future adoption of other draft treaties.

I would like to take this solemn occasion to express my sincere thanks to the ILO for its continued financial and technical assistance and support accorded to the Lao PDR, and in particular for projects such as: improved social security system, prevention and fight against women and child trafficking, promotion of small and medium enterprise (SME). All these projects are of utmost importance and great necessity for our country's socio-economic development.

- Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the foundation of the International Labor Organization amid unhealthy environment which is due to global financial crisis affecting many economies worldwide. As a consequence, those economies are currently faced with recession and unemployment; a number of workers across the planet including the Lao workers are struggling with their life.

Under such difficult circumstances, I earnestly hope that the ILO having rich experience and far-sighted vision will further cooperate with and support its member countries while implementing the Organization's policies and necessary measures aimed at alleviating or addressing the poverty of the workers.

Finally, I would like to wholeheartedly extend my congratulations for the 90th Anniversary of the foundation of the International Labor Organization. May I wish the Organization greater dynamism and every success in carrying out its noble duty.

I thank you