

A meeting with a large audience of children to mark the World Day Against Child Labour in Lao PDR

**held at International Cooperation and Training Centre
Vientiane on Friday 10th, June 2011**

Organized by:

The Department of Labour Management of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

With the financial support from:

ILO-IPEC, UNIAP and World Vision Laos

Objectives

- To contribute to the prevention and elimination of child labour, especially the worst forms of child labour in Lao PDR.
- To raise awareness on child labour among government officials, workers' and employers' representatives and others.
- To provide a room for children to express their views, ideas on child labour, especially the worst forms of child labour

Over 350 people attended the meeting including 250 children from six public high schools in Vientiane, government officials, workers' and employers' representatives, NGOs and UN personnel and representatives of local administration from villages in Vientiane.



The meeting was opened by Mr. Bounkhong Lasoukan, Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. He started his speech by informing the audience about the WDACL is an important event of the world aiming at raising awareness to combat child labour, especially the worst forms of child labour. His speech also touched upon the Lao PDR Government policies on child labour. The government has ratified a number of international conventions related to child rights, child labour including CRC, ILO Conventions No. 138 and No. 182 and issued several legal documents related to promoting and protecting children's rights and benefits.



After the speech of the Vice-Minister, Kolakot, NPC for ILO-IPEC Child Labour Project, on behalf of ILO, presented an ILO perspective on child labour to the audience. The understanding on the worst forms of child labour was also given. NPC for the Child Labour Project has told the audience about the

definition of the worst forms of child labour as stated in the Article 3 of ILO Convention No. 182 and the definition of child labour. He said “It is difficult to give a precise dictionary definition of the term “child labour” applicable to all situations and all countries. How can a line be drawn between “acceptable” forms of work by children on the one hand and child labour on the other? Whether or not particular forms of work can be called child labour depends on a child’s age, the types of work performed, the conditions under which it is performed and the objectives pursued by individual countries. The answer varies from country to country, as well as among sectors within countries”. To understand in a short form: “child labour is work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and is harmful to their physical and mental development”.

The meeting also provided a time for the Representative of children to speak. His short speech highlighted the call of children to the Government, national and international organizations and all stakeholders to further address the child labour issue and work harder to protect the children from the worst forms of child labour.

After the meeting to mark the World Day against Child labour, children who participated at the meeting took part in a quiz. The quiz focused on the topic of child rights and child labour. During the quiz, children from Vientiane Cultural Centre performed traditional dance and sung traditional songs for the audience.

