

March 13, 2009

H.E. Bouasone Bouphavanh
Prime Minister
Lao People's Democratic Republic

Your Excellency,

Subject: Education For All—Fast Track Initiative

On behalf of the FTI donor partners, I am pleased to inform you that the Education for All – Fast Track Initiative welcomes Lao People's Democratic Republic to the FTI Partnership following the successful appraisal and endorsement of your country's National Implementation Framework by the local donor group. Lao People's Democratic Republic joins an expanding group of countries able to access support for their efforts to realize the Millennium Development Goal of completion of a quality basic education for all children, girls and boys alike.

The documents received from the Coordinating Agency representatives (AusAID and UNICEF) on behalf of your country's development partners were circulated to the FTI donor partners. The endorsement of the local donor group was seconded by that of the FTI Partnership. This signals to the donor community at large that your country is making serious efforts to achieve quality basic education for all children.

We recommend that your team visit our website (www.education-fast-track.org) for updated information about the FTI Partnership. Furthermore, the FTI Secretariat is available to facilitate and answer any factual or technical questions that you or the local donor group may have. The contact person in the FTI Secretariat for your country is Kouassi Soman who can be joined by phone at: (202) 473-4713; by fax at: (202) 522-3233; and via e-mail at: ksoman@education-fast-track.org.

We wish you success in the implementation of the Education Strategic Plan.

Sincerely,



Robert Prouty
Acting Head
FTI Secretariat

Copy to:

H.E. Mr. Somsavat Lengsavad, Deputy Prime Minister Lao PDR
H.E. Mr. Somdy Douangdy, Minister of Finance, Lao PDR
H.E. Prof. Dr. Somkot Mangnormek, Minister of Education, Lao PDR
H.E. Dr. Michele Forster, Australian Ambassador, Australian Embassy, Lao PDR
Ms. Laila Ismail Khan, Representative, UNICEF, Lao PDR
Mr. Sun Vithespongse, Executive Director for Lao PDR, World Bank
Ms. Norkham Souphanouvong, UNICEF (Coordinating Agency Representative)
Mr. Tim Napper, AusAID (Coordinating Agency Representative)
Ms. Annette Dixon, Country Director for Lao PDR, World Bank
Mr. Eduardo Velez Bustillo, Sector Manager for Education (EASHD), World Bank
Mr. Suhas D. Parandekar, Senior Education Economist (EASHD), World Bank
Mr. Robin Horn, Sector Manager for Education (HDNED), World Bank
Lao PDR Country Team for Education, World Bank
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