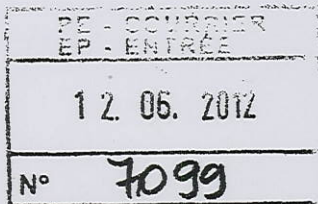




Vientiane, April 30, 2012



His Excellency Mr. Martin Schulz
President of the European Parliament,
Rue Wiertz / Wiertzstraat, 60
BE-1047 Bruxelles/Brussel,
Belgique/België
Phone : (32 2) 284 21 11
Fax : (32 2) 284 69 74

His Excellency,

Re: Invitation to the Seventh Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP-7)
Vientiane, Laos, October 3-5, 2012

Pursuant to the point 55 of the final declaration of the 6th Asia- Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting adopted on 27 September 2010 in Brussels, Belgium, the National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has been entrusted with the task to host the Seventh Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP-7) in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) in 2012.

On behalf of the National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, I have the honor to extend our invitation to Your Excellency to lead a parliamentary delegation of your country to participate in the Seventh Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting in Vientiane, Lao PDR, from 3-5 October 2012 at Don Chan Palace Hotel.

The upcoming ASEP meeting will be held before the 9th Asia- Europe Summit (ASEM IX) to be hosted by the Government of Lao PDR which will take place in November 2012. The theme of the ASEP-7 meeting will focus on "**Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership for Sustainable Development**". The National Assembly, the people and the government of Lao PDR place very high importance on the aforesaid meeting and are looking forward to high level participation of ASEP member parliaments.

The meeting includes panel discussions on Economic and Social and Environmental Matters and will produce before closing an ASEP declaration which will be submitted to the 9th ASEM summit in Vientiane in November 2012. Please note that delegation size for each participating parliament is limited to maximum of ten persons, excluding accompanying persons.

National Assembly of Lao PDR, ASEP-7 Secretariat, NA Building-1 That-Luang Square
P.O. Box 662, Phone: (856-21) 413 547
Fax: (856-21) 413 547, 413 515
Email: asep7secretariat@na.gov.la

According to the point 26 of the rule of procedure , Participating delegations will be responsible for their own expenses, including international travel cost, accommodation and meals. The host parliament will provide transport to and from airport and between meeting venue to hotels and other official functions. Delegates are also invited to all receptions specified in the programme.

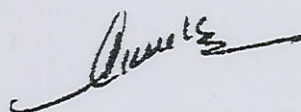
Delegates to the ASEP-7 meeting are expected to arrive in Vientiane on the 2nd October 2012 and depart from Laos on the 6th October. Preparatory meetings will be held in the evening of Tuesday, October 2, 2012. All delegates are cordially invited to join site seeing tours and social-cultural events in Vientiane on the afternoon of the 4th October 2012. Please find detailed information in a general information of the ASEP-7.

The details on the ASEP-7 are provided in the documents attached herewith including: 1. Draft Agenda; 2. Tentative programme; 3. General information; 4. Registration forms and the ASEP-7 Secretariat can be accessed via e-mail : asep7secretariat@na.gov.la ; website : www.asep7.gov.la ; Phone number : (856-21) 413547 ; Fax: (856-21) 413515.

I have confidence that this ASEP-7 in Vientiane will provide a good opportunity for members of parliament from our two friendly continents to discuss and exchange views on issues pertaining social-economic development and well-being of the people of Asia and Europe.

I am looking forward to welcoming your Excellency and your delegation in Vientiane in October. Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes and the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,



Pany YATHOTOU (Mrs)
President of the National Assembly
of the Lao People's Democratic Republic



The 7th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting

03-05 October 2012, Vientiane, Lao PDR

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Draft Agenda

- Welcome Remarks
- Adoption of the Agenda
- Election of Meeting's Officers
- Theme of Meeting: "Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership For Sustainable Development"
- Panel 1: Economic Matters
 - 1. Food Security
 - 2. Sovereign Debt Issues
 - 3. Natural Resources Management
 - 4. Tourism
- Panel 2: Social and Environment Matters
 - 1. Disaster Management
 - 2. Strengthening Gender Partnership
 - 3. Human Resources Development
 - 4. Labor Migration
- Reports from Panel Discussion 1 and 2
- Adoption of the Declaration of the 7th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting
- Decision on the host country of the 8th Asia- Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting
- Closing Remarks



The 7th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting
03-05 October 2012, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Tentative Programme of Activities

Tuesday, 2nd October 2012

-Arrival of Delegation at Wattay International Airport,

Vientiane, Lao PDR.

-Proceed to hotels

-Check in

15:00-18:00

Registration of Delegation at Hotel lobby of Don Chan Palace Hotel

18:00

Welcome Dinner hosted by H.E.Dr. Xaysomphone PHOMVIHANE,
Vice-President of the National Assembly of Lao PDR, Head of the Organizing
Committee of ASEP-7.

Venue: Pool Side, 3rd floor, Don Chan Palace Hotel

Attire : Smart Casual/National Dress

19:30

Preparatory Meeting

- Adoption of the agenda
- Election of meeting officers
- Administrative arrangements
- Organization of proceedings
- Other Business
- End of the Meeting

Venue : Convention Hall, Zone A, 2nd Floor, Don Chan Palace Hotel

Attire: Smart Casual

Meeting Officers:

- Chair: Laos
- Rapporteurs: Laos

19:30

**Meeting of the Drafting Committee on the Declaration of the 7th Asia-
Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting.**

Venue : Savannakhet Room, 1st Floor Don Chan Palace Hotel

Attire: Smart Casual

Meeting Officers:

- Chair: Laos
- Rapporteurs: Laos

Wednesday, 3rd October 2012

07:00-08:00 Breakfast

08:15 Leave hotels for the National Cultural Hall

08:30 **Inaugural Ceremony and First Plenary Session**

Cultural Performance

Speeches:

- Opening address by Her Excellency Mrs. Pany YATHOTOU, President of the National Assembly of Lao PDR, President of ASEP-7
- Welcome Address by H.E. Thongsing THAMMAVONG, Prime Minister of Lao PDR
- Address by the host of the 6th ASEP Meeting (Head of delegation of Belgium)

Photo Session

Venue : National Cultural Hall

Attire: Lounge Suit/National dress

10:45

First Plenary Session

- Election of Meeting Officers
- Adoption of the Agenda and Program Activities
- Adoption the Meeting Procedure
- Administrative Arrangements

Meeting Officers:

- Chair: Laos
- Rapporteurs: Laos

Venue : National Cultural Hall

Attire: Lounge Suit/National dress

11:45

Leave National Cultural Hall for Don Chan Palace Hotel

12:00

Lunch

- Hosted by Hon. Prof.Dr. Ms Bounnong BOUPHA Chairperson of Women Parliamentarians Caucus of the National Assembly of Lao PDR

Venue : Coffee Shop 1st floor, Don Chan Palace Hotel

13:30

Panel Discussion 1: Economic Matters

- Food Security
- Sovereign Debt Issues
- Natural Resources Management
- Tourism

Co-Chairs : (TBC)

- Laos (from Asia)
- Germany (from Europe)

Presentation by keynote speakers: (TBC)

- Japan and China (from Asia)
- Finland (from Europe) and IMF

Rapporteur:

- Singapore

13:30

Panel Discussion 2 : Social and Environment Matters

- Disaster Management
- Strengthening Gender Partnership
- Human Resources Development
- Labour Migration

Venue: Don Chan Palace Hotel

Attire : Lounge Suit / National Dress

Co-Chairs : (TBC)

- Vietnam (from Asia)
- European Parliaments (from Europe)

Presentation by keynote speakers: (TBC)

- Indonesia (from Asia)
- France, Belgium (from Europe) and UNISDR

Rapporteur: Australia

16:00

First Meeting of Drafting Committee

Venue : Don Chan Palace Hotel

18:30

Official Reception Dinner hosted by H.E.Mrs. Pany YATHOTOU, President of the National Assembly of Lao PDR, President of ASEP-7

Venue : Covention Hall, Zone B, 2nd floor, Don Chan Palace Hotel

Attire : Lounge Suit/ National Dress

Meeting Officers:

- Chair: Laos
- Rapporteurs: Laos

Thursday, 4th October 2012

- 07:00-08:00 Breakfast
- 08:30 **Second Plenary Session**
- Report of Panel Discussion 1
- Report of Panel Discussion 2
- Discussion
- Introductory remarks by Chair of the Drafting Committee
- Adoption the 7th ASEP Declaration
- Meeting Officers:
- Chair: Laos
 - Rapporteurs: Laos
- Discussion
- Introductory remarks by chair of the drafting Committee
- Adoption of the ASEP-7 Declaration
- 10:00 **Closing Ceremony**
- Acceptance Speech by representative of the next host parliament (Italy)
- Closing address by Her Excellency Mrs. Pany YATHOTOU, President of the National Assembly of Lao PDR, President of ASEP-7
- 12:00 Lunch
- Hosted by Hon Mr. Kukeo AKHAMONTRI, Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee
- Venue : Don Chan Palace Hotel
- Attire: Smart casual
- 14:00-16:30 Sightseeing Vientiane City Tour
- 18:30 Farewell dinner hosted by Governor of the Vientiane Capital
- Venue : (TBC)
- Attire: Smart casual

Friday, 5th October 2012

- 07:00-08:30 Breakfast
- Departure of Delegation

Remarks: *The tentative program of spouses will be arranged and sent to all ASEP-7 delegations later on.*



The 7th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting

03 - 05 October 2012 - Vientiane, Lao PDR

General Information

I. Date and Venue:

The 7th Meeting of Asia - Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP-7) will be held in Don Chan Palace Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR, from 03th to 05th October 2012.

The Opening Ceremony of the meeting will be taken place at the National Cultural Hall in the center of City.

II. Agenda of the 7th Asia - Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting:

Theme of the Meeting:

“THE ASIA-EUROPE PARLIAMENTARY PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

- **Topic of Panel 1: Economic Matters**
 1. Food Security
 2. Sovereign Debt Issues
 3. Natural Resources Management
 4. Tourism
- **Topic of Panel 2: Social and Environment Matters**
 1. Disaster Management
 2. Strengthening Gender Partnership
 3. Human Resources Development
 4. Labour Migration

III. Documents:

Pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of ASEP, the conference will adopt the Declaration of the 7th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting. The declaration will be drafted by the host's secretariat and submitted to all members of ASEP parliaments **before the 15th August 2012**. Members of the ASEP parliaments are kindly advised to submit their contributions to the first draft document by **the date of 30th August 2012**. It would be appreciated if all delegations could submit their written speeches to the secretariat prior to the meeting to facilitate the work of documents compilation and distribution.

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the theme of the conference as well as topic of Panel Discussions, members of parliaments are encouraged to give their feed backs to the secretariat **before 31st July 2012**.

If you need channel for language translation, in case you bring your own interpreter, please inform the secretariat **before 30 August 2012**.

The address of the 7th ASEP meeting Secretariat is as follows:

National Assembly, That Luang Square, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
P.O. Box 662
Phone: (856-21) 413 547
Fax: (856-21) 413 547, 413 515
Email: asep7secretariat@na.gov.la; p_vongsa@yahoo.com
Website: www.asep7.gov.la

IV. Registration and Information Service:

Registration and Information Desk located in the lobby of the Don Chan Palace Hotel, will provide services for the registration of delegates and the issuance of identity badges and relevant documentation. All participants are suggested to register upon arrival.

Participants are kindly requested to register in advance with the Secretariat their arrival /departure time, details of flight, the total members of delegation so that the Organizing Committee can arrange means of transport from/to the airport.

Delegation is kindly requested to return their hotel reservation forms to the ASEP-7 Secretariat **before 15 September 2012**.

V. Accommodation, Transportation and Hospitality:

1. Accommodation

Participants are kindly requested to contact the secretariat directly for hotel reservation. Hotel reservations follow the "first come first serve" principle. Four following hotels are recommended for delegates to ASEP-7:

1. Donchan Palace Hotel (Venue of the Meetings)

Unit 6 Piawat Village
Sisatanak District, Vientiane, Lao PDR
Tel : (856) (21) 244288
Fax: (856) (21) 244111-2
Website : <http://www.donchanpalacelaopdr.com>
Email : info@donchanpalacelaopdr.com

2. Settha Palace Hotel

Settha Palace Hotel, 6 Pang Kham Street
P.O. Box: 1618, Vientiane, Lao PDR. (Laos)
Tel: (856-21) 217581-2
Fax: (856-21) 217583
Website: setthapalacehotel.com
Email: reservations@setthapalace.com

3. Mercure Hotel

Vientiane Unit 10 Samsenthai Road
Po Box 585, Vientiane, 0100 Laos
Tel: (856 21) 213 570-1
Fax: (856 21) 213 572-3
Website: accorhotels.com
Email: resvn@mercurevte.com

4. Lao Plaza Hotel

Lao Plaza Hotel
63 Samsenethai Road
P.O. Box 6708
Vientiane City Center, Vientiane, Laos
Tel: (856 21) 218800-1
Fax: (856 21) 218808-9
Website: laoplazahotel.com
Email: reservation@laoplazahotel.com

Delegates are responsible for their own expenses such as meals outside the conference framework, accommodation and other hotel services (mini-bar, laundry, international phone calls, telex, fax...)

2. Transportation Arrangements

The host country will provide transportation from airport to hotels and vice versa as well as transportation for official events of the meeting.

Transportation will also be provided for visits and sightseeing activities arranged by the organizer of ASEP-7.

3. Medical Service

First-aid and the medical services will be provided by the host country at Don Chan Palace and Lao Plaza Hotel during a period of the meeting.

VI. Security and Conference Badges:

For security purposes, delegates, accompanying persons, members of the Secretariat and Organizing Committee will be provided with identity badges and are kindly requested to wear them throughout the conference for admission to all conference activities and functions.

VII. Language:

English is the working language of the meeting. Participating delegations should bring their own interpreters if so needed. Please be advised that due to limitation of translation facility, translation booths will be available and this will be allocated on request on a first come first serve basis.

VIII. Passport and Visa:

All participants, with the exception of those from countries having agreements of mutual exemption of visas with Lao PDR, should obtain visas to enter Lao PDR.

The visas will be issued according to relevant laws and regulations of Lao PDR at Lao embassies and consulates. The National Assembly of Lao PDR will coordinate with relevant Lao embassies and consulates to facilitate issuance of visas to delegates attending ASEP-7.

For those countries, Lao Embassy and Consulate are not available, special arrangement for visa on arrival will be provided at the international check points.

IX. Currency:

Foreign currencies can be exchanged at banks, hotels, international airports and other legal foreign exchange sites throughout the country. The exchange rate is approximately 8,000 kip per US\$ 1.

Most banks open from 8:30 to 15:00 every day, except for Saturday and Sunday. Travellers' cheques or credit cards can be used for payment at most major hotels and banks. However, delegates are kindly advised to have cash available since travellers' cheques and credit cards are not yet widely accepted at some shops.

X. Insurance:

Delegates are responsible for personal insurance against potential risks.

XI. Luggage:

Luggage tags will be sent in advance to delegations/delegates. Luggage tags should then be filled with personal name, country and institution name as well as hotel name for quick processing at the airport. Delegations are to take care of their own luggage after arrival and before departure from Lao PDR.

XII. Spouses

Delegates are welcome to come with their spouses or accompanying persons, ensuing expenses being covered by themselves. Spouse will be invited to the evening functions and to the conference sight seeing tour. The organizing committee will help arrange a common programme for spouse and accompanying persons.

XIII. Press

Should members of the media wish to cover the conference, they should register in advance with the registration form already provided in order to be properly accredited.

XIV. Practical Information:

1. Airlines

The ASEP-7 delegations could reach Vientiane, Lao PDR via Bangkok (Thailand), Hanoi (Vietnam), Phnom-Penh (Cambodia), Kunming (China), and Singapore. Among other Airlines, Lao Airlines will offer connection flight from those places to Vientiane. For further information, please contact your travel agents or relevant offices of Lao Airlines abroad (see annex).

2. Climate

The average temperature in Vientiane in October ranges approximately 20 to 25 degree Celsius.

3. Time Zone

The time zone in Vientiane, Lao PDR is GMT + 7

3. Electricity

Electricity used in Laos is 220 volts

ANNEX: