



UN-HABITAT

The Proceedings of
THIRD
LAO NATIONAL
URBAN FORUM
in 2024

SDG Localization: Partnering
with Youth for Achieving SDGs

December 2024
UN-Habitat Lao PDR

Proceedings of the Third Lao National Urban Forum (LNUF 2024) under the theme of “SDG Localization: Partnering with Youth for Achieving SDGs” from 09 to 13 December 2024, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR.

The event was chaired by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, co-chaired and technical support by UN-Habitat, and hosted by the National University of Laos.



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Acronym	Expansion
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ALACE	Association of Lao Architects and Civil Engineers
AMUSE	Project for Upgrading Solid Waste Management in ASEAN Municipalities
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASUS	ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy
CAT-IAM	Capacity Assessment Tool for Infrastructure Asset Management
CDUD	Community-Driven Urban Development
DHUP	Department of Housing and Urban Planning (MPWT)
DWS	Department of Water Supplies
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific
FG_RAI	Focal Group on Responsible Agriculture Investment
FPIC	Free Prior Informed Consent
GCA	Green Community Alliance
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IAM	Infrastructure Asset Management
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITECC	International Trade Exhibition and Convention Center
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
Lao CSO	Lao Civil Society Organizations
LNCCI	Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
LNUF	Lao National Urban Forum
LTPHI	Lao Tropical Public Health Institute
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MPWT	Ministry of Public Works and Transport
NATURA	Nature Based Solutions for Urban Adaptation
NbS	Nature-Based Solutions
NSCS	National Smart City Strategy
NSEDP	National Socio-Economic Development Plan
NUA	New Urban Agenda
NUOL	National University of Laos
PWMP	Pollution and Waste Management Project
SAEDA	Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association
SDG(s)	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
SEED	Social Environmental Education and Development
SEI	Stockholm Environment Institute
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UNSDCF	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
VCOMS	Vientiane City Office for Management and Service
VLR	Voluntary Local Review
WHO	World Health Organization



Chapter 1: Summary of the Proceedings

The 3rd Lao National Urban Forum (LNUF 2024) convened in December 2024 in Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR, bringing together a diverse array of stakeholders to deliberate on advancing sustainable urban development. Centered on the theme “SDG Localization: Partnering with Youth for Achieving SDGs,” the forum underscored the vital role of collaborative efforts in addressing urban challenges and promoting inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities. The event was jointly organized by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, UN-Habitat, and the National University of Laos, reflecting a strong institutional commitment to fostering meaningful dialogue and partnerships.

Over the course of the forum, participants explored critical strategies to integrate climate resilience into urban infrastructure, enhance governance frameworks, and cultivate multi-stakeholder partnerships that bridge government institutions, civil society, academia, and the private sector. Discussions focused on key themes, including climate-adapted urban development, innovative governance practices, and leveraging the energy and creativity of youth to drive transformative change.

Youth engagement was a defining feature of LNUF 2024, with young leaders and innovators presenting actionable solutions to pressing urban issues such as waste management, affordable housing, and the impacts of migration. Their contributions highlighted the potential of intergenerational partnerships in shaping inclusive and forward-looking urban policies.

The forum achieved several significant outcomes, including the reinforcement of stakeholder collaboration and actionable commitments that align with national and global urbanization goals. Notably, progress was made in advancing key policy frameworks, such as the Lao Urban Strategy and Housing Law, which aim to strengthen urban resilience and inclusivity. Additionally, the event underscored the importance of localization in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing the role of grassroots initiatives and local governments in driving sustainable urbanization.

The 3rd Lao National Urban Forum reaffirmed the transformative potential of collective action, partnerships, and innovative approaches in achieving sustainable urban development. By placing youth at the forefront and fostering cross-sector collaboration, the forum set a strong foundation for continued progress in creating livable and resilient urban environments in Lao PDR.

Chapter 2: Overview

2.1 Background

The linkages between urbanization and sustainable development have become more prominent in an increasingly urbanized world. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030) by UN Member States in 2015 underscores the importance of sustainable urban development. Following the adoption of NUA at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016, there has been a growing recognition of cities as transformative forces for inclusive prosperity, well-being, environmental protection, and climate change mitigation.

The World Urban Forum (WUF), a non-legislative technical forum convened biannually by UN-Habitat since 2002, has facilitated partnerships, knowledge sharing, and support for the implementation of the NUA. National Urban Forums have been conceptualized to support sustainable urban development at national levels, providing platforms for policy dialogue, knowledge sharing, and stakeholder engagement.

The first LNUF was a one-day workshop organized at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in 2022, with the theme “Resilience and Inclusive Urbanization”. The second LNUF was organized in 2023 at the Lao International Trade Exhibition and Convention Center (ITECC) as a 7-day event, under the theme “Resilient Urban Economies: Cities as Drivers of Growth and Recovery”.



2.2 Purpose

The LNUF aims to support sustainable urban development in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) by promoting pleasant, safe, and healthy urban areas that are economically, socially, and spiritually sound, with active stakeholder participation in good urban governance. Given the rapid and often uncontrolled urbanization in Lao PDR, characterized by dynamic rural-urban migration, the LNUF is critical in addressing urban challenges and leveraging opportunities.

2.3 Objectives

The objectives of the LNUF are:

a. Provide a Platform for Dialogue

- Facilitate discussions among urban stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organisations, academia, the private sector, development partners, and other urban sectors.
- Promote integrated participatory planning, development, and management of urban areas.

b. Raise Awareness and Advocacy

- Increase awareness about urbanization issues.
- Advocate for inclusive and collaborative approaches to building resilient and sustainable cities.

c. Promote Youth Engagement

- Foster partnerships with youth to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), leveraging their energy, innovation, and perspectives.
- Encourage youth participation in urban planning and development processes.

d. Support SDG Localization

- Align urban development initiatives with SDG 11 (Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable) and the NUA.
- Support the Government of Lao PDR in mainstreaming and implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development



Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022-2026.

2.4. Outcome Statement at a Glance

The LNUF 2024, held from 9-13 December 2024 at the NUOL, brought together a diverse range of urban stakeholders, including government representatives, international organizations, civil society, academia, the private sector, and youth, under the theme "SDG Localization" with a focus on "Partnering with Youth for Achieving SDGs."

Over the five days, the forum facilitated robust dialogue, innovative solutions, and collaborative partnerships aimed at addressing the pressing challenges and leveraging the opportunities presented by urbanization in Lao PDR. In alignment with the principles of the *NUA* and inspired by the *Cairo Call to Action*, the forum emphasized the critical role of local action in achieving sustainable urbanization.

Key outcomes of the forum include:

a. Enhanced Partnerships

Strengthened collaborations among government agencies, development partners, private sector actors, and civil society to align urban development with the SDGs, New Urban Agenda, and the Cairo Call to Action.

b. Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing

Improved stakeholder awareness and technical capacity in sustainable urban planning, nature-based solutions, smart cities, and addressing rural-to-urban migration.

c. Youth Empowerment

Increased engagement of youth in urban development, showcasing their role in fostering innovation and inclusivity, aligned with the Cairo Call to Action.

d. Actionable Commitments

Identification of concrete steps to localize SDGs, enhance climate resilience, and promote inclusive urban governance through pilot projects and financing mechanisms.

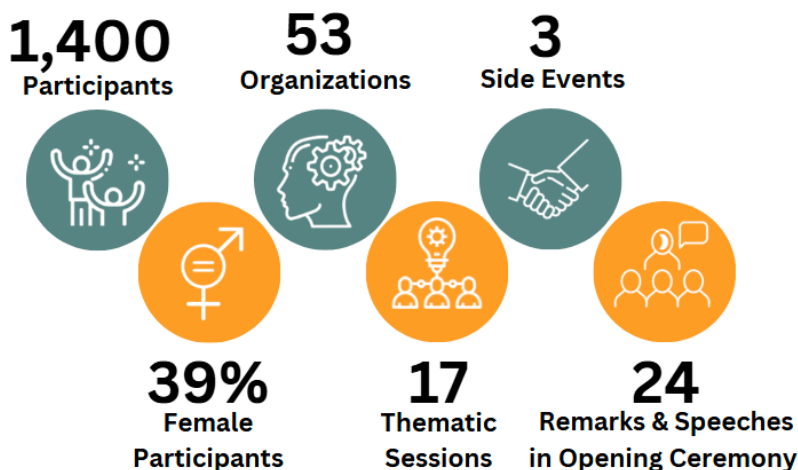
e. Policy Advancements

Affirmation of Lao PDR's commitment to sustainable urbanization through the adoption of the first Housing Law and advancements in the Lao Urban Strategy and Smart Cities initiatives.

The forum reinforced the transformative potential of urbanization as articulated in *NUA* and the *Cairo Call to Action*, emphasizing the urgency of collective efforts to address housing inadequacy, climate change, and inequality. The discussions and partnerships formed during this forum reaffirmed the importance of prioritizing local actions and collaboration as the foundations for sustainable urban futures.

As we move forward, the outcomes of this forum will guide ongoing and future initiatives, ensuring that the principles of equity, inclusivity, and resilience are central to Lao PDR's urban development agenda. Together, we will continue to harness urbanization as a driver of sustainable development, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Key statistics



Chapter 3: Remarks & Keynote Speeches

3.1 Pre-Opening Ceremony (Monday 09 December 2024)

Agenda Presentation Title /	Presenter (Name & Position Title)	Presenter (Organisation Name)
Introduction	MC	Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT)
Welcoming	Ms. Bannaseng Syphoxay, Deputy Director General of DHUP	Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT)
Remarks (Video Message)	Ms. Kazuko Ishigaki, Regional Representative	UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)
Welcoming	Prof. Phisith Sihalarth	National University of Laos (NUOL)



Ms. Bannaseng Syphoxay, Deputy Director General of DHUP, addressed the LNUF 2024, emphasizing its significance as a platform for collaborative urban development dialogue since its establishment in 2022. She expressed deep gratitude for the support of international organizations, national stakeholders, and private sector partners, highlighting this year's theme, "SDG Localization: Partnering with Youth for Achieving SDGs." She acknowledged the critical role of the United Nations (UN) and co-organizers, particularly the NUOL, in advancing sustainable urban development

efforts. Ms. Syphoxay concluded with wishes for productive discussions and a successful forum aligned with its objectives.



The **Regional Representative of UN-Habitat ROAP, Ms. Kazuko Ishigaki**, commended the Government of Lao PDR, particularly the MPWT, for hosting the LNUF 2024. Ms. Kazuko Ishigaki highlighted the critical role of urbanization in driving economic growth, fostering innovation, and facilitating cultural and social exchange, while acknowledging the challenges it brings, such as environmental pressures and housing crises. She mentioned that this year's theme, "SDG Localization," underscores the importance of local action to



achieve global sustainability goals, emphasizing youth participation as key to creating inclusive and resilient urban futures. Ms. Kazuko Ishigaki reiterated UN-Habitat's commitment to supporting Lao PDR's urban development aspirations and stressed the importance of partnerships in overcoming challenges and ensuring that no one is left behind. She concluded by celebrating the forum's achievements and expressing optimism for actionable outcomes.



On behalf of the **National University of Laos**, **Professor Phisith Sihalarth**, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to DHUP and UN-Habitat for trusting NUOL to host the 3rd LNUF. He stated that the aim of the forum was to provide valuable insights to students and youth, fostering their contributions to societal progress and sustainable development. He expressed his hopes that over the next five days, students and youth participants will gain valuable knowledge and understanding from the discussions on the various topics that will be presented. He hoped that this would greatly benefit their education and contribution toward advancing our society toward the shared goals of the SDGs.3.2 Opening Remarks.

On Tuesday the 10th of December, the 3rd LNUF was officially opened by the Minister of Public Works and Transport during the Opening Ceremony. Throughout the Opening Ceremony, important stakeholders, such as international development organisations, government officials and academia, shared remarks and keynote speeches to emphasize the important of this event. Key topics included the rapid urbanization of Lao PDR, the critical role of innovation, and, most importantly, the essential inclusion of youth voices in addressing the complex challenges and opportunities the country faces.





3.2 Opening Ceremony (Tuesday 10 December 2024)

3.2.1 Opening and Welcome Remarks

Agenda / Presentation Title	Presenter (Name & Position Title)	Presenter (Organisation Name)
Entrance	Dance Performances	
Opening Remarks	H.E. Mr. Ngampasong Muongmany, Minister	MPWT
Remarks (Video Message)	Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach, Executive-Director	UN-Habitat
Remarks	Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator	UNRCO
Remarks	Dr. Dexanoulath Sendouangdeth, Associate Professor, President	NUOL
Welcome Remarks	Ms. Visaphone Inthilath, Deputy Director General	DHUP
Welcome Remarks	Dr. Avi Sarkar, Head of Office	UN-Habitat
Ribbon-cutting Ceremony & Photo session	- H.E. Mr. Ngampasong Muongmany, Minister - Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov - Dr. Avi Sarkar - Dr. Dexanoulath Sendouangdeth	- MPWT - UNRCO - UN-Habitat - NUOL
Site Tour/Booth Tour	All	All



The **Minister of Public Works and Transport, H.E. Ngampasong Mouangmany**, inaugurated the LNUF 2024 by emphasizing its critical role in promoting sustainable urban development in Lao PDR. He highlighted the forum's theme, "SDG Localization," and the sub-theme of "Partnering with Youth for Achieving SDGs," underlining the importance of aligning global goals with local realities and leveraging the innovative potential of youth as essential drivers of progress.

The Minister outlined the forum's objectives, which included creating a platform for stakeholders to share experiences, discuss challenges, and identify opportunities for sustainable urban transformation. He acknowledged the accelerating urbanization in Lao PDR and the adoption of strategies such as the NUA and the Vision 2030 to ensure adequate housing and liveable cities.

He invited participants to actively contribute to discussions over the five-day forum to address urban challenges and create modern, resilient, and inclusive cities. He called for ongoing collaboration, innovation, and commitment to achieve sustainable urban development, marking the official opening of the forum. The Minister concluded with the quote: "Finally, once again, we need to remember that sustainable development is not a destination but a continuous process, requiring cooperation, innovation and unwavering commitment from all of us" after which the 3rd LNUF was officially opened.



The **Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach**, in her opening remarks at the LNUF 2024, emphasized the significance of localizing the SDGs and reaffirmed the principles of the NUA. Reflecting on the Cairo Call to Action, she highlighted the role of local action in addressing housing inadequacy, climate change, and inequality, while applauding Lao PDR's advancements such as the ratification of its first Housing Law and the development of a new urban strategy. She underscored the importance of youth and marginalized group engagement in creating inclusive cities and called for stronger partnerships to tackle urban challenges. The remarks concluded with a call to action for embedding equity, sustainability, and resilience into urban development practices, ensuring impactful outcomes for future generations.



In his address, **United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov** underscored the pivotal role of urbanization in driving sustainable and inclusive growth within Lao PDR. He reflected on the progress achieved since previous forums, highlighting

the need for collaborative efforts and innovative approaches to tackle pressing urban challenges such as infrastructure development, environmental sustainability, and social equity, using for example Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR). Notably, he commended the forum's dedication to youth engagement, emphasizing their energy and creativity as essential to building vibrant and inclusive cities. Acknowledging the leadership of the MPWT, UN-Habitat, and the NUOL, Mr. Burkhanov called for leveraging partnerships and lessons from the forum to shape urbanization into a powerful catalyst for prosperity and resilience.



Dr. Dexanoulath Sendouangdeth, the president of National University of Laos addressed its initiative in the urban sector through talent development, research, and community engagement to realize urban planning and development. He stressed the importance of collaboration between officials, private sector, communities, and academia under the 3 directions of Laotian city development; Human-Centered Smart Cities, Resilient and Sustainable Cities, and Livable and Inclusive Cities.



Dr. Avi Sarkar, Head of Office UN-Habitat, remarked the pivotal role of urbanization in driving sustainable development in Lao PDR. Highlighting progress, including the landmark Housing Law and the Lao Urban Strategy, his speech emphasized the importance of partnerships, local action, and youth engagement in addressing urban challenges. The address commended the government and stakeholders for their dedication to building inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities while aligning efforts with the UNSDCF 2022-2026. The speech concluded with a call to action for transformative collaboration and tangible outcomes to advance urban prosperity and shared development goals.



Ms. Visaphone Inthilath, Deputy Director General of DHUP noted the privilege she felt in addressing everyone at LNUF 2024 and expressed her gratitude to all participants for their engagement and contributions. She marked on the importance of having the LNUF as a cornerstone for dialogue and collaboration on urbanization challenges in Lao PDR, also reflecting on the importance of youth engagement and local action in



achieving sustainable urban development. She mentioned that strengthened policy frameworks, enhanced technical expertise, and actionable commitments to align with national strategies and global development goals are key outcomes of this forum and a testament to the dedication and expertise of all

participants, as well as the support of our international partners, including UN-Habitat and NUOL. She encouraged all stakeholders to maintain momentum, implement the recommendations discussed, and to continue contributing to the vision of resilient, inclusive, and sustainable cities in Lao PDR.



3.2.2 Keynote Speeches

Presenter (Name & Position Title)	Presenter (Organisation Name)
Ms. Shanny Cambell, Country Director	ADB
Ms. Martine Th��rer, Resident Representative	UNDP
Dr. Bjoern Surborg, Country Director	GIZ
Mr. Thanongsinh Kanlagna, Vice President	LNCCI
Mr. Emil Anczewicz, Regional Infrastructure and Urban Advisor	British Embassy
Mr. Kensuke Hayashi, Representative	JICA
Mr. Serge Doussantousse, Director	Green Vientiane
Ms. Edelweiss Silan, Vice Chair	iNGO Network
Prof. Adjunct Sengchanh Kounnavong, Vice Chair	LTPHI, MoH
Mr. Thongdam Phongphichith, Co-Director	Lao CSO and FG_RAI
Mr. George Asimwe, Senior Officer and Head of Waste Management Unit	GGGI
Ms. Sanjeevani Dilanthi Singh, Economic Affairs Officer	ESCAP
Mr. Kambiz Kabiri, Policy and Census Coordinator	UNFPA
Mr. Pierre-Yves Jousseau, Senior Project Manager / Deputy Country Manager	UNOPS
Mr. Jonas Cordova Gomez, Policy Officer (Shelter & Infrastructure FP)	IOM



Ms. Shanny Campbell, Country Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) emphasized ADB's commitment to fostering resilient, livable, and sustainable cities in Lao PDR. ADB's Strategy 2030 focuses on improving infrastructure coverage, urban planning, and climate resilience. She highlighted ongoing projects, including climate-resilient water supply services for vulnerable households, and stressed the urgent need for affordable housing, multimodal transport systems, and Public-Private Partnership (PPP) reforms. Her speech underscored cities' roles as engines of inclusive and climate-smart growth.



Addressing the pressing need for a circular economy, **Dr. Bjoern Surborg, Country Director of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)** emphasized cities as hubs for innovation and sustainability. He underscored the global impact of unsustainable consumption, particularly plastics, and called for a transition away from linear economic models. With GIZ's ongoing collaborations in waste management and resilience building, he urged stakeholders to view urban spaces as opportunities to drive sustainable, climate-smart solutions.



Innovation and youth engagement were central to **Ms. Martine Thérier's** remarks, the **Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, as she highlighted the vital role of young people in achieving sustainable cities. She stressed the importance of partnerships and inclusive planning to address urban challenges, ensuring that cities in Lao PDR become resilient and equitable. By empowering youth as leaders and collaborators, she argued, urban areas can align effectively with the SDGs.



The private sector holds immense potential to drive Lao PDR's urban transformation, noted **Mr. Thanongsinh Kanlagna, Vice President of the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI)**. He shared LNCCI's work in youth development, highlighting the opportunities in skills training through the Dual Cooperative Training (DCT) Center to align with economic needs. Calling for greater collaboration across sectors, he encouraged youth participation as a catalyst for socio-economic progress and urged the forum attendees to shape a vision for inclusive urban growth.



Climate finance and sustainable mobility took center stage in **Mr. Emil Ancewicz's address, the Regional Infrastructure and Urban Advisor of the British Embassy**. He spotlighted UK-led initiatives, such as the Green Economy Framework and urban mobility projects leveraging expertise from Transport for London. Highlighting cities as the context for development, he argued for integrating the "urban lens" across sectors to unlock resilience and low-carbon growth, positioning cities as essential partners in achieving climate goals.



Reflecting on the Japan International Cooperation Agency's (JICA) urban development efforts, **Mr. Kensuke Hayashi, Representative of JICA** shared details of impactful projects in Vientiane and Luang Prabang, including Geographic Information System (GIS) platforms, sustainable transport initiatives, and urban masterplans. He stressed the importance of SDG localization, advocating for inclusive area-based development where local communities play a leading role. Looking ahead, he outlined JICA's commitment to strengthening urban management capacities

and delivering practical solutions for livable cities.



Plastic pollution remains one of the most urgent urban challenges, emphasized **Mr. Serge Doussantousse, Director of Green Vientiane**. Highlighting SDG 12, he called for responsible consumption and systemic waste management reform in cities. With youth as key agents of change, he urged local action, collaboration with industries, and stronger policies to reduce single-use plastics. Cities, he concluded, must lead by example in addressing environmental sustainability.



For cities to thrive, youth must lead the way, declared **Ms. Edelweiss Silan, Vice Chair of the International Non-Governmental Organization Network (iNGO Network)**. She highlighted the demographic potential of Lao PDR, urging stakeholders to empower young people through well-financed partnerships and initiatives. By putting youth at the forefront of urban development, cities can become incubators for innovation, green growth, and resilience. Her call to action was clear: youth

leadership is critical for shaping inclusive and climate-smart cities.



Urban health challenges are central to achieving sustainable cities, noted **Prof. Adjunct Sengchanh Kounnavong, Vice Chair of Lao Tropical Public Health Institute (LTPHI)**. She highlighted how local governments can play a critical role in tackling pollution, reducing road traffic fatalities, and addressing emerging health issues through effective urban planning. Connecting SDG 3 with urban strategies, she emphasized the need for proactive action to foster healthier lifestyles and reduce environmental hazards, inviting participants to discuss health-driven urban solutions.



Collaboration and multi-sectoral engagement are key to sustainable urban development, stressed **Mr. Thongdam Phongphichith, Co-Director of the Lao Civil Society Organizations (Lao CSO)**. Representing Lao CSOs, he shared their initiatives on sustainable agriculture,

good governance, and environmental protection. Highlighting the importance of rural-urban linkages, he emphasized responsible investment and active youth participation as tools for achieving SDG 11 and SDG 17. His address encouraged inclusive dialogue to shape Lao PDR's urban transformation.



Lao PDR's green growth journey is both promising and necessary, as outlined by **Mr. George Asiimwe, Senior Officer of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)**. He detailed GGGI's impactful projects, including sustainable waste management, circular economy solutions, and climate resilience efforts. By partnering with government bodies and engaging youth, GGGI promotes innovative solutions for greener cities. He urged stakeholders to scale these initiatives, mobilize climate finance, and empower youth to drive environmental progress.



For urban areas to thrive, partnerships and youth must take center stage, emphasized **Ms. Sanjeevani Singh, Economic Affairs Officer of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia**



Pacific (ESCAP). She noted urbanization's dual role as both a challenge and an opportunity for sustainability and innovation. ESCAP's technical support for Lao PDR's Smart City Strategy was highlighted as a model of multi-stakeholder collaboration. She called for bold solutions to embed inclusivity, resilience, and resource management into urban planning.



Demographic shifts are reshaping Lao PDR's urban landscape, shared **Mr. Kambiz Kabiri, Policy and Census Coordinator of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).** He mentioned that declining fertility, ageing populations, and rapid urbanization demand immediate policy attention. He emphasized the importance of gender-sensitive planning to bridge rural-urban gaps and address youth and older populations' needs. Highlighting the role of data-driven strategies, he advocated for equitable policies that harness demographic dividends while promoting sustainable urban growth.



Sustainable infrastructure is the backbone of resilient urbanization, asserted **Mr. Pierre-Yves Jousseume, Deputy Country Manager of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).** Sharing UNOPS' work on healthcare and customs infrastructure, he underscored the importance of evidence-based planning and lifecycle approaches for long-term impact. He called for stronger partnerships and investments to address infrastructure gaps, ensuring cities meet both current and future needs. His remarks highlighted urban systems' critical role in achieving SDG-aligned national goals.



Migration continues to shape urban landscapes, said **Mr. Jonas Cordova Gomez, Policy Officer of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).** He explored the drivers of rural-urban migration, including employment and education opportunities, while addressing challenges like overcrowding and infrastructure strain. The impact of youth outmigration on rural productivity was also highlighted. Advocating for inclusive urban policies, he called for solutions that recognize migrants' needs and foster sustainable, resilient cities for all.

3.3 Closing Ceremony (Friday 13 December 2024)

LNUF Proceedings Progress of the LNUF		
16:00 - 16:05	Closing Remarks	Dr. Avi Sarkar, Head of Office of UN-Habitat Lao PDR
16:05 - 16:10	Closing Remarks	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sinthavone DARAVONG, Vice President of NUOL
16:10 - 16:20	Closing Remarks	Ms. Visaphone INTHILATH, Deputy Director General of DHUP
16:20 - 16:25	Group Photo	All

Dr. Avi Sarkar, Head of Office of UN-Habitat highlighted the key outcomes of the 3rd LNUF: Enhanced partnerships, Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing, Youth Empowerment, Actionable Commitments and Policy Advancements. He stated that these outcomes will serve as a guide for ongoing and future initiatives, ensuring that all stakeholders involved focus on equity, inclusivity and resilience being the centrality of Lao PDR's urban development agenda. He emphasized his gratitude to MPWT, the NUOL, faculty and students, participants from different organizations and especially DHUP colleagues, student volunteers and colleagues from UN-Habitat for successfully organizing this event.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sinthavone Dalavong, Vice President of NUOL remarked that it was an honor to host the 3rd Lao National Urban Forum, jointly organized with MPWT and UN-Habitat. He remarked on the engagement in sharing innovative ideas, and the forging of valuable partnerships. Gratitude was expressed to all participants for their active

engagement and insightful contributions, to the MPWT and UN-Habitat for their invaluable support and collaboration in making this event a success, and to the organizing committee and all staff for bringing this event to fruition. Dr. Sinthavone Dalavong concluded by stating that he looked forward to continuing the partnership with MPWT and UN-Habitat to address emerging urban issues and advance the SDGs.

Ms. Visaphone Inthilath, Deputy Director General of DHUP delivered the closing remarks at LNUF 2024, reflecting on its success as a platform for collaborative urban dialogue. She extended gratitude to international partners, national stakeholders, and civil society for their contributions, emphasizing the forum's focus on SDG localization and youth engagement. She highlighted the significance of advancing the New Urban Agenda and addressing challenges like housing and climate adaptation. The speech concluded with appreciation for participants' efforts and a call for sustained collaboration in achieving sustainable urban development.



Chapter 4: Thematic Sessions

LNUF Proceedings Thematic Sessions			
Day	Session	Title	Lead Entities
1	1	Flood Risk Management and Mitigation through Nature-based Solutions in Lao PDR	MPWT, GGGI, & World Bank
	2	SDG Localization	UN-Habitat & UNOPS
	3	SDG 17 - Lao CSO Works Towards SDG 17	Lao CSO Secretariat
	4	Responsible Agriculture Investment (RAI) in Urban Areas	SAEDA & FG-RAI
2	1	Opening Ceremony	MPWT & UN-Habitat
	2	Localizing Smart City Development in Lao PDR	DHUP & ESCAP & UNOPS
	3	Implementation of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Agendas in Lao PDR	MPWT (DHUP) & UN-Habitat Bangkok
3	1	Our Future without Plastic Pollution // Regional Aspects of the Plastic and Waste Challenge	Green Vientiane & Econox & SEI
	2	Empowering Communities: Building Resilient and Inclusive Cities	NUOL & Local Government of Vientiane Capital City & GCA
	3	Urban Water Sustainability: GIS Tools for Water Supply Planning	NUOL & DWS & World Waternet
	4	1. Adolescent Pregnancy in Urban Areas 2. Adolescent Food and Beverages Preferences Leading Cause of Future NCDs 3. Sources of Air Pollution in Lao PDR: an Opportunity for Health and Climate Co-benefits	Lao TPHI, MoH & SEI
4	1	Rural-Urban Migration	World Bank & IOM & Global Shapers Vientiane
	2	Panel Discussion - Youth Engagement	UNFPA
	3	Partnering with Youth for Achieving SDG 3.9 (Air Pollution and Health)	WHO & UNDP
	4	Infrastructure Asset Management for Urban Development: insights and recommendations based on CAT-I	MoF & UNOPS
5	1	Young Architects and Civil Engineers' Practices to Achieve the SDGs	ALACE
	2	Youth and Waste to Resources	GGGI & World Bank
	3	Youth Innovating for SDGs - Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Development	UNDP
	4	Closing Ceremony	MPWT & UN-Habitat

Day 1-1: Flood risk management and mitigation through Nature-Based Solutions in Lao PDR

(MPWT, GGGI, World Bank)

Summary

The session highlighted Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for urban resilience in Lao PDR. The key NbS strategies include riverbank protection, wetlands restoration, and flood risk assessments. Current structural and non-structural investments in this area focus on reducing urban flood impacts, promoting NbS integration, and enhancing community engagement. The projects in Oudomxay, Luang Prabang, Pakxan, and Vientiane showcase NbS benefits for flood mitigation, livelihoods, and biodiversity.



Key Outputs and Recommendations

- Provided an overview of the Nature Based Solutions for Urban Adaptation (NATURA) project.
- Provided an updated an overview of works undertaken by the Lao PDR Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Management Project.
- Discussed potential synergies, data sharing and integration of activities between projects.



Day 1-2: SDG Localization

(UN-Habitat, UNOPS)



Summary

The session emphasized the importance of integrating the SDGs into local urban planning to foster sustainable development in Lao PDR. The session highlighted the transformative potential of VLRs as a tool to track SDG progress and promote inclusive urban governance. Key discussions covered the importance of using data-driven approaches, leveraging capacity-building programs, and aligning projects with SDGs to address critical urban challenges like waste management, resilient urban infrastructure, and community-based tourism.

Key Outputs and Recommendations

- SDG Localization is an important driver for the success of the 2030 Agenda and the development of evidence-based local plans and actions.
- Equal education is an important factor to empower the young generation.
- Integrating digital technologies into the city's system can increase transparency, working efficiency and response to the people better.



Day 1-3: SDG 17 – Lao CSO Works Towards SDG 17

(Lao CSO)

Summary

The session on SDG 17 showcased Lao CSOs role in advancing partnerships for sustainable development. Led by Dr. Souphon Sayavong and LCCC, the session emphasized coordination, capacity building, and promoting inclusivity. Lao CSOs align with the National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSED) and SDGs by fostering unity, transparency, and innovation, while enhancing technical expertise to support sustainable, equitable progress through multi-stakeholder collaboration at national and international levels.

Key Outputs and Recommendations

- Strengthened coordination among CSOs, government, and stakeholders to align with SDGs and NSED.
- Enhanced technical expertise in sectors like health, environment, and governance.
- Unified advocacy promoting transparency, equality, and creativity in development.



Day 1-4: Responsible Agriculture Investment (RAI) in Urban Areas

(SAEDA, FG-RAI)

Summary

The session emphasized responsible land management and urban development strategies in Lao PDR. Key insights included the impact of land-use conversion on food security, environmental sustainability, and governance gaps. Discussions featured investment promotion, land management policies, and NbS. The recommendations highlighted systematic planning, Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC), capacity building, and balancing urbanization with sustainable agriculture to meet SDG goals, foster resilient urban growth, and ensure inclusive, equitable development.

Key Outputs and Recommendations

- Land and Urban Planning: Re-plan boundaries, ensure clear land allocation, and focus on district-level urban planning.
- Management: Strengthen local governance, establish land information systems, and protect irrigated rice fields with strict enforcement.
- Policy and Regional Integration: Collaborate on ASEAN guidelines, update investment policies, and engage partners like TLI and GIZ.
- Community Engagement: Ensure FPIC to protect rights and involve communities in decision-making.
- Agri-Food Systems: Promote standards, improve market access, and empower youth and women in agribusiness.

Day 2-2: Localizing Smart City Development in Lao PDR

(DHUP/MPWT, UNESCAP, UNOPS)



Summary

The session highlighted the development of a National Smart City Strategy (NSCS) to address urban challenges such as traffic congestion, waste management, and housing shortages. Discussions emphasized youth engagement, technology-driven urban solutions, and alignment with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) frameworks, aiming to build sustainable, people-centered smart cities tailored to Lao PDR's needs while advancing SDG localization.

Key Outputs and Recommendations

- **Advancing SDG Localization:** Smart Cities can leverage technology to enhance urban services, sustainability, and quality of life.
- **Youth Engagement:** Emphasized as a driver for innovation and critical to shaping the NSCS & Smart City Development.
- **Addressing Urban Challenges:** Tackling issues like traffic congestion, waste management, air pollution, resource management, and housing shortages through innovative, localized solutions is critical.
- **Collaborative Approach:** Stakeholders are urged to work together, aligning efforts with ASEAN frameworks & regional best practices.
- **National Strategy Focus:** Developing a people-centred, sustainable smart city strategy tailored to Lao PDR's needs.



Day 2-3: Implementation of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS) Agendas in Lao PDR

(MPWT: DHUP and DP, UN-Habitat Bangkok Programme Office)



Summary

The session highlighted ASUS as a framework to address urban challenges in Lao PDR. Focus areas included improving urban transport, waste management, and land use while aligning with SDGs and ASEAN priorities. Projects in Cities like Kaysone Phomvihane and Luang Prabang showcased smart urban planning and sustainability efforts.



Key Outputs and Recommendations

- Plan for disaster risk reduction and sustainable and climate-resilient urban design.
- Improve urban planning mechanisms and maximize the use of available resources.
- Improve the quality of life of urban residents and plan for sustainable development.
- Identify and secure funding for urban designs and planning.
- Provide technical support in the implementation of the projects.
- Support to ensure the project contributes to the achievement of the SDGs.

Day 3-1: Our future without Plastic Pollution // Regional Aspects of the Plastic and Waste Challenge

(Green Vientiane, Econox, SEI)

Summary

The session explored the rising challenge of plastic pollution in Lao PDR amid global projections of tripled plastic production by 2060. Green Vientiane emphasized the need for immediate action and environmental rules for businesses. Econox underscored the necessity of green projects enforcing sustainable practices. SEI highlighted the importance of a circular economy and recognized the critical role of waste pickers in combating plastic waste.



Key Outputs and Recommendations

- Plastic and oil industries plan to triple global plastic production by 2060, heavily impacting Lao PDR.
- Green projects, regardless of scale, must introduce environmental rules for businesses and communities.
- A circular economy is essential to addressing the global and local plastic crisis.
- Waste pickers play a vital role in mitigating pollution and managing waste sustainably.
- Collaboration between stakeholders is key to tackling plastic and waste challenges effectively.





Day 3-2: Empowering Communities: Building Resilient and Inclusive Cities

(NUOL, Local Government of Vientiane Capital City, GCA)



Summary

The session highlighted Community-Driven Urban Development (CDUD) as pivotal for sustainable cities. Discussions addressed housing, land use, and infrastructure while promoting public space accessibility. Case studies and panel dialogues emphasized local ownership, inclusive decision-making, and collaboration among stakeholders. Outcomes included actionable recommendations for CDUD integration into policies, capacity-building for communities, and fostering stronger networks among practitioners, government officials, and private sector representatives.

Key Outputs and Recommendations

- Rapid urban growth and disorderly expansion are the main obstacles that complicate urban management and development.
- Encouraging active community and local participation is a mechanism to promote effective urban planning implementation.



Day 3-3: Urban Water Sustainability: GIS Tools for Water Supply Planning

(NUOL, DWS/MPWT and World Waternet)

Summary

The session highlighted challenges in urban water management due to rapid urbanization and climate change. It emphasized using GIS technology for efficient water resource management, reducing non-revenue water, and improving resilience. Experts shared innovative practices, integrated water resource management strategies, and case studies to inform sustainable water use. Key outcomes included actionable recommendations, stakeholder collaboration, and fostering informed policy decisions.



Key Outputs and Recommendations

- The situation, problems, challenges and the future plan of water supply to enhance people's quality of life and the efficiency of enterprise operations have been discussed.
- How to use GIS to manage and improve the efficiency of urban water supply.

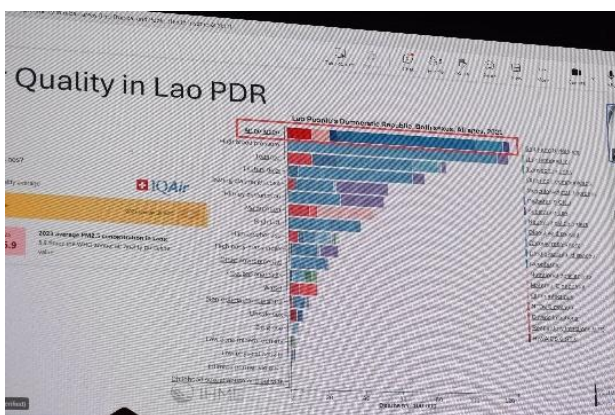
Day 3-4: Adolescent Pregnancy in Urban Areas // Adolescent food and beverages preferences leading cause of future Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) // Sources of air pollution in Lao PDR: an opportunity for health and climate co-benefits

(LTPHI/MoH, SEI)



Summary

The session addressed critical urban health challenges, including adolescent pregnancy, unhealthy dietary preferences leading to Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) risks, and air pollution in Lao PDR. LTPHI emphasized the intra-urban differences in adolescent health needs, the rising trend of processed food consumption among youth, and SEI addressed the air pollution's health impacts. Promoting healthy lifestyles and reducing emissions are key actions to achieve health and climate co-benefits in urban Lao PDR.



Key Outputs and Recommendations

- Intra-urban variance of adolescent motherhood and early marriage within districts of Vientiane Capital necessitate a nuanced, contextualized approach toward the Lao PDR's aim to address unmet needs in family planning and adolescent sexual & reproductive health services by 2030 in urban areas.
- Raising awareness about healthy eating habits and healthy lifestyles among youth in urban areas particularly is urgently needed to reduce the risks of developing non-communicable diseases when they become adults.
- Air pollution is the largest risk to premature mortality in Lao PDR.
- Key sources of air pollutants include vegetation fires, agriculture, industry, electricity generation and residential cooking.
- By taking action to reduce emissions we can achieve benefits to air quality, human health, and climate.



Day 4-1: Rural-Urban Migration

(World Bank, IOM, Global Shapers Vientiane)



Summary

The World Bank analyzed Lao PDR's structural economic transformation, highlighting its impact on rural-urban migration. Despite economic growth, slow worker reallocation from agriculture to services has hindered migration, while high urban living costs and low wages deter movement. IOM presented a toolkit developed with UN-Habitat to integrate migration into urban development, promoting holistic solutions. Global Shapers Vientiane has shared firsthand experiences of rural-to-urban migration within Lao PDR and abroad by young people.

Key Outputs and Recommendations

- Looking ahead, economic factors will continue to influence the pace and pattern of rural-to-urban migration in Lao PDR, including trends in structural transformation, the location of non-farm job creation, inflation and urban living costs, as well as cross-border migration.
- Youth have a significant role in several aspects of migration in Lao PDR including rural-to-urban migration, within the country and abroad. Therefore, youth's voice matters.
- Through a youth network, awareness raising on migration can be promoted and peer-to-peer support can be a great source for overcoming challenges.

Day 4-2: Panel Discussion – Youth Engagement

(UNFPA)

Summary

The session emphasized connecting youth with policymakers to address SDGs, focusing on education, health, employment, and well-being. Speakers from government, CSOs, and youth organizations shared strategies to empower youth, address gender-based violence, promote inclusive policies, and provide adolescent-friendly services. The session consisted of an interactive plenary where students voiced aspirations and challenges for meaningful engagement in policy development.



Key Outputs and Recommendations

- Emphasize youth priorities in SDG localization, including education, health, and gender-based violence prevention, while promoting inclusive approaches for LGBTQIA+ rights and adolescent-friendly services.
- Strengthen youth participation in program development, monitoring, and policy dialogues to ensure meaningful engagement.
- Foster collaboration between youth, policymakers, and organizations to address challenges and create inclusive national policies supporting marginalized groups, including LGBTQIA+ communities.
- Develop and implement gender-inclusive strategies to tackle GBV effectively.

Day 4-3: Partnering with Youth for Achieving SDG 3.9 (Air Pollution and Health)

(MoNRE, WHO, UNDP, SEED, NUOL)

Summary

The session showcased youth-led solutions to combat air pollution and its health impacts. Presentations included air quality monitoring strategies (MONRE), healthcare waste management innovations (WHO), and biofilters for pollution reduction (Clean Air Without Border). Social Environmental Education and Development (SEED) emphasized youth leadership in environmental education, while the NUOL highlighted academic contributions. The session emphasized how collaboration and youth empowerment are key to achieving SDG 3.9.



Key Outputs and Recommendations

- Air pollution is a major global issue, affecting both health and the environment, including in Lao PDR. Addressing it requires collaboration among various stakeholders to create clean, healthy cities.
- Young people can play a key role in addressing air pollution in Lao PDR. For instance, through contributions to air quality monitoring, waste management, innovation, youth-led initiatives, and research.
- Youth engagement will help achieve SDGs including SDG3.9 by brining innovation and fresh ideas. They are innovators, change-makers, and key players in the country's future.





Day 4-4: Infrastructure Asset Management for Urban Development: Insights and Recommendations Based on CAT-I

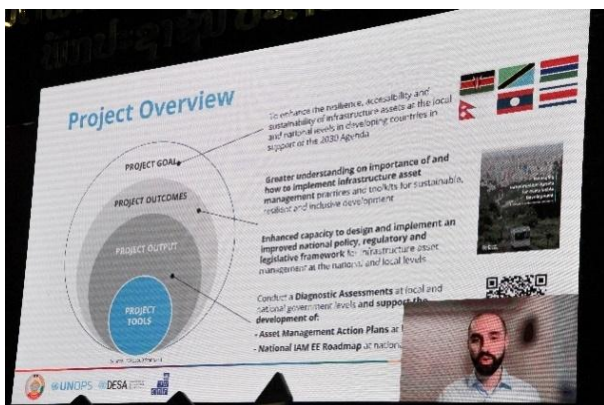
(MoF, UNOPS)

Summary

The session introduced the Capacity Assessment Tool for Infrastructure Asset Management (CAT-IAM) approach, assessing gaps and opportunities in Lao PDR's infrastructure management. Key strengths include planning frameworks, governance structures, and integration of modern technologies. Challenges include limited asset management plans, insufficient data systems, and capacity gaps. Recommendations emphasized developing Strategic Asset Management Plans (SAMPs), improving Operations & Maintenance (O&M) processes, strengthening capacity building, and implementing centralized systems for sustainable and resilient infrastructure.

Key Outputs and Recommendations

- **Understanding of IAM Principles:** Explored the fundamental principles of IAM and its critical role in fostering sustainable, resilient, and accessible development.
- **IAM Enabling Environment Framework:** Delved into the IAM Enabling Environment Framework, focusing on the eight enabling indicators and their relevance to advance the SDGs, Climate Actions, and Inclusion.
- **National IAM Enabling Environment Analysis for Lao PDR:** Provided an overview of Lao PDR's national IAM Enabling Environment, identifying key strengths, challenges, and opportunities for enhancement.
- **Strategic roadmap for IAM Enabling Environment:** Discussed the strategic IAM Enabling Environment roadmap action plan designed to address priority capacity gaps and strengthen implementation processes.
- **Future Directions for IAM Implementation:** Discussed national direction and potential future programs to effectively implement the strategic roadmap, enhancing overall IAM impact.



Day 5-1: Young Architects and Civil Engineers' Practices to Achieve the SDGs

(ALACE)

Summary

The session provided a platform for dialogue among academia, private and public sectors, architects, and civil engineers, focusing on raising awareness and imparting knowledge to young professionals. The session seeks to inspire young architects and engineers to actively participate in sustainable community and urban development, contributing to SDG 11—creating safe, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities and settlements.



Key Outputs and Recommendations

- Strengthened engagement of young architects and engineers in sustainable urban development.
- Identification of practical solutions to overcome barriers in urbanization efforts.
- Enhanced collaboration among academia, policymakers, and professionals to promote innovation in urban planning.



Day 5-2: Youth and Waste to Resources

(GGGI, World Bank)



Summary

The session emphasized the youth's role in sustainable waste management. GGGI highlighted initiatives like the 'Project for Capacity Building in Wastewater and Solid Waste Treatment to Improve the Urban Environment (KOICA Phase I)' and the 'Project for Upgrading Solid Waste Management in ASEAN Municipalities (AMUSE)' that engage youth in recycling, waste separation, and biogas solutions, benefiting over 236,000 people.

Key Outputs and Recommendations

- A brief presentation regarding current waste management and pollution issues to participants provided an educational opportunity from which they have critically learned.
- Educated participants (students) on the need of waste separation at source for easier recycling and recovery, and foster a circular economy.
- Spotlitged volunteer opportunity with GGGI, which will allow students to actively engage in waste management processes at provincial, and national levels.
- The strategy and workplan for the solid waste management system are developed, allowing the participants to get more knowledge about the transition to the new system and technology.
- The pilot project on waste separation at communities and schools inspired the participants to take more actions on waste reduction towards sustainable waste management.



Day 5-3: Youth Innovating for SDGs – Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Development

(UNDP)



Summary

The session "Youth Innovating for SDGs – Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Development" by UNDP featured nine innovative pitches by students:

- **Zero to One** – Safe spaces for youth to manage stress
- **HELP NOW** – Emergency response app
- **Scrap to Soil** – Food waste composting
- **Map to Your Mind** – Youth identity podcast
- **Go2Green** – Waste management solutions
- **Smart Farming** – Innovative agriculture solutions
- **Hospital Data System** – Digitizing patient records
- **Peer Support for Dropouts** – Older students guide younger ones
- **Digital Detox** – Reducing mobile overuse through challenges

Key Outputs and Recommendations

- 9 youth teams presented their offers on various topics, including SDG 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 12, 13.
- Selected two winners from the Youth Innovation for SDGs innovation challenge and received \$500 each to start testing out their prototypes
 - Map to Your Mind team: identified youth struggle relating to an inability to know oneself and proposed a podcast to help young individuals better learn about themselves. A youth-focused podcast designed to inspire and motivate young people to plan their future effectively
 - Helpnow team: proposing an application as a solution to address road safety issues, targeting mainly the reporting system of road accidents to reduce fatality.

Featured Side Events

Day 2: United Nations Volunteers (UNV) – Introduction to UNV

(UNV)

Summary

The Career Session "UNV Job Interview" highlighted the UNV programme's mission, competency-based selection process, and practical interview strategies and guidance. It emphasized youth empowerment through volunteerism for SDG achievement and showcased UNV opportunities as pathways to impactful careers, inspiring participants to contribute to global and local development efforts.



Day 4: Zadan Arts – Hip Hop, Dance and Urban Culture's Positive Impact on Development

(Zadan Arts)

Summary

Zadan Arts highlighted Hip-Hop, dance, and urban culture as powerful tools for positive development and SDG achievement in Lao PDR. Originating in The Bronx, New York during times of crisis, Hip Hop's 9 elements show a way to develop urban youth culture. In Lao PDR, the Hip Hop and Dance scene is growing into a thriving culture, with many events, festivals, and community outreach. An upcoming documentary will bring awareness to the scene and its power to help guide development among urban youth.





Chapter 5:

Exhibition Booths

Organisations got the opportunity to display their products, publications and work in an exhibition booth in the Main Hall of the NUOL.

The organisations that displayed their products, publications and work are:

- ALACE
- DHUP/MPWT
- GGGI
- IOM
- LNCCI
 - Lao Products Booth – Tea, ginseng, soap, scrub
 - Sangthong Wood & Craft – Crafted sticky rice box, crafted bags
 - TOYO – High-quality pipes that manage wastewater in the city
 - ODOP – Lao Products
 - Niyom Lao Farm – Coffee powder, coffee bean and sweets
- Noukham Construction Company
- NUOL
- UNDP
- UNFPA
- UN-Habitat







Appendix 1:

Outcome Statement of LNUF 2024

The Third Lao National Urban Forum (LNUF 2024), held from 9-13 December 2024 at the National University of Laos, brought together a diverse range of urban stakeholders, including government representatives, international organizations, civil society, academia, the private sector, and youth, under the theme "SDG Localization" with a focus on "Partnering with Youth for Achieving SDGs."

Over the five days, the forum facilitated robust dialogue, innovative solutions, and collaborative partnerships aimed at addressing the pressing challenges and leveraging the opportunities presented by urbanization in Lao PDR. In alignment with the principles of the *New Urban Agenda* and inspired by the *Cairo Call to Action*, the forum emphasized the critical role of local action in achieving sustainable urbanization.

Key outcomes of the forum include:

- **Enhanced Partnerships:** Strengthened collaborations among government agencies, development partners, private sector actors, and civil society organizations to align urban development initiatives with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the *New Urban Agenda*, and the aspirations outlined in the *Cairo Call to Action*.
- **Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing:** Improved awareness and technical capacity of stakeholders in sustainable urban planning, management, and governance. Discussions included integrating nature-based solutions, advancing smart cities, and addressing rural-to-urban migration challenges in ways that reflect the global principles of sustainability, equity, and resilience.
- **Youth Empowerment:** Increased engagement of youth in urban development processes, fostering innovation and inclusivity. Youth-driven initiatives and solutions showcased at the forum underline the critical role of young people in shaping the urban future of Lao PDR, echoing the *Cairo Call to Action's* emphasis on inclusion and empowerment of marginalized groups.
- **Actionable Commitments:** Participants identified concrete steps for localizing the SDGs, enhancing resilience against climate impacts, and promoting inclusive urban governance. These include scaling up pilot projects, leveraging local and international financing mechanisms, and strengthening multi-stakeholder engagement.
- **Policy Advancements:** Affirmation of Lao PDR's commitment to sustainable urbanization through the adoption of forward-looking urban strategies, including the ratification of the first-ever Housing Law and advancements in the Lao Urban Strategy and Smart Cities initiatives. These steps align with the *New Urban Agenda's* vision of inclusive urban governance and equitable access to resources.

The forum reinforced the transformative potential of urbanization as articulated in the *New Urban Agenda* and the *Cairo Call to Action*, emphasizing the urgency of collective efforts to address housing inadequacy, climate change, and inequality. The discussions and partnerships formed during this forum reaffirmed the importance of prioritizing local actions and collaboration as the foundations for sustainable urban futures.

As we move forward, the outcomes of this forum will guide ongoing and future initiatives, ensuring that the principles of equity, inclusivity, and resilience are central to Lao PDR's urban development agenda. Together, we will continue to harness urbanization as a driver of sustainable development, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Appendix 2: Communication and Outreach

Appendix 2.1: Promotion Material

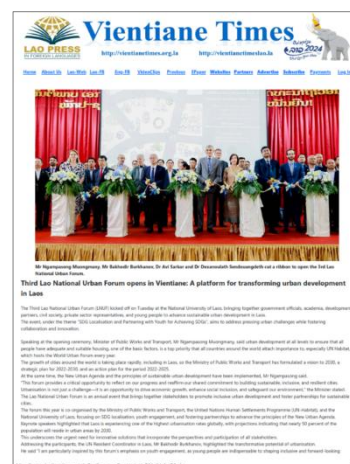
Kanchanaphone (Natalie) Latthida, a Lao student, has been the volunteer graphic designer for LNUF 2024. Natalie has created the drawings and layout for the below poster. Edits have been made by UN-Habitat. This poster has been used as a large banner outside the venue, social media marketing material, slides throughout and in between sessions and as material for all stakeholders. (A: Banner, 5m x 3m, Roll-up Banner, 0.6m x 1.5m)



Created by Kanchanaphone (Natalie) Latthida, rights transferred to UN-Habitat Lao PDR.

Appendix 2.2: Media Coverage

- ປະຊາຊົນ (“People News” in English, State-owned news agency)¹
- Vet9 Channel (Private broadcast company)²
- Vientiane Times (English News Paper at National level)³



¹ https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1139634804516641&id=100054103977098&rid=hrjnaK6VqhcJqOQj# (Published on 10 December 2024 on the official Facebook. Accessed on 31 December 2024.)

² <https://www.facebook.com/vte9cha/videos/%E0%BA%81%E0%BA%AD%E0%BA%87%E0%BA%9B%E0%BA%B0%E0%BA%8A%E0%BA%B8%E0%BA%A1%E0%BB%80%E0%BA%A7%E0%BA%97%E0%BA%B5%E0%BA%95%E0%BA%BB%E0%BA%A7%E0%BB%80%E0%BA%A1%E0%BA%B7%E0%BA%AD%E0%BA%87%E0%BB%81%E0%BA%AB%E0%BB%88%E0%BA%87%E0%BA%8A%E0%BA%B2%E0%BA%94%E0%BA%84%E0%BA%B1%E0%BB%89%E0%BA%87%E0%BA%97%E0%BA%B5-3/870183521943214/?rvid=yN4xpTr63SzxuJVJ> (Published on 10 December 2024 on the official Facebook. Accessed on 31 December 2024.)

³ https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freefreeneews/freecontent_241_third_y24.php (Published on 12 December 2024, updated on 12 December 2024. Accessed on 31 December 2024.)



Appendix 3: Thematic Sessions Agendas

Day1-1 (09:30 - 11:00) Flood Risk Management and Mitigation through Nature-based Solutions in Lao PDR by MPWT, GGGI & World Bank

Agenda / Presentation Title	Presenter (Name & Position Title)	Presenter (Organisation Name)
Welcome and introduction (5 min)	MPWT	Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT)
Overview of Nature Based Solutions for Urban Adaptation (NATURA) Project (30 min)	DHUP, GGGI	Department of Housing and Urban Planning and GGGI
Flood Risk Management works under the Lao PDR Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Management Project	Ms. Amphavanh Sisouvanhat	Department of Waterways, MPWT and World Bank
Climate-resilient development of small towns through sustainable sanitation	Bounchan Khamphilayvong, Borda	Bounchan Khamphilayvong, Borda
Panel discussion	MPWT	Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT)

Day1-2 (11:15 - 12:45) SDG Localization by UN-Habitat and UNOPS

Agenda / Presentation Title	Presenter (Name & Position Title)	Presenter (Organisation Name)
Introduction of SDG Localization	Mr. Riccardo Maroso, Programme Manager	UN-Habitat Bangkok Programme Office
VLR and Kaysone Phomvihane City	Mr. Phengphone Khamseansouk, Engineering and IT Specialist	UN-Habitat Lao PDR
VLR case in Udon Thani, Thailand	Dr. Jutamas Kaewsuk, our SDG Localization Consultant	UN-Habitat Bangkok Programme Office
UNOPS' Commitment to SDGs and VLRs in Lao PDR (Recordings)	Dr. Ali Salha, Programme Management Advisor (Infrastructure)	UNOPS South East Asia and Pacific Multi-Country Office (EAPMCO)
Q&A session	All	All

Day1-3 (13:30 - 16:30) SDG 17 - Lao CSO Works Towards SDG 17 by Lao CSO

Agenda / Presentation Title	Presenter (Name & Position Title)	Presenter (Organisation Name)
SDG 17- Lao Civil Society Organization (Lao CSOs) Works Towards SDG17	Dr Souphon Sayavong, Executive Director, and Lao Civil Society Organisation Coordination Committees (LCCC)	Promotion of Family Health Association (PFHA)



Day1-4 (15:15 - 16:45) Responsible Agriculture Investment (RAI) in Urban Areas by SAEDA & FG_RAI		
Agenda / Presentation Title	Presenter (Name & Position Title)	Presenter (Organisation Name)
Introduction about organizer, objectives and speakers	Thongdam Phongphichichtih	Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association (SAEDA)
10 Principles of Responsible Agriculture Investment (RAI)	Thongdam Phongphichichtih	Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association (SAEDA)
National policy on agriculture land management in urban areas	Dr. Thatheva Saphangthong-	Department of Agriculture Land Management (DALaM-MAF)
National policy on RAI promotion in urban areas	Representative (Name TBC)	Investment Promotion Department (IPD-MPI)
Free, Prior and Informed Consents (FPIC)	Ms. Khankeo Oupravanh	Germany Development Cooperation (GIZ)
Boosting market awareness to promote RAI sustainable	PhD. Thippavong Boupha	Transformative Land Investment (TLI)
Impacts of Land use Conversion in Vientiane Capital, case study in Sikhotabong and Xaithany Districts	PhD. Palikorn Thalongsengchanh	National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI-MAF)
Q&A	All Participants	All Speakers
Summary and closing session	Thongdam Phongphichichtih	Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association (SAEDA)

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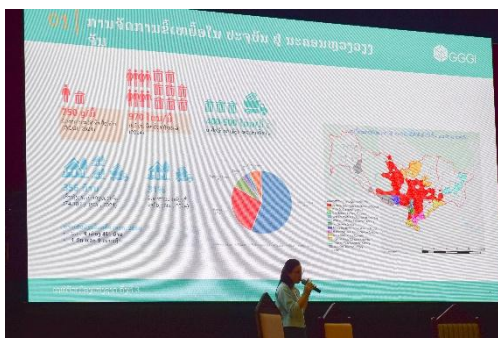




Day 2-2 (13:30 - 15:00) Localizing Smart City Development in Lao PDR by MPWT, ESCAP and UNOPS

Agenda / Presentation Title	Presenter (Name & Position Title)	Presenter (Organisation Name)
Welcome & Opening Remarks	Ms. Visaphone INTHILATH, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Lao PDR	MPWT
Regional Perspective on Smart Cities & Regional Smart City Guidelines	Ms. Sanjee Singh, Economic Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division	ESCAP
National Smart City Strategy – Development Process & Draft Strategy	Mr. Dao Keosoukan, Chief of Urban Planning, Department of Housing and Urban Planning, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Lao PDR	MPWT
Cambodia’s Smart City Development Experience (Video Message)	Mr. Vorin Sor, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior, Cambodia	UNOPS
	Ms. Eda Kraja, Country Manager Cambodia and Lao PDR, UNOPS	
	Ms. Kannikar Wanthana, Project Manager, UNOPS	
Q&A, Interactive session	Moderator: Ms. Sanjee Singh, Economic Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division	ESCAP
Closing Remarks	Ms. Visaphone INTHILATH, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Lao PDR	MPWT





Day2-3 (15:15 - 16:45) Implementation of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS) Agendas in Lao PDR by MPWT (DHUP & DPF) & UN-Habitat Bangkok Programme Office

Agenda / Presentation Title	Presenter (Name & Position Title)	Presenter (Organisation Name)
Welcome and introduction (5 min)	Mr. Riccardo Maroso, Programme Manager	UN-Habitat
ASEAN Chairmanship 2024 and the progress in sustainable urban development (15 min)	Mr. Vasaly Sisavath, Deputy Chief of DHUP	MPWT DHUP
Introduction to ASUS (15 minutes) - Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 and ASUS framework - ASUS Phase II	Mr. Phengphone Khamseansouk, Engineering Coordinator at UN-Habitat	UN-Habitat
Panel discussion: Sustainable Urban Development in Laos (35 minutes)	Mr. Yengher Vacha, Deputy Chief of the Cabinet Office of Luang Prabang City	Cabinet Office of Luang Prabang City
	· MPWT	
	· Savannakhet Province	
	· World Bank	
· Vientiane		
Closing Remarks (5 minutes)	Mr. Riccardo Maroso, Programme Manager	UN-Habitat

Day3-1v(09:00 - 10:30) Our future without Plastic Pollution // Regional Aspects of the Plastic and Waste Challenge by Green Vientiane, Econox and Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

Agenda / Presentation Title	Presenter (Name & Position Title)	Presenter (Organisation Name)
Our future without Plastic Pollution	Mr. Serge Doussantousse, Director	Green Vientiane
Encouraging Involvement in the Fight Against Plastic Pollution	Ms. Phai Akone Sakountava, Chief Operations Officer and Co-Founder	Econox Laos
Regional Aspects of the plastic and waste challenge (Online)	Ms. Chloe Pottinger-Glass, Research Associate	Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)



Day3-2 (10:45 - 12:15) Empowering Communities: Building Resilient and Inclusive Cities by NUOL, Local Government of Vientiane Capital City and GCA		
Agenda / Presentation Title	Presenter (Name & Position Title)	Presenter (Organisation Name)
Introduction of the session topic	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Soukanh Chitpanya	Dean, Faculty of Architecture, NUOL
1. Urban Infrastructure for Better Community Environment	Mr. Bounyavath Niraxay	Director of Public Work and Transportation, Vientiane Capital
	Mr. Soulivanh PHOMMAHAXAY	District Governor of Naxaythong district, VTE capital
2. Public Space and Facility and Quality of Life	Mr. Panya	Deputy Director of Urban Management and Service Office, Vientiane Capital
	Dr. Toulavanh Vongxay	District Governor of Lamam district, Sekong Province
3. Housing Affordability, Land Market, and Urban Land Use	Dr. Palikone Thalongsengchang	Senior Researcher of NAFRI
4. Community Empowerment and Urban Development: Case Study of Nongduang Thong	Mr. Phouvone Keoleuxay	Faculty of Architecture
Panel Discussion on Implementation of Vientiane Urban Master plan in Community Level	Mr. Anousa Khammoungkhoun (moderator)	Faculty of Architecture
	Dr. Palikone Thalongsengchang	Senior Researcher of NAFRI
	Mr. Bounyavath Niraxay	Director of Public Work and Transportation, Vientiane Capital
	Mr. Panya	Deputy Director of Urban Management and Service Office, Vientiane Capital
	Mr. Khamla Angmatsa	Head of Public Work and Transportation Office, Sithottabong District, VTE
	Mr. Noupnon Phosy	Head of Public Work and Transportation Office, Sisattanak District, VTE
	Mr. Latda Nonthiboud	Chief of Nongduang Village, Sikhottabong, VTE
	Mr. Aot Duangphachanh	President of Green Community Alliance
Summary and closing lesson	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Soukanh Chitpanya	Dean, Faculty of Architecture, NUOL

Day3-3(13:30 - 16:45) Urban Water Sustainability: GIS Tools for Water Supply Planning by NUOL, DWS and World Waternet		
Agenda / Presentation Title	Presenter (Name & Position Title)	Presenter (Organisation Name)
Introduction and open the session	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Soukanh Chitpanya	Dean, Faculty of Architecture, NUOL
Introduction of water supply and sanitation in Lao PDR	Mr. Vansavang Outthachak	Deputy Director of Water Supply Department, Ministry of Public Work and Transportation
Water supply development and management of Vientiane Capital Water Supply Enterprise	Mr. Southin Khiengsombath	Deputy Director of Water Supply Enterprise, Vientiane Capital
WaterworX: a collaboration for a healthy water cycle in the world and the Project in Lao PDR	Mr. Peter Jansen	Project Manager of WaterworX
World Waternet approach on asset management by Geographic Information System (GIS) in Luang Namtha province	Mr. Arjan Sierveld	GIS Expert of WaterworX
Summary and closing lesson	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Soukanh Chitpanya	Dean, Faculty of Architecture, NUOL

Day3-4 (15:15 - 16:45) Adolescent Pregnancy in Urban Areas // Adolescent food and beverages preferences leading cause of future Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) // Sources of air pollution in Lao PDR: an opportunity for health and climate co-benefits by LTPHI, Ministry of Health (MoH) and SEI		
Agenda / Presentation Title	Presenter (Name & Position Title)	Presenter (Organisation Name)
Adolescent Pregnancy	Dr. Miley Sinantha-Hu (ONLINE)	Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH)/ Lao Tropical and Public Health Institute (LAO TPHI)
Adolescent food preference	Dr. Kethmany Ratsavong	LAO TPHI
Sources of air pollution in Lao PDR: an opportunity for health and climate co-benefits	Connie O'Neill (ONLINE)	Stockholm Environment Institute (York, UK)
Q&A	Lead by Sengchanh Kounnavong	LAO TPHI
Open discussion	All presenters	All presenters





Day4-1 (09:00 - 10:30) Rural-urban migration by World Bank, IOM and Global Shapers Vientiane		
Agenda / Presentation Title	Presenter (Name & Position Title)	Presenter (Organisation Name)
Introduction	Mr. Jonas CORDOVA GOMEZ - Policy Officer	IOM
Structural Transformation and Urbanization	Ms. Tanida Arayavechkit	World Bank (Online)
Integrating migration into urban development interventions	Mr. Jonas CORDOVA GOMEZ - Policy Officer	IOM Lao PDR
	Mr. Tomas ERNST - Senior Programme Officer	IOM Headquarters (Online)
Experiences of Rural - Urban Migration: Challenges and Opportunities of Young Lao.	Ms. Lily	Global Shapers Vientiane
	Ms. Amadi	
	Mr. Lay	

Day4-2 (10:45 - 12:15) Panel Discussion – Youth Engagement by UNFPA		
Agenda / Presentation Title	Presenter (Name & Position Title)	Presenter (Organisation Name)
Technology facilitated gender-based violence		Faculty of Education, National University of Laos, (Govt)
Lao Youth and Adolescents Development Strategy 2021-2030		Lao Youth Union
Male engagement in GBV prevention		Lao Women Union
Adolescents and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health information and services		Vientiane Youth Center (Youth-led)
Leaving No-One Behind (LNOB)		Proud to Be Us (CSO)
Meaningful youth engagement		Youth Representative (1 girl/1boy)

Day4-3 (13:30 - 15:00) Partnering with Youth for Achieving SDG 3.9 (Air Pollution and Health) by WHO & UNDP		
Agenda / Presentation Title	Presenter (Name & Position Title)	Presenter (Organisation Name)
Welcome and Opening Remarks	1. Will Seal, Technical Officer	1. WHO
	2. Thome Xaisongkham, (A.I.) Head of Environment Unit	2. UNDP
Presentation: Youth-Led Solutions and Actions to Address Air Pollution	n/a	n/a
1. Young Experts on Air Quality Monitoring and Management	1. Mr Thilakone Sisouphanh, Technical Officer from NRERI	1. MONRE
2. Young Public Health Specialist: Experience in HealthCare Waste Management	2. Ms Maiyer Thaithao, Healthcare Waste Management Project Assistance	2. WHO
3. From Innovation to Impacts	3. Bounphick Sonthone, Winner of Clean Air Without Border Innovation Challenge	3. Clean Air Without Border Winner
4. Presentation from SEED	4. Konelasy Vilayphon, Vice President of SEED	4. SEED/Faculty of Environmental Science, NUOL
5. Poster Presentation from the University of Health Sciences	5. Dr Viengnakhone Vongxay, professor from the Faculty of Public Health	5. University of Health Science
Air Pollution Video Presentation	Philomling Vilay, Head of Solutions Mapping	MC (UNDP)
Activity - Partnering with Youth: Shaping a Future Free From Air Pollution	Philomling Vilay, Head of Solutions Mapping	UNDP
Closing remarks	Philomling Vilay, Head of Solutions Mapping	MCs (UNDP & WHO)
	Ms Maiyer Thaithao, Healthcare Waste Management Project Assistance	

Day4-4 (15:15 - 16:45) Infrastructure Asset Management for Urban Development: Insights and Recommendations Based on CAT- I by MoF & UNOPS		
Agenda / Presentation Title	Presenter (Name & Position Title)	Presenter (Organisation Name)
Overview of the Infrastructure Asset Management (IAM) project in Lao PDR	Horacio Alejandro MONES RUIZ MARTIN,	UNOPS (Video)
Description of the approach and recommendations from the roadmap	Thavone KHOUNSIDA	UNOPS
Panel discussion	Santiphap KITHAVONE	Panelists from MOF, MPWT, MONRE, MPI ,and UNOPS (as well as Facilitator)



Day5-1 (09:00 - 10:30) Young Architects and Civil Engineers' Practices to Achieve the SDGs by ALACE

Agenda / Presentation Title	Presenter (Name & Position Title)	Presenter (Organisation Name)
Panel Discussion	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Thanousone Vongpraseuth	Moderator
	Prof. Dr. Bounleum Sysoulath	Panellist
	Mr. Phonexay Sittthivongpen	Panellist
	Mrs. Saiykhram Thammanosouth	Panellist
	Mr. Praseuth Banchongphakdy	Panellist



Day5-2 (10:45 - 12:15) Youth and Waste to Resources by GGGI & World Bank		
Agenda / Presentation Title	Presenter (Name & Position Title)	Presenter (Organisation Name)
Opening remarks:	1) Mr. George Asiimwe, Senior Officer and Head of Waste Management Unit, GGGI Laos	GGGI, GIZ, VCOMS, KOICA
	2) Ms. Sina Thiessen, Project Manager, AMUSE GIZ Laos	
	3) Mr. Panya Manivong, Deputy Director General of VCOMS	
	4) Ms. Jeongyi Choi, Deputy Country Director, KOICA	
Presentation on Waste Recycling and Youth Participation in the towns and cities of Lao PDR.	n/a	n/a
1. Waste to resources initiatives	1) Ms. Thidalath Vongsayalath, Program Officer, Waste Unit, (GGGI Laos)	G, Volunteers
2. Waste Recycling Bank experience sharing by Schoolteacher	2) Ms. Vanvilay Pheuisiri, Deputy Director of Hounghueang Secondary School	
3. Community mobilization and engagement experience sharing by youth volunteer	3) GGGI Volunteers	
Overview: Lao Pollution and Waste Management project and opportunities for youth engagement	Mr. Maurice Andres Rawlins, Senior Environmental Specialist	World Bank
Q&A	Moderator, DHUP	-
Closing remarks	1) Mr. George Asiimwe, Senior Officer and Head of Waste Management Unit, GGGI Laos	GGGI, GIZ, VCOMS, KOICA
	2) Ms. Sina Thiessen, Project Manager, AMUSE GIZ Laos	
	3) Mr. Panya Manivong, Deputy Director General of VCOMS	
	4) Ms. Jeongyi Choi, Deputy Country Director, KOICA	





Day5-3 (13:30 - 15:00) Youth Innovating for SDGs – Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Development by UNDP

Agenda / Presentation Title	Presenter (Name & Position Title)	Presenter (Organisation Name)
Introduction		
World cafe activity - open for public to feedback initial ideas from youth		All participants
Break		
Pitching	5 youth teams - 3 mins pitch & 2 mins Q&A	Youth representative
Reflection from a representative judge		UNDP
Final announcement and group photo		UNDP



Acknowledgements

We thank you for your continued support in our efforts for Building Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable Cities and Communities in Lao PDR.

1. Asian Development Bank (ADB)
2. Association of Lao Architects and Civil Engineers (ALACE) *
3. British Embassy
4. Cabinet Office of Luang Prabang City
5. Clean Air Without Border Winner
6. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
7. Econox Laos *
8. Focal Group on Responsible Agriculture Investment (FG_RAI) *
9. Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) *
10. Global Shapers Vientiane *
11. Green Community Alliance
12. Green Community Alliance (GCA)
13. Green Vientiane *
14. Hounghueang Secondary School
15. iNGO Network
16. International Organization for Migration (IOM) *
17. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
18. Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
19. Lao Civil Society Organizations (Lao CSO) *
20. Lao Products Booth
21. Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI)
22. Lao Tropical Public Health Institute (LTPHI) *
23. Lao Women Union
24. Lao Youth Union
25. Local Government of Vientiane Capital City *
26. Ministry of Finance (MOF) *
27. Ministry of Health (MoH) *
28. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE)
29. Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) *
30. National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI)
31. National University of Laos (NUOL) *
32. Niyom Lao Farm
33. Noukham Construction Company
34. ODOP
35. Proud to Be Us (CSO)
36. Sangthong Wood & Carft
37. Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) *
38. Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association (SAEDA) *
39. TOYO PIPE
40. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) *
41. United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) *
42. United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) *
43. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) *
44. United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC)
45. United Nations Volunteers (UNV) *
46. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (ESCAP) *
47. University of Health Science
48. Vientiane City Office for Management and Service (VCOMS)
49. Vientiane Youth Center
50. World Bank *
51. World Health Organization (WHO) *
52. Zadan Arts *

Note: 25 organizations with “*” listed as the lead agencies of thematic sessions.



LNUF 2024



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