

Speech for opening Forum of Dr. Inlavanh Keobounphanh on the One Asia Breastfeeding
Partners Forum 9

Theme: Maternal and Infant and Young Child Feeding and Nutrition
28-31 October 2013, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR

Dear Chairs
Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am very pleased to have opportunity to be co-chair for the ceremony on 9th One Asia Breastfeeding Partners Forum which is organized from 28-30 October 2013 at Luangprabang province support by IBFAN and UNICEF in Lao PDR. This is a great value and important for Lao PDR to be selected for hosting this important forum in Luangprabang heritage city.

Ladies and gentlemen

As I know very well women over the world have important role in the family and society. There fore, women have big responsibility for the heavy role and huge work. And only women can provide breastfeed to children from birth until 6 months of age and continue up to 2 years or more. And provide enough and appropriate food supplementation to their children when age after 6 months. The breastfeeding is very useful and need for the child growth and development and they will become to be healthy adult, intelligent and can participate for economic-society. More over, breastfeeding help to reduce morbidity and mortality rate to 13% (*Lancet* 2003; 362: 65–71) especially to reduce children malnutrition such as stunting

In Lao PDR has improved for increasing practice of breastfeeding to 26.4% in 2006 and 40% in 2012, there are many challenges of after breastfeed up to 3 months of delivery. The women have to go back for working that a reason for irregular breastfeeding to their children. There fore, the children have early supplementation food before 6 months and addition increasing the promotion for direct and indirect bottle milk and various types.

Ladies and gentlemen I believe this forum will be good step for us for coordination and collaboration among the countries in ASIA an in the world. In order to help each other for promotion to expanse nutrition task in general; for protection, promotion and support for breastfeeding in specific. The participants will have a chance to share the idea and experiences for successful of implementation.

I would like to give a wish for this conference has successful as objectives set and one again I would like to request to all participants in this conference to concentrate and share experience to each other. We would like to be appreciated to provincial governor in Luangprabang for his facilitate and warming welcome us for this conference.

Finally, I would like to wish the conference has achieved, wish all of delegates and participants to be healthy, progression on work and successfully.

I would like to announcement for opening forum from now

Thank you