



REPORT

Workshop on Harnessing Demographic Dividend through Roadmap to 2030 for
Lao PDR

for Member of Parliamentarians of Lao Association for Parliamentarian on
Population and Development

25-26 March 2024 | Vangvieng, Vientiane Province, Lao PDR

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1. Introduction



Dr. Bahktiyor Kadyrov, UNFPA Representative to Lao PDR, Hon. Mme. Thummaly Vongphachanh, Chair of Social and Cultural Affairs Committees, Lao PDR and LAPPD President, and Dr. Usmonov Farrukh, interim Executive Director, AFPPD.

The Workshop on Population and Development convened over two days, from March 25-26, 2024, in Vangvieng, Vientiane Province, Lao PDR. Chaired by Hon. Thoummaly Vongphachanh, Member of the National Assembly Standing Committee and Chairperson of the Social-Cultural Affairs Committee, the event commenced with her opening remark. This was followed by a welcoming remark by Hon. Edcel Lagman, MP Philippines, and acting Chair of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), which was read by Dr. Usmonov Farrukh, interim Executive Director. Moreover, the workshop had heard a remark by Dr. Bahktiyor Kadyrov, UNFPA Representative to Lao PDR. Attended by 36 members of the National Assembly from the Social-Cultural Affairs Committee, alongside 4 representatives from various governmental departments and organizations, the workshop brought together a total of 47 participants. Supported by the Cultural and Social Affairs Committee (CSAC) of the National Assembly, the AFPPD, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), its aim was to equip parliamentarians with the knowledge and strategies necessary to address the critical population and development challenges confronting Lao PDR. The diverse range of stakeholders ensured a comprehensive perspective on the issues at hand.

2. Background

The workshop aligned with Lao PDR's commitment to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda. The Lao National Assembly, during its 7th and 8th legislature, established the Lao Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (LAPPD) under the CSAC. Despite budget constraints during the 9th legislature, CSAC secured financial support from AFPPD, enabling the workshop's organization. This initiative aimed to enhance parliamentarians' roles in population and development.

3. Purpose of the Workshop

The primary objective was to enhance parliamentarians' understanding of critical population and development issues, including gender equality, youth health, family planning, and demographic changes. Key topics included:

- National Commitments and Call for Actions for ICPD PoA and SDGs
- Demographic Change in Lao PDR
- Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
- Health and Future of Young Population
- FP2030: A Global Family Planning Partnership

Day 1:

4. Opening Session:

Hon. Thoummaly Vongphachanh's opening remarks set the tone for the workshop, emphasizing the importance of collective action in addressing population and development challenges. She highlighted the significance of the occasion in advancing Lao PDR's population and development goals, expressing gratitude to all participants for their dedication to this critical cause.

Welcoming Remark by Hon. Edcel Lagman, MP Philippines and acting Chair of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), Read by Dr. Usmonov Farrukh, interim Executive Director:

Dr. Usmonov Farrukh, interim Executive Director of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, conveyed Hon. Edcel Lagman's welcoming remarks to the workshop. Hon. Lagman's message extended warm greetings to each participant, underscoring the significance of the Workshop on Harnessing Demographic Dividend through Roadmap to 2030 for Lao PDR. Despite his physical absence, Hon. Lagman expressed his honor in addressing the participants on this pivotal occasion.

Reflecting on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994, Hon. Lagman emphasized its transformative impact on population and development discourse. He highlighted the ICPD's emphasis on individual rights, gender equality, and the correlation between development and women's empowerment. As the world commemorates the 30th anniversary of the ICPD and approaches the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development deadline, Hon. Lagman underscored the urgency of collective efforts to achieve shared goals.

The central theme of the workshop, "Harnessing Demographic Dividend," resonated with Hon. Lagman's remarks, emphasizing the importance of deliberate investments in health, education, and employment to maximize demographic dividends. He urged parliamentarians to enact rights-based policies that promote gender equality and social justice, incorporating population dynamics into development planning.

In conclusion, Hon. Lagman expressed gratitude to the organizers and participants for their commitment to advancing population and development agendas. He urged participants to seize the opportunity to exchange ideas, share best practices, and develop innovative strategies to address common challenges, fostering a future where every individual can live a prosperous life.

In the remarks of Dr. Bahktiyor Kadyrov, UNFPA Representative to Lao PDR, he commended the commitment and collaborative efforts of the Lao government and parliamentarians in advancing population and development agendas. He underscored the significance of the workshop in facilitating dialogue and knowledge exchange among stakeholders, particularly in the context of Lao PDR's chairmanship of ASEAN and its commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). Dr. Kadyrov emphasized the importance of leveraging demographic dividends through strategic investments in education, health, and gender equality to harness the potential of Lao's youthful population for sustainable development. He reiterated UNFPA's commitment to supporting parliamentarians and government initiatives in addressing population and development challenges, emphasizing the importance of inclusive policies and partnerships to ensure no one is left behind.

5. Session 1: National Commitments and Call for Actions:

Mr. Kaluna Nanthavongduangsy, provided an overall overview of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and its Programme of Action (PoA), along with Lao PDR's national commitments to ICPD25 at the Nairobi Summit 2019. He emphasized the importance of aligning national efforts with global agendas to achieve sustainable development goals.

Additionally, Mr. Nanthavongduangsy presented a brief report on the statement and implementation requirements of Lao PDR in the national conference on population and development held between 23-24 October 2023. The focus was on five key pillars:



Mr. Kaluna Nanthavongduangsy's statement on Lao's National Commitment to ICPD25

- 1) **Managing and Using Demographic Benefits and Investing in Youth:** Highlighting the significance of harnessing demographic dividends and prioritizing investments in youth to drive socio-economic development.
- 2) **Addressing Climate Change and Its Impact on the Public Sector and Social Protection:** Acknowledging the challenges posed by climate change and the need for robust strategies to mitigate its adverse effects on public welfare and social protection systems.
- 3) **Promoting Health and Well-being, Including Rights to Sexual and Reproductive Health:** Advocating for the promotion of comprehensive healthcare services, with a particular emphasis on sexual and reproductive health rights, to ensure the well-being of all individuals.
- 4) **Enhancing the Availability and Use of Demographic Information:** Stressing the importance of reliable demographic data for informed decision-making and effective policy formulation.
- 5) **Strengthening Partnerships and Mobilizing Resources:** Emphasizing the role of collaboration between government, civil society, and international partners in advancing population and development agendas, alongside the mobilization of adequate resources to support implementation efforts.

Mr. Nanthavongduangsy's presentation underscored the commitment of Lao PDR to address key population and development challenges, reflecting a comprehensive approach to advancing socio-economic progress and ensuring the well-being of its citizens.

6. Session 2: Demographic Change in Lao PDR:



Mrs. Latdavanh Songvilay, Director General of the Macroeconomic Research Institute, Lao Academy of Social and Economic Sciences.

Mrs. Latdavanh Songvilay, Director General of the Macroeconomic Research Institute, Lao Academy of Social and Economic Sciences (LASES), presented an in-depth analysis of demographic changes in Lao PDR, highlighting both opportunities and challenges in achieving the demographic dividend. Her presentation provided insights into:

- 1) **Changes in Population Structure:** Mrs. Songvilay delved into the evolving demographics of Lao PDR, exploring shifts in population age distribution, urbanization trends, and other key demographic indicators. This analysis offered a comprehensive understanding of the current demographic landscape and its implications for socio-economic development.
- 2) **Opportunities from Structural Changes:** The presentation identified opportunities arising from demographic shifts, such as the increasing proportion of the working-age population and urbanization. These demographic changes present avenues for economic growth, innovation, and human capital development.
- 3) **Challenges in Achieving the Demographic Dividend:** Mrs. Songvilay outlined various challenges hindering the realization of the demographic dividend in Lao PDR. These challenges may include barriers to education and employment, inadequate healthcare infrastructure, and socio-cultural factors impacting women's empowerment and reproductive health.
- 4) **Policy Recommendations:** Building upon the analysis of demographic trends and challenges, the presentation proposed policy recommendations to harness the demographic dividend effectively. These recommendations encompassed strategies to enhance education and skills development, promote gender equality and women's empowerment, strengthen healthcare systems, and foster an enabling environment for economic participation and innovation.

Mrs. Songvilay's comprehensive presentation offered valuable insights into the complex interplay between demographic changes, socio-economic development, and policy formulation in Lao PDR. By identifying opportunities and addressing challenges, her analysis laid the foundation for informed decision-making and targeted interventions aimed at maximizing the benefits of demographic transition.

7. Session 3: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

Dr. Souphon Sayavong, Executive Director of the Family Welfare Promotion Association (PFHA), presented a comprehensive set of recommendations and main actions to promote gender equality and prevent sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and harmful practices. His presentation delved into various aspects of family health promotion, sexual violence prevention, human rights protection, gender roles, and the socio-economic impact of gender inequality.

- 1) **Recommendations for Gender Equality Promotion:** Dr. Sayavong outlined key recommendations aimed at promoting gender equality at multiple levels of society. These recommendations encompassed policy measures, legislative reforms, and community-

based interventions designed to empower women, challenge gender norms, and promote equal opportunities in education, employment, and decision-making.

- 2) **Preventing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV):** The presentation highlighted strategies for preventing SGBV and addressing its root causes. Dr. Sayavong emphasized the importance of comprehensive approaches that combine legal frameworks, law enforcement, survivor support services, and community engagement to combat SGBV effectively.



Dr. Souphon Sayavong, Executive Director of the Family Welfare Promotion Association (PFHA).

- 3) **Addressing Harmful Practices:** Dr. Sayavong addressed harmful practices such as child marriage and other forms of gender-based violence. He underscored the need for targeted interventions to raise awareness, provide support to survivors, and change social norms that perpetuate harmful practices.
- 4) **Understanding Socio-Economic Impact:** The presentation explored the socio-economic consequences of gender inequality and SGBV, emphasizing their detrimental effects on individual well-being, community development, and national progress. Dr. Sayavong emphasized the importance of addressing these issues as integral components of broader development agendas.

By presenting a comprehensive set of recommendations and main actions, Dr. Sayavong's session provided valuable insights into the complex challenges of promoting gender equality and preventing SGBV in Lao PDR. His recommendations underscored the need for multi-sectoral collaboration, sustained advocacy, and targeted interventions to address the root causes of gender inequality and promote the rights and well-being of all individuals, regardless of gender.

8. Session 4: Health and Future of Young Population:



Hon. Dr. Mayfong Mayxay, Member of Parliament and Vice-Rector of the University of Health Sciences, Ministry of Health.

Hon. Dr. Mayfong Mayxay, Member of Parliament and Vice-Rector of the University of Health Sciences, Ministry of Health, Lao PDR, presented a comprehensive overview of the health challenges facing the young population in Lao PDR, along with proposed solutions to address these issues. The session focused on identifying and tackling the various problems encountered by young people, including drug addiction, school dropout, early marriage, adolescent pregnancy, and inadequate nutrition during pregnancy.

- 1) **Addressing Addiction Issues:** Dr. Mayxay highlighted the alarming prevalence of addiction problems among young people, including substance abuse (such as drugs and e-drugs), tobacco use, and alcohol consumption. He emphasized the need for targeted interventions, including prevention programs, awareness campaigns, and access to rehabilitation services, to address addiction issues effectively.
- 2) **Preventing School Dropout:** The presentation addressed the issue of school dropout among young people, often driven by socio-economic factors and the need to support their families financially. Dr. Mayxay proposed strategies to prevent school dropout, including scholarships, vocational training opportunities, and community-based support systems to ensure that young people can access education and pursue their aspirations.
- 3) **Reducing Early Marriage and Adolescent Pregnancy:** Dr. Mayxay highlighted the risks associated with early marriage and adolescent pregnancy, which pose significant health risks for both mothers and children. He emphasized the importance of comprehensive sexual education, access to reproductive health services, and legal reforms to address these issues and protect the rights of young girls.
- 4) **Promoting Maternal and Child Health:** The session also focused on the importance of adequate nutrition during pregnancy to ensure the health and well-being of mothers and children. Dr. Mayxay underscored the need for nutritional education, prenatal care services,

and support systems to address malnutrition and its adverse effects on maternal and child health outcomes.

By presenting these chapters on the health and future challenges of the young population, Dr. Mayxay's session provided valuable insights into the multifaceted issues facing young people in Lao PDR. His proposed solutions emphasized the importance of holistic approaches, encompassing education, healthcare, community support, and policy reforms, to empower young people and ensure their health and well-being.

Day 2:

9. Presentation on Commitment to FP2030 of Lao PDR:

Dr. Jameel Zamir, Regional Lead Country Engagement, FP2030 | Asia and the Pacific Regional Hub, Malaysia, delivered a comprehensive presentation on Lao PDR's commitment to the Family Planning 2030 (FP2030) initiative. FP2030 represents a global partnership with the primary objective of prioritizing family planning efforts worldwide. It focuses on mobilizing and encouraging the commitment of various stakeholders, including businesses and communities, to support family planning initiatives.

During the presentation, Dr. Zamir emphasized the significance of FP2030 in gathering and disseminating information related to family planning, thereby enabling decision-makers to take informed actions. He highlighted FP2030's role as a central hub for analyzing family planning data and facilitating collaboration among stakeholders at all levels.

Furthermore, Dr. Zamir underscored FP2030's collaborative approach, which involves engaging with networks and supporters worldwide to drive progress towards shared goals. He emphasized the importance of timely engagement and cooperation to ensure effective implementation of family planning programs and initiatives.

The presentation also outlined Lao PDR's commitment to FP2030, including the adoption of an action plan that outlines strategic objectives and milestones until 2030. Through this commitment, Lao PDR aims to strengthen its family planning efforts and contribute to the global agenda of improving access to reproductive health services and promoting maternal and child well-being.



Dr. Jameel Zamir, Regional Lead Country Engagement, FP2030 | Asia and the Pacific Regional Hub, Malaysia.

By presenting Lao PDR's commitment to FP2030 and its strategic approach to leveraging demographic dividends, Dr. Zamir's presentation provided valuable insights into the country's efforts to advance family planning initiatives and achieve sustainable development goals.

10. Group Sessions:

During the group sessions, participants engaged in discussions on the pressing issues confronting Lao adolescents and youth, as well as strategic interventions to address these challenges. Key topics included early marriages, adolescent pregnancy, harmful substance use, and school dropout rates, particularly among adolescent girls.

- 1) **Reintegrating Youth into the Education System:** Participants deliberated on strategies to attract young people back into the education system. They identified poverty, environmental factors, and traditional beliefs about education as primary reasons for school dropout rates. To address this, participants emphasized the need for government-led initiatives to raise awareness about the importance of education and implement targeted measures to address the root causes of dropout rates.



- 2) **Advocating for Increased Government Investment in Education:** Participants discussed ways to encourage the government to allocate more resources to education. Suggestions included updating legislation to align with the country's needs, providing adequate teaching and learning materials, improving infrastructure to facilitate access to schools, and ensuring timely decision-making and funding allocation for education initiatives.
- 3) **Protecting Youth Working Abroad:** The group explored strategies to mitigate risks and dangers faced by young people working abroad. They emphasized the importance of raising awareness among prospective migrant workers about potential risks and legal protections. Additionally, participants highlighted the need for enhanced coordination between central and local authorities to strengthen pre-departure training programs and ensure the welfare of overseas workers.
- 4) **Addressing Other Emerging Challenges:** Participants also identified additional challenges facing Lao youth, such as access to healthcare services, mental health support, and employment opportunities. Strategies to address these issues included improving access to healthcare, expanding vocational training programs, and promoting entrepreneurship among young people.
- 5) **Formation of Specialized Task Groups:** During the National Assembly delegation meeting, participants proposed the establishment of specialized task groups to address specific youth-related issues. These task groups would focus on early marriage, adolescent pregnancy, substance abuse, and school dropout prevention, particularly among young women. By convening these groups, participants aimed to facilitate targeted interventions and policy advocacy to address the identified challenges effectively.



Through these group discussions and proposed interventions, participants aimed to develop actionable strategies to address the multifaceted challenges faced by Lao adolescents and youth, ultimately fostering their well-being and socio-economic empowerment.

Discussion and Recommendations



Based on the contributions and discussions during the meeting, the following key recommendations have emerged:



- 1) **Investment in Human Resource Development:** Participants emphasized the importance of empowering Lao labor through skill development and education, particularly for those seeking employment abroad. This includes providing access to relevant data and information to equip them with necessary knowledge before engaging in overseas work opportunities. AFPPD is encouraged to support future workshops or meetings aimed at enhancing parliamentarians' understanding of human resource development to better address the needs of Lao citizens, particularly concerning employment and labor market demands.



- 2) **Enhanced Support for Family Planning and Sexual Health:** There is a consensus on the importance of supporting family planning, family health, and sexual health initiatives, especially in rural areas. It is recommended to implement targeted programs and interventions to improve access to reproductive health services and education, particularly in underserved communities.



- 3) **Addressing Challenges in Education:** Participants highlighted the urgency of addressing challenges such as school dropout rates. Proposed solutions include fostering cooperation

between teachers, parents, and the government to identify root causes and implement effective interventions. Additionally, there is a call to learn from best practices in other countries regarding family planning and education, enabling the adoption of proven strategies to overcome similar challenges in Laos. This involves studying the challenges faced by other nations, understanding their approaches, and implementing relevant solutions tailored to the local context.

11. Ways Forward

Moving forward in 2024, the Lao Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (LAPPD) aims to continue its efforts in advancing population and development agendas within the country. With a focus on strengthening its capacity, LAPPD plans to bolster the roles of its members in overseeing the implementation of national and sectoral plans aligned with the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This involves enhancing parliamentary oversight and advocacy to ensure that population and development priorities are integrated into legislative and policy frameworks.

Collaboration and coordination with partners such as the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will be crucial in supporting LAPPD's endeavors. By leveraging the expertise and resources of AFPPD and UNFPA, LAPPD aims to access technical assistance, capacity-building initiatives, and knowledge-sharing platforms to enhance its effectiveness. This includes ongoing support for parliamentarians to navigate the complexities of population dynamics, gender equality, reproductive health, and youth empowerment, thereby enabling them to contribute more effectively to the implementation of national and international agendas.

Furthermore, LAPPD will prioritize advocacy and collaboration with governmental bodies, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure a coordinated approach to population and development issues. By fostering partnerships at both national and international levels, LAPPD seeks to amplify its impact and drive meaningful change in addressing the critical challenges facing Lao PDR. Through these concerted efforts and partnerships, LAPPD aims to accelerate progress towards achieving the objectives outlined in the ICPD and SDGs, ultimately contributing to the sustainable development and well-being of the people of Lao PDR.

12. Conclusion

The workshop facilitated knowledge exchange, sharing best practices, and formulating strategies to address population and development challenges in Lao PDR. Collaboration and sustained commitment are essential for translating discussions into tangible actions.

Key Message from AFPPD: Dr. Usmonov Farrukh reiterated AFPPD's commitment to supporting parliamentarians' advocacy on population and development in the Asia-Pacific, emphasizing collective action and partnership.

He extended his gratitude to LAPPD and Hon. Thoummaly Vongphachanh for pursuing activities on population and development and continuing addressing ICPD Program of Action and 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

Closing Remarks by Hon. Thoummaly Vongphachanh: Hon. Thoummaly Vongphachanh expressed appreciation for participants' contributions, emphasizing sustained commitment and collaboration in advancing population and development goals. Especially, she expressed her profound thanks AFPPD and UNFPA Laos for providing financial support in organizing this meeting. She also stated that the meeting agreed on five priorities, namely 14 National Commitments and call for Actions of H.E Deputy Prime Minister at the first National Conference on Population and Development, Demographic change: opportunities, challenges and policy levers to achieve demographic dividends, Women's Empowerment and prevention and response to GBV and Harmful practice, commitment to FP2030 of Lao PDR, and Health and Future of Young Population, particularly the resolutions for social issues they are facing such as drug, school dropout, early marriage and adolescent pregnancy.

The success of the meeting would contribute to the capability and knowledge advancement for Lao parliamentarians, who participated in the meeting, to use as a basis on continue promoting the work of population and development, to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the ICPD Programme of Action through the National Socio-Economic Development Plan, sectorial strategies and policies, including the National Population and Development Policy, and National statement to accelerate social-economic development by harnessing demographic dividend and empowerment of our people's potentials.

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Appendix 1: Agenda



Workshop on

Harnessing Demographic Dividend through Roadmap to 2030 for Lao PDR for Member of Parliamentarians of Lao Association for Parliamentarian on Population and Development

25-26 March 2024

In Vangvieng, Vientiane Province, Lao PDR

@ (Amari Hotel Vangvieng)

PROGRAMME

Time	Item
24 Feb	Travel to Vangvieng, Vientiane province
25 Feb 2024	
8.00-8.30	Participants arrival and registration
Opening Session	
08:30-8:40	Welcoming Remark by Hon. Edcel Lagman, MP Philippines and acting Chair of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), Read by Dr. Usmonov Farrukh, interim Executive Director
08:40-8:50	Opening Remarks by Hon. Mme. Thummaly Vongphachanh, Chair of Social and Cultural Affairs Committees, National Assembly, Lao PDR
08:50-09:00	Remarks by Dr. Bahktiyor Kadyrov, UNFPA Representative to Lao PDR
09:00-09:15	Photos session, all participants
09:15-09:30	Coffee break
Session 1: SDGs and ICPD PoA Implementation and key priorities toward 2030	
09:30-09.45	Overall overview of ICPD and PoA and National Commitments to ICPD25@ Nairobi Summit 2019.

	By Representative of DoP/MPI
09:45-10:30	National Commitments and call for Actions of H.E Deputy Prime Minister at the first National Conference on Population and Development By Mr. Kaluna Nanthavongduangsy, Representative of DoP/MPI
10:30-11:00	Q&A and Discussion, All
Session 2: Demographic change in Lao PDR, opportunities, challenges and policy levers to achieve demographic dividends	
11:00-12:15	Demographic change, opportunities, challenges and policy levers to achieve demographic dividends By Mrs. Latdavanh Songvilay, Director General of Macroeconomic Research Institute, Lao Academy of Social and Economic Sciences (LASES) Discussion and Q&A
12:15-13.30	Lunch break
Session 3: Gender equality and Women's Empowerment and prevention and response to GBV and Harmful practice through the National Action Plans	
13:30-14:30	Key recommendations and actions to promote gender equality and prevention of GBV and Harmful practices Presentation by: Dr Souphon Sayavong, Executive Director, Promotion of Family Welfare Association (PFHA), Lao PDR Discussion and Q&A
Session 4: Health and Future of Young Population, particularly the resolutions for social issues they are facing such as drug, school dropout, early marriage and adolescent pregnancy	
14:30-15:30	Presentation on Health and Future of Young Population, particularly the resolutions for social issues they are facing such as drug, school dropout, early marriage and adolescent pregnancy. By Hon Dr. Mayfong Mayxay, Member of Parliament, National Assembly, Vice-Rector, University of Health Sciences, Ministry of Health, Lao PDR Discussion and Q&A
15:30-15:45	Coffee Break
Session 5: Rap up session	

15:45-16.00	Recap the results of the workshop
26 Feb 2024	
9:00-9:30	Presentation on commitment to FP2030 of Lao PDR By: Dr Jameel Zamir, Regional Lead - Country Engagement FP2030 Asia and the Pacific Regional Hub, Malaysia
9:30-10:30	Group sessions Discussion on the key issues facing the Lao adolescent and youth and strategic interventions to address the issues. - key is issues for discussion on early marriages and adolescent pregnancy, harmful substance use and school dropout especially among adolescent girls
10:30-10:45	coffee break
10.45-11:15	-Report the results of the group decisions
11:15-11:30	- Next step and way forward
11:30-11:40	- Key message by Dr. Usmonov Farrukh, interim Executive Director, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)
11:40-12:00	Closing Remarks by Hon. Mme. Thoummaly Vongphachanh, Chair of Social and Cultural Affairs Committees, National Assembly, Lao PDR
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00	Travel back

Published feature story by IPS:

https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/04/lao-pdr-lawmakers-meet-to-further-icpd25-programme-of-action/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR0YvIMLChCWs0j4TbC6klrKolh7qnrrbXEuw2p-hyFEeEgdBlkHC5_FcPQ_aem_AcjPD8Sv3a0N7HX28AxexT0lOp35j_1iQxnbx3RICWLM0mDpeIl4R9Uwy1r96P3frW---DmoLWIWBkGAhqYRCdm

Appendix 2: Press Release

Press Release

More than 35 members of the National Assembly of Lao, Lao Association for Parliamentarian on Population and Development (LAPPD), representatives of partner organizations, such as AFPPD, UNFPA, IPPF and FP2030 have attended workshop on Harnessing Demographic Dividend through Roadmap to 2030 for Lao PDR in Vangvieng, Lao on 25-26 March 2024.

Key discussion was covered topics mostly related to the ICPD PoA and SDGs, in particular:

- Key priorities towards 2030 Agenda;
- Demographic dividend, aligning with the NPDP 2019-2030;
- Gender equality and women's empowerment and prevention and response to GBV and harmful practice through the National Action Plans
- Health and wellbeing of young population;
- Resolutions for social issues that youth are facing such as drug, school dropout, early marriage and adolescent pregnancy;
- Country commitment to FP2030.

Participants agreed on continuing wider discussion on ICPD and SDGs nationally, regionally and globally.

LAPPD appreciates partnership with AFPPD and UNFPA and respects these institutions' 2023-2025 Strategic Plan.

AFPPD and UNFPA will continue working with the LAPPD members to strengthen members' capacity building and advocacy on population and development issues, including ICPD PoA and 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.