

## Developing and Ensuring State Obligation under CEDAW and Developing Applying CEDAW Implementation Indicators

08-10 April 2014 At Mercure Hotel, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR



Ms Chansoda Phonethip (centre) speaks at the workshop.

## Brainstorming to aid women's rights

### Sisouphan Amphonephong

Officials from various ministries and related sectors gathered to brainstorm their ideas to improve the National Commission for the Advancement of Women under the CEDAW treaty at a consultation workshop held on Tuesday in Vientiane.

The workshop also discussed the support machinery for women in Laos, for identifying and ensuring state obligations are met, and opened up the opportunity for officials in related sectors to make work plans.

The secretary of the National Commission Ms Chansoda Phonethip said that under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), discussions took place on developing and applying CEDAW implementation indicators, supported by IWRAW Asia Pacific and UNWOMEN, for consultation on

CEDAW work and for determining the best strategy for the operation of CEDAW in the Lao PDR.

The workshop aims to increase the capabilities of the National Commission for the Advancement of Women and committees that work on related women's issues.

"The consultation workshop is a part of a big project that relates to social dynamics at national level, the status of human rights of the people in Southeast Asia and the promotion and strengthening of work operations of the National Commission for the Advancement of Women to protect the rights of women in the Lao PDR," she said.

This consultation is intended to upgrade awareness and understanding about the principals of the CEDAW treaty to create an ability to inspect and promote work operations under laws and regulations supporting women's rights by using the framework of the

CEDAW treaty for the Lao PDR.

The workshop also evaluated the work implementation of the main ministries in the promoting and protecting of gender equality to determine the indicators of the work implementation under the CEDAW treaty.

The expectations in the short term of the consultation workshop are that it would improve the National Strategy for the Advancement of Women (2016-2020) and that work plans would operate under the CEDAW Treaty (2014-2020).

It is hoped that the brainstorming session will aid the work of protecting the rights of women by strengthening the National Commission for the Advancement of Women as well as to publicise policies about gender equality.

Many lessons were learnt by participants throughout the consultation workshop.