



**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**  
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

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EMBASSY OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

2222 S. Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20008  
Tel: (202) 332-6416  
Fax: (202) 332-4923

June 18, 2012

Channapha Khamvongsa  
Executive Director  
Legacies of War  
1628 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW,  
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Ms. Channapha Khamvongsa,

I thank you very much for your kind invitation extended to me to the celebrative reception to be organized by Legacy of War on June 18, 2012. Unfortunately, I have to express my regret for not being able to attend such a significant function due to my unforeseeable commitment during this time.

Nevertheless, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and commend all colleagues and friends of Legacy of War, particularly yourself for your leadership and for all the efforts undertaken by Legacy of War in pursuit of humanitarian cause around the world.

Throughout its history, Laos has been by far the most affected nation by UXO in the world, which has now become a major impediment to our national development and poverty reduction. In this context, addressing impact of UXO is already the priority of the Lao Government. It has been mainstreamed into the national socio-economic development of the Lao PDR. The Millennium Development Goal 9 or MDG 9: "Reduce the impact of UXO" is a reflection of the Lao Government's commitment to addressing UXO problem. To help the Lao PDR overcome such challenge, the international community has been rendering its continued support and cooperation. The US government has now become one of the biggest donor countries in providing both financial and technical support to UXO sector in the Lao PDR. With the newly approved support of 9 million US\$ provided by the US Government in 2012, it would make United State the biggest contributor to UXO sector in the Lao PDR.

In this regard, the Lao Government and its people would like, once again, to thank the international community, particularly, development partners, international organizations including non-governmental organizations for such support that have made the livelihood of the Lao people safer and more meaningful. Particularly, we would like to express our special gratitude to the US Government and all American friends for the continued support and sympathy extended to the Lao people over the past years. This support is a genuine reflection of the Lao and American people on our common endeavor and friendship. Furthermore, we also feel so grateful to Legacy of War. We would also like to thank Legacy of War for its humble but significant contribution not only to addressing the impact of UXO on the livelihood of the Lao

people but also to the further enhancement of bilateral relations and cooperation between the Governments of the Lao PDR and the United States of America as well as to a deeper mutual understanding between our two people and nations.

Let me take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to you and to all colleagues of Legacy of War a greater success and prosperity in discharging your duty and pursuing your noble humanitarian course

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seng Soukhathivong', written in a cursive style.

Seng Soukhathivong  
Ambassador