

**Welcome and Opening Speech
by
Mr. Khammone Phonekeo
Chairman, Board of Director, EDL
at
the Executive Seminar
on
EDL & Laos Hydro Power Development**

The Seminar organized within the frame work of the Technical–Academic Collaboration Project between Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand and Electricite Du Laos responds very well to the willingness of the two countries to further promote their long and fruitful cooperation in the power sector.

The Lao PDR government is implementing its national power policy and to harness its rich hydropower potential in a sustainable manner, to serve two vital national priorities namely;

- To provide a reliable and affordable power supply to the society and growing industry thus contributing to the poverty eradication program of the country;
- To earn important foreign exchange revenues from electricity export, revenues needed to fund the country socio – economic development.

The policy has been welcome by large international community including official and private sectors , resulting in the implementation of number of power projects big and small some of them already in operation and exporting electricity and many others are in advanced stage of development. Important lignite fired power project is also under preparation. In addition mini, micro hydropower stations and solar home systems play an important role in remote areas.

We are only at the beginning of the implementation of the power sector policy and much more international cooperation and more time are needed for Lao PDR to exploit its rich power potential of over 20 million kilowatts and to become the battery of the Mekong River Sub – Region.

In this context I would like convey my thanks and appreciations to all the speakers including the on going Lao IPP developers whose papers will provide valuable input to the seminar, leading to a new action plan in the collaboration project.

I strongly hope that this Seminar will bring about good results in sharing experience on advanced technology for sustainable hydro power development

May I wish this Executive Seminar be filled with a brilliant success.

Now I declare the Executive Seminar on Edl and Laos Hydropower Development opened.

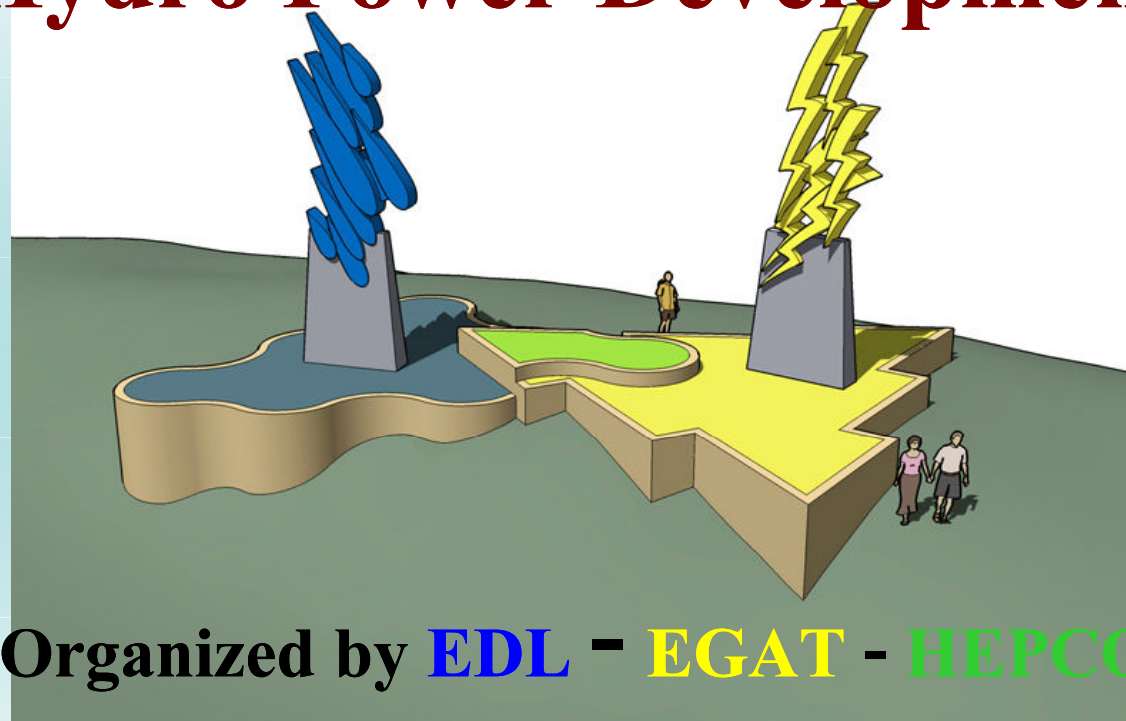
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