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<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>Volakhouve, Bouabane.</td>
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Inaugural Speech:

By:

Bouabane Volakhounge
Ministry of Information & Culture
Laos
Welcome Remark by Bouabane Volakhoune, Vice-Minister of Information and Culture of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

H.E. Mr. Olof Milton, Charge d'Affairs a.i. of Sweden to the Lao PDR,

Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Ministry of Information and Culture of the Lao PDR, it gives me a great pleasure to welcome all of you to this Seminar on "Media and Good Governance", organized by the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre, and in support by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

We are meeting here at a singular appropriate time as we move towards the year 2000. With the information revolution sweeping the world, our planet is becoming tiny and being transformed into a so-called "global village". Considering the rapid development of the information technology, each country of ours has no other alternative except further strengthening telecommunication infrastructure and promoting the skills of personnel.

Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia have a long tradition of helping each other, either in the war time as well as during the peace time as now a day. For this reason I trust that the participants in this Seminar will agree to share their experiences, insights and knowledge gained from practicing media activities in response to the promotion of good governance their respective countries.

In its Resolution No. 36, the Political Bureau of the Lao People's Revolutionary party Central Committee has not only praised the Lao media's contribution to national construction but urged us to intensify the fight against corruption and other negative social phenomena. By doing so, the Lao media is step by step playing an important role in disseminating news and acting as the people's opinion exchange tribune. Many of their achievements have made effective success in socio-economic development within the country.

According to the present needs, the Lao mass media still has to greatly improve the professional skills and knowhow so as to fulfill their mission. As this seminar is also participated by esteemed resource persons and senior managers from selected media institutions, I hope you can build suitable perspective to the theme and identify measures and mechanism that can help to improving coverage of good governance issues.

We thank you and your institutions over the positive response and urge you to utilize the opportunity provided this seminar not only for interaction over the three-day period but also for networking in the future. I wish you to be close partnership and continue our fruitful collaboration into the next millenium, for the benefit of the region.

May I declare the Seminar on Media and Good Governance open.

Thank you.