December 19, 2014, an official meeting between World Bank and the Government of Laos was organized at the Government’s Office. MS. Sally Burmingham, World Bank Country Manager, expressed high satisfactory about the progress of the previous PRF implementation, based on the feedback report of donors mission during 17 November - 04 December 2014. The PRF project contributes to good well toward achieving its objective. So far, the project improved access to basic infrastructure and services cover more than 900 poor villages through implementation of 988 sub-projects related different sectors, such as education, public work and transportation, health, water supply and sanitation, and agriculture, with total direct beneficiaries reached 474,660 and about half of them women. In additional, she also stated that the utilization and used sustainability of the infrastructure and services are seen in the fact that all completed sub-projects over two years are being used and maintained reasonably well. Moreover, about 75 % of total sub-projects under Cycle XI (2013-2014) have completed and disbursement stands at 80 %, which is considered as a good performance progress. Based on this positive feedback, World Bank are pleased to consider additional budget to extend period of PRF II.

To conclude this meaningful meeting, H.E. Bounheuang Doungphachanh, Minister of the Government’s Office and on behalf of the Government of Laos, expressed his deepest thank and acknowledgement to World Bank for all supports, which is not only financial aspect but also technical support to fulfill the implementation of PRF, special thanks to all PRF staff for hard working to fight with poverty in Laos. In order to ensure the consistency of rural development and poverty reduction, we would request further support, especially, increase the support in the activities related livelihood and income of poor family.