



Title of Session: Building Resilient Cities in Times of Crisis: Urban Solutions for Climate Impacts in Lao PDR

Event Date: 6 October 2025

Event attendance: In-Person

Event Location: Vientiane Capital

Event Time: 10:10-11:00 (UTC +7H)

Event Description

Lao PDR's cities are increasingly at the frontline of slow-onset crises driven by climate change: prolonged floods, extreme heat, droughts, and riverbank erosion. These threaten lives, livelihoods, and housing security. These hazards are forcing vulnerable urban residents at times to relocate temporarily, and on rare instances to move permanently.

This World Habitat Day event will showcase how Lao cities are developing innovative, inclusive, and pro-poor urban solutions to address the climate-related challenges. Through multi-stakeholder dialogue, the event will highlight locally led initiatives that integrate climate-resilient housing, equitable land access, and improved basic services with participatory planning and community-driven resilience.

The programme features an opening segment with key national ministries, city leaders, and UN agencies, followed by a keynote on "Overview of Building Resilient Cities in Lao PDR" and "*Toward Climate-Resilient Urban Futures in Lao PDR*". A following QA session will explore practical experiences from local government, national agencies, community representatives, and development partners.

Testimonies from residents of climate-affected urban communities will bring lived experiences to the forefront, while an interactive workshop will engage youth, civil society, and urban planners in co-designing inclusive futures for cities under climate stress.

Supporting activities include a photo and story exhibit, an urban lab corner featuring UN-Habitat projects on flood-resilient housing and green infrastructure.

By placing inclusive and climate-resilient urban solutions at the centre of the discussion, the event will position Lao cities as potential hubs of innovation, adaptation, and sustainable recovery.

Confirmed Presenters:

- Dr. Bounta Onnavong, Director General of Department of Housing and Urban Planning, Ministry of Public Works and Transport.
- Dr. Avi Sarkar, Head of Office UN-Habitat Lao PDR and Regional Advisor - South-East Asia, UBS.