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主席、各位部長、各位嘉賓、各位朋友：

很高興代表老撾人民民主共和國新聞文化旅遊部，出席這個以「文化承傳·連結多元」為題的重要論壇；能夠參與其盛，我深感榮幸。我與代表團抵港後，承蒙主辦方熱誠款待，我謹此向香港特別行政區政府，特別是論壇的籌辦委員會，衷心致謝。

各位嘉賓，老撾人民民主共和國是中南半島中部諸國之一，與五個國家接壤，並有近700萬人和50個民族聚居。

老撾的文化遺產紛繁多樣，包羅極廣，不但反映我國歷史悠久、民族眾多，同時也展現區內人口遷移的模式與情況。老撾政府深明文化既是固國之本，也是推動社會向前發展的一股力量和最終目標。

基於這個恆久不變的事實，我國政府非常重視文化事宜，並經常擬訂政策和推出保護措施，以保存、推廣和發展國家的文化，目的在於使國家繁榮富庶、提高國民生活水平、為各個社區提供安全、公正及和諧的良好生活環境、保存源遠流長的傳統，以及培養國民對民族身分的認同。

我們曾鼓勵文化與旅遊業界的專才和業餘藝術家，以不同方式在國內外推廣老撾文化，包括舉辦和出席各種節慶、比賽及其他文化活動。我們亦曾舉辦多項平面宣傳活動，以推動建立文化家族和文化村落，並以此作為首要的任務。我們又會繼續致力保存國家文化遺產，並提升其地位。

Excellency Mr. Chairman, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), it is my great pleasure and honour to participate in this important Forum, under the theme "Cultural Sustainability in a Dynamic World: Connecting Diversity". I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, in particular, the organising committee for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to myself and my delegation since our arrival.

Distinguished guests, the Lao PDR is one of the several countries located in the central Indo-China peninsula. It shares borders with five countries, and is home to nearly seven million people, and 50 ethnic groups.

The country has a complex and diverse cultural heritage, reflecting its long history, its many ethnic groups and pattern and population movement within the region. The government is aware of the fact that culture is the foundation for the survival of our nation. At the same time, it is considered to be a driving force and end target for social development.

Based on this consciousness, the government holds cultural affairs in high esteem and regularly formulates policies and securities to preserve, promote and develop our national culture with the purpose of bringing the nation to prosperity, raising the standard of living for all, providing communities with favourable conditions of safety, justice and harmony, preserving time-honoured traditions and nurturing its national identity.

We have encouraged cultural and tourism professional and amateur artists in promoting Lao culture to the world and within the country in various forms by conducting and attending festivals and contests as well as other cultural events. We have also run widespread campaigns to foster the creation of cultural families and cultural villages as priorities, and continue to preserve and enhance the importance of national cultural heritage.

舉例來說，琅勃拉邦古城和占巴塞省的瓦普寺，均獲聯合國教育、科學與文化組織（教科文組織）列為世界遺產。現時，老撾已向設於巴黎的聯合國教科文組織世界遺產中心遞交擬議的提名文件，為川壩省的查爾平原申請成為我國的第三個世界遺產。此外，我們正籌備提名位於甘蒙省欣納姆儂自然保護區的國家公園為老撾首個世界自然遺產。

這些景點極受遊客歡迎，到訪人數按年遞增。我想藉着這個特別的機會告訴大家，「2018老撾旅遊年」已正式展開，我們現正準備推出多項活動，讓訪客在這個別具意義的一年到此探索遊歷。期望各位踴躍參與，並協助推廣「2018老撾旅遊年」。

各位嘉賓，在與外國建立文化合作關係方面，我國一直聯同東盟成員國、對話伙伴、外界合作伙伴及其他國家，積極參與和推展多項計劃與活動，而這些計劃更得到中國、日本和韓國這三個東盟參與國聯合支持和響應。特別要提的是，習近平主席早前到敝國進行官方訪問，不但有助老中兩國加強文化合作，以及確定兩國「一帶一路」合作的項目，而且還有助促進區內以至全球的社會經濟發展合作關係。

一直以來，東盟成員國、對話伙伴及其他國家之間都有進行文化交流和合作，並取得不錯的成果，這對促進相互了解、彼此團結和共建友誼方面，均起着重要的作用，並有助所有政府官員提升本身保存東盟成員國多元文化特色的能力。各位嘉賓，「亞洲文化合作論壇2017」對進一步加強各地的合作關係極具意義，可讓文化機構專注於提升自身在保存、保護和推廣文化遺產方面的能力，作出貢獻。

我誠摯希望論壇期間的會議有助我們交流知識、分享經驗和在現有基礎上加強文化合作。謹此祝願主席和各位嘉賓身體健康、事事順利。最後，我想在此再向東道主表達由衷的謝意。謝謝各位。

As examples of this, the old town of Luang Prabang and Wat Phou in Champasak Province have been classified as World Heritage sites by UNESCO. Now, Lao has submitted a draft of the nomination dossiers for the Plain of Jars in Xieng Khouang Province, which is to be named the country's third World Heritage site to the Heritage Centre of UNESCO in Paris. We are also preparing to propose the national park of Hin Namnor in Khammouane Province as the first natural World Heritage site in Laos.

These sites are extremely popular with tourists, and draw more and more visitors each year. May I take this special occasion to inform you that the Lao PDR has officially launched "Visit Laos Year 2018". Numerous of activities are being prepared for tourists to explore during this significant "Visit Laos Year 2018". We therefore would like to seek your kind participation and support in promoting this event.

Distinguished guests, in the field of cultural cooperation with foreign countries, the Lao PDR has actively cooperated with ASEAN member states, dialogue partners, external partners and other countries in participating in and implementing various projects and activities. These projects have also been supported and participated by the ASEAN +3 countries, namely China, Japan, and Korea. In particular, the recent official visit by President XI Jinping has enhanced cultural cooperation between Laos and China, and glorified the Belt and Road Initiative between Laos and China, while boosting cooperation in socio-economic development in our region and throughout the world.

The gains from past cultural exchanges and cooperation are an important milestone in promoting mutual understanding, solidarity and friendship, and in building capacity of all government officials in preserving cultural identity and diversity among ASEAN member states, dialogue partners and other countries. Distinguished guests, the Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum 2017 is significant in further enhancing cooperative relations so that cultural organisations can focus on capacity building in preserving, protecting, and promoting cultural heritage.

I do hope that the outcome of this and other meetings will enable to share your knowledge and experience as well as enhancing our existing cooperation in the cultural fields. May I wish Mr. Chairman, distinguished guests, good health and success and once again express my appreciation and thanks to the host country. Thank you.