

# GMS officials discuss environmental protection

MEUANGKHAM NORADETH

Environmental officials met yesterday in Vientiane to discuss ideas for implementation under the Greater Mekong Subregion's (GMS) Core Environment Programme (CEP).

Head of the GMS National Secretariat Ms Keobang A. Keola said during national programming consultations that officials from six provinces met to discuss previous work in environmental protection and consider new ideas for future goals.

She said participants would also discuss priority activities for the improvement of villagers' living conditions and the alleviation of poverty.

Activities within the CEP are being consolidated to facilitate



Ms Keobang A. Keola joins the discussion on environmental protection.

greater implementation, strengthen coordination among various components, and improve capacity building and reporting arrangements.

This allows activities to be better integrated and facilitates a cross-sectoral

and subregional approach to designing and developing fundamental concepts, she said.

It has also enabled capacity building activities to be structured along 'learning by doing' lines so that the appropriate skills upgrade is provided to the relevant officials.

In addition, there is a clear need for other capacity building to move towards long term sustainability of the CEP in the GMS context, she said.

This includes the building of an institutional and organisational structure that can become the vehicle for the continuing integration of environmental considerations into the development planning of the GMS countries and subregion.