

## **DPM: Global balance of power changing**

The process of multi-polarization in the international community is widespread, while the economic power hub has moved to Asia.



**Dr Thongloun Sisoulith delivers a lecture.**

This was the message delivered last week by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Thongloun Sisoulith during a lecture on foreign affairs attended by ministerial and provincial office heads from across the country.

“The process of multi-polarization of power in the world is actively continuing, and changes in the balance of power are increasing,” said Dr Thongloun.

He said economic power is trending from the West to the East. China is now ranked second in the world with annual GDP of about US\$9,872 trillion, while the country is the biggest creditor of the influential United States.

Dr Thongloun said many factions are actively building power through negotiations on the international stage. He cited the case of Russia, which has restored its power within the international community and has become a strategic partner of China. The two countries have leading roles in the intergovernmental mutual security Chinghai Cooperation Organization.

The minister also touched on the weakness of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) nations' circumstances following the collapse of the Soviet Union, but said member countries now seemed stronger, especially since the conference in Cuba in the 2000s.

Many countries support the NAM including non-members such as the six states of the former Yugoslavia which celebrate Non-Aligned Movement Day, showing their support for the movement's intentions towards the multi-polarization of power.

Dr Thongloun also referred to events in the Middle East and East Africa, saying these situations involve both internal and external factors.

In regard to ASEAN, the association will build a community in its own style differentiated from the European Union. Member countries will respect each other's independence and sovereignty, and not interfere in the internal affairs of member countries.

The Foreign Minister also called on government bodies and officials, particularly the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, to prepare domestic laborers and workers by ensuring their skills are upgraded in response to the ASEAN integration process that will allow the free flow of trade, investment, and free movement of labor within the ASEAN community by 2015.

Lao Embassy, October 24, 2011