



BIOGRAPHY

H.E. Mr. Anouparb Vongnorkeo **Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR**

H.E. Mr. Anouparb Vongnorkeo officially assumed his role as Deputy Foreign Minister on June 4, 2025, following his earlier appointment in November 2024. He served as the 8th Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the United Nations in New York from January 2020 to May 2025. During his distinguished tenure in New York, he served as Chair of the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) in July 2020, Vice President of the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly (the second Lao Ambassador elected to this body). He successfully orchestrated the Lao PDR's historic campaign for membership of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for 2023-2025 and subsequently became the first Lao ambassador to serve on the Council. He also chaired the ASEAN New York Committee (ANYC) during the Lao PDR's chairmanship for 2024. Under his stewardship, the Lao PDR was elected a member of the Executive Board of UNICEF for 2025-2027 (for the second time), a member of the Credentials Committee of the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly, and a member of the Bureau of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries for 2025-2026.

He previously held various senior positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Director-General of the Department of International Organizations from 2016 to 2019, Deputy Director-General from 2011 to 2016, Director of the United Nations System Division from 2007 to 2011, and Deputy Director from 2005 to 2006 in the same Department.

In addition to his diplomatic duties, Ambassador Anouparb was a self-trained translator and interpreter, having served as a senior interpreter for Lao Government leaders. From 2006 to 2016, he was part of the secretariat and personal assistant to the then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, during which he traveled extensively and participated in several major international conferences and summits. Before joining the Foreign Service, he briefly worked at the UNDP country office and banking sector in Vientiane.

Ambassador Anouparb has over 25 years of dynamic experience working with different actors, including the Government, International and Regional Organizations, Civil Society, and the Private Sector. He has been engaging in a wide array of global and regional issues, multilaterally and bilaterally. He was involved in the Lao PDR's accession processes to many key international organizations and conventions, including the World Trade Organization, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, among others. He played a key role in positioning the Lao PDR as the second signatory of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in Oslo in 2008, the first 30 ratifications to trigger the Convention's entry into force in 2010, and successful hosting of the Convention's First Meeting of States Parties in Vientiane in 2010. Ambassador Anouparb was among the key pioneers in localizing the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs and SDGs, into the Lao PDR's national development agenda, which led to the adoption of the MDG9 and SDG18, entitled: "Lives Safe from Unexploded Ordnances (UXO)".

Ambassador Anouparb has a deep knowledge of the sustainable development agenda, representing the Lao PDR in several intergovernmental negotiation processes, which led to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the UN Programs of Action on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), the Pact for the Future recently adopted at the Summit of the Future in September 2024, among others. He closely engaged in and supervised the preparation of Lao national MDG and SDG reporting processes as well as the formulation of various Lao-UN Cooperation Frameworks, and national legislations on INGOs and CSOs.

In addition to his diplomatic career, Ambassador Anouparb has long devoted himself to voluntary and humanitarian work, including serving in the Executive Committee of the Foreign Ministry's Youth Union for 3 consecutive terms. He has been part of key national mechanisms, including the Committees on Anti-human Trafficking, Anti-Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism, the National Regulatory Authority on UXO, Disaster Emergency Relief and Response, Aid Effectiveness, the Roundtable Meeting Process, Trade and Transport Facilitation, and Border Issues, among others.

Being among the first batch of Fulbright scholars from the Lao PDR, Ambassador Anouparb Vongnorkeo was awarded a Master's Degree in International Affairs from Ohio University in the United States in 1998. He holds a B.A. in Pedagogy (with Honors) from Vientiane Pedagogy University (the Lao National University). Born in December 1973 in the northern patriotic town of Viengxay, Huaphan Province, he is a keen football (soccer) player/manager, interested in golf, music, and travel.