

## Medics on high alert for Zika virus

Times Reporters

The Ministry of Health and Institut Pasteur du Laos last week reported that they have identified the Zika virus in 19 residents of Vientiane who were infected between 2012 and 2015.

More than 1,300 stored blood samples were tested from patients with symptoms similar to the dengue virus. Based on available information to date, the risk assessment of the likelihood of the Zika virus widely circulating in Laos is low, especially as there has been no detection of the virus so far this year.

“Despite the result of this joint assessment between WHO and the Ministry of Health, the government is on high alert and invites all technical partners who are currently working in Laos to monitor the situation. Prevention and response measures are in place,” said the Director General of the Communicable Disease Control Department, Dr Bounlay Phommasack.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is supporting the Ministry of Health to prepare for and respond to Zika.

WHO Representative in Laos Dr Juliet Fleischl said “WHO is working with the Ministry of Health in enhancing surveillance to detect the disease, improving laboratory capacity to rapidly identify the virus, providing recommendations for clinical care, developing messages for communities, and activating mosquito control operations and community clean up campaigns.”

The Zika virus is transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes, the same mosquito that transmits dengue and chikungunya. The Zika virus causes a mild illness with a slight fever, rash, red eyes, headache and joint pain. Only 1 in 4 people infected with Zika

will have symptoms. The illness lasts 4 to 7 days.

The virus is known to circulate in Asia, Africa, the Americas and the Pacific. There is also evidence to suggest it has been circulating in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

The Zika virus is currently causing large outbreaks in the Americas where there is a possible link to a condition called microcephaly in babies born to mothers infected with the virus during pregnancy.

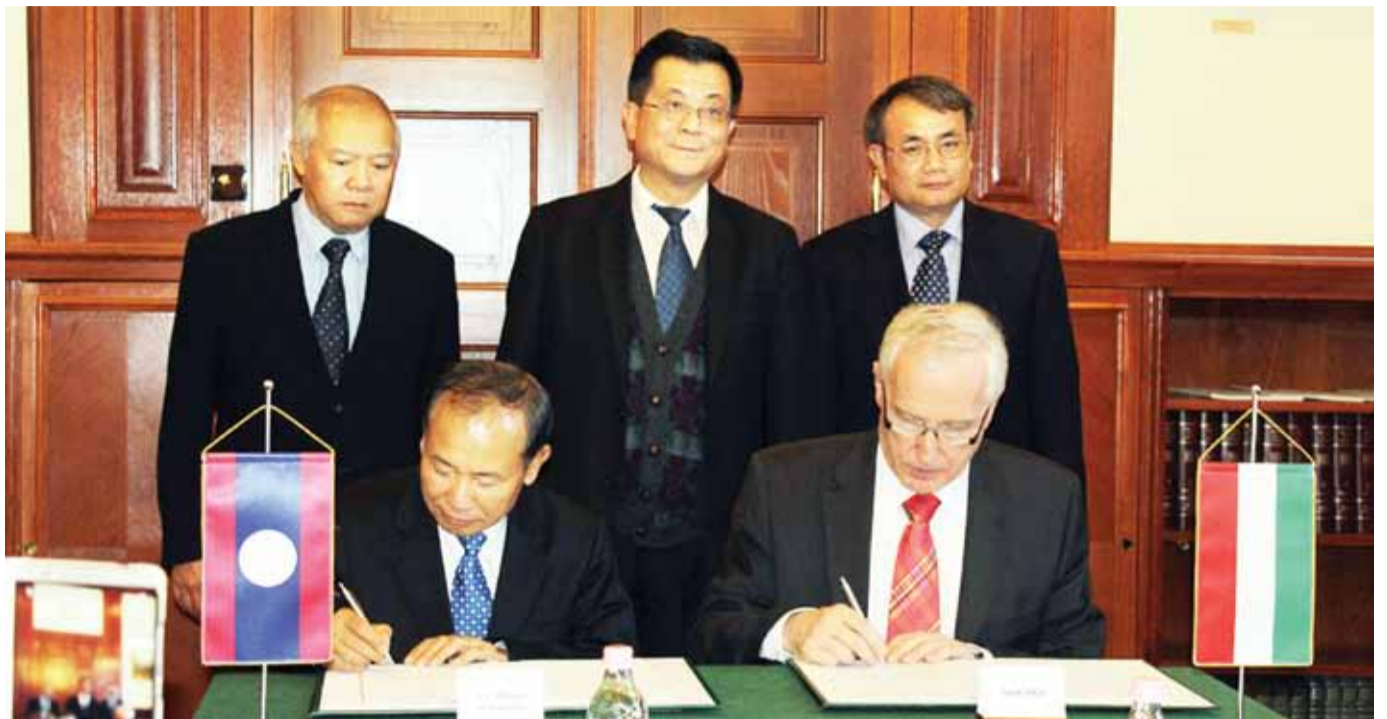
Microcephaly is a rare condition where a baby has a smaller head size than is normal. This is due to the baby’s head developing abnormally in the womb or after birth. Children with microcephaly can have developmental problems as they grow up.

In countries that have large Zika virus outbreaks, another condition called Guillain Barre Syndrome (GBS) also appears to be linked to outbreaks of the Zika virus. GBS is a rare condition that causes gradual weakness in the legs, arms and upper body and sometimes leads to total paralysis. Most people recover fully from even the most severe cases.

“Zika prevention measures are critical,” advised Dr Fleischl. People can protect themselves from mosquito bites by using insect repellent, wearing light coloured clothes, long sleeves and covering as much of the body as possible, using window screens, and sleeping under mosquito nets, especially during the day when the Aedes mosquitoes are most active.

Everyone should clean in and around their house at least once a week by emptying or covering containers that can hold water, such as buckets, flower pots and tyres, so that mosquitoes cannot

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Mr Phoukhao Phommavongsa (left) signs an agreement with Dr István Mikola in Hungary.

## Laos, Hungary sign finance agreement

Times Reporters

The governments of Laos and Hungary have signed an agreement on financial cooperation which will serve as a fundamental document for economic cooperation between the two countries in the future.

The agreement was signed in Hungary last week by Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Laos to the Republic of Austria Mr

Phoukhao Phommavongsa and Hungary’s Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Dr István Mikola.

The event was also attended by other high-ranking officials from both countries.

The agreement will serve as the master document while guidelines for other cooperation agreements can be signed subsequently, including a loan agreement and other agreements

certifying that Hungary intends to assist Laos in the areas of agriculture, livestock, fisheries and the processing of green products.

Hungary is committed to providing assistance to Laos amounting to US\$30 million in the near future.

The agreement on financial cooperation is a milestone which should enhance the cooperative relations between Laos and Hungary.

Laos and Hungary established diplomatic relations in 1962. Hungary has provided Laos with financial and technological support and helped to develop agriculture in Laos, in a bid to ensure that the quantity and quality of crops grown meets market demand.

The government of Hungary is also helping Laos in the education sector by offering scholarships to Lao citizens on an annual basis.

## Laos dismisses reports of illegal ivory trade

Times Reporters

Lao authorities have dismissed reports by Thai media, which allege companies in Laos have been smuggling elephant ivory through Thailand with the media citing the kingdom’s authorities as seizing tusks.

In the latest reports to emerge in mid December, Thai and other foreign media outlets reported that on December 10 Thai authorities seized 789kg of elephant tusks and 587kg of other wildlife items.

The reports said the shipment had originated in Nigeria and

passed through Singapore before arriving in Thailand en route for Laos. They also said the shipment would be received by a Lao company, KNT Trading, upon arrival in Laos.

Following the Thai media reports, including one by Thai Channel 7, the Ministry

of Industry and Commerce investigated the issue but found no company registered as KNT Trading as mentioned by the Thai media, the ministry said in a statement issued to local media.

The Lao ministry also dismissed earlier similar reports

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Mr Yong Chanthalangsy (seated right) and Prof. Er Meng Hwa (seated left) on Friday sign a memorandum of understanding on the Train-The Trainer Programme, witnessed by senior officials from both sides.

## Singapore to train Lao government officials

### Times Reporters

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Institute of Foreign Affairs on Friday signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on a Train-The Trainer Programme with Singapore's Nanyang Technological University.

The signing ceremony took place last week at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was attended by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Sengphet Houbounnouang and other senior ministry officials.

Director General of the Institute of Foreign Affairs Mr Yong Chanthalangsy and Vice President of Nanyang Technological University Prof. Er Meng Hwa signed the MOU.

The aim of the training programme is to enhance the capacity of senior Lao government officials at both the central and provincial levels in good governance, public policy and leadership.

With support from the Lao government and the Temasek Foundation, it is envisaged that the training programme will improve the working performance of government officials and help to accelerate the development process in Laos.

The programme is viewed as a milestone for both Laos and Singapore in enhancing bilateral cooperation in the field of human resource development.

Training courses in Singapore will be divided into three modules each lasting two weeks, with 25 participants attending each session. Participants will learn from experienced professors and experts on various essential issues including good governance, public policy and socio-economic development.

The project is jointly funded by the Lao government, the Temasek Foundation and Nanyang Technological University, who will support 75 senior officials from Laos to study at the university for a two week period in three groups.

The first group of 20 senior officials underwent training last month and the second and third groups will be dispatched to Singapore in the near future.

Speaking to local media, Prof. Er Meng Hwa said "The programme covers a wide range of topics on public administration, public policy and leadership, and human resource management."

Lao officials will receive instruction from experienced professors and experts and will

have the chance to visit ministries and agencies to share their experiences and discuss aspects of other important issues.

"Nanyang Technological University has been providing training programmes for government officials from Asian countries, especially Asean, including Vietnam, Myanmar, the Philippines and Laos," Prof. Er Meng Hwa said.

CEO of the Temasek Foundation, Mr Benedict Cheong, said Temasek was a Singaporean investment company that earned its profit from Asia.

"So we decided to contribute to this important part of our business strategy to Asia because we don't want to contribute just through charity; we decided to pursue a capacity building approach. The reason is for economic growth; you need strong leaders and capable leaders. That is the reason we support this programme focusing on leadership," Mr Cheong said.

"The training programme is more than a training programme. It is not a one way training programme but a collaboration between the Lao government, Nanyang Technological University and the Temasek Foundation," he added.

## Laos to host Asia hydropower forum

### Times Reporters

The Ministry of Energy and Mines and the International Journal on Hydropower and Dams will host the Sixth International Conference and Exhibition on Water Resources and Hydropower Development in Asia from March 1-3.

The 'Asia 2016' conference in Vientiane will bring together more than 700 individuals including experts, professionals, and administrators in the hydropower sector to share their experiences in hydropower development.

Laos is endowed with vast hydropower potential, making it a major source of renewable energy generation for the country.

Over the years, Laos has progressively developed its hydro resources, with the aim of achieving electrification across the country, while at the same time helping to reduce carbon-based generation throughout the Southeast Asian region by providing clean electricity from hydropower to consumers in neighbouring countries.

Given the diversity of uses of water resource projects, it has been possible to maximise the benefits of schemes by implementing multi-purpose developments, with a perspective wider than electricity generation.

Typical activities associated with multipurpose hydro schemes today can range from water supply to flood protection, from irrigation to aquatic cultivation, from tourism to resource management, and from water use sharing to regional cooperation.

Human lives are powered by their surrounding environment, including water resources, and hydropower has empowered mankind to enhance people's living standards in a dynamic way.

Hydropower resources are thus a direct means of achieving multiple social developments.

"It's a great honour for us to have the opportunity to co-host this very important event, taking place against the backdrop of a major programme of hydropower development," said Director General of the

Energy Business Department, Mr Xaypaseuth Phomsoupha.

At the event, people from various inter-related professional fields will synergise their efforts in solving future challenges for hydropower.

The organisers have designed an information-rich agenda that will allow all international participants to discuss and explore ways of improving the development and management of water and hydropower resources.

In addition, two study tours have been organised and Asia 2016 participants will visit Lao hydroelectric plants under construction and in operation.

"I strongly believe that both the conference and study tour will provide valuable information on hydropower and development-related activities," Mr Xaypaseuth said.

Ultimately, the Asia 2016 event will undoubtedly encourage the further use of renewable energy and related developmental activities resulting from the exploitation of hydro resources, he added.

## Laos, Switzerland extend partnership in pilot training

### Phaisythong Chandara

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport will continue to work with the Swiss-based Partners in Aviation and Communication Technologies (PACTEC) to train the next generation of Lao pilots.

The commitment was reaffirmed on Friday after both parties acknowledged the progress of the Civil Aviation Flight Training Centre Professional Pilot Programme phase I.

Based on this success, the ministry's Department of Civil Aviation and PACTEC on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will initiate phase II of the pilot training programme.

The MoU was signed by the Director General of the Department of Civil Aviation, Mr Vanhpheng Chanthaphone, and PACTEC's Programme Manager, Mr Sam Herrmann.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mr Vanhpheng said "The first six pilots to be trained in Laos have already obtained their private pilot licences, they have started their night rating and are flying cross-country to places

like Xayaboury, Savannakhet, Champassak and Attapeu. In less than a year they will be commercial pilots with a multi-engine rating and an Instrument Flight Rules rating."

The second phase will see the continued recruitment and training of new student pilots along with the training of Lao flight instructors to help the flight training centre become independent and sustainable in the future.

The trainees will attend courses known as "ground school" that cover all the subjects required by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and Lao Civil Aviation Safety Regulations requirements.

Flight training will include dual, solo, cross-country, instrument and simulator training in accordance with ICAO and Lao Civil Aviation Safety Regulations requirements.

Looking to the future, in partnership with the Civil Aviation Flight Training Centre, PACTEC is planning to submit a proposal to start the first Aviation Maintenance Training Programme in Laos.

This three-year programme would train aircraft mechanics to ICAO standards. The training centre will send out an invitation for a presentation of the proposed Maintenance Training Programme in the next few weeks.

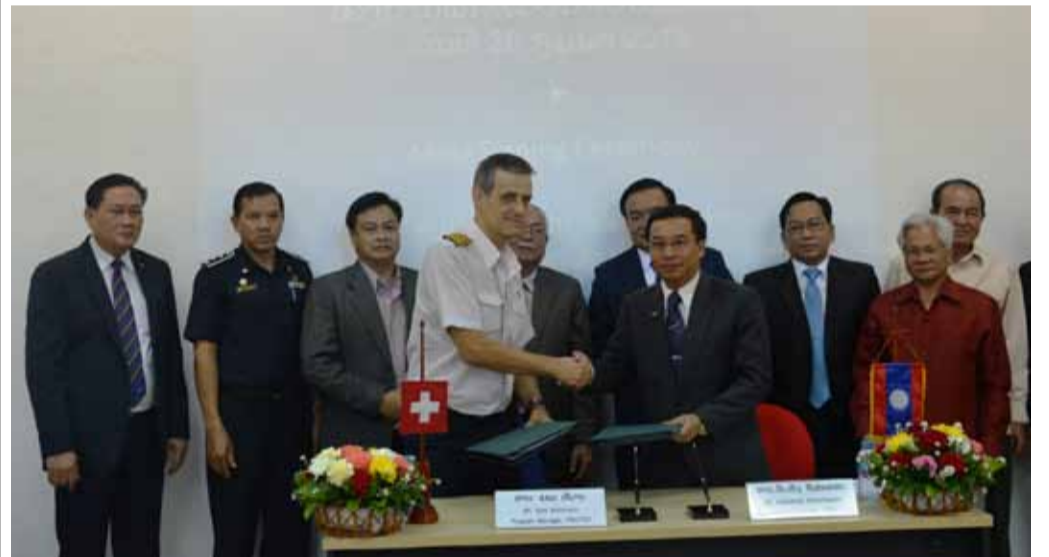
In 2011, the Department of Civil Aviation and PACTEC began the first basic pilot training in Laos since 1975.

In 2012, the old training centre building was renovated to provide the classrooms and offices needed for the new Civil Aviation Flight Training Centre.

Lao Skyway sponsored the students in the first Aviation Career Preparation Course after training began in 2013.

In 2014, PACTEC imported two Cessna 172 training aircraft and the first batch of six student pilots started flight training in partnership with Lao Skyway.

In 2015, the six student pilots did their first solo flight out of Wattay International Airport. The solo flight is a milestone in the two-year pilot training course, when trainees take the controls of a four-seat, single engine Cessna 172.



Mr Vanhpheng Chanthaphone (right) shakes hands with Mr Sam Herrmann after the signing ceremony on Friday.

## Lao Press in Foreign Languages

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## Statistics bureau crunches numbers on development plan



Head of the Lao Statistics Bureau, Dr Samaychanh Boupcha, addresses the meeting on Friday.

### Times Reporters

The Lao Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of Planning and Investment is developing the National Statistical System to improve and upgrade the quality of its operations.

That was the message from the meeting of the Lao Statistics Bureau on Friday as it summarised its work over the past year and presented a strategic plan for 2016-2020.

The meeting was presided over by bureau Head Dr Samaychanh Boupcha and other officials.

The national statistical system development strategy aims to improve and strengthen the foundation of statistical production both in terms of quantity and quality, to ensure the National Statistical System is comparable to international standards,

and to increase the credibility of the system by employing best practices.

It also aims to comprehensively make available economic, social and environmental statistics for users which are high quality, timely, transparent and credible; to ensure that the production of official statistics is efficient by using modern information systems and methods; and encourage the public to actively participate in statistical production.

During the meeting Dr Samaychanh presented activities and results under Strategies for the Development of the National Statistical System 2010-2020 and described the limitations encountered.

The meeting also discussed the implementation of the statistics law, the strategic plan for 2016-2020 and the vision for 2030.

Targets will concentrate on improving the quality, reliability, and timeliness of statistics so they can facilitate effective planning and decision making activities by policy makers, plan formulators and researchers, according to the 2010-2020 development strategy.

The capacity and knowledge of staff and statisticians nationwide will also be enhanced so they can meet future development needs.

The bureau also plans to develop the national statistical system to guarantee that all activities ranging from production to dissemination are comparable and compliant with international standards.

This should ensure that the country's actual situation is reflected accurately as the result of efficient methods.

The Lao Statistics Bureau encourages everyone to fulfil their obligations in providing cooperation in collecting data and contributing knowledge through giving feedback and comments on its work.

## Laos, Australia and EU join forces to improve education outcomes



(From left) Mr John Williams, Ms Sengdeuane Lachanthaboun and Mr Bryan Fornari co-chair the meeting.

### Times Reporters

It is estimated that 450,000 Lao girls and boys will achieve literacy, numeracy and other life skills through the Basic Education Quality and Access in Laos (BEQUAL) programme.

The BEQUAL programme is managed by Australia and the Ministry of Education and Sports, with additional funding provided by the European Union (EU).

The programme is designed to be rolled out over 10 years, in three phases. The first phase runs from 2015-2019 and will focus on 66 of the most educationally disadvantaged districts in Laos.

This information was revealed during the first Steering Committee meeting of the BEQUAL programme held in Vientiane on Friday, which aimed to endorse a range of initiatives to improve education outcomes for children across Laos, according to the Australian Embassy.

The meeting was co-chaired by Deputy Minister of Education and Sports Ms Sengdeuane Lachanthaboun, Australian Ambassador to Laos Mr John Williams and EU's Acting Chargé d'Affaires to Laos Mr Bryan Fornari.

Targeting the most educationally disadvantaged

districts, the programme will strengthen the quality of teacher training, improve school infrastructure, provide learning materials, and increase participation by the most disadvantaged children – girls, children from remote areas, and students with disabilities.

The meeting reflected on the significant progress achieved during the programme's first eight months, including the provision of 217 scholarships to ethnic teacher trainees and commencing renewal of the national primary curriculum. The meeting also endorsed the priorities and outcomes for BEQUAL over the next four years.

Ms Sengdeuane said the ministry has worked closely with the Australian government and European Union for many years, including as joint co-chairs of the Education Sector Working Group.

"This is a large-scale, long-term programme that will help disadvantaged students to get a better education," she said.

Ambassador Williams said that education was at the very heart of Australia's aid programme in Laos. He said that building on Australia's longstanding investments, BEQUAL was supporting the ministry's core business, working

directly with the ministry at the central, provincial and district levels.

"Through BEQUAL, Australia is working side by side with the ministry to develop the curriculum, teachers and schools needed to ensure that children go to school, stay in primary school, and learn while they are there," he said.

Mr Fornari highlighted the partnership between the EU, the ministry and Australia as a good example of effective donor coordination in action.

He said BEQUAL was a comprehensive programme that included a wide range of strategies and actions that would help to improve the quality of basic education and address multiple education challenges.

"The European Union is pleased to partner with the governments of Australia and Laos to help more Lao children access a quality education," Mr Fornari said.

Among the 70 participants were senior representatives from provincial governor offices, provincial education offices, senior managers of education ministry departments and teacher training colleges, BEQUAL technical advisers, development partners, and invited guests.



Mr Thongloun Sisoulith (centre), Asean ministers and the Asean Secretary General link hands at the Asean Foreign Ministers' Retreat in Vientiane on Saturday.

## Asean work plan, connectivity agenda to be adopted at summit

### Times Reporters

The Initiative for Asean Integration (IAI) Work Plan 3 and the Post-2015 Agenda for Asean Connectivity will be the key two documents adopted by the bloc's leaders at the Asean Summit later this year.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Thongloun Sisoulith revealed the plan when delivering a statement to domestic and foreign media on Saturday after the closing of the Asean Foreign Ministers' Retreat, held in Vientiane.

The two documents are in keeping with Asean's goal to narrow the development gap and enhance regional connectivity, which are two of the eight priorities of Laos as the Asean Chair this year.

"The two key deliverable documents under the Lao PDR's chairmanship are the Initiative for Asean Integration Work Plan 3 and the Post-2015 Agenda for Asean Connectivity," Mr Thongloun said. Implementation of the Asean Community Vision 2025 was a central focus of last week's meeting.

"These two documents, upon adoption by Asean leaders at the summit in September, will form an integral part of the Asean Community Vision 2025," Mr Thongloun said.

Of Asean's 10 member countries, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam still

lag behind the bloc's founder members. It is widely recognised that this development gap is hindering the integration process, leading to the launch of the IAI Work Plan.

Concerning the Asean Community Vision 2025, Mr Thongloun, who chaired the Ministers' Retreat, said the launch of the Asean Community on December 31, as well as the adoption of the Asean Community together with the three Asean Community blueprints, has boosted momentum for ongoing efforts to consolidate and strengthen regional integration and community building.

Asean leaders adopted the Master Plan on Asean Connectivity in October 2010, aiming to promote economic growth, narrow development gaps, boost Asean integration and community building, enhance competitiveness in Asean, promote deeper social and cultural understanding as well as greater mobility, and connect member states within the region and with the rest of the world.

The Asean Political-Security Blueprint and the strengthening of Asean's external relations and Asean centrality in the evolving regional architecture were also on the agenda of the Asean Foreign Ministers' Retreat. The ministers discussed ways and means to further deeper cooperation with dialogue partners as well as strengthen engagement with

other external parties.

They exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest and concern, including security challenges such as terrorism, cyber security, natural disasters, climate change, irregular migration, human trafficking, maritime cooperation and cooperation, and developments in the Middle East, Korean Peninsula and the South China Sea. The ministers reaffirmed Asean's commitment to working with the international community to combat terrorism in all its forms.

Concerning the nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the country's rocket launch, the ministers reiterated Asean's full support for the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. They urged the DPRK to comply with all the United Nations Security Council resolutions and called on parties involved to make a concerted effort to maintain peace and security.

With regard to the South China Sea, the ministers were seriously concerned about developments there and took note of the concerns expressed by some ministers on land reclamation and the escalation of activities in the area, saying these had eroded trust and confidence, increased tension, and may undermine peace, security and stability in the region.

## Medics on high alert for Zika... FROM PAGE 1

use them to breed. "WHO advises that women who are pregnant or who are planning to become pregnant should take extra care to protect themselves from mosquito bites," Dr Fleischl said.

Women who are pregnant should discuss their travel plans with their health care provider and consider delaying travel to any area where locally acquired Zika infection is occurring.

The virus is spread by mosquitoes, and not by person-to-person contact, though a small number of cases of sexual transmission have been documented. Zika has been found in human semen. Two reports have described cases where Zika has been transmitted from one person to another through sexual contact. Until more is known about the risk of sexual transmission, all men and women returning from an area where Zika is circulating – especially pregnant women and their partners – should practice safe sex, including through the correct and consistent use of condoms.

At the global level, WHO is coordinating with countries that have reported outbreaks of the Zika virus and other partners to investigate and respond to the potential relationship between Zika and microcephaly, as well as any other possible complications.

## Laos dismisses reports of illegal... FROM PAGE 1

by Thai media, including a report by Thai Channel 3, which alleged that two Lao companies were involved in the illegal trade of elephant tusks seized by Thai authorities with the tusks allegedly shipped through Thailand destined for Laos.

The Thai media reports alleged that two Lao companies – Manisouk Trading Lao and Soukpasong Import-Export – were supposedly to receive the tusks, which were seized by Thai authorities on April 2 and April 26 last year en route through Thailand.

Following its investigations, the Lao ministry confirmed there were no companies registered under the names Manisouk Trading Lao and Soukpasong Import-Export.

To address the issue and find out the truth, the ministry said Lao officials would contact and

work with their Thai counterparts to investigate the matter further.

The ministry said Laos attached great importance to preserving wildlife, especially endangered species as the Lao PDR had been a state party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora since 2004.

"The implementation of the convention has been a priority for the Lao government," the ministry said in its statement.

Observers said it was important for Lao officials to take urgent action to address the issue and find out the truth as soon as possible as the allegations were tarnishing Laos' image. They noted that Lao officials should take quicker action given that the allegations first surfaced in April last year and similar allegations had already been made on three occasions.

# Korean experts mull upgrade of skills development institute

Times Reporters

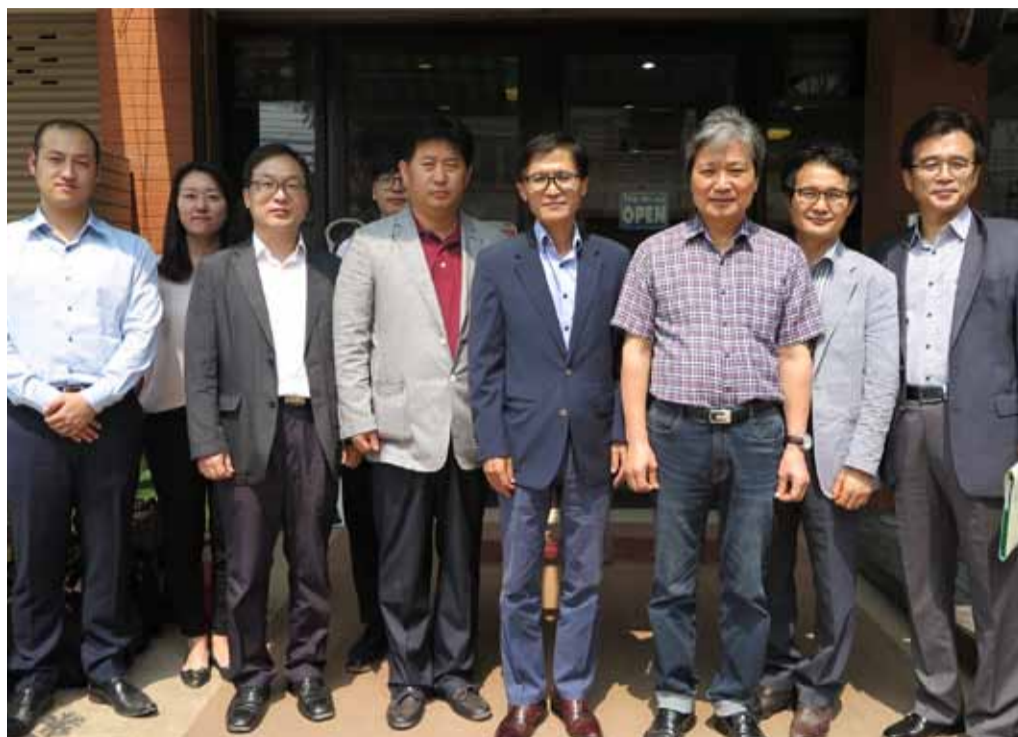
The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has sent a group of Korean experts to Vientiane to undertake a preliminary study for a project to improve the Lao-Korea Skills Development Institute.

The group was in Vientiane from February 18 to 27 in cooperation with local and international experts, according to the KOICA Laos office.

The main objectives of the study are to assess the feasibility of the proposed project plan by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the institute as well as develop a project design.

The experts held meetings with government officials, development partners in the technical and vocational education and training sector, and local company stakeholders about a situation analysis, data collection, a budget estimate and a review of the project's implementation.

Resident Representative of the KOICA Laos office, Mr Kim Hahng-Joo, said "The project is expected to contribute to human resource development in Laos and present a solution to the



Korean experts gather with Ambassador Kim Soo-Kwon (fourth right) during a preliminary study for the improvement of the Lao-Korea Skills Development Institute in Vientiane.

shortage of skilled workers. Therefore, it can meet the needs of rapidly increasing industrial demands."

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Laos, Mr Kim Soo-Kwon, said "Korea is a country developed by a skilled workforce and high technology. I hope the institute can meet the expectations of Lao students so they have an opportunity

to learn about Korea's leading technology through this improvement project."

The Lao-Korea Skills Development Institute offers nine courses including automobile repair, IT, electricity, beauty and more, to over 1,500 students.

The institute first opened its doors in 2002 with KOICA support of US\$2 million. Since

then, KOICA has constantly supported the institute by carrying out a series of projects as well as dispatching KOICA Overseas Volunteers.

If the feasibility of the project is successfully examined through the study, it is expected that KOICA will fund a second upgrade of the institute with up to US\$5 million from 2017 to 2020.

## News in Brief

### Drug dealers fined, jailed

Four Vientiane drug dealers were each given five year prison sentences and a fine of 10 million kip each, while another was sentenced to six years in jail and fined 28 million kip.

A report in the *Khuamsangob* Newspaper named the men as Mr Aek, 23, Mr Khutthachan, 22, Mr Bounsong, 25, and Mr Phonesin, 21. The fifth man was named as Mr Kataithong, 25.

Police said they first arrested Mr Kataithong who confessed to trading in drugs since 2013. He said he bought between 50-200 pills at a time from Mr Aek, which he later sold to Mr Khutthachan, Mr Phonesin, and Mr Bounsong.

### Red Cross hoping for 1,500 blood donors this month

The Lao Red Cross has set a target for 1,500 people to donate blood this month and is running a campaign to encourage donors to come forward and boost supplies. As of Friday, 1,059 people had donated blood. Officials are holding blood donation drives at 16 companies, schools and universities, the *Vientiane Mai* Newspaper reported.

### Vientiane tightens security in readiness for election

Vientiane security forces are working to ensure the election process next month goes ahead without incident. Citizens will vote for National Assembly members on March 20.

The capital's security authorities met last week to discuss measures to maintain security during the election.

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- ☑ ມີ 2 ທາງເລືອກໃຫ້ທ່ານເລືອກ ຕາມຄວາມແທດເພາະຂອງທ່ານ
- ☑ ຮັບສ່ວນຫລຸດໃນການຕໍ່ສັນຍາ ປີຕໍ່ໄປສູງສຸດ 30%

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**Allianz General Laos**


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ເມັດທີ 33, ຖະໜົນວິນາຍຊ້າງ, ຊັ້ນ 2 ອາຄານເອເນັ້ນເຊັດ  
ສູນ ບ. ນ. 4223 ພາກຕາເວັນຕົກ ພະປະໄຕວາ  
ໂທ: +856-21 21 5903; ແຟັກ: +856-21 21 5904  
E-mail: agl@agi-allianz.com  
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ແຈັງສຸປະນິເສດ 24 ຊົ່ວໂມງ  
**021-222 222**  
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**United Nations Development Programme**

**Procurement Notice**

UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in 177 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.



Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

**Request for Proposal (RFP)**  
**Reference No. RFP\_001\_2016**

Dear Sir/Madam,

UNDP Lao PDR is inviting all eligible **International Institute (based in Lao PDR) to deliver English Training Course for Court Officials**. When preparing your proposals, please be guided by the instructions and requirements provided in the full version of RFP including all Annexes which are available on UNDP Lao PDR web-site at the following link:<http://www.la.undp.org/content/laopdr/en/home/operations/procurement/>

Sealed or electronic bids/proposals with all required attachments and supporting documents as stipulated in the full version of the RFP must be delivered on or before **17:00 PM Local time, Friday, March 4, 2016** to the following address:

**United Nations Development Programme**  
**UNDP Lao PDR**  
**Lane Xang Avenue**  
**Ban Hatsady-Tai, P.O. Box 345**  
**Vientiane, Lao PDR**  
**Attention to: UNDP Procurement/Logistics Unit**

For electronic submission please use the following secured email account:[lao.procurement@undp.org](mailto:lao.procurement@undp.org)

Bids submitted to other email accounts or address shall not be considered or reviewed.

In case of any inquiries please send us your questions in writing to the following email accounts:  
[kiettsack.senephansiri@undp.org](mailto:kiettsack.senephansiri@undp.org)  
[ccviengmala.phomsengsavanh@undp.org](mailto:ccviengmala.phomsengsavanh@undp.org)

**Late bids will be rejected**

Please visit our website for other procurement opportunities at:  
<http://www.la.undp.org/content/laopdr/en/home/operations/procurement/>



Representatives of the Lao Red Cross and Vientiane officials recently hand over clothes, food and household essentials to an 88-year-old woman in Khamsavath village, Xaysettha district, Vientiane.



Khammuan province now has 347 developed villages out of the total 359 villages in the province after provincial authorities recently awarded developed status to another 13 villages.



The authorities have banned parking on pavements but the drivers of these vehicles on Seththathirath Road are obviously not bothered about the rules.



World Wide Fund for Nature presenter Mr Pierre-Marc (second left) explains solar power to students at the Faculty of Environmental Sciences at the National University of Laos on Friday as part of a training session on renewable energy and energy efficiency.

**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**  
**PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRATIC UNITY PROSPERITY**

Ministry of Energy and Mines  
Electricite du Laos

No. 0124/EDL  
Vientiane Capital, Date: 18 FEB 2016

**Request for Expression of Interest**  
**For the Individual National Financial Management Consultant**

**Lao People's Democratic Republic**  
**Power Grid Improvement Project (PGI)**  
**Loan No./Credit No: 56750**

**1. BACKGROUND**  
The Electricite Du Laos has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Power Grid Improvement Project (P149599) and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract EDL/PGI/C-06 for the short-term National Financial Management Consultant.

**2. SCOPE OF SERVICES:**  
The services required are divided into two stages: development of the manual and training/implementation. The consultant will work in close cooperation with the project manager, project accountant other Financial Management staff members and would be responsible for the following specific tasks:

- Review the current Financial Management System of EDL and provide recommendations suitable for the project
- Review the existing accounting software of EDL and design appropriate chart of accounts and reporting format to ensure the project's financial reporting requirements/needs are met
- Ensure proper internal controls are put in place to achieve accountability at all levels in the project's operations
- Prepare the project's financial management manual, incorporating internal controls, procedures in various areas of financial management to be implemented by the project.
- Incorporate comments from by project management and the World Bank and finalize the manual
- Implement or test the systems/procedures/ accounting to ensure that they work smoothly and effectively. Propose and make adjustments where required
- Conduct formal training to project staff on financial management of the project
- Provide on the job training and advice to the project's financial management's team to ensure that they can carry out the task assigned efficiently

**3. QUALIFICATION:**

- At least a bachelor degree in relevant field such as accounting and finance.
- Post graduate qualification in relevant field e.g. Master Degree or hold a professional qualification e.g. CPA or CA is desirable
- A sound knowledge in accounting and other relevant field, including at least 5 years of professional experience in project's financial management
- Experience in writing and producing financial management manuals and carrying out training
- Experience with the World Bank projects or other major donors are an advantage
- Fluency in Lao and English (strong written and spoken skills)
- Good knowledge of accounting software, including strong Excel skills
- Able to work in a team, with close cooperation and coordination with key departments, World Bank team and other counterparts.
- Reliable, independent and dynamic worker with high social competence and good team spirit
- Good interpersonal skills and result orientation.

**4. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT:**

One (1) month contract (output based lump sum) with an expected start of April 2016 and finish by early June 2016. Interested candidates can submit their EOI at [khamphiou2@hotmail.com](mailto:khamphiou2@hotmail.com) by 15 March 2016

**Komonchanh PHET-ASA**  
Deputy Managing Director

Lao-Thai Friendship Road, P.O. Box: 309, Thong Kang Village, Sisattanak District, Vientiane Capital Lao PDR  
Tel: (856-21) 451537; 451519 Fax: (856-21) 416381; 263794. E-mail: [edlmdo@edl.com.la](mailto:edlmdo@edl.com.la). Website: [www.edl.com.la](http://www.edl.com.la)

**Lao People's Democratic Republic**  
**Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity**

Ministry of Health - PR/MOH supported by Global Fund to Fight AIDS/Tuberculosis and Malaria

**Invitation for Bid (IFB)**  
For the Procurement of:  
73 Computers and accessory IT equipments for Sub Recipients under HSS grant  
(Framework contract)

For the HSS Project Management Unit in the Department of Planning and International Cooperation (DPIC) Ministry of Health supported by the Global Fund Principal Recipient Office, Ministry of Health Lao PDR (PR/MOH) of the Global Fund Project to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) in Lao PDR.

Purchaser DPIC PMU supported by PR/MOH  
Address: Simuang Road, Ban Simeuang, Sisattanak District Vientiane, Lao PDR.  
Contact Persons for this RFQ:  
Name/position: Ms. Phetphachan Nonginthilath, Dr.Souphaphone Sadettan; Mr. Khampasong Simmalavong,  
Tel (Office): 021 242 980  
Email: [phetphachan@theglobalfundlao.org](mailto:phetphachan@theglobalfundlao.org); [khampasong@theglobalfundlao.org](mailto:khampasong@theglobalfundlao.org); [phone905@yahoo.com](mailto:phone905@yahoo.com).  
CC to: [verhoeven.pascal@gmail.com](mailto:verhoeven.pascal@gmail.com); [viengsavanh@theglobalfundlao.org](mailto:viengsavanh@theglobalfundlao.org)

Procurement No: LAO-PMU-HSS-Y1/Computer and Equipment/Feb-2016  
Date: 29<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016

The HSS PMU in the Department of Planning and International Cooperation (DPIC) Ministry of Health with the Global Fund Principal Recipient Office, Ministry of Health Lao PDR (PR/MOH), the Purchaser, intend to utilize of Global Fund (GFATM) funding under Health System Strengthening Grant (HSS-Y1/2016) to Lao PDR for supply of:

**73 Computers and accessory IT equipments**

The Purchaser DPIC/PR/MOH, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of these goods as per the quantities in the Schedule of Requirement to its consignee DPIC PMU located in Vientiane capital to support program implementation of HSS grant activities.

The Purchaser will follow the procedures set out in the PR Procurement Manual (2015) for public bidding method in compliance with the Rules for Public Procurement in Lao PDR issued by the MOF in 2004 and lastly amended in 2015.

Interested bidders may obtain a complete set of the bidding document in English from date of publication of this Invitation from **29 Feb 2016 to 25 Mar 2016** during working days/office hours. Requests can be sending by email, phone or done in person at Purchaser office.

Bids must be delivered (1 Original and 1 Copy) to the Purchaser office at address provided above before **Date: 30<sup>th</sup> Mar 2016, 14.00 hours, (Lao Time)**. All original bids in hard copy must properly signed, quoted in the prescribed currency and valid for the period specified in the Instructions to Bidder (ITB); originals and copies must be sealed and labeled as per the Instructions to Bidder (ITB) in the Bid document.

Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in a formal meeting chaired by MOH Procurement Committee to verify responsiveness and announce bid received and total sum quoted (per lot as applicable) in the presence of the bidders (or representatives) who choose to attend. Bid Opening is scheduled to start at **Date: 30<sup>th</sup> Mar 2016, 14.15 hours, (Lao Time)** at the Office of Purchaser mentioned above.

Sincerely yours,

PR Manager of GFATM Project  
Ministry of Health, Lao PDR

# Region

## In brief from Asia News Network

### Experts slam Jakarta administration

INDONESIA (The Jakarta Post) -- The shutdown of Jakarta's Kalijodo red-light district in North Jakarta reveals a lack of fairness in the way the Jakarta administration clears areas for development, as giant commercial areas remain untouched, experts have said. Activists and experts have criticized Jakarta Governor Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama's decision to clear the Kalijodo area, established in the 1960s, to make way for green space. The city aims to comply with the 2007 Spatial Planning Law, which requires provinces to allocate 30 percent of space for green areas.

### All homes found breeding mosquitoes to face fines of US\$200

SINGAPORE (The Straits Times) -- In a bid to tackle the expected spike in dengue cases this year, and with the looming threat of the Zika virus, Environment and Water Resources Minister Masagos Zulkifli said enforcement action will be stepped up against homes found to be breeding mosquitoes. From March 14, all homes - whether they are within or outside dengue clusters - will be fined US\$200 if they are found to be breeding mosquitoes. Currently, enforcement action is only taken against homes within dengue clusters.

## Myanmar triples expenditure on electricity supply in five years

YANGON (Xinhua) -- Myanmar has tripled its expenditure on electricity supply over the past five years, an official report said Sunday quoting Deputy Minister of Electric Power U Maw Tha Htwe.

In the fiscal year 2015-16 ending March, the government invested US\$481 million, up from US\$143 million USD, he said. Noting that the country's individual consumption of electricity stands at 222 kilowatts, the deputy minister revealed the installed capacity of electricity of Myanmar rose from 3,400 megawatts (MW) in 2010 to 5,089 MW in 2015 and electricity has been distributed to 15,000 of 60,000 villages across the country.

He further said Myanmar's National Electrification Plan, conducted in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) since 2012, aims to enable all parts of the country to have full access to electricity by 2030.

However, the plan has just covered 33 percent of the whole country, he disclosed, saying that much remains to be done to meet the target as only one third of the country's 50.89 million population live with electricity.

Statistics indicate that in Myanmar, 66 percent of electricity comes from hydropower, 29 percent from gas-fired power and 3 percent from coal-fired ones and the rest from wind, solar and biomass sources.

## Thailand has third most suicides in the world

THAILAND (The Nation, ANN) -- Broken hearts and family issues were the most common reasons for Thais committing suicide, averaging around 300 a month or 4,000 cases a year, making it the third country with the most suicides, Public Health Ministry spokesman and psychiatrist Dr Yongyuth Wongpiromsan said.

Japan reported the highest number of suicides, followed by Sweden and Scandinavian countries.

Yongyuth, also chief adviser to the Mental Health Department (MHD), said the most commonly used methods were hanging (70 percent), poisoning (20 percent) and shooting (10 percent).

He said most suicides were committed by men.

Major contributing factors included loss of self-control

following excessive drinking of alcohol; health issues such as depression or chronic illness as many people, especially the elderly, did not want to be a burden on their children; family issues such as domestic violence; disappointment in love and the feeling of being abandoned or neglected, he added.

"In Thailand, most suicide cases involved people in the working age - late 20s to 50s - who suffered from conflict in love, family issues, were overwhelmed by debt, as well as stress from work," he said.

This affected the country's labour situation as Thailand's ratio of working-age to suicide was now at six per 100,000 population. He urged people to seek advice from the MHD hotline 1667.

# Saudi-led airstrikes in Yemen kill over 30, mostly civilians



Smoke rises after Saudi-led airstrikes hit a site in Sanaa, Yemen.

--Photo AP

SANAA, Yemen (AP) -- Saudi-led airstrikes targeting Shiite rebels killed at least 30 people, mostly civilians, when they hit a market area outside the capital on Saturday, Yemeni security officials said.

They said the raid hit the popular market in the Nihm district, killing at least 22 civilians and leaving burned bodies strewn across the area. The officials, who are neutral in a conflict that has split the armed forces, spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to brief reporters.

The strike comes a day after aid and rights groups urged Western countries to stop selling arms to Saudi Arabia, which is striking the Iran-backed rebels, known as Houthis, to support forces loyal to the internationally recognised government. The Houthis overran the capital, Sanaa, and other

Yemeni cities in 2014.

The UN says the fighting in Yemen has killed more than 6,000 people since March 2015 and wounded more than 35,000.

The Control Arms Coalition said in a report Friday that 11 countries - including France, Britain, the US and Germany - sold arms such as drones, missiles and bombs worth US\$25 billion to the Saudis in 2015. This Monday, governments that signed the Arms Trade Treaty, which has the aim of "reducing the human suffering" by imposing restrictions on arms sold to countries that violate international law, will meet in Geneva.

European Union lawmakers have also called for an EU arms embargo against Saudi Arabia over the airstrikes and naval blockade imposed on Yemen, despite lobbying by the kingdom.

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**International Consultant**  
On Law on Treaty of the Lao PDR  
Date of issue: 23.02.2016

<b>Country/Location:</b>	Vientiane, Lao PDR
<b>Description of assignment:</b>	International Consultant to draft Law on Treaty of the Lao PDR
<b>Project Title:</b>	Support Project for Implementation of Legal Sector Master Plan (Project number: 00087142)
<b>Deadline for submission of application:</b>	Saturday 5, March 2016 Late or incomplete proposals will be rejected
<b>Type of Contract:</b>	Individual Contract
<b>Period of assignment/Duration:</b>	19 working days (8 days home based and 11 days in Laos)
<b>Starting Date:</b>	ASAP

**Scope of work:**  
There are significant gaps between national legislation and international legal obligations of Lao PDR. To address these gaps and lacks, the Government of Lao PDR intends to roll out a harmonized approach to the application of international obligations in its domestic context. To this end, Lao PDR intends to streamline the processes and mechanisms applicable to its international obligations and among other steps wishes to amend its law on the 'Conclusion, Accession and Implementation of Treaties'. This consultancy seeks to hire a suitable candidate to provide required technical advice during this aforementioned process of the amendment.

**Experience and qualification requirements:**

- Degree of expertise and qualification**
  - Master's degree on International Law.
  - At least 15 years of extensive experience in conducting similar analysis /research/ developing manuals related to international law or related fields
  - Experience in working with governments and institutions
  - Familiarity with the country or the region strongly preferred
  - Fluency in spoken and written English including excellent drafting skills, particularly in being able to write documents (such as reports and the questionnaire) concisely and in simple-to-understand English that is easy to translate into another language
  - Understanding of development issues in Lao PDR and its contexts will be an asset.

**For more detailed information about this consultancy job please kindly refer to the Individual Consultant Procurement Notice and all related Annexes by visiting the below link: <http://www.la.undp.org/content/laopdr/en/home/operations/jobs/>**


**Requirements for submission of proposals:**  
All interested and qualified institutes should apply on-line through the UNDP website at <http://www.la.undp.org/content/laopdr/en/home/operations/jobs/> or [http://jobs.undp.org/cj\\_view\\_jobs.cfm](http://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_jobs.cfm)

**Please make sure to submit all the requested documents/information otherwise your application will be considered incomplete.**

**All requests for clarification must be sent in writing to the following e-mail address: [viengmala.phomsengsavanh@undp.org](mailto:viengmala.phomsengsavanh@undp.org) with CC to [phadthakone.sophavilay@undp.org](mailto:phadthakone.sophavilay@undp.org)**

**UNDP is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups and persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.**

**To learn more about this position and other procurement opportunities please visit our web-site at: <http://www.la.undp.org/content/laopdr/en/home/operations/jobs/>**



**Request for Proposals - Resilient Livelihoods for the Poor (RLP) Process Evaluation**

The Resilient Livelihoods for the Poor (RLP) is a component of the Social Protection and Sustainable Livelihoods Program (SPSL), which is funded by the Australian Government, and managed by Maxwell Stamp PLC.

The RLP provides 1,200 poor and vulnerable families in Savannakhet, Champasak and Salavan provinces with a combination of productive assets, monthly cash stipends, bank accounts with Agricultural Promotion Bank (APB), and intensive training/coaching, with the objective of 'graduating' them out of extreme poverty and into a sustainable livelihood. RLP works with three implementing partners; CARE, Health Poverty Action and World Education.

SPSL is sponsoring an independent evaluation of the processes involved in identifying and assisting RLP participants. The process evaluation will determine how effectively the RLP program has been implemented, and how to improve program operations and processes moving forward. SPSL is looking to contract a consultant/team of consultants to undertake this work, as per the tentative timeline below.

Submission of requests for proposals	March 1, 2016
Interviews of short-listed candidates	March 21, 2016
Contracting of successful candidate	April 2016
Contract period	May - July 2016

Interested parties are invited to tender for this study. Proposals are to be submitted by **5 pm on March 1, 2016.**

For Terms of Reference of the study, please email [Ouneheuane.Itthiphol@spsl.la](mailto:Ouneheuane.Itthiphol@spsl.la). If you do not receive a response in 24 hours, please call Ouneheuane at 02028883282

P.S. Due to problems with our email server, some external emails have been lost. If you submitted a request for a copy of the ToR, please re-submit your email, or call the number above.

# Raise on way for gov't workers, military personnel

PHILIPPINES (The Philippine Daily Inquirer, ANN) – Starting Monday, the budget department will be releasing to various government agencies a total of P24 billion to cover the additional salaries of civilian employees and the new allowances of military and uniformed personnel, Budget Secretary Butch Abad said Saturday.

The money to be released by the Department of Budget and Management will be sourced from the miscellaneous personnel benefits fund in the P3.002-trillion 2016 budget.

The initial tranche of pay adjustments granted by Executive Order (EO) No. 201 signed by President Aquino earlier this month will require P57 billion, the bulk of which would be released within the first half of the year.

“Of the P24 billion, P18.64 billion will augment the compensation of civilian personnel, while P5.36 billion will go to the allowances and hazard pay of military and uniformed

personnel,” Abad said.

The pay-out for civilian workers and military and uniformed personnel is based on data from the Government Manpower Information System which show the number of filled positions as of December 31, 2015.

According to Abad, the balance of P33 billion has been “set aside for newly filled positions and for the midyear bonus, which will be released not earlier than May 15 of this year.”

The appropriations for civilian personnel include the following: Salary differential, step increment due to length of service, 13th-month pay differential, PhilHealth differential, employees compensation insurance premiums differential, and retirement and life insurance premiums differential.

That of military and uniformed personnel will cover the monthly provisional allowance, monthly officers’ allowance as well as the increase in monthly hazard pay to P390 from the P240.



Afghan security forces gather at the blast site in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan.

--Photo Xinhua

# Indian PM comes under fire for campaign against corruption

INDIA (The Statesman, ANN) -- For the second time this week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said he has become an “eyesore” for those affected by his crusade to end blackmarketing and corruption, asserting this campaign has turned them against him.

With his government coming under attack on diverse subjects, Modi also said the Opposition spoke of many issues but there was not an allegation of corruption against his government ever since he has been serving as “pradhan sevak”.

Stating that the government has stopped black-marketing and corruption in the fertiliser sector, he asked farmers to use only neem coated urea and also take the new crop insurance income to boost their income.

He also announced that all farmers would get soil health cards by 2017.

Addressing a farmers rally here as part of BJP’s nationwide outreach to farmers, Modi said earlier there used to be blackmarketing of urea and farmers had to face lathi-charge to get urea but now the situation has improved as the government has focused on raising the output and checking the diversion of urea.

Modi said he has not received any letters from the States this year demanding the fertiliser.

“We have taken a big step to put an end to corruption and blackmarketing of urea. This is the reason why some of these people keep shouting against me. They will obviously be angry with Modi as blackmarketing has been checked,” he said.

“Modi is an eyesore for them as the corruption that they have been engaging for last 60 years has come to a halt,” he said, adding, “they ate things for free (mufat ki malai khayi hui hai)

and that has been closed now, this is the reason.”

Slamming critical NGOs and black-marketeers, Modi had on Sunday accused them of conspiring to destabilise his government and “defame” him and asserted that he will carry on with his work without bowing to any machinations.

Modi reminded farmers of his promise before the (Lok Sabha) elections that till he was here, no one would be able to lay their hands on Delhi’s treasury.

“Today we have been able to stop malpractices in fertilisers and have brought in neem coated urea,” he said.

Modi also said if there was a ray of hope in the world economy, it was India, as he asserted that his government was committed to transform the lives of the poor and villages.

“Today it is agreed that if there is a ray of hope in the world economy, it is India,” Modi said.

# Suicide attacks in Afghanistan kill more than 20

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) -- Suicide bombers targeted an anti-Taliban tribal leader in eastern Afghanistan and the Defense Ministry compound in the capital, Kabul, killing at least 23 people on Saturday and wounding dozens more, officials said.

A suicide bomber on a motorcycle attacked tribal leader Khan Jan in the eastern Kunar province, killing him and 10 other civilians, said Gen. Abdul Habib Sayedkhaili, the provincial police chief.

Jan was a vocal public opponent of the Taliban and was leading local fighters against the insurgents.

More than 40 others civilians were wounded in the attack, which took place in the provincial capital, Asadabad, said Sayedkhaili.

No group claimed

responsibility for the attack, but provincial officials said they suspected the Taliban.

The suicide bomber who struck near the Defense Ministry compound killed 12 people, including two military personnel, the ministry said in a statement.

The blast rocked the capital and sent a column of white smoke into the sky. Security forces blocked the main road in front of the ministry. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the Kabul attack in an email sent to media.

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 Faculty of Engineering

**UNIVERSITÄT SIEGEN**  
DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
 German Academic Exchange Service

## Announcement

**Subject:** International Master Program on “Hydraulic Engineering”

Following the success of the International program of the master degree in “Environmental Engineering and Management”. The Faculty of Engineering, National University of Laos, will open anew International program on Hydraulic Engineering, supported by the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) and five international partners:

- University of Siegen, Germany
- Technical University of Dresden, Germany
- Ravensburg-Weingarten University of Applied Sciences, Germany,
- Hanoi Water Resources University, Vietnam,
- Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology, Thammasat University, Thailand,
- HMTA Project (World Bank) will give essential contribution to the study program

**Applicant conditions:**

1. Bachelor degree in Civil engineering, Environmental engineering, Hydropower energy engineering, Electrical engineering, Mechanical engineering, water resources engineering
2. Minimum English proficiency: Certificate at upper intermediate or higher

For the details of application, program, tuition and study fee, please contact the Post Graduate Division, Faculty of Engineering, National University of Laos, Sokpaluang Campus, Lao-Thai Friendship Road, Vientiane Capital during working hours: 08:30 – 16:00, **closing date: March 15, 2016.**

Telephone: 856-21-480905 or 856-20-22206333, (Assoc.Prof.Dr. Khamfeuane SIOUDOM).

**Please visit:** <http://www.international-graduate.com>

**Institut de la Francophonie pour la Médecine Tropicale (IFMT)**  
 Vientiane, RDP LAO

**Recrutement d'un Informaticien**

Un poste d'informaticien en contrat local est à pourvoir à l'Institut de la Francophonie pour la Médecine tropicale, à Vientiane.

**Responsabilités**

1. maintenance matérielle et logicielle (serveur et parc informatique) de l'IFMT
2. contrôle des procédures de sécurité des données et de la sauvegarde/restauration de données
3. administration et gestion des serveurs
4. résolution des problèmes des utilisateurs du réseau IFMT
5. développement de l'infrastructure informatique de l'IFMT, dont les cours en ligne et la structure de soutien à l'enseignement

**Profil de poste**

- Bonne connaissance de la langue française ou anglaise
- Formation universitaire en informatique (niveau Bac + 2 minimum)
- Expérience professionnelle avec la maintenance informatique
- Bonne connaissance de Microsoft Windows 2000 Professionnel et Serveur
- Maîtrise des langages et outils de développement Web: HTML, MySQL, PHP, CSS, Javascript,
- Connaissance du système Linux
- Des connaissances en développement de modules de cours en ligne sont un atout.

A envoyer par courriel la lettre de candidature + CV  
 au Pr Daniel REINHARZ  
 Directeur de l'IFMT  
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## World

### Russia, US exchange information to ensure Syrian ceasefire

MOSCOW (Xinhua) -- Russia and the United States have exchanged information on the current ceasefire in Syria, a Russian senior military official said Saturday.

The shared information relates to areas in Syria where the latest ceasefire is applied and where armed groups are deployed, according to Sergei Rudskoi, head of the Russian Defense Ministry's Main Operational Directorate.

For the exchange of information, Russia has developed a map depicting the situation in Syria and forwarded it to the US side on Friday during the two sides' consultations in Amman, Jordan, said Rudskoi.

In an official transcript,

Rudskoi said the map marked areas where reconciliation work is being carried out among conflicting Syrian parties.

"During the Amman consultations, we received a similar map prepared by the American side. The list of armed units, according to the US delegation, was sent to us via diplomatic channels," he said, adding that the Russian side is working on matching the acquired information with the data they have.

According to Rudskoi, Russia has shared with the US side a list of armed groups totaling 6,111 people that had abided by the ceasefire, as well as 74 towns and regions that should be excluded from airstrikes.

He added that Russia also sent to the US side on Saturday a proposal with standard terms and procedures necessary to ensure the cessation of hostilities.

Should ceasefire violations be confirmed, he said, Russia and the United States will take measures to de-escalate tensions, while urging all powers with real influence on the conflicting parties in Syria to make all efforts possible to ensure the implementation of the ceasefire agreement.

Noting that Moscow has fully abided by its commitments to the ceasefire since it came into effect, Rudskoi said his country is using multiple means of intelligence devices, including drones and satellites, to monitor the ceasefire on a daily basis.

### Bolivian leader's ex-lover held in corruption probe



Gabriela Zapata Montano (centre), is escorted out of a police station to the prosecutors office in La Paz, Bolivia. --Photo AP

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) -- The former lover of President Evo Morales who was working as a high-ranking executive at a Chinese firm has been arrested as part of a probe into alleged influence trafficking involving hundreds of millions of dollars in government contracts.

Gabriela Zapata was expected to be charged Saturday with illegal enrichment, laundering of unjust gains and influence trafficking, according to her lawyer. She was taken into custody on Friday at the request of Bolivia's anti-corruption agency, who argued she was a flight risk.

The bombshell revelation this month of Morales' past relationship with Zapata upended the final stretch of a referendum campaign aimed at allowing the president to seek re-election when his current term ends in 2020. Morales narrowly lost the vote, delivering a major blow to his decade-old leftist government.

Morales during the campaign acknowledged the relationship and said the two even had a child together in 2007, but that the infant later died.

In another twist, Zapata's aunt said Saturday that the child

was still alive and named Ernesto Fidel.

"My niece will soon provide more information, she wants to talk," Pilar Guzman told ATB television on Saturday.

Zapata, 29, declined to speak when she was arrested on Friday.

In 2013, Zapata became general manager for Bolivia of China CAMC Engineering Co. Ltd., whose seven contracts with the state, all but one no-bid, are worth more than US\$500 million.

Opposition politicians accuse Morales of influence-trafficking through the Chinese firm, a claim he denies.

### Authorities in Puerto Rico seize nearly half-ton of cocaine

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) -- Federal authorities in Puerto Rico are investigating the origin of almost a half-ton of cocaine seized last week from a shipping container at San Juan port, officials said Saturday.

In a statement, the US Customs and Border Protection said officers found 910 pounds (413 kilograms) of cocaine worth an estimated US\$11.5 million during an inspection after an X-ray of the container revealed irregularities. Several brick-shaped objects wrapped in plastic bags contained a substance that tested positive for cocaine.

CBP Public Affairs Officer Jeffrey Quinones said in a telephone interview that the seizure

occurred on a domestic container headed toward the continental US.

"We did a random inspection of domestic containers. It is not something we do normally, but we do it every so often randomly," Quinones said.

Quinones said authorities didn't want to give any additional information because Homeland Security Investigations special agents are probing the matter. In a separate bust on February 21, authorities seized 796 pounds of cocaine worth US\$8 million at sea east of Puerto Rico and arrested 10 people. Federal authorities in San Juan said narcotic seizures increased 93 percent to 48,572 pounds during fiscal year 2015.

## New opportunity to contribute to the Laos Australia Institute



### Seeking Short term Consultants for the 2016 Australia Awards in Laos

- Short term consultant opportunities
- Located in Vientiane, Laos

1. Independent Reviewers
2. Education Specialist

#### The Program

On behalf of the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Coffey International Development (Coffey) manages the Laos Australia Institute (LAI) in association with Vientiane College. The focus of LAI is human resource development (HRD), through working at the national level and with key government agencies. LAI also manages the Australia Awards Scholarship program in Laos and a national scholarships program for students to attend post-secondary education courses in Laos. The Institute aims to improve participation of women in leadership and management roles and increase the capacity of people with disability and organisations involved in disability-inclusive development.

Coffey and LAI are currently seeking applications for consultant positions to support the 2016 Australia Awards assessment process.

#### The Positions

1. Independent Reviewer (2 positions) – job reference 493342

- Up to 18 days input in Vientiane, Laos / Inputs are required between 31 March and 29 April 2016 with some flexibility required

The Independent Reviewers will support in the assessment of applications for Australia Awards by undertaking eligibility checking and assessment of scholarship applications. The Reviewers will evaluate and assign a score for 'Academic Readiness' and 'Development Outcome' for each eligible applicant and will produce a short report on the process including feedback and lessons learnt.

Consultants will need tertiary qualifications in education or international development and have current knowledge of the Australian and Lao higher education systems. An understanding of Australian development and/or scholarship policies and programs combined with experience in undertaking evaluation and analysis of applications is an advantage.

2. Education Specialist - job reference 493340

- Up to 12 days input in Vientiane, Laos / Inputs are required between 10 and 30 June 2016 with some flexibility required.

- Classified as Category B, Level 3 under the DFAT Adviser Remuneration Framework

The Education Specialist will provide high quality inputs into the interviewing and assessment process of applicants for Australia Awards. The Specialist will contribute to the development of appropriate questions and a fair and transparent assessment process and will participate in interview panels. The Specialist will produce a report on the process including feedback and lessons learnt.

For success, applicants will need post-graduate qualifications from a recognised Australian institution, preferably at PhD level and experience as an academic in an Australian tertiary institution or other relevant professional context. Demonstrated knowledge of Australian and Lao tertiary education systems, including how scholarships are used in the development context will be required for success, as well as experience in scholarship selection panels. The ability to undertake high quality evaluations and produce reports for clients will be highly regarded.

#### How to Apply

For a detailed position description and to apply for either of these positions please visit [www.coffey.com/careers](http://www.coffey.com/careers) and search for the job reference number quoted above.

**Applications close 5.00pm (Vientiane time) 11 March 2016.**

For further enquires please contact: [internationaldevelopment@coffey.com](mailto:internationaldevelopment@coffey.com)



## VT Greater Pharma Co., Ltd. to build herbal products factory

### Advertorial Desk

**V**T Greater Pharma Co., Ltd. is set to build a herbal products factory at the Vientiane Industry and Trade Area (VITA Park) in Xaythany district, aiming to be ready for commercial production in 2017.

The health and cosmetics products are intended for distribution in both Laos and other countries.

An agreement on the Building and Factory Construction of Herbal Food Supplements and Cosmetics (under GMP Standards) between VT Greater Pharma Co., Ltd. and All In One Development Engineering Co., Ltd. was signed recently at VITA Park.

The agreement was signed by the Managing Director of VT Greater Pharma Co., Ltd. Mr Chernporn Tengamnuay and the Managing Director of Viengthong Pharma Co., Ltd. Mr Thongpheuane Khantivong. VT Greater Pharma Co.,

Ltd. is a joint venture between Thailand's Greater Pharma Co., Ltd. and Laos' Viengthong Pharma Co., Ltd.

VT Greater Pharma Co., Ltd. has a strong policy to promote Lao farmers to grow medicinal plants to be used as the raw materials for the herbal products.

Some investment has been provided by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency, an agency under the Netherlands' Ministry for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation.

Vice President of VITA Park Mr Thongkhanh Vongphrachanh said construction of the factory, financed by VT Greater Pharma Co., Ltd., will begin in the near future.

"Currently they are levelling the land on a one hectare site at VITA Park before building the complex," he said, adding that it should be complete in not more than one year.

Mr Thongkhanh said VITA Park now has 42 companies working there on an area



Representatives of VT Greater Pharma Co., Ltd. and All In One Development Engineering Co., Ltd. display signed agreements on the construction of a herbal product factory.

covering at least 80 percent of the park.

Nine companies have built factories and are making

products for export and about 11 companies are in the process of building facilities while the remainder are preparing for

factory construction.

It is expected that this fiscal year, all business operations will be ready

to go into production. More than 1,200 people are currently employed at the park, according to Mr Thongkhanh.

## China is on good path, Kim says



World Bank President Jim Yong Kim (right) talks about the Chinese economy with China Daily reporter Zheng Yangpeng on Friday in Shanghai.

SHANGHAI (China Daily, ANN) -- China has realised the critical importance of communication and the world is going to see more transparency and clarity about China's decision-making, the World Bank president told China Daily on the sidelines of the G20

meeting.

"I met Premier Li Keqiang on Wednesday, and he told me they had realised the importance of communication. A lot of suspicion is that things are happening, but the global community is not sure why things are being done. ... The

fact that you tell what exactly your intention is, in terms of fiscal policy, monetary policy, status of structural reform, that kind of communication will go a long way to dispel the doubts," World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said.

Such communication is critically important on the exchange rate issue, he said, an issue that grabbed the world's attention during the meeting. Kim cited People's Bank of China's Governor Zhou Xiaochuan's recent communication as showing China's progress.

"The biggest issue about the renminbi is people fear they don't know how decisions are being made. Now Governor Zhou is coming out and saying they are looking at a basket of currencies and making decisions based on the yuan's relation with a basket of currencies,

"China is on a very good path. Governor Zhou is communicating, he is even

communicating in English, which I think is really important. What you are going to see is more transparency," he said.

The importance of communication also applies to the Chinese economy.

"Chinese leaders have said they are going to move away from a strategy based on investment and export to consumption and service. That's happening. China is engaging in reforms in the financial sector, hukou (household registration) system and healthcare sector," Kim said.

"We are working with them on these reforms. We are right here on the ground to work with China, so we are much more optimistic about what's happening here than some observers from outside," he said.

However, Kim said it is critical for China to "maintain the momentum of structural reform". The second issue is to keep communicating, and more frequently and broadly.

## BOJ may further ease policy as deflation concerns grow

TOKYO (Xinhua) -- Japan's consumer prices remained flat in January compared to the same period a year earlier, as a protracted downturn in energy prices and a comparatively firm yen may lead the key gauge to enter negative territory and the central bank to intervene, data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications showed on Friday.

The consumer price index (CPI) reading in the recording period, which excludes volatile fresh food prices, stood at 102.6 against the 2010 base of 100, the statistics bureau said.

The data set showed that energy prices had fallen 10.7 percent in the recording period, amid an ongoing slump in global prices for crude oil, while gasoline prices in Japan tumbled 16.6

percent.

Following more than a 22 percent surge in the previous month, TV prices rose 15.8 percent, the ministry said, with food prices logging an increase of 2.1 percent.

The latest reading follows a negligible 0.1 percent rise in the previous two months, underscoring the Bank of Japan's (BOJ) struggle to combat decades of rampant deflation in Japan and achieve its 2 percent inflation target, despite unrolling a number of qualitative and quantitative easing measures.

Such measures, most recently, included the BOJ plunging its interest rate into negative territory in a bid to shore up the economy which contracted in the last quarter, as falling oil prices, waning domestic consumption and sluggish imports, continued to impact overall growth and the bank's reflationary efforts.

### Exchange rates as of February 26, 2016

Banque pour le Commerce Exterieur Lao Public

Foreign Currencies	Buying	Selling
US Dollar 50-100	8,105	8,145
Thai Baht	227.95	229.65
Euro 50-500	8,941	8,986

## South Korea's auto market ranks 10th place in 2015



Vehicles are lined up to be delivered at a local auto factory.

S.KOREA (The Korea Herald, ANN) -- South Korea's automobile market grew 10.3 percent in 2015 to become the world's 10th largest in vehicle sales, data showed on Friday.

More than 1.83 million domestically made and imported cars were sold here last year, accounting for 2 percent of auto sales around the world, according to the data compiled by the Korea Automobile Manufacturers' Association.

That was up a notch from 2014 when the country was the 11th-largest auto sales market.

KAMA said the increase in auto sales was partly due to a tax cut on auto purchases and strong demand for SUVs.

China posted sales of more than 24.6 million new cars last year, up 4.7 percent from a year earlier to account for 26.8 percent of global sales. China remained the world's

largest automobile market for the seventh consecutive year.

The number of vehicles sold in the United States rose 5.9 percent on-year last year to 17.84 million, making the US No.2 market for new vehicles.

Japan ranked third with 5.04 million vehicles sold last year, down 9.4 percent from a year earlier, followed by Germany with sales of 3.54 million vehicles, India with 3.42 million and Britain with 3.06 million.

Meanwhile, global auto sales edged up 1 percent on-year in 2015 to reach 91.65 million.

In terms of auto production, China again topped the list in auto production last year with 24.5 million units. The US came in second with 12.1 million, followed by Japan with 9.28 million and Germany with 6.19 million.

South Korea ranked fifth with 4.56 million, the data showed.

### IN BRIEF

#### Turkey repairs oil pipeline connecting to Iraqi Kurdistan

ISTANBUL (AP) -- Turkey's energy ministry says it has begun repairs to a pipeline transporting crude oil from northern Iraq to the Mediterranean coast.

The ministry said Saturday the delivery of crude oil via the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline came to a halt February 17 after it was attacked by militants from the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK. The PKK launched another attack against the pipeline Thursday near the southeastern town of Idil in Sirnak province.

But the ministry now says "security forces have taken necessary steps to ensure the pipeline's safety ... we expect to restart the oil delivery soon." The pipeline is a vital source of revenue for the Kurdish regional government in northern Iraq and cuts across restive areas of southeastern Turkey where Turkish security forces are trying to route Kurdish militants.

#### German companies more cautious to recruit in February

MUNICH, Germany (Xinhua) -- German companies are increasingly skeptical about recruiting new employees, although they are continuing to create new jobs, the Ifo research institute reported on Friday.

According to the report, the Ifo employment barometer index fell to 108.0 points in February from 109.7 points last month.

The barometer in manufacturing remains at a weak level due to growing general uncertainty with regard to the economic situation in the sector. And the barometer in service sector saw its steepest decline in all of three years, the Munich-based think tank reported.

#### Italy's eyewear sector sees upward trend in post crisis era

MILAN (Xinhua) -- 2015 was an excellent one in the post-economic crisis era for Italy's eyewear sector, industry experts said here on Friday.

At the opening conference of MIDO, the Milan eyewear show which runs from Saturday to Monday, it was announced that in 2015, Italian eyewear production totaled 3.6 billion euros (US\$3.9 billion), up by 12.5 percent over 2014.

In 2015, there were 870 companies in the country, 0.2 percent more compared to 2014. Exports of frames, sunglasses and lenses, which account for almost 90 percent of production by the sector, rose by 12.3 percent over 2014 to 3.4 billion euros.

#### US economic growth revised higher to 1 pct in Q4 of 2015

WASHINGTON (Xinhua) -- US economy in the fourth quarter of 2015 expanded faster than previously estimated, as companies' inventory investment decreased less than previously estimated.

The US gross domestic product (GDP) increased at an annual rate of 1 percent during September-December 2015, higher than the advance estimate of 0.7 percent, said the Commerce Department on Friday.

In 2015, the real GDP increased 2.4 percent, the same rate as in 2014. The upward revision was largely due to a smaller decline in inventory investment than originally estimated, which subtract 0.14 percentage point from the fourth-quarter GDP growth.

#### Bank of Albania moves to tackle bad loans

TIRANA (Xinhua) -- The Bank of Albania will present a solution plan in March to deal with 35 companies that take 52 percent of the country's bad loans, local media reported on Saturday.

The bank said it will give details about which companies will stay in the market and which ones be forced into bankruptcy, according to the Albanian Daily News.8 Around seven companies will run into bankruptcy, the report cited sources as saying.

According to official data, the 35 companies have a total of over US\$500 million in bad loans, which became the main source of uncertainties in the national economy and financial system.



The World Trade Center Transportation Hub, designed by Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava, is under construction in New York.

## World Trade Center transit hub opens under cloud of US\$4B cost

NEW YORK (AP) -- The soaring, white transportation hub opening next week at the World Trade Center was designed to evoke a bird in flight, but it is hatching under a cloud.

There will be no ribbon-cutting celebration when the train station's grand hall, called the Oculus, opens this coming week because the head of the bi-state agency that controls the hub has blasted it as a "symbol of excess," with runaway costs approaching US\$4 billion.

That's roughly the same price as the nation's tallest skyscraper, next door — the 104-story One World Trade

Center.

"The cost of projects, big and small, matters — a lot," Patrick Foye, executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, said in a statement through a spokesman. "Whether due to unforeseen conditions, errors or misconduct, cost overruns consume precious resources and undermine public confidence."

After first indicating that there would be no ceremony at all, officials with the authority said late on Thursday that the transit facility would partially open on March 3 and that there would be a ceremony when it becomes "fully operational"

later this spring.

Ribbon cutting or not, the hub, which includes a commuter rail station, retail shops and connections to several subway lines, appears destined to take its place among the city's most talked-about landmarks.

Intended to serve partly as a monument to the victims of the September 11, 2001, attacks, the hub was designed by Spanish-born architect Santiago Calatrava to convey the feeling of a bird released into the air, with steel wings poised for takeoff. Some critics have compared it to a dinosaur skeleton or an armadillo.

# SNV

Netherlands

Development

Organisation

SNV is a Netherlands-based development organisation committed to eliminating poverty and inequity. SNV provides advisory services to leading public and private clients to effect innovative and strategic solutions that drive growth and performance while generating jobs, income and improved access to basic services for the low-income segments of society. SNV focuses on the agriculture, renewable energy, and water & sanitation sectors.

### CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN DISTRIBUTING GASIFIER COOKSTOVES

SNV in Lao PDR is calling for expressions of interest from distributors (retail networks, NPAs, social or commercial enterprises) that are potentially interested in selling clean cookstoves for household use. Smoke from cooking on wood poses serious health risks that can be eliminated by the use of smokeless clean gasifier cookstoves.

SNV offers a unique business opportunity to those who are interested in taking part in the new emerging market of clean cookstoves. You can find more information about the products on [www.advancedcleancooking.org](http://www.advancedcleancooking.org).

After receiving your expression of interest we will provide you with more detailed information. Send an email with your organisational profile and contact details before March 11 to Mr. Khamson, [KChantavong@snvworld.org](mailto:KChantavong@snvworld.org).

## SMART DEVELOPMENT WORKS

# Lao stock market report

BCEL-KT

## Trade Summary

The Lao stock market returned to better trade on Friday with an enormous trading volume of 713,500 shares, which mainly came from banking stocks. However the LSX's index is still sitting at 1,170.84 points. BCEL saw merry trading volumes of more than 713,000 shares, accounting for 3 billion kip, almost from foreign investors. Despite the tremendous trading volumes, the banking stock was unable to trade higher, leaving the closing price unchanged at 4,300 kip. EDL-Gen saw only 100 matching shares at 5,900 kip. Other stocks still had no trading. By the way, LWPC closed at 6,800 kip, PTL at 2,950 kip and SVN at 3,400 kip.

## Daily Turnover by Investor Types (LAKm)

Daily Turnover by Investor Types (Million kip)			
26.02.2016	Buy	Sell	Net purchase
General Corporations	-	-	-
Individuals	15	1	14
Foreigners	3,053	3,068	- 14
Securities Companies	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-



## Last 7 days Trading Information

Date	LSX		EDL-Gen		BCEL		LWPC		PTL		SVN	
	Current Index (Point)	Change (%)	Trading Value (Kip)	Closing Price (Kip)	Change	Closing Price (Kip)	Change	Closing Price (Kip)	Change	Closing Price (Kip)	Change	Closing Price (Kip)
26/02/16	1,170.84	0.00%	3,068,210,000	5,900	0	4,300	0	6,800	0	2,950	0	3,400
25/02/16	1,170.84	0.00%	17,380,000	5,900	0	4,300	0	6,800	0	2,950	0	3,400
24/02/16	1,170.84	0.00%	46,765,000	5,900	0	4,300	0	6,800	0	2,950	0	3,400
23/02/16	1,170.84	-0.02%	95,180,000	5,900	0	4,300	0	6,800	-100	2,950	0	3,400
22/02/16	1,171.23	0.00%	103,110,000	5,900	0	4,300	0	6,900	0	2,950	0	3,400
19/02/16	1,171.23	0.00%	228,950,000	5,900	0	4,300	0	6,900	0	2,950	0	3,400
18/02/16	1,171.23	-1.38%	116,940,000	5,900	-100	4,300	0	6,900	0	2,950	0	3,400

BCEL-KT Securities Company Limited Email: Broker@bcel-kt.com



Asean Economic Community

# Vietnam courts Russian tourists

HANOI (Vietnam News, ANN) -- Vietnam aims to receive 400,000 Russian visitors in 2016 and one million by 2020, Vietnam National Administration of Tourism's (VNAT) Deputy Director-General Nguyen Quoc Hung said.

Speaking at a conference in Moscow on Wednesday, he said VNAT and the concerned Russian authorities had agreed to implement a series of measures to reach these targets.

According to statistics from VNAT, the number of Russians who visited Vietnam in February soared 8.9 percent to touch 73,898.

Deputy Chairman of Vietnam Tourism Association (VITA) Vu TheBinh said the fact that about 300,000 Russian visitors travelled to Vietnam was not commensurate with the relationship between Vietnam and Russia.

VITA has been partnering with VNAT and Ha Noi City to promote Vietnamese tourism in the two major cities of Moscow and St Petersburg, with the aim of attracting more Russian visitors.

VITA has also been working with Vietnamese tourist firms to implement a stimulus programme for



Russian tourists arrive in Vietnam at Cam Ranh International Airport.

the Russian market. The programme will focus on new tourism products, with large discounts and trained staff, he said.

Russian official Sergey Agafonov said many Russian people had never been to Vietnam and that it would be a good replacement for Thailand and Egypt in terms of tourist destinations.

The revenue from tours to Vietnam was increasing, Agafonov said.

Valery Korovkin, a Russian official, believed the target of

one million Russian visitors by 2020 was achievable if both sides co-operated well and promoted the tourism potential of both countries.

At the conference, representatives of a Russian tourist firm worked with 12 Vietnamese tourist firms to show some tourism products, along with discounts of 20 to 30 percent.

Vietnamese firms introduced promotion websites by Russians, as well as tours to northern Vietnam for Russian customers.

# Singapore banks 2015 results show rising pressure on asset quality and profitability: Moody's



People use automated teller machines of UOB, DBS and OCBC banks.

SINGAPORE (The Straits Times, ANN) -- Credit rating agency Moody's Investors Service Singapore said in a report released on Thursday that the latest quarterly results of Singapore's three major banks - DBS, OCBC and UOB - show the rising pressure on their asset quality and profitability.

On Monday, DBS Group Holdings reported full-year 2015 results that revealed sizable oil and gas exposures in its books.

DBS' results followed announcements the previous week by Oversea Chinese Banking Corp and United Overseas Bank showing similar exposures.

The three banks' oil and gas exposures are credit negative

because they point to reduced asset quality amid currently low oil prices.

All three banks reported higher nonperforming loans (NPLs) in 2015 as the rout in oil prices has negatively affected domestic loans, while regional macroeconomic headwinds, particularly in Indonesia and Greater China, have hurt foreign loans.

DBS outperformed OCBC and UOB, reporting the smallest NPL increase last year.

We expect that the asset quality of all three banks will continue to deteriorate because of slowing economic and trade growth in Asia, and increasing stress for oil and gas borrowers in Singapore.

The banks' large exposures

to oil services companies are particularly risky because these companies have been most affected by the collapse in oil prices.

Singapore banks' exposures to oil and gas services firms are a significant 13-25 percent of their common equity Tier 1 capital. Despite its better NPL record until now, DBS reported the highest exposure of the three banks.

According to DBS, only 1.3 percent of loans to oil-support-services borrowers are already nonperforming. Based on the bank's stress test, which assumes that oil prices remain at US\$20 per barrel over the next two years, the bank estimates that it would need to make additional loan impairments totaling around SGD200 million (about seven basis points of 2015 gross loans).

Meanwhile, OCBC reported that 14 percent of its loans to oil services borrowers are nonperforming and are already reflected in its 2015 NPL ratio. UOB expects that up to 20 percent of oil and gas loans would become nonperforming if oil prices remain low this year, with the largest deterioration coming from support services. If UOB were to classify 20 percent of its oil and gas loans as NPLs as of year-end 2015, its NPL ratio would increase to 2.6 percent from the reported 1.4 percent.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT (Announcement No.16/09)

OPEN TO: All Interested Candidates  
 POSITION: Safety Program Coordinator, FSN-8  
 OPENING DATE: February 19, 2016  
 CLOSING DATE: March 04, 2016  
 WORK HOURS: Full-time; 40 hours/week  
 SALARY: Actual grade and salary will be based on the qualifications of the applicant.

ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT (OR) APPLICANTS MUST HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND/OR RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.

The U.S. Embassy in Vientiane is seeking an individual for the position of Safety Program Coordinator in the Facility Maintenance, Management Section.

**BASIC FUNCTION OF POSITION**  
 Incumbent serves as the Safety Program Coordinator/Compliance Officer with responsibility for assisting the Post Occupational Safety and Health Officer (POSHO) in carrying out the day to day functions of the Safety Health and Environmental Management (SHEM) and Fire Protection Division (FIR) programs as post as required by 15 FAM; assures that all government owned and leased property meet the requirements of 15 FAM. Conducts numerous safety surveys, prepares reports and conducts follow up inspections to ensure compliance. Individual maintains a statistical database and hazardous materials inventory. Acts as the Post fire warden and organizes, assists Post Fire Marshal in executing fire drills, investigates and reports to Washington on fires at Post. Corrects all infractions found by OBO/SHEM, OBO/FIR, AIS and other investigations. Responsible for the Mission pest control and serves as the contracting office representative (COR) on the pesticide application contract. Reports to the Senior Facilities Manager through the American A/POSHO and sits as a member of the Post's Safety, Health and Environmental Management (SHEM) committee.

**QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED**  
 Applicants must address each required qualification listed below with specific and comprehensive information supporting each item. Failure to do so may result in a determination that the applicant is not qualified.

1. **Education:** Completion of college studies is required.
2. **Prior Work Experience:** Minimum three years' experience in the maintenance field performing/coordinating repairs for large facilities, or in the field of occupational safety, health and environmental management.
3. **Language Proficiency:** Must have Level 4 (fluently) in written and spoken English and Lao Language skills.
4. **Knowledge:** Must be able to read and interpret SHEM, OSHA and OBO/FIR manuals, FAM citations and any other written materials. Must be able to read and interpret building and floor plans for large facilities.
5. **Skills and abilities:** Must be able to organize daily time schedules and maintain timely inspection schedules. Required to actively plan at least three months ahead (quarterly) and take initiative to research problems and find innovative solutions where there is limited funding. Must be conversant with different computer office software programs like Word, Excel and Power point. Must be able to maintain filing system related to safety and fire inspections and must be able to draft correspondence suitable for all levels in the chain of command at the Embassy. Must be able to make decisions related to fire safety and pest issues and be able to use all tools to perform basic maintenance duties.

SELECTION PROCESS: When qualified, applicants who are U.S. Citizen Eligible Family Members (USEFMs) and/or preference-eligible U.S. Veterans are given a preference in hiring. Therefore, it is essential that these applicants make themselves known as having a hiring preference and specifically address the required qualifications above in their application.

HIRING PREFERENCE ORDER:  
 (1) USEFM who is ALSO a preference-eligible U.S. Veteran  
 (2) USEFM OR a preference-eligible U.S. Veteran  
 (3) FS on LWOP

**ADDITIONAL SELECTION CRITERIA**

1. Management may consider the following when determining successful candidacy: nepotism, conflicts of interest, budget, and residency status.
2. Current OR employees serving a probationary period are not eligible to apply. Current OR employees with an Overall Summary Rating of Needs Improvement or Unsatisfactory on their most recent Employee Performance Report (EPR) are not eligible to apply.
3. Current NOR employees hired on a Family Member Appointment (FMA) or a Personal Service Agreement (PSA) are not eligible to apply within the first 90 calendar days of their employment, unless they have a When Actually Employed (WAE) work schedule.
4. The candidate must be able to pass the local security background investigation.
5. Candidates who are EFMs, USEFMs, AEFMs, or MOHs must have at least one year remaining on their sponsor's tour of duty to be considered eligible to apply for this position.

**TO APPLY**  
 Interested candidates for this position must submit the following for consideration of the application:  
 1. Universal Application for Employment as Locally Employed Staff or Family Member (DS-174); Download the form at: [http://laos.usembassy.gov/job\\_opportunities.html](http://laos.usembassy.gov/job_opportunities.html); or  
 2. A current resume or curriculum vitae that provides the same information found on the UAE; or  
 3. A combination of both; i.e. Sections 1-24 of the UAE along with a listing of the applicant's work experience attached as a separate sheet; plus  
 4. Candidates who claim U.S. Veterans preference must provide a copy of their Form DD-214 with their application. Candidates who claim U.S. Veterans preference must submit documentation confirming eligibility for a conditional preference in hiring with their application.  
 5. Any other documentation (e.g., essays, certificates, awards) that addresses the qualification requirements of the position as listed above.

**SUBMIT APPLICATION TO**  
 Human Resources Office  
 American Embassy  
 Thadeua Road, Somvang Tai Village  
 PO Box 114, Vientiane, Laos  
 (Hardcopy or e-mail attachments are accepted)  
 E-mail: [VientianeHRO@state.gov](mailto:VientianeHRO@state.gov)

**POINT OF CONTACT**  
 Telephone: 856-21-487000  
 Fax: 856-21-488002

**CLOSING DATE FOR THIS POSITION: March 04, 2016**

The U.S. Mission in Vientiane provides equal opportunity and fair and equitable treatment in employment to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or sexual orientation. The Department of State also strives to achieve equal employment opportunity in all personnel operations through continuing diversity enhancement programs.

The EEO complaint procedure is not available to individuals who believe they have denied equal opportunity based upon marital status or political affiliation. Individuals with such complaints should avail themselves of the appropriate grievance procedures, remedies for prohibited personnel practices, and/or courts for relief.

# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

## No 026/2016

Phonesack Group Co.,Ltd is one of the largest wholly owned Lao companies. The Company employs over 100 personnel at its headquarters and over 2500 employees and sub-contractors throughout sites in Lao PDR. Now is an exciting time to build a career with (New Hydro Power Project) in Pakkading, Bolikhamxay; which is under Phonesack Group Co., Ltd. (PSG). We have a huge range of projects which require driven and talented people to join our team, to lead and collaborates innovative ideas. We are currently seeking the following positions:

- Position: Agriculture Officer (2) Positions in project site at Bolikhamxay (New Hydro Power Project) Roster about 60days on / 9days off which including one travel day**

#### Duty Description:

- Take overall responsibility to train and provide sound practical demonstrations in applied appropriate agriculture techniques;
- Develop and implement training and capacity building activities focused on increasing household income and microenterprise productivity;
- Be able to assist resettlement and compensation team in data gathering and also do data analysis on the asset of affected people;
- To be experienced on compensation and resettlement are needed;
- To initiate how to develop livelihood of local people in order to improve and restore affected people' lives to be better and sustainable condition;
- To develop individual commitment to targeted communities; Liaison with GOL's local authorities regarding to cooperation and coordination for project- related resettlement and village households assigned by Head of Department (HOD);
- Other tasks as assigned by Line Management.

#### Qualification Required:

- Graduate in agriculture/animal husbandry/fishery/horticulture from a recognized institute/university;
- At least 3-5 years of work experience in above mentioned areas required and working directly with farmers;
- Demonstrated capacity to work in villages and with local government staff members;
- Strong capacity to work with a team, with demonstrated initiative and leadership;
- Fluency in Lao language, with capacity to speak and written English desired;
- Proficiency in working with MS office;
- Have experience on GIS applicable is advantageous;
- Be able to travel to field survey whenever required and be assigned to the site when project operated;
- Able to communicate with a wide range of people from different ethnic and social culture;
- Ability to work and willing to assist disadvantage groups and independently and as part of the team;
- Be able to work and meet tight deadline and also under pressure;
- Female applicants are also encouraged to apply;
- Physically fit for work at the site in certain project duration;

- Position: Environmental Officer (2) Positions in project site of Bolikhamxay (New Hydro Power Project) Roster about 60days on / 9days off which including one travel day**

#### Duty Description:

- To monitor and report solid waste, waste water treatment, water quality, air and noise pollution, experienced in solid waste management will be advantage.
- To organize and being good aspect in terms of awareness on solid waste management and other waste from activities of the project.
- To work and associate with local authorities such as: village, district and provincial level are needed in order to assist social and community development team for data gathering.
- To ensure environment activities will be safe and worked smoothly.
- To prepare report on solid waste management to environmental manager
- Other tasks as assigned by Line Management.

#### Qualification Required:

- Bachelor Degree in Environmental Engineering/Science.
- At least 3-5 years of work experience in an environment sector , mining industry
- Must be proficient in speaking, writing and understanding both Lao and English.
- Proficient in MS Office Suite, to include Word, Excel, and PowerPoint Programs.
- Have experience on GIS applicable is advantageous;
- Physically fit to work at the site.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Be able to work and meet tight deadline and also under pressure.
- Other tasks as assigned by Line Management.

- Position: Resettlement and Compensation Officer (3) Positions in project site of Bolikhamxay (New Hydro Power Project) Roster about 60days on / 9days off which including one travel day**

#### Duty Description:

- Coordinate and liaison with GOL's local authorities regarding to cooperation for and support to project- related resettlement and village households assigned by Head of Department (HOD);
- Collect specific data from project- related villagers in line with social and environmental impact as required by Line Manager;
- Can provide a primary data analysis report to a Line Manager;
- Initiate to implement a project- related resettlement and compensation plan as approved in accordance with the project policy and its regulation concerned to those above project- related villagers;
- Can encourage those above project- related villagers and local authorities to have a clear comprehensive over the project importance and its resettlement necessity;
- Can basically negotiate with them in accordance with company guideline and direction as well as certain related laws, degrees and regulations of Lao PDR through consulting with Line Manager, Company Management and GOL's counterparts;
- Can station and collaborate with provincial, district, village and community authorities as required due to project- related resettlement and compensation;
- Other tasks as assigned by Line Manager.

#### Qualification Required:

- Bachelor Degree in Social studies / Social and Community Development studies or subject- related trade disciplines;
- At least 3-5 years of work skill and experience in project- related resettlement and compensation, especially in hydropower or mining project.
- Good academic spoken, written and understood in both Lao and English, any local ethnic languages are plus for job selection;
- Good skills in MS Office program, to include Word, Excel, and PowerPoint as well as report writing;
- Be able to work at project sites;
- Physically fit for work at the site in certain project duration;
- Inter- personal skill to communicate and handle with wide ranges of local authorities and villagers from different ethnic groups and their practical culture behaviors.
- Can be flexible and challenge to project difficult circumstance and work pressure.

- Position: Senior Admin Officer (1) Positions in Project site of Bolikhamxay (New Hydro Power Project) Roster about 60days on / 9days off which including one travel day**

#### Duty Description:

- To assist on general office as administrative officer.
- To work and cooperate with government when needed.
- To prepare budget for meeting and reconcile.
- To conclude and summarize time sheet of S&E Dept
- To provide letters and documents and also prepare the meeting
- To translate sometimes from Lao to English and also English to Lao
- To work at site, support meetings or workshops organized at the district or provincial levels
- To communicate with Pakkding and HQ office for administrative tasks.
- And other tasks assign by line Management.

#### Qualification Required:

- Bachelor Degree administration/Environment.
- At least 3-5 years of work experience in administrative task.
- Must be spoken, written and understood both Lao and English.
- Proficient in MS Office Suite, to include Word, Excel, and PowerPoint Programs.
- Be able to work at site.
- Able to communicate with a wide range of people from different ethnic and social culture.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Be able to work and meet tight deadline and also under pressure.

- Position: Senior Environmental Officer (1) Positions in project site of Bolikhamxay (New Hydro Power Project) Roster about 60days on / 9days off including travel day**

#### Duty Description:

- To supervise, monitor and report solid waste, waste water treatment, water quality, air and noise pollution.
- To sound understand and apply well guideline of MONRE based on ESMMP report.
- To organize and being good aspect in terms of awareness on solid waste management and other waste from activities of the project.
- To work and associate with local authorities such as: village, district and provincial level are needed and also subcontract of Safety, health and Environment (SHE) at dam site activities.
- To ensure environment activities will be safe and worked smoothly.
- To prepare report on monitoring of environmental management to environmental manager
- Other tasks as assigned by Line Management.

#### Qualification Required:

- Bachelor Degree in Environmental, Chemical, Biological Engineering/ Science or subject- related trade disciplines.
- At least 5-7 years of experience in an environment sector , mining industry
- Must be proficient in speaking, writing and understanding both Lao and English.
- Proficient in MS Office Suite, to include Word, Excel, and PowerPoint Programs
- Physically fit to work at the site.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Be able to work and meet tight deadline and also under pressure.

- Position: Senior GIS Officer (1) Positions in Pakkading, Bolikhamxay (New Hydro Power Project) Roster about 60days on / 9days off including travel day**

#### Duty Description:

- Be able to initiate and prepare and supervise data base, mapping of a project- related resettlement and compensation issues.
- Can station and collaborate with provincial, district, village and community authorities as required due to project- related information of resettlement and compensation;
- Be able to provide mapping and attribute data analysis, report to a Line Manager;
- Responsible for the compiling and organizing GIS data from maps, databases and other sources;
- Responsible for the collection of data in the field using Global Positioning System (G.P.S.) units;
- Responsible for the collection and conversion of mapping resources and data;
- Responsible for the daily input and editing of the asset data for compensation;
- Other tasks as assigned by Line Management.

#### Qualification Required:

- Bachelor or Master Degree in GIS,IT, Computer Engineering, Urban Planning or subject- related trade disciplines;
- At least 5-7 years skill and experience in project- related data base of resettlement and compensation, especially in hydropower or mining project.
- Good academic spoken, written and understood in both Lao and English, any local ethnic languages are plus for job selection;
- Good skills in MS Office program, to include MapInfo, ArcGIS, Access, SQL,Word, Excel, and PowerPoint as well as report writing;
- Be able to work at project sites;
- Physically fit for work at the site in certain project duration;
- Inter- personal skill to communicate and handle with wide ranges of local authorities and villagers from different ethnic groups and their practical culture behaviors.
- Can be flexible and challenge to project difficult circumstance and work pressure

- Position: Senior livelihood restoration officer (1) Positions in Pakkading, Bolikhamxay (New Hydro Power Project) Roster about 60days on / 9days off including travel day**

#### Duty Description:

- Liaison with GOL's local authorities regarding to cooperation and coordination for project- related resettlement and village households assigned by Head of Department (HOD);
- Collect specific data from project- related villagers in line with social and environmental impact as required by Line Manager;
- Can provide a primary data analysis report to a Line Manager;
- Initiate to implement a project- related resettlement and compensation plan as approved in accordance with the project policy and its regulation concerned to those above project- related villagers;
- Can encourage those above project- related villagers and local authorities to have a clear comprehensive over the project importance and its resettlement necessity;
- Can basically negotiate with them in accordance with company guideline and direction as well as certain related laws, degrees and regulations of Lao PDR through consulting with Line Manager, Company Management and GOL's counterparts;
- Can station and collaborate with provincial, district, village and community authorities as required due to project- related resettlement and compensation;
- Other tasks as assigned by Line Management.

#### Qualification Required:

- Bachelor Degree in Social studies / Social and Community Development studies or subject- related trade disciplines;
- At least 5-7 years skill and experience in project- related resettlement and compensation, especially in hydropower or mining project, also having knowledge on Education, Health care, microfinance and agriculture are advantage
- Good academic spoken, written and understood in both Lao and English, any local ethnic languages are plus for job selection;
- Good skills in MS Office program, to include Word, Excel, and PowerPoint as well as report writing;
- Be able to work at project sites;
- Physically fit for work at the site in certain project duration;
- Inter- personal skill to communicate and handle with wide ranges of local authorities and villagers from different ethnic groups and their practical culture behaviors.
- Can be flexible and challenge to project difficult circumstance and work pressure.

- Position: Senior Micro finance officer (1) Positions in Pakkading, Bolikhamxay (New Hydro Power Project) Roster about 60days on / 9days off including travel day**

#### Duty Description:

- To assist data gathering and also do data analysis on the assets of affected people.
- Collect specific data from project- related villagers in line with social and environmental impact as required by Line Management;
- To know and understand compensation policy and strategy for affected people.
- To be experienced on budgeting and loading for local people are needed.
- To liaise with local people, authorities and planning to promote sustainably their occupation and lives.
- To initiate how to develop micro finance for local people in order to improve and restore affected people' lives to be better and sustainable condition.
- To evaluate and assess the income of local people will be targeted of project
- Other tasks as assigned by Line Management.

#### Qualification Required:

- Bachelor Degree in Social studies / Social and Community Development studies or subject- related trade disciplines.
- At least 5-7 years of experience in social and community development sector, hydropower or mining project.
- Must be spoken, written and understood both Lao and English.
- Proficient in MS Office Suite, include Word, Excel, and PowerPoint Programs.
- Physically fit to work at the site.
- Able to communicate with a wide range of people from different ethnic and social culture.
- Ability to work and willing to assist disadvantaged groups.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Be able to work and meet tight deadline and also under pressure.

- Position: Senior Watershed Management Officer (1) Positions in project site of Bolikhamxay (New Hydro Power Project) Roster about 60days on / 9days off which including one travel day**

#### Duty Description:

- To understand well and implement on Biomass Clearance Plan, Biodiversity Offset Plan, Cumulative Impact Assessment reports and also Annex C.
- To plan, supervise and monitor in order to protect the watershed boundary of NT1 with local and central government.
- To work and associate with local authorities such as: village, district and provincial, central level are needed in order to assist social and community development team for data gathering.
- To ensure all environment activities will be safe and worked smoothly.
- To prepare report on Biomass Clearance Plan, Biodiversity Offset Plan, Cumulative Impact Assessment reports to environmental manager
- Other tasks as assigned by Line Manager.

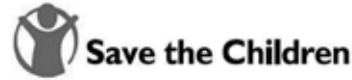
#### Qualification Required:

- Bachelor or Master degree(s) in natural resources management, watershed/river basin management, rural development, water resource management or related disciplines;
- At least 5-7 years experience in watershed management, biomass clearance, biodiversity off set and GIS application would be an advantage;
- In-depth knowledge of advantageous Governance issues in biodiversity, natural resources management and conservation in Lao PDR.
- Strong presentation, organizational and communication skills,
- Strong negotiations and financial management skills.
- Experience with high level report writing – technical, planning and management
- Must be proficient in speaking, writing and understanding both Lao and English.
- Proficient in MS Office Suite, including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint Programs.
- Physically fit to work at the site.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Be able to work and meet tight deadline and also under pressure.
- Other tasks as assigned by Line Management.

We offer the successful candidate an excellent salary and benefits package, including PSG self insurance National Social Security Fund Office, Field travel Allowance, Mobile Phone Policies, etc...

We invite qualified candidate to submit your resume stating your present and expected salary and ref directly to the Human Resources Department at: Phonesack Group, Ltd. Unit 15, Sithong Road, Pakthang Village, Sikhottabong District, P.O. Box 1808, Vientiane Lao PDR. Fax: (856-21) 550498 Tel: 021 550497 or E-mail to: careers@phonesackgroup.com.

Closing date 18 March 2016



**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Save the Children is the world's largest independent child rights development organization, making a difference to children's lives in more than 100 countries. We save children's lives; we fight for their rights; we help them fulfill their potential.

**Communication Manager**

**ROLE PURPOSE:** The overall responsibility of the post is to deliver the communications plan for the save the children Laos country office, raise the profile of the organization in Laos and regionally, lead on developing communication initiatives, developing materials for online and print usage to showcase save the children activities and achievements nationally in Laos and internationally. In addition be the focal point for all communications during time of emergency response.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:**

- At least 3 years' experience as a communications manager, or a similar role
- Outstanding communication skills (verbal and written) with a proven ability to distil complex information and materials into clear messages
- Excellent organizational skills and ability to work to tight deadlines
- Ability to manage a large workload in a pressured environment, working to short and long term objectives
- Attention to detail and ability to follow tasks and ideas through to completion
- Excellent written communication skills and an understanding of how to write for different audiences
- Experience in drafting communications materials such as newsletter, press releases and internet content (both in Lao and English)
- Competent in establishing and maintaining strong relationships with stakeholders
- Demonstrable experience working with various social media
- Competency in Microsoft Office – excel, word, PowerPoint
- Proactive approach to work and the ability to identify and implement effective processes for achieving outcomes
- A commitment to the Save the Children values

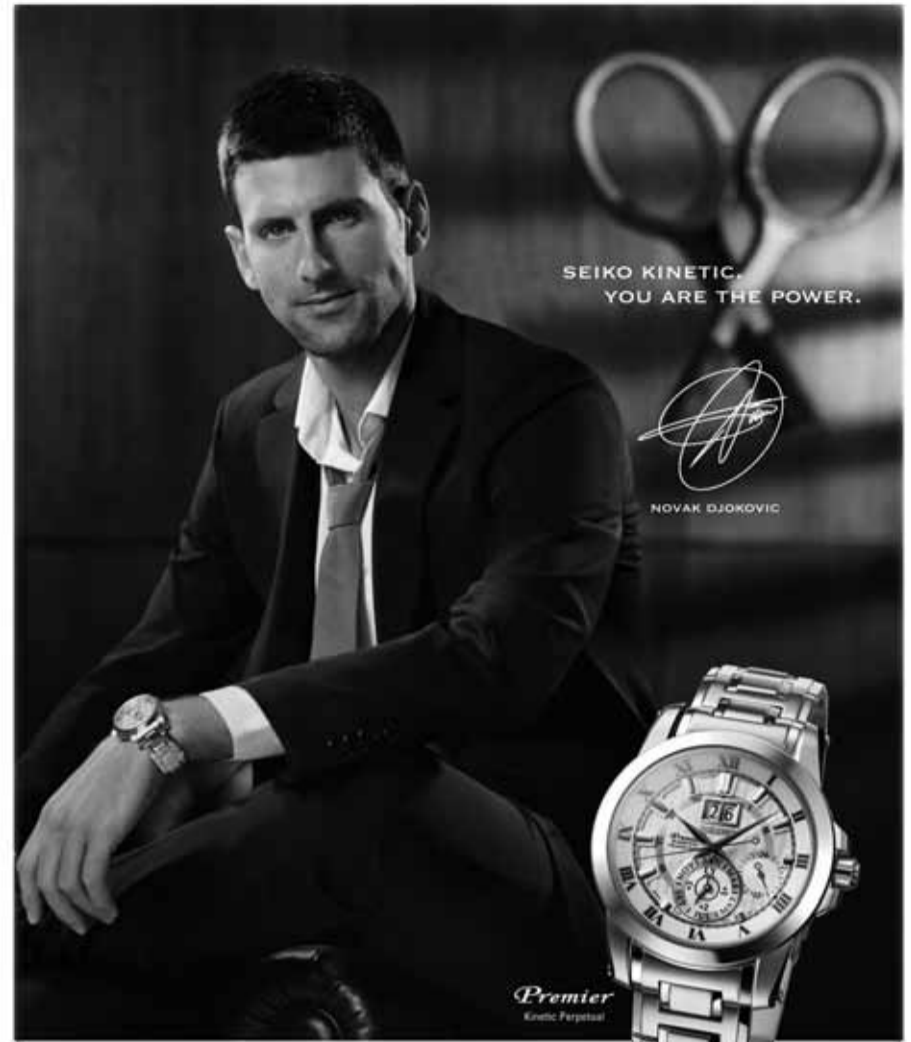
Duty Station: Vientiane Capital

Interested candidates can obtain the full Job Description via <https://laos.savethechildren.net/jobs> and should submit a full application (CV, cover letter, and contact details of three professional referees) to:  
**Save the Children, HR Manager, Rue Nerhu, Unit 25, Ban Phonexay (PO Box 7475) Or email to: [hr.laos@savethechildren.org](mailto:hr.laos@savethechildren.org)**

**Closing date for applications is: 03 March 2016. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**

Save the children is an equal opportunities employer, qualified females, persons with disability and candidates from diverse cultural backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

Save the Children has a strict Child Safeguarding Policy and conducts thorough background checks prior to any offer of employment.



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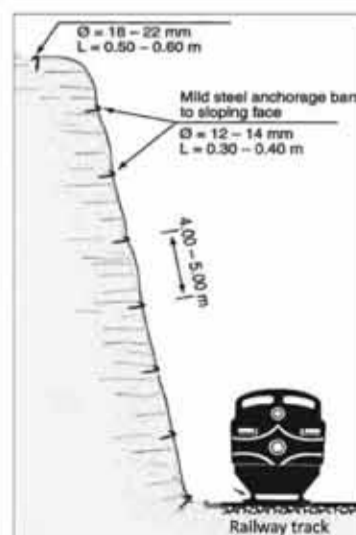
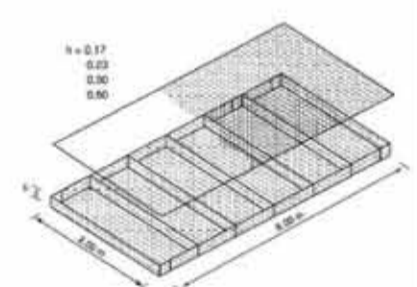
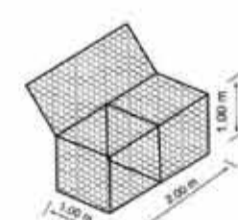
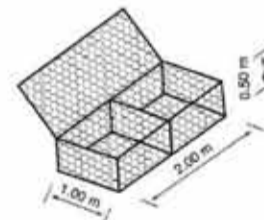
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- Highway Guard Rails, Steel bars/plates & Galvanized sheets



For more information, welcome to our office/stock yard  
**WinSteel Trade Int'l Co.** 182, Nehru St, Ban phonexay, Vientiane LAO.  
 Email: [winsteel@etlao.com](mailto:winsteel@etlao.com), Tel : 021-452291-2, 020 5541 7607/5633 1031/5665 2845, Fax : 021 450473



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Release of Call for Proposals



This call for proposals is within the context of the EU funded project: "Strengthening the Capacities of Lao Disabled People's Organizations to meaningfully contribute to the Inclusive Development of Lao PDR", implemented in partnership by Handicap International and the Lao Disabled People's Association (LDPA).

Handicap International (HI) is an independent and impartial aid organization working in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster. We work alongside people with disabilities and vulnerable populations, taking action and bearing witness in order to respond to their essential needs, improve their living conditions and promote respect for their dignity and fundamental rights.

The Lao Disabled People's Association (LDPA) is a civil society organization and the sole Disabled People's Organization (DPO) that encompasses all people with disability in Laos. The mission of the LDPA is to promote the rights of people with disabilities empowering them to personal achievement, assisting them to participate fully in the social, economic and cultural life of their community.

The **objective of this call for proposals** is to improve Quality of Life for Persons with Disabilities in Lao PDR. The **expected results** are:

1. Improved access to livelihood services for people with disabilities
2. Improved access to education for children with disabilities
3. Increased awareness of the rights of people with disabilities
4. Increased participation of people with disabilities to existing mainstream services (i.e. education, health/rehabilitation, livelihoods, justice, etc.)

The following applicants **are eligible** to apply:

- Lao Disabled People's Organizations
- Lao Non-profit Organization, Foundations and Civil Society Organizations having a mission to improve quality of lives of persons with disability

All actions should be implemented in Lao PDR only.

Budget of the grant:

- Minimum: 20 000 EUR
- Maximum: 40 000 EUR

The duration of proposed actions shall be of maximum 12 months.

Completed applications must be submitted by email and should be sent to: [grants@handicap-international-laos.org](mailto:grants@handicap-international-laos.org)

The deadline for application is April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016.

**Full information about the call for proposals as well as procedures for application can be found: [www.ldpa.org.la](http://www.ldpa.org.la) and <http://directoryofngos.org/>**

Contacts for all questions: [grants@handicap-international-laos.org](mailto:grants@handicap-international-laos.org)

Handicap International

P.O. Box 2496, 51/1 Hongkai Road, Ban Sisangvone, Saysettha District, Vientiane, Lao PDR  
Telephone: (021) 412110, 451298, Facsimile: (021) 416242



Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Ministry of Health - PR/MOH supported by Global Fund to Fight AIDS/Tuberculosis and Malaria

**Invitation for Bid**

For the Procurement of:

Vehicle (Minibus) for DPIC PMU for Health Strengthening System (HSS) grant

PR/MOH

Address: Simouang Road, Sisatanak District, Vientiane capital

Contact Persons for this RFQ:

Name/position: Mr. Khampasong Simmalavong and Dr. Souphaphone Sadettan

Tel. Number: 021 242981, 020 22409399

Email: [Khampasong@theglobalfundlao.org](mailto:Khampasong@theglobalfundlao.org) with cc to: [phone905@yahoo.com](mailto:phone905@yahoo.com)

and cc to: [verhoeven.pascal@gmail.com](mailto:verhoeven.pascal@gmail.com)

Procurement No: LAO-PMU-HSS-Y1/2016

Date: 19 February 2016

To: Eligible bidders

The Lao PDR has received a grant from **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria**. The Procurement Unit of the Procuring Entity referred to above, intends to use funds of grant budget **LAO-S-GFMOH (HSS Y1)** to procure goods for the PMU in the **Department of Planning and International Cooperation (DPIC)** to support program implementation of health system strengthening activities in provinces and districts.

To be eligible, only vehicle brands officially represented in Lao PDR are acceptable that offer maintenance, repair services and spare parts in capital and provinces of country.

The Procurement Unit of the PR/MOH kindly requests interested bidders to obtain the full RFQ document from its office through the contacts/address mentioned above in order to submit quotations for:

Code	Item	Minimum engine specification	Unit	Qty	Point of Delivery	Delivery Period
A	Minibus 12 seats (minimum) Color white	2.2 liter diesel engine 100 hp	Unit	01	PMU located in Vientiane Capital	60 days from date of contract award

Bidding document (RFQ) is available from Purchaser as off **19<sup>th</sup> February 2016**, the contact information is provided above; subsequently the quotations are to be submitted latest on **04<sup>th</sup> March 2016 before 14:00 hrs. (2 pm)**.

The Purchaser will follow the procedures set out in the PR Procurement Manual (2015) for public bidding method in compliance with the Rules for Public Procurement in Lao PDR issued by the MOF in 2004 and lastly amended in 2015. Evaluation of bids will be on unit price, warranty terms and total cost of ownership (life cycle costing).

The Purchaser advises all bidders to obtain the RFQ document directly from the Purchaser. The purchaser is not responsible for bidders who submit wrong or incomplete quotations based on an RFQ received indirectly.

Dr. Bounlay Phommasack

Director General Department of Communicable Disease Control  
Director PR Office of the GFATM Project

ລາວກ໋ອຟ ຊາເລັນ

# LAO GOLF CHALLENGE 2016 VIENTIANE



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**JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT**

Nam Ngiep 1 Power Company (NNP1PC) was formed on 12 April 2013 to develop, finance, construct, own, and operate Nam Ngiep 1 Hydropower Project. It is a reservoir-type hydropower project with a total installed capacity of 290 megawatt. Construction is underway in both Bolikhamxay and Xaysomboun Provinces, Lao PDR. The Project is managed by NNP1PC. Electricity generation is expected to start in January 2019.

NNP1PC is now looking for:

**POSITION: IT OFFICER.** This position is based in Paksan Office with travel to Vientiane Office as required.

This job description provides a general overview of the type of work and the level of responsibilities required to fulfill the position, but other duties not identified may be required. This description will be subject to review and may be modified from time to time to reflect changing conditions.

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Managing, operating, backing up and patching NNP1PC IT servers including Microsoft Active Directory servers, Virtualization servers and File Sharing server
- Managing and operating network equipment including switch, router, firewall and wireless access points.
- Providing support for NNP1PC including troubleshooting software and hardware problem.
- Managing and providing support for Microsoft Exchange Online Service
- Managing contracts and service agreement with IT companies
- Planning and recommending IT procedure for NNP1PC
- Planning and Purchasing additional computer hardware and software and network equipment.
- Prepare and coordinate weekly update on IT Activities

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Having least 5 years work experience in IT industry (with international organization is a plus)
- Having expertise in Microsoft Server including Microsoft Active Directory and Microsoft Exchange
- Having expertise in Networking such as designing or operating network system
- Having expertise in Microsoft Operating System and iOS
- Having expertise in Web technology
- Having expertise in at least one programming language
- Bachelor degree in computer engineering, computer science or related field
- Knowledge of system security methods and techniques
- Knowledge of Database Management System
- Knowledge of application on MS SharePoint is a plus
- Good written and spoken in English
- Any other duties assigned by his or her supervisor and manager

Potential candidates are asked to submit an application letter including curriculum vitae (CV) and other supporting documents clearly mentioning the applied position to HR Department via email: [careers@namngiep1.com](mailto:careers@namngiep1.com), or submit the hard copy to NNP1 office at house no: 236, unit: 16, Ban Phonsinuan, Sisattanak District, Vientiane Capital, Laos PDR. Telephone: 021 261 251 Fax: 021 261 252

Closing date for application: **7th March 2016**. Only short listed candidates will be contacted for interview. For further information about the NNP1PC, please visit our website: <http://namngiep1.com>



**JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT**

Nam Ngiep 1 Power Company (NNP1PC) was formed on 12 April 2013 to develop, finance, construct, own, and operate Nam Ngiep 1 Hydropower Project. It is a reservoir-type hydropower project with a total installed capacity of 290 megawatt. Construction is underway in both Bolikhamxay and Xaysomboun Provinces, Lao PDR. The Project is managed by NNP1PC. Electricity generation is expected to start in January 2019.

NNP1PC is now looking for:

**POSITION: DEPUTY MANAGER -ADMINISTRATION/HUMAN RESOURCES.** This position is based in the Vientiane Office with travel to field offices as required.

Under the supervision of Manager of Administration/Human Resources Department, the Deputy Manager (Administration/Human Resources) is responsible for supervision of Administration and Human Resource staff as well as oversee the following tasks:

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Supervise clerical and administrative personnel,
- Assist in developing document control system and its implementation,
- Recommend changes to policies or procedures to improve operations,
- Monitor the use of office space and the facility to ensure that it remains safe, secure, and well maintained,
- Ensure that facilities meet environmental, health, and security standards and comply with company regulations,
- Assist in creating system of car control,
- Assist in drafting an annual plan budgets for equipment, supplies and other expenses of Division,
- Oversee the maintenance and repair of machinery, equipment, and electrical and mechanical systems,
- Follow up the implementation of Company's strategic plan and report to directors, board members and shareholders,
- Monitor the need of office supplies, printing materials including purchase, store and distribute the supplies and set up inventory system.
- Maintaining a safe and secure work environment,
- Assist in summarizing and updating Company's activities for the monthly progress report.
- Assist in updating and implementing all HR policies and procedures,
- Work in close association with Manager (Administration/HR) in reviewing and preparing TOR for job advertising, interview, hiring etc.
- Assist with annual performance review, bonus and awards,
- Assist in the recruitment process and identify suitable candidates to fit with TOR and company culture,
- Conduct orientation presentation for new employees,
- Administer benefits of the staff as well as work permit and entry visa for foreign staff and specialist,
- Perform other related duties as assigned by the Manager (Administration/HR) and DMD/MD.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Bachelor's degree or higher,
- Minimum of five-year experience with international organization,
- Staff supervision experience is a must; work independently and as part of a team,
- Strong verbal and written communication skills in English and Lao,
- Good interpersonal skills and able to work under pressure,
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office (Words, Excel, Power Points etc).

Potential candidates are asked to submit an application letter including curriculum vitae (CV) and other supporting documents clearly mentioning the applied position to HR Department via email: [careers@namngiep1.com](mailto:careers@namngiep1.com), or submit the hard copy to NNP1 office at house no: 236, unit: 16, Ban Phonsinuan, Sisattanak District, Vientiane Capital, Laos PDR. Telephone: 021 261 251 Fax: 021 261 252

Closing date for application: **7th March 2016**. Only short listed candidates will be contacted for interview. For further information about the NNP1PC, please visit our website: <http://namngiep1.com>

**United Nations Development Programme**

**Procurement Notice**

UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in 177 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.



**International Consultant**

A review of provisions related to human rights in the draft Penal Code of Lao PDR  
Date of issue: 24.02.2016

<b>Country/Location:</b>	Vientiane, Lao PDR
<b>Description of assignment:</b>	International Consultant to conduct a review of provisions related to human rights in the draft Penal Code of Lao PDR
<b>Project Title:</b>	Support Project for Implementation of Legal Sector Master Plan (Project number: 00087142)
<b>Deadline for submission of application:</b>	Saturday 5, March 2016 Late or incomplete proposals will be rejected
<b>Type of Contract:</b>	Individual Contract
<b>Period of assignment/Duration:</b>	11 working days (5 days home based and 6 days in Laos)
<b>Starting Date :</b>	ASAP

**Scope of work:**

The consultant is specifically expected to support the penal code drafting team to review the draft penal code in light of Lao PDR international obligations including human rights. This consultancy will build upon the overall review of the Penal code conducted by UNDP experts.

**Experience and qualification requirements:**

**1. Degree of expertise and qualification**

- Master's degree in Law, specialization on criminal law with specific focus human rights
- At least 15 years of experience in the criminal justice system.
- Extensive experience in the applications of criminal laws
- Excellent knowledge of criminal law systems, including experience in working with governments and institutions
- Demonstrated flexibility and adaptability in taking on this type of consultancy
- Fluency in spoken and written English including excellent drafting skills
- Familiarity with the country or the region an asset.

For more detailed information about this consultancy job please kindly refer to the Individual Consultant Procurement Notice and all related Annexes by visiting the below link: <http://www.la.undp.org/content/laopdr/en/home/operations/jobs/>

**Requirements for submission of proposals:**

All interested and qualified institutes should apply on-line through the UNDP website at <http://www.la.undp.org/content/laopdr/en/home/operations/jobs/> or [http://jobs.undp.org/cj\\_view\\_jobs.cfm](http://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_jobs.cfm)

Please make sure to submit all the requested documents/information otherwise your application will be considered incomplete.

All requests for clarification must be sent in writing to the following e-mail address: [viengmala.phomsengsavanh@undp.org](mailto:viengmala.phomsengsavanh@undp.org) with CC to [oudorn.phanekham@undp.org](mailto:oudorn.phanekham@undp.org)

UNDP is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups and persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

To learn more about this position and other procurement opportunities please visit our web-site at: <http://www.la.undp.org/content/laopdr/en/home/operations/jobs/>

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**Request for Quotation (RFQ)  
Reference No. RFQ\_002\_2016**

Dear Sir/Madam,

UNDP Lao PDR together with UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA, and UNODC is inviting all eligible companies/firms to submit your quotation for **provision of internet services to UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA, and UNODC in Lao PDR**. When preparing your quotation, please be guided by the instructions and requirements provided in the full version of RFQ including all Annexes which are available on UNDP Lao PDR web-site at the following link: <http://www.la.undp.org/content/laopdr/en/home/operations/procurement/>

Sealed bids with all required attachments and supporting documents as stipulated in the full version of the RFQ must be delivered on or before **11:00 AM Local time, Tuesday, March 8, 2016** to the following address:

**United Nations Development Programme  
UNDP Lao PDR  
Lane Xang Avenue  
Ban Hatsady-Tai, P.O. Box 345  
Vientiane, Lao PDR  
Attention to: UNDP Procurement/Logistics Unit**

Bids submitted to other address shall not be considered or reviewed.

In case of any inquiries please send us your questions in writing to the following email accounts: [kiettsack.senephansiri@undp.org](mailto:kiettsack.senephansiri@undp.org) cc [sinthala.vilaysom@undp.org](mailto:sinthala.vilaysom@undp.org)

**Late bids will be rejected**

Please visit our website for other procurement opportunities at: <http://www.la.undp.org/content/laopdr/en/home/operations/procurement.htm>





## Australia Awards

# Make a difference with an Australia Awards Scholarship Applications are now open

Do you want to be a leader in your field and make a difference in Laos? Find out about opportunities to gain a world-class education and become an emerging leader for development.

An Australia Awards Scholarship provides you with the chance to obtain an internationally recognised qualification from an Australian university. It includes all the necessary support and funding to complete your study.

Your career will benefit from new knowledge, leadership skills and the links you create both in Australia and through our global alumni network.

On your return home you can make a vital contribution to the economic and social development of your country.

The application process is open and competitive, providing equal opportunity to all eligible people, regardless of gender, ethnicity and disability.

**Applications open 8 February 2016 and close 25 March 2016.**

Download the application form from the website at [www.australiaawardslaos.org](http://www.australiaawardslaos.org)

Or pick up application forms at the Laos Australia Institute, Vientiane College, or for government staff from your Personnel Department or Provincial Education and Sports Services (across the country).

### Further information

Email: [infoawards@laosaustraliainstitute.org](mailto:infoawards@laosaustraliainstitute.org)

Phone: +856 21 265 721-2

Find out more about studying in Australia at [www.studyinaustralia.com](http://www.studyinaustralia.com) or [www.australiaawards.gov.au](http://www.australiaawards.gov.au)

*"My Australia Awards Scholarship has given me the most worthwhile experience. It was a great opportunity to obtain new knowledge in one of the Australia's top universities on banking and finance which has helped me to be fully prepared for my career in the financial industry. I have also experienced a different way of life abroad, met new friends, and learned a new culture during my university years."*

Vorvichai Dengkayaphichith  
Bachelor of Business (Banking and Finance)  
Monash University, Melbourne



ບໍລິສັດ ຢາສູບລາວ ຈຳກັດ  
Lao Tobacco Limited

**Employment Opportunities**  
(Lao National Only)

Lao Tobacco Limited (LTL) is an international Joint Venture established in 2001 between the Government of Lao PDR and Imperial Tobacco Group (ITG), the 4th largest tobacco group in the world with 36,000 employees in 160 countries.

LTL has over 400 employees and works with people with a variety of backgrounds, experience and perspectives. LTL offers a culture of opportunity, competitive rewards, and a good work environment with support for individuals and families. If this is the environment and career challenge you seek, please read on and join us.

Could it be you? Please see current vacancies below-

**Corporate Affairs Executive 1 position base in Vientiane Capital**

**Responsibility:**

- Visit and share information to relevant local authorities.
- Track the media for potential issues relevant to the tobacco industry.
- Manage the communication of LTL activities such as EETV, newsletter, exhibitions and introduction of government initiatives internal and external.
- Manage media contact and those of other suppliers.
- Responsible for corporate branding and profile development.
- Undertake 'special' projects on an ad hoc basis such as special analyses, providing key insights & support the business planning process in conjunction with the Legal Affairs & Financial.

**Requirements:**

- Bachelor Degree in Business Administration Preferred.
- Minimum 2 years business experience in consumer goods industry.
- Ability to communicate and present ideas/concepts persuasively at all levels.
- Be able to work unsupervised and with the upmost confidentiality.
- Microsoft Office, Excel & PowerPoint capability must be of a high level.
- English proficiency both speaking and writing.
- Have a full driving license and some travel to another province may be required.

**Production Supervisor 1 position base in Vientiane Capital (Re-advertised)**

**Responsibility:**

- Coordinate with secondary manufacturing for cut rag tobacco production planning and arrange daily shift task.
- Work with leaf department and issue a tobacco requisite order for daily production.
- Work with quality personnel to check the quality of cut rag tobacco, and provide necessary feedback.
- Ensure the primary manufacturing is operated with good efficiency.
- Ensure team members achieve daily production target. In case of production underperforming, then seeking the solutions.
- Write report of primary manufacturing results to Production Manager and Factory Controller in weekly and monthly basis
- Oversee the tobacco blending changeover is correct with the blending recipe.

**Requirements:**

- Bachelor degree in Business Administration, Engineering or related field.
- At least 3 year related working experience.
- Work experience in manufacturing or mining industrial background preferred.
- Strong in leadership capability.
- English proficiency both speaking and writing.
- Requirement in basic accounting knowledge and good computer skills WORD, EXCEL and PowerPoint

**Benefits:**

- Competitive remuneration/benefit are offer to successful applicant.
- Access to company leisure facilities, including football and badminton.
- Regular training and development courses in the region.
- Opportunities to grow into more senior positions based on performance.

Interested applicants - send your CV and a covering letter detailing your suitability.  
Closing date **04<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

Contact to:  
Human Resources Department  
Lao Tobacco Limited  
Km8 Thadeua Road, PO Box: 181  
Vientiane Capital

Tel: (+856 21) 352 780  
Fax: (+856 21) 313 144  
E-mail: [recruitment@la.imptob.com](mailto:recruitment@la.imptob.com)

The Basic Education  
Quality in Lao PDR  
(BEQUAL)



Australian  
Aid



Request for expressions  
of interest in being a  
preferred BEQUAL Supplier

The goal of BEQUAL is to support the MOES in ensuring all girls and boys, especially those experiencing disadvantage, complete a quality basic education to achieve literacy, numeracy and other life skills. The BEQUAL program, funded by the Government of Australia and the European Union, supports the MOES in education policy, planning and coordination, increased child participation in (and access to) basic education, as well as teacher education, curriculum and teaching and materials and through improved school infrastructure.

It is intended to have a small number of local organisations through which BEQUAL will source its ongoing need for operational products and services. BEQUAL, through Coffey, is now seeking Expressions of Interest and a Capability Statement from suitably qualified Lao organisations who wish to be considered as a BEQUAL Preferred Supplier.

Products and services are required in four separate areas (see below). If any company wishes to be considered for more than one of these four areas, they will need to lodge a separate EOI and Capability Statement for each one.

- Office supplies and consumables**, including paper, stationary, office equipment, computing and IT including the provision or servicing of computers (including laptops), and software / supplies / consumables / replacement for copiers, printers, wi fi, mobile phones, network peripherals;
- Accommodation and venues**, including catering for training workshops or events;
- Travel services**, including bookings for flights within Lao PDR and for hiring of vehicles;
- Professional services**, including qualified English and Lao translators (both ways, written and verbal) that can be accessed on an ad hoc basis.

Local companies are invited to consider if they have the experience and required level of quality products or services to be a BEQUAL preferred supplier. If interested, local companies are invited to contact BEQUAL by email to [info@bequal-laos.org](mailto:info@bequal-laos.org) and request the EOI information and template. All correspondence from potential suppliers will be in writing only, with replies sent via email.

The **closing date for emailing any questions or clarification** relating to the BEQUAL EOI and Capability Statement is by **COB in Lao on Monday 7th March 2016**.

The **closing date for lodging the BEQUAL Expression of Interest and Capability Statement** is by **COB in Lao on Monday 14th March 2016 and emailed to [info@bequal-laos.org](mailto:info@bequal-laos.org)**.

A selection panel will use the seven compliance criteria outlined in the EOI template to identify organisations considered to have the range of products and services, the quality and the backup to be nominated as a BEQUAL preferred supplier. The selection process will be completed by the end of March 2016 and all companies notified of the outcome. It is expected that the BEQUAL preferred supplier arrangement will be negotiated and commence in early April, for an initial period of two years.



This program is managed by Coffey, a Tetra Tech company, on behalf of the Australian Government

[coffey.com](http://coffey.com)



Netherlands

Development

Organisation

SNV is a Netherlands-based development organisation committed to eliminating poverty and inequity. SNV focuses on the agriculture, renewable energy, and water & sanitation sectors.

We are currently seeking a

**NATIONAL CONSULTANT**

for Final Project Evaluation of Enhancing Milled Rice production in  
Vilabouly District (EMRIP-V) project

**BACKGROUND**

The Enhancing Milled Rice Production Project (EMRIP-V) has been implemented by SNV since 2013 in Vilabouly district, Savannakhet province. To date the project has worked with thirteen millers' groups, one rice business group, and 1,300 households, organised into 21 farmers' groups.

The main objectives of the project are (i) to improve the organisational and technical capacity of producers and millers to produce high quality milled rice for trading; and (ii) to improve the conditions for producers, millers and consumers to benefit from continued growth in production and from price stability for high quality milled rice in Lao PDR.

**OBJECTIVE**

To provide an objective external evaluation of the performance of the Enhancing Milled Rice Production in Vilabouly district (EMRIP-V) project based on indicators outlined in the project's Logical Framework.

**DELIVERABLES**

The consultant is expected to deliver the following outputs:

- Participate in project briefing and review project-related documentation
- Prepare an evaluation mission plan and methodology that includes meetings with key stakeholders in the target district and evaluation of results in randomly selected target villages
- Conduct an evaluation survey that reviews project performance based on indicators provided in the project's Logical Framework and any other unanticipated results achieved during the project
- Prepare a concise evaluation report summarising findings of the evaluation survey and making recommendations for future actions
- Present findings of the evaluation report to project stakeholders (SNV)

**TIMEFRAME AND LOCATION**

The consultant will undertake the activities over a period of 10 days to start in March 2016 in Vilabouly district, Savannakhet province. The project will cover costs of accommodation, transport and per diem (those costs should not be included in the proposal and will be paid according to SNV's policy). The consultancy fee is for 8 working days, and 2 days for travelling.

**HOW TO APPLY?**

Interested applicants should submit a proposal detailing the proposed approach, timing and cost of conducting the study and an updated CV before **14th March 2016** to: Franck Caussin (Sector Leader Agriculture) at [fcaussin@snvworld.org](mailto:fcaussin@snvworld.org), and Thavone Siyavong (Rice value chain development advisor) at [tsiyavong@snvworld.org](mailto:tsiyavong@snvworld.org).

# The best dressed in the region

**Feature Desk**

THAILAND (The Nation, ANN) -- Ten Thai designers set out last week to win over fashion fans in all corners of the newly formed Asean Economic Community while simultaneously strengthening Thailand's position as a fashion hub with a showcase of outfits, separates and accessories for the coming spring and summer at a downtown mall.

The designers, all members of the Bangkok Fashion Society, took over the Greyhound Cafe at EmQuartier for an extravaganza on the theme "Bangkok Based Asean Best".

Polpat Asavaprapa, the chief of BFS and founder of member label Asava, told XP he was confident that Thai brands would flourish in the AEC.

"We feel it is important to get in the front door and make sure our brands are known throughout Asean. We are working together to create a BFS fashion concept and style that will demonstrate the potential of Thai fashion design to the world and help us become the design leaders of the Asean region. For that, we need strong support from both the government and the Thai people. The value of the Thai design concept and the elaborate production, from selecting fabrics to controlling the quality of tailor-made garments, needs to be promoted continually," he says.

Member labels Asava, Vickteerut, Greyhound Original, Milin, Issue, Kloset, Painkiller, Playhound by Greyhound, Tutti & Tutti Frutti and Senada all took part in last week's showings, which although broadly divided into three main styles, took nothing away from the individuality of each brand.

The clothes in the "Alive" category came with a strong sense of energy with colourful patterns and flower prints heralding the arrival of summer. "Yesterday" brought back happy memories of the past, with outfits sporting a retro feel while fashions in the "Strong" category focused on individuality with details and silhouettes different from other seasonal trends.

Designers drew heavily on both artworks and regional culture, serving up a rich palette of colours that were roughly divided into three categories. "Spring Garden" encompassed the soft pastel hues of yellow, blue and pink and the gentle green of freshly cut grass; "Summer Vibes" bowed to the heat of an April day in bright and bold purple, orange and blue; while "Opposite Attraction" played with contrasts, mixing black with white and warm tones with cool ones.

Miniskirts and shorts were out in full, all the better to showcase long tanned legs, and several of the minidresses sported a fun flare towards the hem that added a feminine look. Tops revealed bare shoulders, some cut with a boat-neck and others merely strapless, with jackets worn loosely over cropped tops revealing slim midriffs.

Aside from quality and value for money, the BFS brands are also well known for their



distinctive details. And here again they didn't disappoint with prints emphasising the island culture, nature and animals of the tropics along with tailor-made outfits with an elegant cut that revealed glimpses of skin. Sheer and transparent fabrics like lace, organza and chiffon, all ideal for the summer climate, were very much in evidence on the catwalk, paired with bolder materials covered in intense graphic designs.

For the men, the designers opted for a cool "Culture Camp" look, combining styles for work and leisure with a touch of the military for a laid-back feel.

Donning his designer hat, Polpat said the ladies should opt for a soft look for summer with careful cutting allowing them to reveal a little skin while remaining demure. Guys, he suggested, would do well to mix and match, combining a casual camping style with a sophisticated look, or matching it with sporty separates for a more relaxed demeanour.

Milin Yuwajarassakul, designer of Milin, played with her favourite black, white and grey, juxtaposing them with metallic gold and silver and pairing them with pastel pink, fuchsia, turquoise, lemon and violet for a multifaceted feminine look in her "Myth Universe" collection. Using an unexpected mix of high and low hemlines, Milin delivered a fresh take on classic shapes from mini and mid-calf dresses, evening dresses, tops and mini skirts to bohemian flared pants, introducing flat gladiator sandals to balance out the modern, futuristic look with a playful edge.

Kloset's "Woman on the Moon" Collection, which was inspired by the work of artist Paul Gauguin, reinterpreted patterns, textures and palettes with deep colours like maroon and mustard combined with violet, green, beige and light blue. Traditional island prints got a modern makeover and a swallow also made an appearance, as a symbol to encourage those who have a dream to spread their wings.

Issue, meanwhile, focused on cultural diversity with a "Peranakan" collection inspired

by the Chinese and Malayu heritage with mixed prints for the ladies and flowing coats for the men. Bhubawit "Roj" Kritpholnara, Issue's founder and designer, paid tribute to Asian beauty through collage and resin work finely hand-stitched on dresses to create one-of-a-kind pieces.

Senada went whimsical for its "Into the Woods" collection working with two themes - the great outdoors and sophisticated indoors. The collection featured Senada's usual splash of vintage charm, with '60s and '70s-inspired A-line silhouettes, knee length to floor length skirts, cute day dresses, elegant accordion pleat details, ruffles, peter pan lace collars, smocked cuffs and flowing circular skirts. Extravagant fabrics and techniques like tweed, lace trimmings, crochet and delicate flower embroideries were extensively incorporated with sheer and silky materials, adding a sensual edge to an otherwise sophisticated set.

Playhound brought summer vibes to its "Cut Outs" collection, mimicking the technique of artist Henri Matisse to give the clothes a fun feel. Silhouettes were comfortable and easy to mix and match with the separates featuring everything from a bomber jacket, jumpsuit, sweater and hoodie jacket to sports bikinis, cropped tops, mini dresses and bathrobes. The menswear was given surfer attitude with colourful bandanas, sweat pants, swimming trunks, Hawaiian shirts and plenty of denim.

Linen, cotton, light knits and rayon were the fabrics of choice and these were often given a sporty edge through the addition of mesh and jersey. Here again, the colour palette boasted vibrant reds, greens and blues tempered by pastel blue, pink and yellow.

For its part, sister brand Greyhound drew on David Hockney's work for its collection "Summer Art". An independent line of waves in one of Hockney's signature pools was used as the main graphic to represent freedom and relaxation and overlaid with prints, embroidery and pleats.

# Jamini Roy: First modernist of Indian art

**Feature Desk**

NEW DELHI (The Statesman, ANN) -- Noted modernist artist Jamini Roy's nearly century old paintings have lived beyond their time and find relevance even today.

Uma Nair, who has curated an ongoing solo exhibition at the Dhoomimal Art Gallery here showcasing nearly 80 artworks by 20th century calls him a "universalist."

"Jamini Roy is never out of fashion. Whatever he drew was universal. It is relevant even today. It is so important for works of art to live beyond its time," she says of the artist who passed away in 1972.

Titled "Carved Contours," the show underway at the Dhoomimal Gallery here is divided into two distinct parts - one set of coloured works and another of pen and ink drawings.

Roy who was tutored under the Bengal School of Art under the mentorship of Abanindranath Tagore, shifted from the academic tradition of drawing classical nudes and went on to derive inspiration from the Indian culture.

He captured the simplicity of the tribal livelihood in his art where he painted extensively the "marginalised" santhal community of Bengal.

"His main subjects were the humble simple people from the santhal tribe. His soft heartedness towards the community comes out of his sensitivity for the poor. In today's world when we hear about atrocities against Dalits, here is an artist who celebrated people who were marginalised," says Nair.

Roy's treatment of the female body is sensitive and respectful in a way that it appears sensuous rather than crude and vulgar to the viewer.

"I think he was very sensitive. He appreciated women. When you look at the forms of the women he does not make her look cheap but beautiful," says



the curator.

Even though the artist seldom paints the faces but whatever one sees in Roy's women is all beautiful.

"He is a man who loved what he saw. In today's age when we are talking about violence against women, I think respect is very important and I realise Jamini Roy was a humanist," she says.

Roy's coloured works show clear influences of the Kalighat patta paintings in his bold sweeping brush-strokes. He also turned to rural decorative traditions of alpana and kantha. According to Nair says the artist's choice of medium of work was egg tempera and tamarind seed glue and that he soon switched from dyes to natural colors, using earth, chalk powder and vegetable colors.

"His palette was a limited array of seven colours - Indian red, yellow ochre, cadmium green, vermilion, grey and blue - prepared from materials like hingul, harital, kak khokri, lamp black chalk or limestone," she says.

The "mother-child" figure is another recurrent subject in Roy's works, which he blends effortlessly with his other areas of interest of the santhals and bauls, mythology - both Hindu and Christian.

Roy's depiction of the selflessness of motherhood in his paintings - an image of a santhal woman embracing her child; a bronze bodied santhal

mother feeding an infant - is indeed heartwarming.

"He loves portraying Ganesh and Durga, as well as Krishna, especially the child Krishna and scenes from the Ramayan," says Nair.

The show has a series of simple monumental images of sari-clad women, village dancers and domestic animals besides Madonna and Christ and the famed Ramayan series. According to the curator, Roy has dealt with the idea of 'Ravana' in a very contemporary way. Unlike his other works which have a very matte finish, this particular work depicting the evil king with his 10 heads positioned diagonally in 'tomato red' exudes an uncanny liveliness.

"He has treated it in a very modern way. Whenever you and I think of Ravana, we think of him standing with his ten heads horizontal. He takes the Ravana and makes his heads diagonal. He gives so much joy in the destruction of evil," she says.

A 110-page book, brought out by Dhoomimal Gallery, carries a foreword by Uma Jain and curatorial note by Uma Nair and a couple of art write-ups besides a brief biography of Jamini and the images of all his works at 'Carved Contours'. All the images from the exhibition are from the Uma and Ravi Jain Estate.

The month long exhibition inaugurated recently at the galley, which turns 80 this year, is set to continue till March 10.

**Sales and Marketing Development Manager**

**Start date:** March 2016, asap **Duration:** 1 year, renewable

**Location:** Vientiane based with at least 50% of time in the field

AOI is a French NGO established in Laos since 2005, working in the sector of oral health. The current project, supported by the French Development Agency (AFD) aims at supporting salt factories to produce and sale iodized-fluoridated salt and supports the national faculty of dentistry in the field of hygiene and infection control.

AOI is seeking for an S&M DEVELOPMENT MANAGER in order to help develop the sales of iodized-fluoridated salt in Laos, with factories, and for improved oral health status of the population.

**Skills and experience needed:**

- ✓ Bachelor Degree in Business Administrations, marketing/commerce or related field,
- ✓ At least 3 years of experience in sales, marketing and distribution; good computer skills
- ✓ Interest to work for a health related project, willing to help Lao population to reach a better oral health status,
- ✓ Interested in developing new ideas and original marketing actions,
- ✓ Willing to learn, dynamic and independent individual,
- ✓ High interest and capacities in commercial development,
- ✓ Good communications skills, in Lao and English,

**Interested candidates must send their CV and a letter of interest (no scan of diplomas) before the 5th of March 2016, 6pm, by email only to: manithong\_cat@hotmail.com**



Travel

Champassak Grand Hotel: a taste of southern luxury

Bounfaeng Phaymanivong

In 2009, the grand introduction of the Champassak Grand Hotel sparked interest and bemusement among residents of Pakxe district...

The four-star hotel has 215 rooms in six different categories, with prices ranging from 437,000 kip to 1,725,000 kip a night.

But the public's questions have been firmly answered. Customers are flocking in and all say the food, entertainment and service are excellent.

Ideally located on the edge of Mekong River close to the Laos-Japan Friendship Bridge in Pakxe district, the Champassak Grand Hotel is opening its doors to welcome guests from around the world.

The hotel is outstandingly situated in the town centre so is easily accessible and guests are content to pay for a room that gives them a night or two of sweet dreams in comfortably furnished rooms.

Privately-owned by the

Tangcharoen Group, chaired by Mr Houa Sengaloun, the hotel contains several business operations including a shopping mall, home furniture and interior décor, and hotel services as well as a construction business.

Since its official launch in 2009, the Champassak Grand Hotel has become well-known throughout the province and it seems that people from all walks of life and different backgrounds can afford the price and enjoy the impressive services on offer.

Located on a five hectare site, the 12-storey hotel serves up meals to a steady stream of customers, comprising 70 percent Thai nationals with the remaining 30 percent being VIP guests from Laos along with western tourists.

The hotel's General Manager, Mr Teerachai Tejapanicharoen, told Vientiane Times that in addition to room service the hotel has a gym, a swimming pool and a spa, as well as a Chinese restaurant.

"We are ready to serve our customers through our 232 employees. They are well-trained and have professional skills in hospitality. Many of



The Champassak Grand Hotel is ideally located near the Mekong River.

our management staff have been trained in Bangkok," he said.

The hotel also has karaoke

rooms and a beer garden along the Mekong riverbank. In addition, there are conference rooms that can accommodate 1,500 people.

"Last year, we achieved 65 percent of our occupancy target. This year, we are looking at a target market of customers from the Republic of Korea, Japan and Europe," said Mr Teerachai.

The Champassak Grand Hotel is a 15-minute ride from Pakxe International Airport. Its many attractions include its easy access and friendly staff.

"Our company is also set to open the Vangvieng Grand

Hotel, a 160 room hotel in Vangvieng district, Vientiane province at the end of this year and we plan to expand our operations to Vientiane in the years to come," he added.

With the rapid growth in the number of hotels in Pakxe district, the Champassak Grand Hotel is also faced with challenges because there are more competitors ready to enter the market.

"But we have our strength, experience and readiness in serving royalty, high-profile and VIP customers both from Laos and other countries," Mr

Teerachai added.

He is confident that the Champassak Grand Hotel will be a top choice for international guests, high-ranking officials and VIP customers when Laos hosts the Asean Summit later this year.

"With our experience in southern Laos, we can offer the best options for VIP guests and foreign leaders attending this important summit," he added.

Champassak province has plenty of tourist attractions that draw a large number of domestic and foreign visitors every year.



One of the many luxurious rooms on offer.



The riverfront restaurant is the hotel's finest feature, where guests can enjoy the sunset and views of the Mekong.

A collection of images and text for 'SIP' (ຮັບພິມ) printing services, including a photo of a printing machine, a list of services, and contact information for a business in Laos.

Streetwise

# How should outstanding students be rewarded?

*Many students hit the books and work diligently in the hope that rewards will come their way. But after the excitement of graduation and a good grade they are disappointed that their efforts seem not to be appreciated. Many people are concerned about this and feel that the Ministry of Education and Sports should provide them with job opportunities or a scholarship. Vientiane Times asked people for their thoughts on how deserving students should be rewarded.*

**Visith Teppalath**

**Mr Alinkom Syavong, a doctor at Mahosot Hospital:** Some people think that top students, especially those



who get a red certificate, get some form of special support from the government after

graduation, but in fact this is not the case. I have heard many people, especially university students, talking about this issue. They say that being an outstanding student and receiving a red certificate does not distinguish them in any way from students who don't receive one, as there was no special reward either on their graduation day or afterwards. This leaves them disappointed and discourages some students from working as hard as they might. I think it's very important to give more support to top students, especially those who get a red certificate, because they have studied hard for a long time. They should get a special offer from the government

or other organisations to motivate them to study harder and be industrious. The concerned bodies and the college or university should offer them a special gift because it would raise the profile of the institution and encourage other students to follow their example.

**Mr Auan Keomany, a student in Xaythany district:** This is an important issue that both public and private universities and colleges should pay attention to. Like every other student, I would like to be declared an excellent student but this might not be easy for me. All students want the government or some other body to provide special

gifts to outstanding students especially to those who are awarded a red certificate. As everyone knows, being named an excellent student or graduating with a certificate of honour or red certificate is no easy task. A student



has to work really hard to achieve a good score in every subject. Besides having good averages, one must have good qualifications in all aspects. I think excellent students are worthy people and the government should use various ways to praise and reward them, or do something that encourages others to excel, and also provide scholarships for them so they can study at a higher level either in Laos or overseas, as a reward for all their efforts and determination.

**Mr Bounxou Bounchalern, an employee in Xieng Khuang province:** I think the government, through the Ministry of Education and Sports, should give special opportunities to outstanding students and those with talent. Students who receive

a red certificate should be given special priority by the government, such as being given a job or a scholarship to continue their studies overseas. The government or other entity should create competitions in various fields of study in order to identify the most outstanding students and thus develop human resources in all fields. This would be a good way to encourage students and schoolchildren throughout the country to pay more attention to their studies and display their special abilities. It was good that activities took place in schools and universities each year to encourage students to be conscientious and produce outstanding students in each subject. But it turned out that the reward system was inadequate as



they didn't receive anything special.

**Ms Sakhone Luangkhood, a businesswoman in Pakxe district, Champassak**

**province:** As the mother of a student I would like the government to encourage and support the best students



through a special policy that would reward them with a good job after graduation so they were well cared for by the state. Or they should be given the opportunity to work in the subject or field they are good at. Many students are particularly good at some subjects but they can't get a job in that field after graduation because there is no government policy to support this and nothing is said about it. I have heard that many countries actively support their best students or talented students in various ways. They support them to continue their studies or allow them to work in their chosen field. This means that field will gain expertise and its development will accelerate. Laos should have a similar system. If we make the best use of our human resources, every field will improve more quickly.

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# Chinese takeovers of overseas brands worthy of attention

Mike Bastin

CHINA (China Daily) -- It is surprising that takeovers of international companies and brands by Chinese enterprises have received so little media coverage despite three major deals being struck in the first few weeks of January 2016 alone.

The most remarkable of the deals involved Chinese household appliance maker Haier. The Chinese company not only acquired General Electric's appliance unit for a staggering US\$5.4 billion, but also made clear its intent to make a mark in markets in both East and West.

Given the state of the world economy, it is important that Chinese companies gain a strong foothold in the more lucrative and competitive markets of the United States and Europe, and Haier's takeover of the American company's unit will boost their confidence in this regard.

The deal will allow Haier to use the GE brand and all its relative aspects for its appliances for the next 40 years. The immediate benefits to Haier and the Chinese economy are clear, but looking

at long-term gains is perhaps even more important. GE's advanced manufacturing technology and impressive brand building provide major learning opportunities for Haier and will help it to emulate GE's global presence.

By not giving due coverage to the takeovers, media outlets have also undermined the fact that Haier appears to have outbid and out-maneuvered many other major appliance makers such as Electrolux and has its sights firmly set on US market leader Whirlpool.

Chinese companies are targeting takeovers that offer long-term learning and strategic repositioning opportunities. The Krauss-Maffei acquisition by the China National Chemical Corporation is another example in this regard. The Krauss-Maffei Group is widely recognised as one of the leading manufacturer of machines and systems for plastic and rubber production and processing.

What was really striking is that just days after the Krauss-Maffei acquisition came the news that Dalian Wanda had reached an agreement to take over Hollywood-based

Legendary Entertainment for US\$3.5 billion, the largest Hollywood takeover to date by a Chinese company.

The size and significance of the three takeovers notwithstanding, they should not be viewed in isolation. Instead, more media coverage of this growing trend is needed, in order to present a far more balanced picture of the real Chinese economy, especially because the takeover trend is likely to grow, and the Belt and Road Initiative and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank will help Chinese companies in their international takeover bids.

Of course, growth through acquisition is fraught with difficulties and challenges - highlighted by a 60 percent failure rate. But that is all the more reason why the majority of Chinese overseas takeovers are impressive - their targets appear to offer complementary products, markets and skills, and all have a string of successful, global brands.

It seems Chinese companies today are better equipped to manage the complex process of post-acquisition integration, not



The Haier Watch, which goes on sale in the second half of 2016, can be connected to the Haier smartphone so users can remote control their phones. --Photo Cecily Liu/chinadaily.com.cn

least because they retain talented professionals, and blend styles and cultural backgrounds.

It should be clear to all that Chinese companies are pursuing growth through overseas takeovers not for short-term financial gains but to build a key plank in their long-term, global brand-building process.

Let's hope media outlets will cover such takeovers more widely, as they should have done in the first place, instead of simply focusing on a few macro-economic indicators such as quarterly GDP figures, because Chinese companies are not just looking to penetrate the more lucrative European and US markets but are also on

the lookout for those European and US companies and brands that would help them further penetrate the Chinese market.

--The author is a visiting professor at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing and a senior lecturer in marketing at Southampton Solent University's School of Business.



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Applications must be submitted by **5.00pm Friday 11 March 2016**.



**Norwegian People's Aid**  
Lao PDR

### Notice of Recruitment – Lao National Staff

The Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) is a Norwegian humanitarian organization supporting capacity building and development in many countries and has been engaged in the UXO clearance in Laos since 1997. The strategic goal for the programme is to reduce the humanitarian and socio-economic threat posed by unexploded ordnance (UXO). NPA Lao PDR is regulated by the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) for the UXO Sector. The programme currently has more than 320 staff and receives funding from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA), Norwegian Telethon (NRK), the United States Department of State and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID). NPA Laos wishes to recruit of a qualified and well-motivated person(s) for the following position:

#### **1. Information Management Assistant: 02 Positions, Based in Sekong, and Saravane field office.**

#### Duties and Responsibilities

- Data entry, mapping, reporting and translation of reports
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- Ensure that all NPA computers connected to the network and are backed up
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- Work closely with FOM/FOO and work as team player with other IM members
- Fulfill other duties as may be assigned by FOM/TA
- Work in coordination with IM manager

#### Qualifications Requirement

- University or college degree that includes studies in IT and/or computer science
- Competent user of Microsoft Office programs (Word, Excel, Access, Power-point and Outlook)
- Knowledge of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and GPS would be an asset
- Ability to setup and maintain a small computer network
- Knowledge in general IT equipment handling and data acquisition
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- Good technical English skills and be able to write concisely
- Lao National

Interested candidates are requested to submit a CV and a cover letter to NPA office: 368 Ban Saphanthong-Neua, Sisattanak District, Vientiane Capital, and Tel: +856 20 264 812; or via e-mail address at: [npa.laos@npaid.org](mailto:npa.laos@npaid.org).

The applications deadline is Friday, 14th March 2015 before 5:00PM. Short-listed candidates will be called for interview. Successful candidates will be asked to start work as soon as possible.

Women and disabled people are encouraged to apply.



A band performs at the music contest at the ITECC Mall in Vientiane.

# Lao dancers win big with Japanese moves

Sisouphan Amphonephong

A dance team dubbed 'My Own' has emerged as the winners of this year's Cool and Kawaii Japan Dance Contest held recently at the National Culture Hall in Vientiane.

The contest was part of the annual Cool and Kawaii Japan Festival which aims to promote cultural exchange between Laos and Japan as well as give young people a chance to highlight their 'Japanese style' talent.

'My Own' received 3 million kip in prize money along with a study tour of Japan to take in the culture and lifestyle of the north Asian nation.

In second place 'Morisseter' received 2 million kip while 'Phasalao Crew' took home 1 million kip for third place.

The contest was organised by the Embassy of Japan to Laos.

One of the contest judges and Managing Director of the Lao Bangfai Prime Association and Lao Pride Records, Mr Anouza Phothisane, thanked the competing dance teams



The winning team 'My Own' proudly display their first prize signs at the Japan Cool and Kawaii Dance Contest in Vientiane.

for their efforts.

"It was quite difficult to pick the winners from the eight finalists as all the teams really showed us their best Japanese style dance moves," he said.

The Lao Bangfai and Dongdok Crew dance teams also joined the party to perform for the appreciative audience.

The evening's bill also included 'Condors', a Japanese male dance group known

for their powerful routines, vocalist Asakura Kate, and a colourful performance by humanoid robot cosplayer Hatsune-miku among other acts at the National Culture Hall.

"The whole event was very well received by the audience and there was a great atmosphere while also strengthening Lao-Japanese friendship," Mr Anouza added.

The contest was televised on the Lao Star Channel.

# Music Challenge strikes a chord with would-be stars

Sisouphan Amphonephong

The first round of the Music Challenge took place at the ITECC Mall last week, attracting 55 bands all eager to display their talents and compete for public recognition and possible stardom.

Event organiser Mr Viengchamphone Khanthavong said the contest provided an opportunity for young people who love music to take to the stage while creating a vibrant backdrop to the ongoing trade exhibition.

He said the first round of auditions attracted more than 50 bands who turned up and tuned up for the contest after the project was announced a week ago.

The audition rounds ran from February 20-26 on the fourth floor of the ITECC Mall. Every day bands battled it out on stage, providing an entertaining atmosphere for people visiting the mall.

The theme of the event is string music, and bands are

encouraged to perform on stage in front of a panel of judges.

The second round will take place from March 4-7 when the best bands will be selected to take part in the final round of the contest on April 1.

The bands that get through the first and second rounds will then battle it out in the final round through their music and songs, which should feature stringed instruments.

The final round will select the best band and two runners up, who will receive prizes and certificates.

The winning band will receive three million kip and a trophy while the second placed band will get two million kip and the third will receive one million kip. Other bands will receive consolation prizes of 500,000 each.

The project provides a great opportunity for young people to show their talents on the public stage. Those whose profile is raised by winning prizes in the contest or simply performing will

make themselves known and if they are lucky may be hired by restaurants or other venues in Vientiane to perform and develop their style.

The success of previous music challenges makes this year's project more attractive to up and coming bands as it gives them the opportunity to hone their skills and indulge in a healthy pastime. And they all have the enticing draw of perhaps one day making it big on the Lao entertainment scene.

Last week's auditions gathered a crowd of interested spectators who watched on with enthusiasm and obviously enjoyed the free show, cheering for the contestants they thought were deserving of applause.

One spectator, Mr Lern, said he was grateful to the organiser and Lao ITECC for organising the contest and encouraging young people to develop their skills as well as sharing experiences with like-minded musicians.

# Lee Joo-mi wins grand prix at Paris dance competition

REPUBLIC OF KOREA (The Korea Herald, ANN) -- Lee Joo-mi, 23, won the grand prix in the contemporary category at Le Grand Prix de Paris Let's DANCE 2016, an international dance competition that ended in Paris on Feb. 14, Korea National University of Arts announced Wednesday.

Lee has won several prestigious awards, including the grand prix at the Valentina Kozlova International Ballet Competition in New York in 2014, first prize at the Dong-A Dance Competition and senior female first prize in the contemporary dance category at the 10th Seoul International Dance Competition in 2013 and grand prize at the Third Korea International Dance Competition in 2012.

Affiliated with the Seoul-based Laboratory Dance Project since 2014, Lee graduated Korea National University of Arts' school of dance with a contemporary dance major last month.

The Paris international dance competition, one of the most prestigious concours along with the USA International Ballet Competition and Helsinki International Ballet Competition in Finland, is held biennially with categories of classic and contemporary.



Contemporary dancer Lee Ju-mi (Korea National University of Arts)

# Thrilled to play negative character in '24': Sikander

MUMBAI (The Statesman, ANN) -- Bollywood actor Sikander Kher says he is excited to play a negative role for the first time in his career in TV-debut series 24.

Starring Anil Kapoor, 24 is a drama based on the American series of the same name. Sikander, who is part of the upcoming second season of the show, says the character he plays is something which he has never attempted.

"I am playing a negative character in the show. I am thrilled as it is completely different, something which I haven't attempted before. Shooting it was great fun and I had a good time on the sets. Now I am waiting for the audience's reaction," Sikander said.

The 34-year-old actor made

his Bollywood debut with Woodstock Villa in 2008 and went on to work in films like Khelein Hum Jee Jaan Sey and Players.

Sikander says his parents, veteran actors Anupam Kher and Kirron Kher, do not interfere in his work.

"My parents are actors too and they don't interfere with my work. We do discuss films with each other, I tell them about the role I am playing, the film I am a part of, but they never meddle with that. They advice me about general things but never specifically on films. They leave that decision to me," he said.

Sikander will be next seen in Abhishek Sharma's satirical comedy Tere Bin Laden: Dead or Alive. In the film, he plays a white man

who comes to India on a secret mission, disguised as a Punjabi film producer.

"I had to do a 15-day workshop. There was no apprehension as such, I never over-think about my work. I had a director like Abhishek who had a great vision and was very clear what he wanted out of me. I had people like Manish and the entire team with me which was just fantastic," he said.

The actor also got engaged to girlfriend Priya Singh recently. She is the daughter of interior designer Kavita Singh and businessman Jasjit Singh. Priya and actress Sonam Kapoor are cousins as their mothers are sisters.

Sikander, however, said no date has been finalised yet for the marriage.



Sikander Kher.

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- Develop and innovate work methods and procedures, manage budget and lead and/or participate in relevant projects. Organise, recruit, develop, motivate staff on the team.
- Provide support and steering in Business Development by ensuring proper donor budgeting, contracts, and reporting.
- Check and consolidate financial data for the country/offices/funds.
- Provide financial data and analyses to relevant internal and external parties as input for further decision-making and handling.
- Conduct internal compliance and control assessments, identify and address risk areas and implement measures to minimise the risk of irregularities. Coordinate audits, based on corporate compliance and audit procedures.

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- Demonstrable accounting skills (a written test is required);
- Qualified CPA, CA, CGMA, CIMA, ACCA/Post-Graduate degree in finance or accounting;
- A minimum of 3-5 years of professional experience in a finance and accounting department, preferably at an international NGO/s;
- Excellent skills in financial management, administration and office management;
- Sound analytical skills;
- Good command of spoken and written English;
- Excellent computer skills (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Internet and E-mail)
- Experience working in a multicultural environment;
- Team-oriented, good interpersonal skills, and leadership ability; creative, communicative and proactive personality.

**HOW TO APPLY?**  
Interested candidates should submit an application letter and CV to HR Officer Ms. Soulikanh Keokinnaly at [skeokinnaly@snvworld.org](mailto:skeokinnaly@snvworld.org) before **4th March 2016**. A full ToR is available upon request for further information. Applicants of all nationalities are encouraged to apply. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. SNV offers a 1-year contract with the possibility of extension, and a competitive salary package.





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## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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- Female or Male
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- Fluency in English is an advantage for consideration.

Interesting persons please send CV thru post office or by email.  
 Address: Phonphanao Village, Xaysettha District, Vientiane Capital, Lao P.D.R.  
 P.O.Box: 3464, E-mail: mlngpr\_21@yahoo.com;



## Programme Manager- Cuso International

Cuso International is a development organization that collaborates with local groups, national governments and other like-minded organizations to build alliances, connections and strategically place skilled volunteers to work on projects that reduce global poverty and inequality in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. Cuso International Laos has been working for more than 20 years in Lao PDR on projects for improved agriculture, sustainable livelihoods and environmental management. We are looking for an experienced development professional who has experience of managing projects involving agriculture, natural resource management and rural income generation. The applicant should be able to manage & be accountable to project budgets and meet donor reporting requirements. The candidate will have excellent communication skills with fluency in English and the ability to understand and work confidently with professional volunteers from different countries and cultures. (S)he will have sound planning and organizational skills to manage a substantial workload. The job will be based in Vientiane with extensive travel for up to 8 weeks in any year. The person we are looking for will be qualified to degree level with at least 2 years relevant experience in rural development work, ideally with experience of working for another international NGO or Non-Profit Association. You will be committed to respecting diversity and gender equity with strengths in the following areas:

- Extensive technical knowledge and practical experience of agriculture & natural resource project management for improved food security, incomes and livelihoods.
- Women's economic empowerment and gender mainstreaming experience.
- Knowledge of business development, small & medium enterprise, value chain development and marketing linkage would be an advantage.
- Experience of networking and developing partnerships.
- Excellent cross cultural communication skills.
- Planning & organisation with proven competencies in managing substantial budgets.
- Strong team working skills including respect to Cuso International's values.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English and Lao languages.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word Excel and Outlook and ability to be self-serving with IT.
- Project management including project cycle and financial management, monitoring and evaluation & donor reporting.
- A full, valid full driving licence for a car

Cuso International offers a competitive salary and health care package for employees. Excellent staff development and training opportunities are offered. Application is by C.V. with a covering letter that clearly states how your skills, experience and qualifications meet the requirements based on the above criteria, enclosing certified copies of certificates. Include details of 2 referees including your most recent line manager, a phone number you can be contacted on and your current salary. Signed copies can be delivered, e-mailed or posted to: Cuso International, House No 219, Unit 15, Saphangmor PO Box 3517, Vientiane, Lao PDR. Tel: 021 264-291 e-mail [Khamla.Luanglath@cusointernational.org](mailto:Khamla.Luanglath@cusointernational.org)

Closing date for receipt of applications: 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016 by (15:00pm)  
 Successful applicants will be notified by: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016  
 Interviews will be held at our office in Vientiane on: 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016

We welcome applications from all sectors of society & women are strongly encouraged to apply. This post will be contracted under Cuso International Laos national terms & conditions.

## What's On



### Visit That Luang stupa

This is the most important stupa in Laos and the country's most revered Buddhist structure. It was built in 1566 during the reign of King Xaysethathirath.

**Where:** That Luang village, Xaysettha district, Vientiane

**When:** Open every day, 8am-12 noon; 1pm-4pm

### Dance classes

Freestyle popping with Popper Tuny OMC. Beginners' registration fee 15,000 kip.

**Where:** Laobangfai Academy

**When:** Every weekend at 9am

For more information call 020 5228 3234, 030 977 8357, Facebook Laobangfai Academy.

## Free Rescue Services

Three free rescue teams are available on 24 hour standby in Vientiane :

1. Lao Red Cross is providing free emergency assistance, including at road accidents, for members of the public who need help. For more information call: 020 59966111  
**Where:** Xiengyeun village, Chanthabouly district, Vientiane.
2. People who need help after a road accident or in any other situation where there is danger can contact the Rescue Hotline Number of the Foundation for Assisting the Poor People of Laos, Tel: 1623  
**Where:** The Rescue Centre is located at Nonghay village, Hadxaifong district, in front of Nonghay temple, on Kamphaengmeuang Road.
3. People who need help after a road accident or other urgent assistance, please call the rescue hotline number of the Association of Voluntary Rescue of Vientiane Tel: 1624  
**Where:** The Association of Voluntary Rescue of Vientiane is located in Nongsangthor village, Xaysettha district.

### Botanical Drawing Exhibition

The French Institute in Luang Prabang province and Pha Tad Kae invite the public to attend a botanical drawing exhibition at the French Institute by Kongngern Sengdee.

**When:** Open until March 13, Monday to Friday 9-12am and 2-5:30pm. Saturdays from 9-12am.

**Where:** French Institute, Luang Prabang

### Kongngern Sengdee

#### *Botanical Drawings*



### AFC Cup 2016

Lao Premier League Champions 2015 Lao Toyota FC's upcoming AFC Cup matches:

March 9 AYEYAWADY UNITED from Myanmar VS Lao Toyota FC (Away)

March 16 JOHOR DARUL TA'ZIM from Malaysia VS Lao Toyota FC (Away)

April 13 Lao Toyota FC VS JOHOR DARUL TA'ZIM from Malaysia (Lao National Stadium Km 16)

April 27 JSW BENGALURU FC from India VS Lao Toyota FC (Away)

May 11 Lao Toyota FC VS AYEYAWADY UNITED from Myanmar (Lao National Stadium Km 16)

### Visit the Lao People's Army Museum

Community members and tourists are invited to visit the Lao People's Army Museum to learn about past battles, the brave acts of Lao soldiers, national defence and the development of the army.

The museum features display weapons during the war time and information about the birthplace of the Lao People's Army and its history, as well as detailed accounts of battles against foreign invaders. Visitors will learn about the victories of the Lao military and people in each period of the revolution, and can view pictures of the enemies who destroyed parts of the country and oppressed ethnic groups.

The museum also details the growth and expansion of the army after the liberation of the country since 1975.

**When:** Open daily from 8.30am-11.30am and 1.30pm-4pm.

**Where:** Kaysone Phomvihane Road near That Luang esplanade in Nongsangthor village, Xaysettha district, Vientiane.

For more information contact: 021 900 662

The *Vientiane Times* welcomes notices from members of the public for announcement on this page. Any events or functions open to the general public are suitable for publishing.

**Contact:** editor@vientianetimes.la

### 18th LANITH Symposium on Lao Tourism and Hospitality

1 March 2016

hosted by the British Embassy Vientiane

**GREAT** for INSPIRATION



### Symposium on Tourism and Hospitality

The British Embassy Vientiane is proud to host the 18th LANITH (Lao National Institute of Tourism and Hospitality) Symposium on Lao Tourism and Hospitality. The event will connect Lao government actors, development partners and the private sector concerning strategies to support tourism.

**When:** March 1, 2:30 to 6:30 pm, tickets available

**Where:** British Embassy Vientiane

### Book launch and exhibition

**When:** Opening reception on February 26. Exhibition runs until April 10, entrance free

**Where:** T'Shop Lai Gallery, opposite Vat Inpaeng, Vientiane.

The book is available at the T'Shop Lai Gallery, Couleur d'Asie, i:cat Gallery, Monument Books.



### Free Polio Immunisation

The Expanded Programme of Immunisation under the Ministry of Health will provide a third round of free vaccines against polio for about 2.4 million children nationwide. The vaccines will be administered to all those aged 15 years or less.

**When:** February 21-29

**Where:** Hospital and healthcare centres nationwide. For more information, please contact 021 312 352

### Vientiane International Half Marathon

The Lao Athletic Association and the Ministry of Education and Sports, social enterprise, Events for Good (EFG), Tigerhead Drinking Water, Knorr Jok Cup, Adidas, Horton International, Laos Simply Beautiful, and other sponsors will be opening the first international marathon in Laos. A percentage of the net proceeds from the half marathon will support charities in Laos that promote both a healthy lifestyle and a culture of socially responsible businesses. EFG aims to further partner with various charities throughout Laos for every event.

**Health Expo Times:** Friday, March 4, 10am-7pm and Saturday, March 5, 10am-7pm

**When:** Races will be run on March 6, from 5am - 8am

**Entry Fees:**

Lao Nationals:

Half Marathon 21km – 120,000kip

Quarter Marathon 10.5km – 80,000

Fun Run-Walk 5km – 35,000

International:

Half Marathon 21km – US\$40

Quarter Marathon 10.5km – US\$30

Fun Run-Walk 5km – US\$10

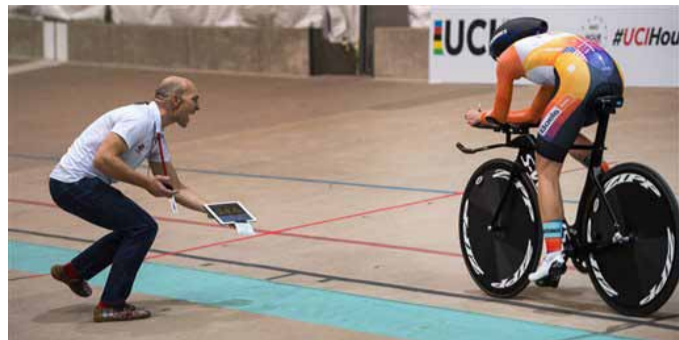
Registration daily at Happy Sports from 10am-7pm or online at [www.vientianehalfmarathon.com](http://www.vientianehalfmarathon.com).

For more information the media can contact the event organizer Contact Vanpheng Southichak or Thouni Seneyakone about sponsorship opportunities.

**Vanpheng Southichak Managing Director +856 20 – 5588 8688 [vanpheng@gmail.com](mailto:vanpheng@gmail.com)**

**Thouni Seneyakone Operations Manager +856 20 - 9144 8858 [seneyakone@gmail.com](mailto:seneyakone@gmail.com)**

# American rider Evelyn Stevens sets cycling's hour record



Evelyn Stevens, encouraged by her coach Neal Henderson, races around the Olympic Training Centre Velodrome on her way to breaking the women's cycling hour record on Saturday. --Photo AP

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) -- Gritting her teeth in pain, and wobbling ever so slightly aboard her sleek time trial bike, Evelyn Stevens kept churning her legs even as the clock hit one hour and she could finally let up.

Just call it a victory lap. The American rider shattered the hour record, one of cycling's most revered marks, by riding just under 30 miles (47.98 kilometers) inside the Olympic Training Centre Velodrome on Saturday. Stevens covered more than 143 laps on the 333-metre track, easily surpassing the 46.833 kilometers Bridie O'Donnell went last month.

"I worked a lot on the mental prep for this," Stevens said. "In the beginning, I really wanted

to just stay calm. At the end, I think anybody who saw me, I was going in like, S-shape turns. But more than anything, it was an opportunity to be great."

Wearing the skin suit of her Boels-Dolmans trade team, Stevens rolled off to a cheer from about 200 fans — the maximum allowed inside the training facility because of fire codes. She quickly got into her time-trial tuck and stayed there for the next 60 minutes, her Specialized bike tracking through the thin air of Colorado Springs along the black line near the bottom of the indoor track.

As the time ticked away, Stevens' record attempt began trending on Twitter, and thousands of people tuned into a live stream of

her that was broadcast on the Internet.

"I can't believe this many people came to watch me. Knowing that made me go a little harder," she said later. "I think the coolest thing about today is all the support."

Stevens passed O'Donnell's mark with more than a minute remaining and nearly eclipsed Jeannie Longo's mark of 48.149 set in 1996. But that distance, referred to as the "best human effort," was set using a "superwoman" position no longer allowed under current hour-record rules set by cycling's governing body two years ago — and would have merely been a nice exclamation mark on her record.

"I was able to really hit my splint times. I wanted to bring it down faster at the end," Stevens said, "but you don't really know your limit until you get there."

Stevens, a member of the 2012 London Olympic team, plans to return to Boulder for some rest before joining the rest of her road team for their upcoming European season. And she hopes strong performances there will help secure her spot on the US team for the Rio Olympics.

"I can't wait to join my teammates, who are kicking butt over there," she said.



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo (centre) jumps for a high ball with Atletico's Saul Niguez during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain on Saturday. --Photo AP

# Ronaldo: Madrid could be first if everyone was at his level

MADRID (AP) -- Cristiano Ronaldo says Real Madrid could be leading the Spanish league if everyone on the team was at his level.

After a 1-0 home loss to rival Atletico Madrid on Saturday virtually ended the team's chances of winning the title, Ronaldo criticized Spanish media for blaming him for the team's poor performances and said that things could be different if others players were playing like him.

"It bothers me when it's said

that Madrid is struggling because Cristiano is struggling. It feels like you are after me," Ronaldo said. "If everyone was at my level, perhaps we would be in first place."

The Portuguese striker later tried to downplay his comments, telling local media he was referring to his "physical level." "I'm not better than anyone," he said. "I was talking about the physical level, about the injuries."

Speaking calmly in a rare appearance in front of

reporters after the game at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, Ronaldo clearly expressed his dissatisfaction with how he's being treated by Spanish media.

"A lot of times you are unfair, you ask me (tough) questions and you question my value," he said, using a few expletives. "It's always been like this in Spain, all these years. By your point of view, it looks like I'm playing like (expletive). And in reality, the numbers don't lie, statistics never lie. Just look at the statistics, it's easy."



## Vacancy Announcement: Junior Economic Officer

The European Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Lao PDR (ECCIL) represents the European Business Community in the Lao PDR. Our tasks are the delivery of high quality services to enterprises and the promotion of the interests of our members. Our target is to become a valuable support of the business community and the leading foreign business membership organization in this country.

To accomplish this goal we are looking for a highly motivated and pro-active Junior Economic Officer to join us at the earliest possible date.

**Position to be filled: Junior Economic Officer**

- Tasks:
- Researching, compiling and analyzing of economic data and information on Laos and the AEC
  - Developing of socio-economic databases and qualitative information;
  - Drafting specified inputs for technical papers and analytical studies on regional, national or sector aspects of economic development;
  - Assisting in the organization and servicing of expert group meetings, seminars, etc. on economic issues;
  - Preparing charts and other inputs for presentations by senior staff;
  - Following official meetings and prepares summary reports;
  - Assisting in organization of panels, meetings etc. on economic issues
  - Preparing inputs to publications like investment guides
  - Conducting business confidence assessments

- Requirements:
- University degree in economics or similar
  - Business fluency in Lao and English
  - Computer literate
  - Good communication and writing skills
  - Pro-active, professional working attitude; able to think "out-of-the-box"
  - Self-motivating, reliable, able to meet tight deadlines and to work in an international team of highly motivated professionals.

- We offer:
- Interesting and challenging task
  - Friendly working atmosphere in a professional team
  - State of the art working environment
  - Attractive package
  - Trainings and opportunities for development.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Please send your CV, copies of testimonials, expected salary and cover letter not later than March 8th 2016 to:

Ms. Dalounee Southivongnorath  
Assistant to the Management  
European Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Lao PDR  
P.O. Box: 11781  
Vientiane

contact@eccil.org

## Invitation of Expression of Interest (EOI) L3198: Northern Smallholder Livestock Commercialization Project

<b>Job Title:</b>	National Project Capacity Building Specialist (NCBS)
<b>Duration of assignments:</b>	20 person-months, intermittent
<b>Duty Station:</b>	VPMO office, Vientiane with travel to project locations
<b>Deadline for Submission EOI:</b>	8th March 2016

The Government of Lao PDR has received a Loan from Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the commitment from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to finance a loan fund and grant fund towards the cost of the Northern Smallholder Commercialization Project which already commenced in March 2015 and will be completed by 30 June 2021. The Project will raise rural incomes by enabling smallholder livestock producers and agribusinesses to meet the high demand for Lao livestock products both domestically and increasing international opportunities. It has been implementing in 12 districts of four Northern provinces as Luangnamtha, Luangprabang, Houaphanh, and Xiengkhouang. More information of this project can be seen via the link: <http://www.adb.org/projects/47300-002/main>

A National Capacity Building Specialist will be recruited to support the Vientiane Project Management Office (VPMO) and relevant departments of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and four project provinces. The Objective of this assignment is to provide specialized technical support to the Project (through VPMO) in identifying, designing, coordinating and supervising various capacity building activities under this project.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) now invites expressions of interest from experienced individuals of ADB member countries for the provision of consulting services to support in the implementation of the Project as a "National Capacity Building Specialist".

Interested candidates should submit their EOIs on following the format provided at web page <http://www.adb.org/site/business-opportunities/operational-procurement/consulting/documents> in the section entitled Expression of Interest for Individual Consultants. In general the EOI must include or address the following:

- EOI shall state clearly the position for which the EOI is submitted;
- EOI shall cover all personal details and contact details of the individual;
- EOI shall provide details of specific qualifications and experience related to the assignment;
- EOI shall provide details of past experience working with similar project authorities; and
- Other information that may enhance the EOI.

The selection process will be in accordance with ADB's Guidelines on the Use of Consultants by Asian Development Bank and its Borrowers, March 2013. Further information, Terms of Reference and forms of EOI can be obtained from the weblink: <http://cms-csrn.adb.org> or at the address given below during working hours from 9:00 to 16:00 hrs (Monday through Friday except public holidays).

Dr. Somphanh Chanphengxay  
Director General of Department of Livestock and Fisheries

Mr. Khamtanh Khamdeng  
Director of the Project Management Division,  
Department Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Patouxay Square, Ban Naxay, Saysetha District  
Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR  
Tel: 856-21-415359, Fax: 856-21-451715  
Email: [ktanhh04@yahoo.com](mailto:ktanhh04@yahoo.com); with copy to [thany.nrrp@gmail.com](mailto:thany.nrrp@gmail.com)

Expressions of interest may be submitted electronically through ADB's Consultant Management System, or by hand/ mail to the contact person and address shown above by 8th March 2016.

**Sports**

# Wawrinka wins Dubai Tennis Open against Baghdatis



Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland holds his trophy after winning the ATP Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships on February. --Photo Xinhua

DUBAI (Xinhua) -- Swiss tennis ace and world's number four Stanislas Wawrinka won Saturday the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships 6-4, 7-6 (15-13) after one hour and 54 minutes against the world's number 57 Marcos Baghdatis from Cyprus.

The Swiss needed four match points in the tie break in the second set to bring victory home.

The players, who share

the same height (1.83 metres) the same age (30 years), both playing right-handed, started at almost the same level and dared some spectacular shots, but the Cypriot did more unforced errors than the world's number four.

However, Baghdatis had more support from the audience in the not completely sold-out Dubai Duty Free Tennis Stadium at the Aviation Club. "Marcos! Marcos!" many were shouting

while the few Swiss fans were rarely audible.

His first break at stand 3-2 was quickly re-broken by "Stan the Man" as the Swiss is nicknamed who showed more precision and endurance in standard situations.

Both elite players appeared to be exhausted, the Greek Cypriot in particular as he needed three sets against Spaniard Feliciano Lopez to win Friday's second semifinal.

Followed by Argentine football legend Diego Maradona from the tribune of honour, the match remained on a medium level with rare breathtaking shots.

It was also a fair encounter when at the start of the second set, Lausanne-born Wawrinka smashed a high ball volley and hit the Cypriot in his stomach, the Swiss immediately apologised under loud applause of the audience. The two opponents almost mutually avoided direct attacks at the net and relied on their baseline shots.

The second set was almost a photocopy of the first round and the two headed into the inevitable tie-break.

"Stan the Man", dressed in his favourite funky red-orange combination, cashed in 511,750 US dollars prize money and fireworks enlightened the sky above the stadium.



Professor Dr Soukkongseng Saigaleuth (second left) receives sponsorship money from Mr Sounthone Sirisack (right) on Friday.

# Sponsorship money rolls in for Lao university games

Sangkhomsay Bubphanouvong

The National University of Laos (NUOL) is continuing to mobilise funding support from local companies for the 1st Lao University Games, to run from March 5-15.

On Friday, the university received a huge boost from the Lao Brewery Company in the form of 500 million kip, along with sponsorship from other local companies.

Deputy Managing Director of the Lao Brewery Company, Mr Sounthone Sirisack, and representatives of other companies handed donations to NUOL President, Professor Dr Soukkongseng Saigaleuth, and members of the games' organising committee.

Prof. Dr Soukkongseng explained that the government had a limited budget for the university games.

He called on the competition organising committee to be well prepared for all aspects of the games, and hoped they

would be a great success.

He said the NUOL would be a good host and hoped to top the gold medal rankings as that would be a fitting celebration for the university's 20th anniversary this year.

Meanwhile the university urges other companies and organisations to step forward and support the country's first university games.

The NUOL is providing accommodation and sports facilities as well as assembling trainers from many provinces. It has also set up committees to oversee food, health, public security, the opening and closing ceremonies, and transport.

Competitors will come from NUOL, the University of Health Sciences, and universities in Champassak, Luang Prabang and Savannakhet provinces, as well as the Army Academy, Police Academy, and private and state colleges.

Some 1,000 students from NUOL's various faculties will perform at the games' opening ceremony on March 5.

During the closing

ceremony, NUOL will pass on responsibility for the second Lao National University Games to Champassak University, which will host the event in 2019.

NUOL's goal for the first edition of the games is to build friendship between students from the different universities and to develop students' sporting talent.

NUOL will select the best performing athletes to compete at the Asean University Games in Singapore in June.

The 1st Lao University Games will include badminton, table tennis, basketball, futsal, petanque, taekwondo, volleyball and beach volleyball, basketball, as well as track and field events.

Some 311 gold, 311 silver and 332 bronze medals will be up for grabs.

NUOL hosted the 16th Asean University Games in 2012, when its students won 32 gold, 35 silver and 46 bronze medals. NUOL students also competed at the Asean University Games in Indonesia in 2014.

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