

Authorities take aim at locust plagues

Times Reporters

Authorities are now spraying pesticide to kill locusts in woodland adjacent to Bone village in Huaphan province's Xamneua district after villagers discovered millions of the pests devouring tree leaves in the forest.

An official from the Agriculture Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Mr Khansay Somchanh, told *Vientiane Times* on Tuesday the locusts identified by Bone villagers were located deep in the forest so authorities couldn't initially

find their eggs.

Millions of locusts were observed flying out from the forest adjacent to rice, maize and other crops.

"Now we are trying to control them with chemical sprays in order to reduce their population before they can attack nearby crops," he mentioned.

Last month, officials began spraying to kill locusts and their eggs in the provinces of Luang Prabang, Huaphan and Phongsaly after surveys identified their eggs in 122 locations.

CONTINUED PAGE 3



Locusts are now attacking forest close to farmers' crops in Bone district of Huanphan province.

Laos, Hungary continue education cooperation

Phaisythong Chandara

Laos and Hungary will pursue an educational cooperation programme for the next three years after reaching an agreement recently.

The related agreement on the educational cooperation programme was signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Saleumxay Kommasith and Hungary's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Mr Péter Szijjártó.

The signing ceremony took place yesterday in Vientiane as part of the official short working visit of Mr Szijjártó and his delegation to Laos from June 6-7, according to the Lao foreign ministry.

Under the agreement, the government of Hungary has reaffirmed its commitment to providing scholarships for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 as part of developing the continuing bilateral partnership between the two nations.

Citing to the next three-year programme, the Hungarian party will offer 50 scholarships per year for Lao students to pursue studies in Hungary, in either the Hungarian or English languages, according to the following framework for higher education study programmes.

There will be scholarships in the fields of agriculture, business, infrastructure and urban engineering, technology, engineering and management, forestry engineering, international relations, international economic relations, international law and other fields.

This follows Hungary's efforts in supporting scholarships from 2014 to this year, signed by the Lao Ministry of Education and



Mr Saleumxay Kommasith (right) shakes hands with Mr Péter Szijjártó during the signing ceremony.

Sports and Hungary's Ministry of Human Resources.

Under that agreement, Hungary's Ministry of Human Resources and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Secretariat had established the Hungary-Asean Scholarship programme to encourage outstanding students to undertake short term or fulltime studies or to conduct research in each other's higher education institutions.

The Hungarian party offered 15 scholarships per year for Lao students to pursue higher education studies in Hungary, in either the Hungarian or English languages.

Furthermore, the Hungarian party had offered one scholarship for full PhD studies in any field of interest. It also offered short term

scholarships in English for one to five months for studies and then training courses in Hungary for those fields of studies.

Depending of the possibilities of the Lao party, the Hungarian party received one scholarship for one to five months for studying Lao language, or studying tropical zoology, flora and fauna in Laos.

During yesterday's meeting, the two parties highly valued their bilateral cooperation, especially in the fields of agriculture and animal husbandry, education, economics, trading, finance and other areas.

Both sides exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest and expressed their readiness to

extend support and assistance to one another through bilateral and multilateral frameworks.

This visit of Mr Szijjártó to Laos aims to enhance the relationship and long-standing cooperation between the two countries.

During the visit to Vientiane, Mr Szijjártó and his delegation took the opportunity to meet with not only his counterpart, but also Prime Minister Mr Thongloun Sisoulith, the President of the Lao National Assembly Ms Pany Yathotou and Minister of Industry and Commerce Ms Khemmani Pholsena.

Mr Szijjártó also joined the opening ceremony of a new modern slaughterhouse in Namxuang area of Naxaithong district with other Lao senior officials.

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Deputy Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism Savankhone Razmoutry (centre), Deputy Governor of Xayaboury province, Ms Bounphak Inthapanya (right) and UNDP Resident Representative Ms Kaarina Immonen cut a ribbon to launch the radio station in Khop district.

Xayaboury local community radio station officially opened

Times Reporters

Khop district: About 20,000 people in 27 ethnic communities of Xayaboury province are now accessing information after the district yesterday officially launched its community radio station.

Station FM98.8 MHz was launched and witnessed by the Deputy Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism Mr Savankhone Razmoutry, UNDP Resident Representative Ms Kaarina Immonen along with provincial and local authorities.

Speaking at the launch Mr Savankhone urged everyone involved, including provincial and district authorities and the community, to work closely together and contribute to and support the station in order to fulfil its potential as a tool for community development.

“Through community radio local people are able to access information that will guide them in decision making, share their opinions, exchange knowledge and experience, and demonstrate their traditional practices and cultures,” he added.

The station would help to develop local communities leading to sustainability of local mass communications in the long-run, Mr Savankhone said.

UNDP representative Ms Immonen said “Aligned with the country’s development strategy, our common objective

is to let everyone’s voices be heard. Community radio empowers the sharing of many representatives, including those of women and members of the different ethnic groups that make up Lao society.”

“We at UNDP believe that strong and effective media is at the heart of equitable development. We reaffirm our commitment to support the government’s efforts to scale up community participation and advancing access to information,” she said.

Khop Community Radio would be soon broadcast in the three languages of Lao, Hmong and Khmu. Some 20,000 people in the district would be able to tune in to news and information on agriculture, health, education, environment, music, culture, public services, and other development-related issues, Ms Immonen noted.

Deputy Governor of Xayaboury province, Ms Bounphak Inthapanya said “Mass media is mandated as an advocacy and propaganda tool for the Party, government and society in delivering the Party’s policies, laws, and promoting patriotism while covering the political agenda, plus socio-economic, science and technology news.”

“It also reflects the people’s needs and plays an important role in mobilising all of society in the implementation of the National Socio-economic Development Plan” she added.

The Khop district station piloted broadcasting in July last year and has been receiving positive feedback from local listeners since the beginning. Radio segments on education, agriculture, local trade, health, culture, legal awareness and security, climate change adaptation, human trafficking and migration, among others, have been provoking engagement from local communities.

One of 44 radio volunteers Ms Souphin Sounanthavong said the station was managed by the local community under the leadership of authorities.

“I want to help develop our community by giving them information and knowledge through my programme promoting the welfare of women and children,” she added.

The station’s transmitter covers a 50km radius and six different ethnic groups in the district reaching as far as Bokeo province.

Since 2006, eight community radio stations have been established under the community participation and communication support programme, a partnership of the ministry, UNDP, Oxfam, and provincial officials of Xieng Khuang, Xekong, Oudomxay, Saravan and Xayaboury.

These stations serve rural areas in Laos and reach over 280,000 people, many of whom belong to different ethnic groups.

Students to study local stories at Vientiane book festival

Sangkomsay
Bubphanouvong

Students and lecturers of the National University of Laos (NUOL) along with other school children will be given an opportunity to study Lao stories at Book Fest 2016 being held in Vientiane from June 17-18.

The festival’s main goal is to support and encourage young students and children to take an interest in reading and writing in Lao language. The festival is also looking to support Lao writers, researchers, and officials who work in local literature and printing.

The Lao stories to be studied comprise of short stories, novels, traditional local fables and tales, as well as other types of stories by local writers.

Book Fest 2016 will be held at NUOL’s stadium and hosted by the Faculty of Letters.

The faculty held a press conference at its offices on Tuesday to announce the first annual Book Fest. The press conference was attended by Dean of the Faculty of Letters, Assoc. Prof. Aloun Silattanakoun, President of the Lao Writers’ Association,



Prof. Aloun Silattanakoun (right) and Mr Thongbay Phothisane (left) address press conference at the NUOL Faculty of Letters’ office on Tuesday.

Mr Thongbay Phothisane and senior professors at NUOL.

Prof. Aloun said the book festival would like to promote local language, including its proper usage and the development of Lao literature now and for future generations.

He said Book Fest 2016 will also promote reading and writing in many different styles. For instance, reading and writing for social-economic development, with the aim to develop human resources in Laos in line with achieving

targets set by the government.

During the festival, students of the Faculty of Letters will showcase their art as well as hold meetings to discuss current literacy issues in Laos. Avid readers will also be given an opportunity to meet the writers of their favourite stories.

Mr Thongbay added that he hoped the festival would be a success and that the Faculty of Letters would continue to support Book Fest in the following years.

Health sector targets transparent evaluation



Mr Khamphone (centre) and Dr Juliet Fleischl (left) co chair the meeting.

Phetphoxay Sengpaseuth

A health workshop held yesterday aimed to promote cooperation, transparency and openness in data and information sharing across the sector as part of the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) initiative.

The JEE for International Health is a newly developed scheme for improving the assessment of a country’s health resources to guaranty clear evaluation and transparency for preventing and rapidly responding to public health threats or outbreaks in the future, health officials confirmed.

Speaking at the opening of the workshop in Vientiane on Global Health Security Agenda and International Health Regulations (IHR), Deputy Minister of Health, Mr Khamphone Phouthavong said that transparency was an important element in order to

attract and direct resources to where they are needed most.

Recent outbreaks of Ebola and Zika underscore the imperative to improve prevention of, detection and response to public health emergencies, whether naturally occurring, deliberate or accidental.

“The workshop has an important role to play to improve the evaluation of the health sector in Laos working with experts from the World Health Organisation to achieve the common and measurable targets of the JEE,” he said.

WHO Representative to Laos, Dr Juliet Fleischl, said the JEE process had a number of important features including: voluntary country participation; a multi-sectoral approach by both the external teams and the host countries; transparency and openness of data and information sharing; and the public release of

reports.

She said the JEE was also an extension beyond the IHR to include two important health agenda, anti-microbial resistance (AMR) and immunisation which were assessed for the first time at the workshop.

These assessments will allow countries to identify the most urgent needs within their health security system, to prioritise opportunities for enhanced preparedness, and responses with current and prospective donors and partners to target resources effectively.

She also highlighted the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases (APSED 2010) assessment tool, APSED performance indicators and annual national progress report. Since 2007, annual WHO reviews have been conducted on IHR and APSED with WHO partners in Laos.

Lao Press in Foreign Languages

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INGO builds new water supply for village in Oudomxay

Times Reporters

In April, Plan International Laos completed the construction for a Community Water System in Vangtang village, Oudomxay province, providing enough safe water to use for drinking, cooking and bathing.

With community members experiencing physical effects from the nearby contaminated Nam Beng river they continued to use its water for bathing as well as washing their clothes and dishes but refused to drink or cook with it.

Most people were walking over 30 minutes just to collect water from the Nam Tang river which is believed to be much safer to consume.

After the installation of a new water tank, nine new water taps, with four other taps repaired, people living in Vangtang village now have enough safe water to use for drinking, cooking and bathing.

Plan International along with Oudomxay provincial and district health departments officially handed over the water system to Vangtang leaders at the end of last month.

Plan started working in the village in November 2015, helping community members to find a sustainable and safe alternative water source to the polluted Nam Beng river they had been using.

Vangtang was not originally one of Plan's Public Health Programme's target communities, but villagers and District Health partners repeatedly requested support to rehabilitate and enlarge their

water system.

Plan International's Public Health Coordinator in Houn district, Cha Moua said, "after receiving request letters from villagers, Plan and the District Health Office visited Vangtang and conducted a survey to determine their needs. We found that there were several reasons to help them."

Although the government provided Vangtang village with a water system more than a decade ago, the water supply is now insufficient especially after the village population has increased.

People began to reluctantly rely more heavily on the contaminated Nam Beng river for their water needs.

"We suffered using the unsafe water from the Nam Beng" explained Lee, a 20 year-old mother, "My husband and I have skin rashes from bathing in the Nam Beng for the past four years. I've suspected that the river contained chemical contamination from banana and watermelon plantations located along the Nam Beng but we didn't have a choice".

Oun, a 5 year-old schoolboy, said he sometimes doesn't take a bath, because he "felt itchy" after bathing in the Nam Beng.

Other effects of the newly built water system were also felt. "We don't have to fetch water for the school toilets anymore, which are located on the top of the hill. Next to my house, there is now a water tap that I can easily get the water for my toilet at home." Mone, a 9 year-old schoolgirl said.



Teenagers, responsible for fetching water from the river, are excited to finally have piped water supply.

LDC nations call for more assistance

Times Reporters

Greater funding is required from international communities in order to expedite development of the world's 48 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) including Laos, experts have noted.

The midterm review conference for the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs took place in Antalya, Turkey recently, to assess the LDCs' progress over the past five years, and to find ways of accelerating their path towards sustainable development.

Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment Dr Khamlien Pholsena led a Lao delegation to attend the United Nations conference along with other leaders from the LDCs nations.

Dr Khamlien delivered his remarks at the meeting, highlighting progress made as well as challenges facing Laos in implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action.

He also stressed the great efforts made by the government



Dr Khamlien Pholsena speaks at the conference.

to progress national socio-economic development and graduate from least developed country status by 2020.

In fact, Laos has tried to align its development strategies with international development programmes in order to accelerate national development.

Developed countries have been called to assist the poorest nations, as they have committed to, so that the poor nations can overcome challenges and enable poor people access to basic needs.

However the LDCs nations were required to enhance productivity and further develop infrastructure to ensure that the world's poorest nations are at the forefront of efforts to build an inclusive and sustainable future.

Speaking at a press conference, the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, said the global community should never forget that humanitarian and social development is "indispensable" for sustainable development.

"We will continue to bring the challenges of least developed countries to the agenda of G-20," he stressed, noting that Turkey's official development aid was about US\$1 billion in 2010 and increased to US\$3.9 billion in 2015."

The Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Helen Clark said at the opening plenary that "This is an important opportunity to focus on the special needs of LDCs and to assess the

status of implementation of the IPoA, taking into account last year's important global agendas, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

"Despite important progress, however, significant challenges remain. Some 51 percent of the populations of LDCs live in extreme poverty, and 18 million children of school age are not in school. Despite LDCs having 12.5 percent of the world's population, their exports account for only 1.1 percent of the global total," she added.

The category of least developed countries (LDCs) was officially established in 1971 by the UN General Assembly to attract special international support to disadvantaged members of the UN family.

The current list includes 34 in Africa, 13 in Asia and the Pacific, and one in Latin America. The newest to have joined is South Sudan.

Local charcoal manufacturer exporting to Japan

Times Reporters

The BKN Company, a white charcoal producer in Laos, is now exporting 1,400 tonnes of white charcoal annually to markets in Japan but it still cannot supply enough to meet demand.

Japan needs 200 tonnes of white charcoal per month but BKN Company is only able to export about 60 percent of that demand, consigning shipments on average five times a month.

The company has been exporting white charcoal products to Japan since 2004, commencing with 196 tonnes in the first year.

Director of BKN Company Mr Boun Oum Phanthapanya, who is also the President of the White Charcoal Producers for Export Group, told *Vientiane Times* that the company is supporting the planting and preservation of mai tiew (*Cratexylon prunitifolium*) trees in Vientiane and the provinces of Vientiane, Borikhamxay, Savannakhet and Saravan.

A project to promote mai tiew plantations commenced in 2006 there is now some 1,300 hectares under plantation.

Mr Boun Oum said to promote the sustainability of the project, each year the company provides funds for mai tiew farmers and their families.

Under the project, the company signs a contract with its members through a two plus



Mai tiew (*Cratexylon prunitifolium*) trees growing in a plantation forest planted by BKN Company.

three system.

In this system, the company helps to supply seedlings, as well as providing marketing and technical assistance. The people, on the other hand, provide the labour and land.

Mai tiew trees help people earn an income because they are able to sell them to the company, which processes the white charcoal.

This project also helps to increase greenery and forestry in the country, which is in line with the government's policy.

Every year, to mark the

National Arbor Day and Children's Day, the BKN Company works in conjunction with partner companies and local communities to promote tree planting activities and ensure green forests in the future.

He explained that growing mai tiew trees in Laos is not difficult because it is a native tree and very easy to maintain.

Mai tiew trees should be harvested when they are aged between five to seven years as the main material for white charcoal production.

The BKN Company exports around 1,400 tonnes of white charcoal to Japan every year, he said.

"In the agreement between the company and Japan, the company should be exporting 200 tonnes of white charcoal per month to Japan but BKN is only able to export 60 percent of the orders."

Mr Boun Oum said it's not only Japan wanting white charcoal but also many other countries as well, which means the company cannot meet demand.

Authorities take aim at... FROM PAGE 1

The species found in this area is the yellow-spined bamboo locust, *Ceracris kiangus tsai*. This species was first found damaging crops in southern China.

These insects typically eat bamboo leaves in hillside forests, but upland rice farmers have been felling scores of bamboo trees over the last few years to clear the land for rice cultivation.

The department's website reported this week that in 2014 and 2015 there were locust outbreaks in Luang Prabang, Huaphan and Phongsaly provinces and almost 4,000 hectares of rice were damaged.

Last year, swarms of locusts were reported in seven districts of these three provinces, while last month 12 districts reported finding evidence of the pests,

and this month locusts were found in two more districts.

Their spread is thought to be related to the ministry last year not having sufficient stocks of pesticides, with only two districts in Luang Prabang province sprayed.

Mr Khansay added they were proactively spraying to kill locusts but their numbers had expanded in two more

districts because officials could not get to their eggs deep in the forest.

Luang Prabang province reported in June last year crops were destroyed in parts of Phonthong, Ngoy and Viengkham districts. Over 7,000 hectares of upland rice, sweet corn and other crops were affected, with losses estimated at 800 million kip.

Laos doesn't suffer from air pollution, officials say

Times Reporters

Residents in Laos are still breathing safe air because there is no air pollution caused by smoke from industrial plants located in certain parts of the country, according to the concerned officials.

An official from the Department of Pollution Control, who asked not to be named, told *Vientiane Times* on Monday that air pollution has yet to occur in Laos.

"Laos is not polluted but lacks the modern equipment to inspect the amount of smoke and waste water emanating from industrial plants," he said.

The cities in Laos are not affected by air pollution as it is a poor country with not many industrial factories, the official said, while many urban residents living in other cities around the world are breathing unsafe air.

However, in other pollution matters, the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment has confirmed that 10 industrial plants in Vientiane are discharging unclean and untreated water, some of which contains potentially harmful chemicals.

These plants were found to be discharging dirty water over the past year, and include animal feed plants. If this pollution cannot be stopped it will pose a danger to the health and daily lives of local people. However, these factories are apparently working to solve the problem.

Based on the Voice of America English news last week, a new study from the World Health Organisation (WHO) found that over 80 percent



The town in Xay district of Oudomxay province.

of people living in cities across many countries are breathing unsafe air.

The study also reported that urban air pollution has nearly doubled in 3,000 cities over the past two years. The cities are in 103 countries, of which the most affected are in the world's poorest cities.

The WHO warns that as air quality worsens the risk of contracting many diseases also rises. These include stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, and breathing diseases such as asthma. Poor air quality is also responsible for an estimated seven million premature deaths every year.

Today, the air in the cities of Laos is not bad but members of the public are sick of dust blowing from streets in Vientiane when vehicles pass by, as well as the roads that are never cleaned.

The Department of Pollution

Control's official mentioned that dust on the roads is a different matter to air quality.

The Vientiane Urban Development Administration Authority aims to maintain and clean 21 main roads and some community streets every week.

Some members of the public recalled Thailand recently installing equipment to allow for air quality checks in Laos' capital Vientiane.

Thailand's *The Nation* newspaper reported on April 21 that Thailand had installed devices for air-quality checks in Laos, and will make similar installations in Myanmar and Cambodia in a bid to fight the threat of smog.

Pollution Control Department (PCD) director-general Wijarn Simachaya was quoted as saying that the installation in Vientiane had already been completed.

News in Brief

Huaphan launches new hydropower study

Huaphan province has given the green light to a local investor to carry out a feasibility study for a hydropower project on the Namluang River in Huameuang and Xamtay districts, the *Socio-Economic Daily* reported yesterday.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to carry out the feasibility study was signed last week between the provincial Planning and Investment Department, Provincial Energy and Mines Department and the investor, attended by other relevant sectors.

Guarantee capital for the project was fixed at US\$10,000 and the study will start in the 30 days following the signing of the MoU.

Champassak told to improve human resource development

Authorities in Champassak province have been told to work harder to improve the quality of human resource development.

Deputy Minister of Education and Sports, Mr Lytou Boupao gave the advice at a meeting of education administrators in the province held last week, the *Education and Sports* Newspaper reported yesterday. Mr Lytou told the administrators to explore ways to motivate students to attend school and reduce the numbers of students who repeated classes while organising more training on IT and English language for both teachers and students.

Drug dealer nabbed with over 3,000 amphetamine pills

Borikhamxay provincial police arrested a man after finding more than 200 amphetamine pills and a gun in his possession, the *Socio-Economic Daily* reported yesterday.

The man was identified by police as Mr Lui, 30, of Nongsaphang village, Xayboulouy district, Savannakhet province.

He confessed that he has been addicted to drugs for some time, which was the reason why he was in possession of amphetamines.

Elsewhere, the *Khuamsangob* newspaper reported recently that police in Champassak province arrested two drug dealers with more than 3,000 amphetamines pills.

They were named as Ms Phoudphayvanh, 24, of Pakxe village, Pakxe district and Ms Phetdaphone, 23, of Huaxe village, Bachiengchaleunsouk district.

Local company donates computers to schools

A local company has provided 40 computers to five primary schools in Oudomxay province, the *Education and Sports* Newspaper reported yesterday.

The computers had a combined value of about 140 million kip, donated to primary schools in Donxay, Donkeo, Longkorduea, Phoukhiew and Thin. The computers will be used to improve the facilities available to teachers and students as they will be able to upgrade their IT skills.

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- Participate in field investigations with teams from government at central and provincial levels;
- Assist in organization of sample collection, sample identification, packing, transporting and delivery of samples to the designated laboratory under adequate cold-chain conditions;
- Assist in the evaluation of training needs for provincial and district staff and accordingly develop the corresponding programs for project implementation;
- Coordinate closely with epidemiologists from the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Pasteur Institute to share data and information when facing outbreaks as well as surveillance results;
- Maintain updated AI database in close collaboration with the Epidemiology Unit staff of the Veterinary Division; and train the epidemiology staff on data management and data analysis;
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A vendor at Phousi morning market in Luang Prabang prepares a large river fish for sale after it was netted in the Mekong River.



Shady huts line the Mekong River at a restaurant in Pakxeuang village, Luang Prabang district, a great place to while away some lazy hours.



Deputy Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism Mr Savankhone Razmouny (*back row, sixth left*), UNDP Resident Representative Ms Kaarina Immonen (*back row, fifth left*), and other authorities join with performers to mark the official launch of Khop district community radio station in Xayaboury province yesterday.



Thai trucks laden with goods await documentation clearance before entering the Lao side at Nam Ngeun International Border Checkpoint, Ngeun district, Xayaboury province that borders with Nan province, Thailand.

Basic Education Quality and Access in Lao PDR

Senior Infrastructure Technical Supervisor – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Opportunity to contribute to the education sector in Laos with this significant basic education program
- Long term contract, 12 months with the potential for extension
- Based in Vientiane with investigation and monitoring at schools in all of the following nine Provinces: Phongsaly; Luangnamtha; Oudomxay; Houaphan; Khammouane; Savanakhhet; Saravan; Sekong; Attapeu

The Program
The goal of BEQUAL is to ensure all girls and boys, especially those experiencing disadvantage, complete a quality basic education to achieve literacy, numeracy and other life skills. The program will address education policy, planning and coordination, increased child participation in and access to basic education, teacher education and improved school infrastructure.

Coffey through BEQUAL is currently seeking applications for the position of Senior Infrastructure Technical Supervisor - WASH.

The Position
The Senior Infrastructure Technical Supervisor - WASH will play a key support role to the BEQUAL infrastructure team in the successful planning, design and delivery of the school infrastructure activities, with a particular emphasis on the design and supervision of construction of the water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities at the schools. Key responsibilities include:

- Undertaking site investigations and designing construction method statements for all school WASH rehabilitation works under the program;
- Providing training to BEQUAL Infrastructure Technical Supervisors, PESS and DESB staff and construction foremen as required on technical, financial and administrative aspects of rehabilitation works and WASH facilities; and
- Contribute to the reporting to the Ministry of Education and Sports and donor partners as required on progress of the rehabilitation program.

The Person
We are seeking applicants with relevant qualifications in Engineering and considerable experience in the design, construction and supervision of infrastructure in Laos, including government infrastructure works in provincial areas and in community based contracting for construction of school buildings. At least 3 years of experience directly related to WASH activities is required. Experience in the technical oversight of construction labour and in interpreting and applying Government of Laos legislative requirements are required for success. Previous experience working on a donor funded program will be highly regarded.

This position is open to Lao nationals only.

How to Apply
For a detailed position description and to apply for this position please visit www.coffey.com/careers then click on 'career opportunities' and search for the job reference number **493544**.

Applications close 5.00pm (Laos time) 10th June 2016.
For further enquires please contact: internationaldevelopment@coffey.com
Coffey is an equal opportunity employer of choice and is committed to child protection.

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

coffey.com

Basic Education Quality and Access in Lao PDR

National Education Specialist

- 12 month, full time contract position with the potential for extension
- Based in Vientiane

The Program
The goal of BEQUAL is to ensure all girls and boys, especially those experiencing disadvantage, complete a quality basic education to achieve literacy, numeracy and other life skills. The program will address education policy, planning and coordination, increased child participation in and access to basic education, teacher education and improved school infrastructure.

Coffey through BEQUAL is currently seeking applications from Lao nationals for the position of National Education Specialist.

The Position
The National Education Specialist will provide technical assistance to the Research Institute for Educational Sciences (RIES) across a range of activities relating to the renewal of primary curriculum; associated teaching and learning resources and in improving teaching and learning approaches for Lao language. Key responsibilities include:

- Collaborating with the Lao Language Curriculum team to write the Lao Language Grade 1 and 2 textbooks and teacher guides;
- Collaborating with curriculum writers to integrate a Lao Literacy focus across all grades and subjects included in the renewal; and
- Assist RIES to develop a system for piloting textbooks and teacher guides and to implement the system to trial grade 1 and 2 materials.

The Person
Are you an experienced education professional wanting to contribute to a significant education development program in Laos?
The ideal candidate will have a Degree in Education or a related area of study and will demonstrate considerable experience in primary education in schools or in teacher training in Laos. Experience teaching Lao language and knowledge of second language teaching and learning methodologies for primary students is required for success. A strong ability to engage and work collaboratively with colleagues as well as experience facilitating interactive workshops is essential.
This position is open to Lao nationals only.

How to Apply
For a detailed position description and to apply for these positions please visit www.coffey.com/careers and search for the job reference number **493542**.
For further enquiries please contact us at internationaldevelopment@coffey.com
Applications close 6.00pm (Laos time) 10th June 2016.
Coffey is an equal opportunity employer of choice and is committed to child protection.

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Region

3 dead while entire towns underwater after vicious storm lashes Australia

CANBERRA (Xinhua) -- Entire towns are underwater, while at least three people are dead and many more are missing in Australia, after a vicious storm continued to batter the nation's east coast overnight.

Grave fears are held for an 81-year-old Tasmanian man, while at least three others are missing, after the worst of the weather swept across the state overnight, a day after the same storm caused wide-spread flooding and damaging king tides throughout New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) on Monday.

Three Australians are already confirmed dead, after a 37-year-old man was found in the Cotter River near Canberra, while two others -- a 70-year-old man and a 65-year-old man were found in New South Wales.

The devastation has caused more than US\$30 million worth of damage so far, and has even prompted both Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Opposition Leader Bill Shorten to suspend their election campaigns to fly to affected areas and offer support.

Several towns in Tasmania remain underwater on Tuesday, while houses on the beachfronts in New South Wales face the prospect of falling into the seas, as emergency workers rush to ensure the safety of the public in affected areas.

But residents of Collaroy in New South Wales are bracing

for further bad news, with the announcement that another high tide is set to smash the beachfront which has already sustained critical damage.

University of NSW coastal researcher Mitchell Harley said many homes were in "grave" danger and were falling apart under the pressure of the tide, while many had already begun falling into the sea.

Many residents have been ordered to evacuate their homes and insurance companies have been quick to declare the weather event as a "catastrophe", but have also announced that some homeowners, particularly those near the sea, might not be fully covered, meaning multi-million dollars damage bills could be left for residents to deal with.

Collaroy Beach homeowner Tony Cargorski said it was "emotional" to see his house ripped apart, while his backyard had been completely swallowed by the ocean.

"It's very emotional now to see the house like that," he said, "We got 10 to 15 meters of ground lost in the ocean. How is that going to be recovered?"

But NSW Emergency Services Minister David Elliot said it was up to home buyers to be aware of the risks of owning homes near beaches, and that they should take care when negotiating insurance policies.

"I don't know what the government can do to encourage people not to buy coastal homes," Elliot said.

Korea, Cuba break ice for ties

SOUTH KOREA (The Korea Herald) -- South Korea's Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se on Sunday expressed hopes of expanding diplomatic, cultural and economic exchanges with Cuba, after holding landmark first foreign ministerial talks between the two countries.

"We shared our opinions on issues ranging from bilateral, regional and global ones. I hope there will be continued exchanges on various levels along with a broad range of follow-up discussions," Yun told reporters in a joint press interview, after meeting his Cuban counterpart Bruno Rodriguez in a closed-door meeting at the government-owned Palacio de Convenciones in Havana.

Yun touched down in the country's capital Saturday to attend a summit of the Association of Caribbean States as part of his two-day stay. His visit was part of efforts to normalise the hardly existent relations between the two countries, a goal he first revealed at the National Assembly in February last year.

South Korea and Cuba have yet to forge diplomatic ties after relations were severed in light of former Cuban leader Fidel Castro taking power in 1959. Economic exchanges between the two countries have also been small. A vice minister and officials of lower levels from Seoul have visited Cuba since then.

The bilateral talks were



South Korea's Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se (fourth from left) speaks with his Cuban counterpart Bruno Rodriguez (fifth from left) during the first foreign ministerial meeting between the two countries on Sunday in Havana.

to be held for 30 minutes, but instead lasted for 75 minutes, a point Yun emphasised. Seoul's top diplomat said the "exceptionally long and frank talks," along with the hospitality shown by Havana, demonstrated the closeness developing between the two countries. Citing Neil Armstrong's famed quote on when he first stepped on the moon, the South Korean minister said he wished his visit would be a milestone that would pave the way for the relationship between the two countries.

While visiting Cubans of Korean descent, Yun urged them to act as "a bridge between citizens of the two countries via cultural exchange. Currently there

are over 1,100 such Korean-Cubans living there.

He also expressed his hopes that the visit would touch off growing interest in Cuba among Koreans, and that Korean enterprises would expand their business in the country.

Yun, however, did not comment on the Cuban government's reaction to his proposal on building ties, although diplomatic sources said that Havana officials "expressed delight" to his comments on the significance of the visit.

The South Korean minister's visit is believed to be part of the nation's efforts to establish stronger ties with countries that have been close to North Korea, including Iran and Uganda.

In brief from Asia News Network

Indonesia seen to have 1 million excess civil servants

INDONESIA (Jakarta Post) -- President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo has defended the government's decision to reduce the number of civil servants to improve the efficiency of government spending, a large chunk of which goes toward salaries and allowances. The President said reducing civil service staff, which had been proposed by the Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform Ministry, would happen in stages.

US Navy in Japan bans drinking

JAPAN (The Yomiuri Shimbun) -- All US sailors stationed in Japan have been banned from drinking alcoholic beverages and instructed to refrain from going out as much as possible for the time being, the commander of the US Naval Forces Japan (CNFJ) in Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, announced Monday. The CNFJ said it issued instructions to that effect mainly because of a recent incident in which a 20-year-old Japanese woman was found dead in Okinawa Prefecture and a 32-year-old male civilian employee of the US military was arrested in connection with the death.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR LAO NATIONALS
Executive Associate at UNDP Lao PDR
Fixed Term Appointment at ICS-7 Level
Contract 12 months (renewable)

UNDP is seeking an Executive Associate to support the smooth functioning of the UN Resident Coordinator (RC), Resident Representative (RR) and Deputy Resident Representative (DRR) Offices at UNDP. The Executive Associate to RR/RC/DRR works in close collaboration with UNDP staff, UN Agencies and national authorities to ensure efficient flow of information, follow up actions, and agendas.

Summary of Key Functions:

- Effective and efficient functioning of the RR/RC and DRR offices including maintenance of calendars, contacts, appointments, meetings, protocol, and preparation of briefing materials. Acting as an interpreter as required.
- Effective communications support including maintenance of confidential filing system, ensuring information sharing among UN Country Team, tracking and follow up on deadlines and target outputs, and management of office correspondence.
- Preparation and implementation of the UN Country Team Work Plan and UNDP Country Office Business Plan including arrangements for meetings / retreats and related protocol and coordination with local authorities.
- Support to the UN Communication Group including development of UN public information materials and ensuring the UN Country Team website is up to date.
- Facilitation of knowledge building and management including development of briefing programs for new staff and organizing UN staff trainings on administrative and protocol functions

Competencies

- Ability to perform a broad range of specialized activities aimed at effective and efficient functioning of the RR/RC and DRR offices, including data/ schedule management, maintenance of protocol, information flow.
- Ability to execute day-to-day tasks systematically and effectively. Good organizational skills.
- Demonstrate initiative, work independently and results oriented.
- Acting as a team player and facilitating team work
- Facilitating and encouraging open communication in the team, communicating effectively

Qualifications and experience

- Secondary Education with specialized secretarial training. University Degree or equivalent would be desirable, but is not a requirement.
- 2 years of relevant experience at the national or international level in providing management advisory services, monitoring and evaluation, compliance.
- 7 years of progressively responsible secretarial, administrative, and programme experience is required at the national or international level.
- Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages (MS Word, Excel, etc); experience in handling of web based management systems.
- Fluency in written and spoken English and Lao Language.

This UNDP fixed term appointment will be based in the UNDP Country Office in Vientiane.

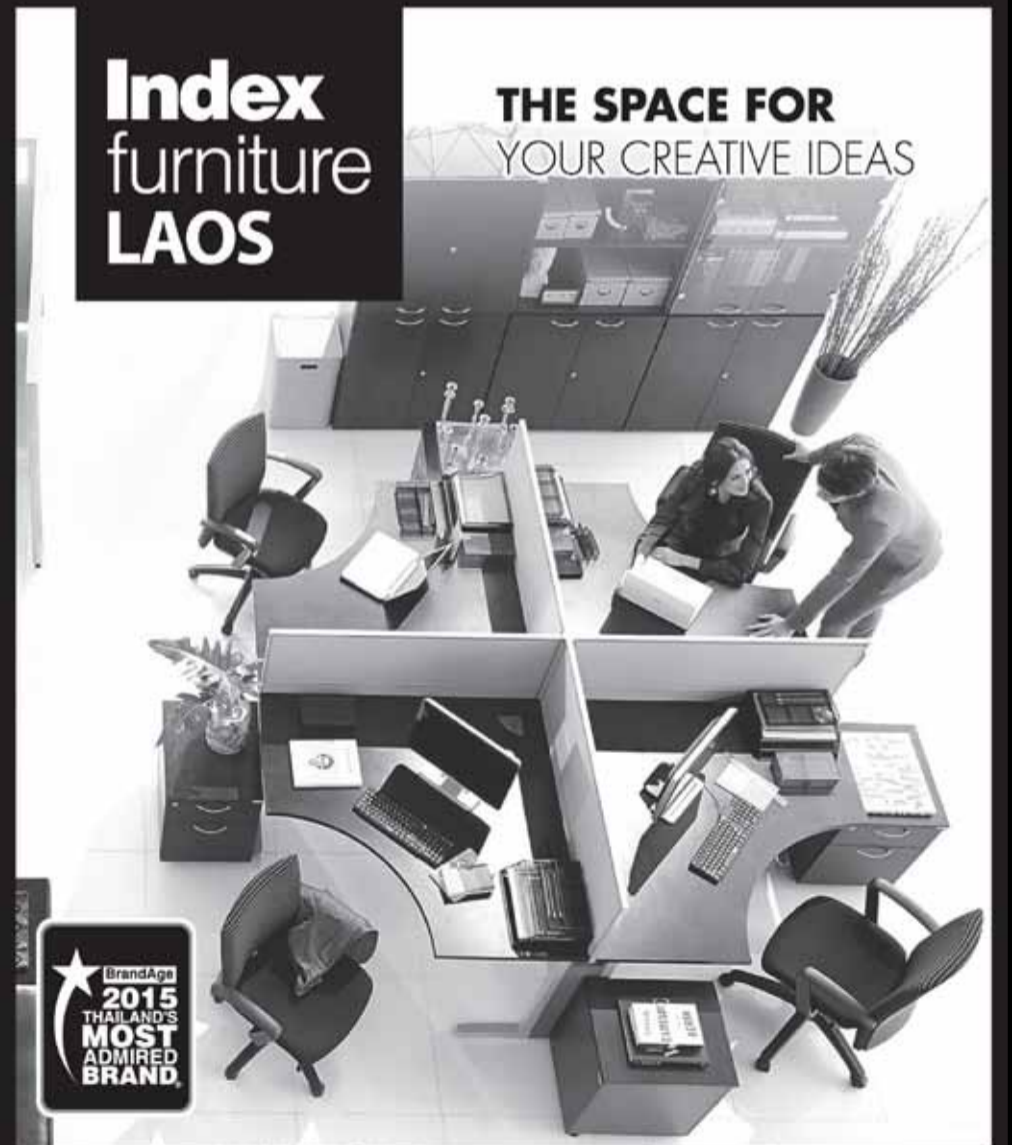
This post is for **Lao Nationals only**.

Applicants are required to Apply Online by 17 June 2016
<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/jobs/work-for-world-development.html>
Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interview

To learn more and apply for this position please visit our site at:
<http://www.la.undp.org/content/laopdr/en/home/operations/jobs/>

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Aussie PM pushes for first ever online leaders' debate ahead of federal election

CANBERRA (Xinhua) -- Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on Tuesday announced plans for the first ever online leaders' debate, to be held on social media website Facebook and hosted by News Corp's News.com.au.

The Prime Minister has challenged Opposition Leader Bill Shorten to join him online, as it would enable "millions" of Australians to track and follow the debate.

He said Australians would be able to use laptop and smartphones to access the debate, in what he described as the first step towards an "innovative" Australia.

"(I) have reached an agreement with, subject to Mr Shorten participation, Facebook and News.com.au to hold the first online leaders' debate," Turnbull told reporters on Tuesday.

"We've had a Sky News

people's forum debate, the traditional Press Club debate, it is traditional to have three debates, so let's have the third one in an innovative way and that every Australian can participate in. "We are in 2016, this is the 21st century and this is the time of innovation. This is the most exciting time to be an Australian and to participate in an election debate in the media of our time."

Turnbull said hosting a third debate on Sky News would shut out millions of Australians without pay TV services, and this new format would allow the majority of the voting population to take in the leaders' points.

Shorten is yet to accept the prime minister's offer, but is likely to agree to the terms.

There is no date set for the online debate, but Turnbull is pushing for it to be held early next week.

Alarm over illegal wildlife trade

BANGKOK (The Nation) -- It was a discovery that shocked even those who feared the worst: 70 dead tiger cubs and other wildlife species stuffed in freezers.

The Thai authorities, raiding the now infamous Tiger Temple in the western province of Kanchanaburi over the past week, uncovered what they suspect could be a transnational tiger-smuggling racket.

For years, it had been breeding tigers and attracting paying tourists, reaping a windfall as an attraction. But under the noses of the visitors, the temple was apparently packaging tiger parts to be sold as potions in labelled jars across Southeast Asia and China.

Last Friday, the UN's Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said the tiger seizures at the temple represented "only a tiny proportion of the enormous extent of an illegal trade in wildlife that is pushing species to the brink of extinction".

"Until the illegal trade in wildlife is stopped, we are only likely to see more of these types of situations," it said.

Environmental crime - which includes wildlife and timber trafficking - is growing at an "alarming pace", Interpol secretary-general Juergen Stock said in a statement on Saturday, the eve of World Environment Day. This year's theme is "Fight against illegal trade in wildlife".

Globally the value of such crime is between US\$91 billion and US\$258 billion, a sharp jump from the US\$70 billion to US\$213 billion in 2014, according to the United Nations



Thai officers intercept illegally-traded wildlife in Kanchanaburi.

Environment Programme (UNEP) and Interpol.

Weak laws and poorly funded security forces are enabling international criminal networks and armed rebels to profit from a trade that fuels conflicts, devastates ecosystems and is threatening species with extinction, the report said.

Environmental crime is the world's fourth largest criminal enterprise after drug smuggling, counterfeiting and human trafficking, the two agencies noted.

Criminal syndicates have links deep in the forests of Asia, Africa and Latin America, with wildlife trade routes leading to China and East Asia where the big markets lie - China for ivory, rosewood and other wildlife and timber products; and Vietnam for timber and rhino horn among

others.

The rich tropical jungles of Southeast Asia are only one area being looted by environmental criminals.

Globally, over the past 10 years, over 1,000 park rangers have been killed, 80 percent of them by commercial poachers and armed militia groups.

According to the Britain-based Global Witness, over 1,000 environmental and land rights activists and protesters have been murdered worldwide since 2002.

Between 2010 and 2012, 100,000 African elephants were killed out of a population of fewer than 500,000. Close to 100 African elephants are killed every day for their ivory - one every 15 minutes.

Chimpanzees, killed for meat and for the exotic pet trade,

are now completely extinct in Gambia, Burkina Faso, Benin and Togo, where they were once numerous.

The harmless pangolin has been killed at the rate of an estimated 117,000 to 233,000 from 2011-2013.

Pangolin processing factories have been found deep in the jungles of Indonesia, and trucks stuffed with tonnes of pangolins have been found trying to cross from Malaysia to Thailand on the way to Laos and China. The UN has called for "zero tolerance for wildlife crime".

There are, however, some encouraging signs, says Bangkok-based regional coordinator Giovanni Broussard of UNODC's programme on combating wildlife and forest crime.

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Nam Theun 2 Watershed Management and Protection Authority (NT2 WMPA)

Vacancy Announcement for Deputy Director of NT2 WMPA Executives Secretariat

Background:
Namtheun2 Watershed Management and Protection Authority (NT2 WMPA) is the leading agency responsible for a particular task established by the Government, Its role is to manage, develop and protect Nakai-Nam Theun National Protected Area and Nam Theun 2 Watershed Area.

The Secretariat is a permanent executive office to the Board to be in charge of day to day execution of all activities of the Board and has the rights and duties to coordinate with all concerned sectors and organizations, domestic and international, local and central levels as authorized by the Board. The Executives Secretariat office is located at Nakai district of Khammouane Province.

NT2 WMPA would like to invite all interested party from governments and private agencies in Lao country to be the candidates for the position as Deputy Director for Conservation of NT2 WMPA Executives Secretariat. This position will be provided by the Authority such as a monthly salary of USD 1,500 to 1,800, an accommodation and transportation in according to the Authority's Regulation.

Applicant should have the following qualifications and experiences:

- 1) At least Bachelor's degree in forestry, natural resources management or environment;
- 2) At least 10 years of experience in forestry or environment working, especially in forestry management and protection, biodiversity conservation and protection and relevant law enforcement;
- 3) Capability in project planing , Community Outreach and Conservation Awareness and adjustment for implementation;
- 4) Capability in guiding, demonstrating and understanding of Monitoring and Evaluation System;
- 5) Experience in working as a team and good coordination with concerned agencies;
- 6) English language fluency and good computer skills;
- 7) Candidate must be Lao nationality, have transparent story and unlimited ethnics and genders (If local candidate would have to be special consideration);
- 8) Strong and good health for working in remote area (Nakai-Nam Theun NPA and Nam Theun 2 Watershed Area).

Interested candidate should submit a letter of interest as follows :

1) Request letter (Lao and English)	2) CV (Lao and English)
3) Educational Certificate (Copy)	4) Training courses certificate (Copy)
5) Previous job certified letter (Lao)	6) Address certified letter (Lao)
7) Health certified letter (Lao)	8) Court certified letter (Lao)

Then submit to Mr. Bouaphanh Phanthavong, Secretariat Head of NT2 WMPA Taskforce Committee, Email: phanthavong@hotmail.com from the date of advertisement to June 30, 2016.

Khammouane, dated June 6, 2016
NT2 WMPA BOD

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Department of Planning
FNML

No:...../FNML
Attapue, Date:.....

Southern Laos Food & Nutrition Security and Market Linkages Programme (FNML)
INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BID FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF LAPTOP COMPUTERS AND TABLETS

1. The Lao People's Democratic Republic has received a Grant from the International Fund for Agriculture Development ("IFAD") towards the cost of Southern Laos Food & Nutrition Security and Market Linkages Programme (FNML), and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this Grant will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for procurement of Laptop computers and tablets to enable M&E data collection and reporting in 5 target districts of 3 provinces Southern of Lao PDR. The equipment consists of:
 - I. Code:(SACCC/PRCO/009) : 35 tablets and 6 laptop computers
2. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, FNML now invites sealed bids from within Lao PDR for the supply of the Goods for the purposes of the Project.
3. The National Shopping Method will be conducted in accordance with IFAD's Single Stage: One Envelope Bidding Procedure.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the Programme Regional Coordination Office of FNML, Saixy Village, Saisetha district, Attapue province, Lao PDR. Procurement Officer, Tel: 856 36 210276, Fax: 856 36 210274, e-mail: fnml.saccc@gmail.com, during office hours (8.00 to 12.00 hours and 13.00 to 17.00 hours), Monday to Friday.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be obtained by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above address free of charge.
6. All bids must be valid until 45 days from the date of submission of bid. Bids should be submitted on or before 20th June 2016 at 10:00 PM and public opening of the bids will be conducted at 10:15 on 20th June 2016.
7. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, FNML will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

World

Car bomb attack targeting police kills 11 people in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (AP) -- A car bomb attack targeting a bus carrying riot police during rush hour traffic in Istanbul on Tuesday has killed 11 people and wounded 36 others, the city's governor said.

Speaking at the scene of the blast in the district of Beyazit, Istanbul Governor Vasip Sahin said the dead included seven police officers and four civilians. At least three of the wounded were in serious condition.

The blast occurred on a busy intersection near an Istanbul University building, forcing officials to cancel exams.

The explosion was caused by a bomb placed inside a car and was detonated as the police vehicle was passing by, Sahin said.

The police bus was overturned from the force of the blast which also damaged nearby buildings, including a hotel whose entrance appeared gutted and windows were blown out. Several cars were also wrecked.

There was no immediate responsibility claim and Sahin would not comment on who may be behind the attack.

The rebels of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, have been targeting police and

military personnel with bombs since July, when a fragile peace process between the rebels and the government collapsed. The Islamic State group has also been blamed for a series of deadly bombings in Turkey.

An estimated 500 Turkish security personnel have been killed in attacks or in conflict with the Kurdish rebels, according to the military, which claims to have killed 4,900 PKK militants in operations in Turkey and northern Iraq, where the group has a major bastion. Turkish warplanes regularly raid PKK bases in northern Iraq.

Limited access to conflict areas in the southeast has made it difficult to verify casualty figures.

The PKK is fighting for autonomy for Turkey's Kurds in the southeast of the country. The decades-long insurgency against the Turkish state in a conflict that has claimed 40,000 lives. The group is considered a terrorist organisation by Turkey and its allies.

Last month, eight people were wounded in Istanbul after car bomb similarly targeted a military vehicle near the entrance of a garrison as the evening rush hour began.

French labour standoff: rail company offers deal to unions

PARIS (AP) -- With trains canceled across France on the seventh day of a nationwide strike, the SNCF national rail service has offered unions a deal on working hours to try to persuade train drivers to go back to work.

The strike is part of months of action against a government effort to loosen labour restrictions and allow longer working hours. The government fears it will disrupt the European Championship soccer tournament starting Friday.

A third of high-speed trains and about half of regional trains are canceled Tuesday because of the strike, along with many trains to or from Spain, Italy and Switzerland.

SNCF director Guillaume Pepy said Tuesday on Europe-1 radio that management went "to the farthest point possible" to meet union demands. Leading union CGT, however, appears skeptical of the deal.



French rail workers burn a flare after installing rails during a demonstration in front of the French employers' union MEDEF's branch in Lyon, central France.

Hillary Clinton gets enough delegates to notch US Democratic nomination

WASHINGTON (Xinhua) -- US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Monday reached the number of 2,383 delegates needed to become the first-ever female nominee of a major political party in the United States, according to the latest AP delegate count.

The former first lady and secretary of state garnered 1,812 pledged delegates won

in primaries and caucuses, plus the support of 571 superdelegates -- party leaders who can choose whom to support at the national convention, the AP reported.

Though Clinton's nomination would not become official until the party holds convention in Philadelphia in July, Robby Mook, her top campaign aide, already hailed the news as "an important

milestone."

Shortly after the news, the Bernie Sanders campaign said it is too early for the media to call the race, reiterating that superdelegates can still change their minds between now and the July national convention.

"It is unfortunate that the media, in a rush to judgement, are ignoring the Democratic National Committee's clear

statement that it is wrong to count the votes of superdelegates before they actually vote at the convention this summer," said Michael Briggs, the spokesman for Sanders.

"Our job from now until the convention is to convince those superdelegates that Bernie is by far the strongest candidate against Donald Trump," he said in a statement.

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Name of Country: Lao People's Democratic Republic. Name of Project: Early Childhood Education Project (ECE Project). Fund: Grant No.: H910 - LA & Credit No.: 5730 - LA. IFB Title: Procurement of Vehicles 2 units of Mini Bus and 2 units of Pick Up 4 WD for ECE Project. NCB No.: G - 05/2016

- 1. The Government of Lao PDR has received a Grant/Credit from the IBRD/IDA (World Bank) acting as Administrator of Grant Funds Provided under Early Childhood Education Project toward the cost of ECE Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Grant/Credit to payments under the Contract for Procurement of Vehicles 2 units of Mini Bus and 2 units of Pick Up 4WD for ECE Project.
2. The Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for "Vehicles as 2 units of Mini Bus and 2 units of Pick Up 4WD" to be supplied the MoES site in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The vehicles shall be supplied in 2 lots (contracts) as specified below:

Table with 4 columns: No., Description, Delivery Schedule, Final Destination. It lists two lots: LOT1 (2 Mini Buses) and LOT2 (2 Pick Ups).

Bidders must bid per lot and for the total quality specified within each lot. Bidders can submit bids for one or two lots. Partial bids shall be rejected. Bid evaluation and contact award shall be also made lot-wise.

- 3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures in accordance with the Decree of Prime Minister on Government Procurement of Goods, Construction, Maintenance and Service, 03/PM dated January 9, 2004 and the Implementing Rules and Regulations on Decree of Government Procurement of Goods, Works, Maintenance and Service, 0063/MOF dated March 12, 2004 specified in the Grant Agreement between Lao People's Democratic Republic and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/International Development Association dated May 14, 2014 and are open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), ESDF Coordination Unit (ECU) and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 08:00 to 16:00 hours.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of LAK400,000 (Four hundred thousand Lao kip) per each. The method of payment will be by cash.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below at 10:00 am Vientiane Local Time on 07th July 2016, ECU meeting room, 1st floor, New Building, Ministry of Education and Sports. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened to the bidders. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of Bid-Securing Declaration. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below:

Attention: Ms. Khampaseuth KITIGNAVONG, Deputy Director General of Department of Pre-School and Primary Education, ECE Project Director. Address: Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), Department of Pre-School and Primary Education (DPPE), Early Childhood Education Project (ECE Project), ECU meeting room, 1st floor, New Building, Lane Xang Avenue, P.O Box 67, Vientiane, LAO PDR. Email: ecu.moes.laopdr@gmail.com, Tel/Fax: (856-21) 243 672

Official document from the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Ministry of Education and Sports, regarding the procurement of vehicles. It includes a table of dates for bid opening and a signature section.

Table with columns for bid opening dates and times. It lists dates from 09/07 to 25/12 for various lots (F1-F6).

Official signature and stamp of the Ministry of Education and Sports, Lao PDR.

Asean Network-Thailand honours MVLAO CEO

Advertorial Desk

Asean Network-Thailand has presented the Asean Award 2016 to CEO of MVLAO Dr Worawut Tavipvoradech in acknowledgment of his outstanding contribution in leading the well known Lao station.

Thailand's Privy Councilor Admiral Chumpol Pachusanon, chaired the award ceremony and presented a trophy and certificate to Dr Worawut, who is also Executive Vice President of MVTV Thailand.

The presentation ceremony took place in Bangkok, Thailand, on May 22 and was attended by local senior officials and other invited guests.

On behalf of the station, Dr Worawut was selected by Asean Network-Thailand to receive the award for his effective contribution to national socio-economic development and following the government's policy.

"It was an enormous honour and pleasure to accept the award in recognition of the work the station has done to improve the quality of life of citizens nationwide, playing a vital role in national economic growth, and contributing significantly to various aspects of societal well-being," Dr Worawut said.

The award particularly recognises Dr Worawut's leadership of the station, not only in Laos, but also regionally.

He cited the development of the station, especially MVLAO TV's contribution to human resource development in Lao media.

In particular, station staff members have passed on their training and knowledge to others keen to work in the media and entertainment sector.

In the field of the socio-economic growth, MVLAO has been a vehicle for private sector advertisements and provided cultural information



Dr Worawut Tavipvoradech stands with his trophy and certificate.

for the public.

Besides broadcasting live Mauyloa competitions, boxing and other important national events, MVLAO has produced a variety of news programmes

to promote good relations among Asean member states.

MVLAO could not work smoothly without the generous support from its hard working staff and the government,



MVLAO is one of the biggest TV production houses in the country.

especially the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism.

In recognition of his tireless efforts and achievements at the station working closely with staff to produce useful programmes for Laos, it's not surprising that Asean Network-Thailand unanimously agreed to present the award to Dr Worawut.

MVLAO has reaffirmed its commitment to continuing to produce variety and information programmes for the public.

MVLAO is one of the biggest TV production houses in Laos. It has been

broadcasting programming since 2013 through the C BAND, THAICOM 5 satellite and KU BAND which can be watched in more than 20 countries.

MVLAO produces various interesting programmes about politics, news talk, travel,

sports, food, health, live music, marketing shows, business talk, IT and automobiles.

MVLAO is located on Sithong Road in Pakthang village, Sikhottabong district, Vientiane, Laos. Tel: +856-21 550 575, Fax: +856-21 5505579 www.infa@mvlaolao.com



MVLAO TV broadcasts using the latest satellite technology.



The station's modern transmitter tower in the capital.

bfl Fashion Fixed Term Deposit

Get a Famous Longchamp gift in 3 steps

- 1) Open de Fashion Fixed Term Deposit - Choose your amount and duration*
- 2) Collect your points
- 3) Convert your points to a Famous International Gift**

Gift options: 50,000 points, 150,000 points, 300,000 points, 600,000 points, 1,000,000 points.

Exchange rates as of June 7, 2016
Banque pour le Commerce Extérieur Lao Public

Foreign Currencies	Buying	Selling
US Dollar 50-100	8,089	8,127
Thai Baht	230.58	232.3
Euro 50-500	9,167	9,213

Petrol prices on the rise



A petrol station in Vientiane.

Times Reporters

The price of petrol has risen by 460 kip per litre while the diesel price has risen by 480 kip per litre, following an announcement from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce on June 6.

Fuel prices have risen for the second time this year after the ministry previously

increased prices in the middle of last month, meaning consumers throughout the country will now pay more to drive their cars.

The ministry lowered prices four times previously before announcing an increase of prices this week.

The ministry cited the changing global oil price as the reason for the pump price hike.

Apple expansion to India poses little threat to China market

CHINA (China Daily, ANN) -- Following meetings with Indian leaders last month, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it is increasingly apparent that Tim Cook, chief executive officer of Apple, has his eyes set upon expanding the company's operations in the developing country.

The foray comes after Apple announced it will be creating a center in Hyderabad that develops Apple Maps and is expected to eventually host as many as 4,000 employees. Furthermore, in a news release, the company pledged to open its first ever iOS app design and development center at Bengaluru in early 2017.

Meanwhile, the Economic Times of India reported that Apple supplier Foxconn Technology Group is nearing completion of a deal that would reportedly allow it to establish a US\$10 billion plant for Apple products in Maharashtra.

Foxconn announced in May that it was hoping to develop 10 to 12 facilities including data centers and factories in India by 2020 that could employ up to 1 million people.

Tarun Pathak, a senior analyst of mobile devices and ecosystems at Counterpoint Technology Market Research, said at least in the short term, there is nothing for the Chinese to worry about in terms of

competition for manufacturing jobs from Apple and Foxconn's expansion into India.

Pathak said there is currently little demand for Apple's relatively expensive products and noted that Apple's share of the smartphone market volume in India is only about 3 percent.

"India is still a small market compared with China, but it provides a long-term investment opportunity for Apple," said Pathak.

During Apple's 2016 second-quarter earnings call, Cook said he was encouraged by Apple's Indian growth, highlighting its promise. In the 2015 fiscal year, revenue topped US\$1 billion for the first time in India, while year-on-year second-quarter revenue increased 56 percent.

"But I view India as where China was maybe seven to 10 years ago from that point of view, and I think there's a really great opportunity there," said Cook.

Pathak disagreed with Cook's assessment, and said India more probably trails China closer than Cook admitted.

"Seven years is likely exaggerated. Historically, what happens in China only takes two to three years afterward to happen in India," said Pathak.

In contrast to its Indian growth, Apple sales in China the Chinese mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong have been declining. January to March revenue fell 26 percent year-on-year to US\$12.5

The new price hike became effective yesterday in Vientiane and also in other provinces across the country.

Currently, petrol stations in Vientiane should sell premium grade petrol for 8,350 kip per litre, up from 7,890 kip per litre and regular petrol for 7,370 kip per litre, up from 6,910 kip per litre.

The cost of diesel is now 6,050 kip, up from 5,570 kip per litre.

In Khammuan and Savannakhet provinces, premium petrol now costs 8,380 kip per litre, up from 7,920 kip; regular sells for 7,400 kip, up from 6,940 kip; and diesel is retailing for 6,080 kip, up from 5,600 kip.

In Champassak province, premium petrol sells for 8,410 kip, up from 7,950 kip and regular petrol sells at 7,430 kip, up from 6,970 kip.

The cost of diesel is now 6,110 kip, up from 5,630 kip.

In Bokeo province, premium petrol should sell for 8,450 kip per litre, up from 7,990 kip; regular petrol for 7,470 kip, up from 7,010 kip; and diesel for 6,150 kip, up from 5,670 kip.

In Xieng Khuang province, regular petrol sells for 7,560 kip per litre, up from 7,100 kip per litre, while diesel is now 6,240 kip, up from 5,760.

Meanwhile in Luang Prabang province, premium petrol should sell for 8,810 kip per litre, regular petrol for 7,830 kip and diesel for 6,510 kip.

IN BRIEF

WB loans finance Chinese province to curb air pollution

BEIJING (Xinhua) -- The World Bank (WB) has approved loans totaling 500 million US dollars to north China's Hebei Province to help reduce air pollution, according to a WB press release on Tuesday.

Garo J. Batmanian, WB lead environmental specialist and project team leader, said the loans would help Hebei achieve its goal of reducing PM2.5 by 25 percent by 2017 compared to 2012 levels. PM2.5 particles, the main cause of smog in Hebei, have an aerodynamic diameter equal to or less than 2.5 microns -- 20 to 30 times smaller than the human hair.

US Fed chair evasive about rate hike timing

WASHINGTON/BEIJING (Xinhua) -- US Federal Reserve Chairwoman Janet Yellen said on Monday that gradual interest rate hikes remain appropriate, but avoided providing precise timing for the central bank's next move.

"The positive economic forces have outweighed the negative, and despite the challenges that the economy continues to face, I continue to expect further progress toward our employment and inflation objectives," Yellen said in a speech at the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia on Monday.

Spain's foreign tourism spending increases by 4.3 percent in April

MADRID (Xinhua) -- Foreign tourists spent a total of 5.647 billion euros (US\$6.437 billion) in Spain in April, which meant a 4.3 percent increase on a year-on-year basis, Spain's Statistical Office (INE) said Monday.

The INE said that the average spending per tourist and visit stood at 927 euros, which meant a 6.2 percent fall year-on-year, while the average daily spending stood at 129 euros, 1.7 percent more than in April 2015.



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Evaluative review of Urban Development & Management Program in Laos (2009-2016)

1 - In the framework of its ex post evaluation mechanism, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), France's bilateral development bank, evaluates the projects and programmes it finances once they have been completed. This approach responds to AFD's concern to promote an enhanced dialogue on the results with its partners, to learn lessons from past operations and to provide objective information on the proper use of the public funds which it is responsible for implementing.

These evaluations are managed and financed by AFD, entrusted to external consultants and shared with its national partners, the contracting authorities for the projects concerned. Their main objective is to formulate a credible and independent judgement on the key questions raised by the adequacy, implementation and impacts of projects. They follow the principles and criteria set out in AFD's evaluation policy.

2 - In this context, AFD wishes to recruit a consultant to conduct an evaluative review of the Urban Development & Management Projects in Laos, implemented in the two Lao World Heritage sites of Luang Prabang & Vat Phu Champassak. The review is expected to be carried out from September 2016 onwards and will include a field mission in Laos, on both sites, as well as a wrap-up with key national stakeholders in Vientiane Capital.

3 - More specifically, the evaluative review will cover both the ex-post evaluation of the first phase of the Urban Development & Management Project in Luang Prabang (PADUL I) or "Projet d'Aménagement et de Développement Urbain de Luang Prabang" executed between 2009 and 2014 as well as a mid-term review of the project's second phase (PADUL II) which spans both Luang Prabang and Champassak. The PADUL II was initially planned to be executed between 2012 and March 2017 and negotiations are currently ongoing for a one-year extension. Both phases are hereafter jointly referred to as the "program" or "PADUL".

4 - The program objectives is to support the sustainable development of Lao's world heritage sites, firstly in Luang Prabang town (PADUL I and II) & subsequently extended to Vat Phu Champassak (PADUL II), in order to improve residents' living conditions, while strengthening local authorities' capacity to manage and preserve the sites' built, cultural and natural heritages.

The PADUL is divided into three sub-objectives, which structure its implementation:

- Promote a balance between socio-economic development and heritage preservation & valorization through investments in built heritage rehabilitation and public spaces, while ensuring adequate regulation and control mechanisms are in place;

- Strengthen local institutions and support capacity-building in terms of urban planning, management, and heritage conservation to encourage the emergence of sustainable heritage conservation tools & funding mechanisms;

- Improve local governance by assisting national & provincial authorities in developing awareness-raising, clarifying institutional responsibilities and mandates between stakeholders, and improving policy dialogue.

As a cross-cutting objective, PADUL II also aimed at fostering dialogue and cooperation between the World Heritage Offices of both sites.

5 - Given the evaluation's scope of works, interested consultancy firms¹ are required to have:

- > Demonstrated experience in supporting national/local authorities and donors in designing, implementing and evaluating urban development projects;
- > References in conducting evaluations of donor-funded projects;
- > Specific expertise in heritage conservation and promotion, with prior engagement on urban development projects and/or urban planning in World Heritage sites considered an asset;
- > Capacity of mobilising both international and regional/local experts;
- > Experience in Lao PDR and familiarity with the institutional context, and in particular lao language skill or translation services.

5-The consultancy and experts mobilised for this service provision must have no counterparty ties that are likely to interfere with the evaluation process and call into question the impartiality and objectivity of its findings.

6 - AFD invites the consultancy firms interested in the aforementioned services to furnish information evidencing that they are qualified (company description, maximum of ten relevant references specifically describing the performance and relevance of similar contracts, experiences acquired in similar conditions, availability of required knowledge and qualifications among its staff or expert network, staff and financial resources, etc.). Consultancy firms may regroup to enhance their qualifications.

7 - AFD will shortlist no more than 6 consultancy firms on the basis of the replies to the present call for expression of interest. The final selection will be made on the basis of a restricted invitation sent to the shortlisted consultancy firms, in accordance with AFD procedures.

8 - The expressions of interest will be delivered by email no later than **Monday June 27th 10am** local time in Laos, to the below address:

Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
At the attention of **Mr. Olivier GILARD**
Head of Vientiane Office
AFD Vientiane
Unit 03, Building No 052
Dongpalane Tha village, Sisattanak district
P.O. 5923 Vientiane, Lao PDR
Tel: (856-21) 227005, 227006, 227007
Email: gilardo@afd.fr

With Copy to :

Mr. Khonesavahn XAYMOUNGKHOUNE
Email: xaymoungkhounek@afd.fr

Expression of interest, accompanied with the required information are expected to do not exceed fifty (50) pages and 5 Mo.

German toy association eyes Vietnam investment

BERLIN (Vietnam News, ANN) -- Managing Director of the German Association of the Toy Industry (DVSI) Ulrich Brobeil has met with Vietnamese diplomats to discuss the association investing in Vietnam.

Speaking at the meeting with Trade Counsellor of the Vietnamese Embassy to Germany Nguyen Huu Trang and Vietnamese Consul General in Frankfurt Nguyen Hong Linh early this week, Brobeil said many of its member companies regard

Vietnam as a priority for investment.

They want to learn more about the country's business climate and regulations for toy manufacturing, the DVSI managing director noted.

He added that the association will hold a promotion event in Munchen or Nurnberg, Germany to introduce the Vietnamese market this year, while a group of enterprises from the state of Bayern will visit Vietnam early next year to seek investment opportunities.

Founded in 1991, the DVSI comprises of 230 toy producers and distributors from across Germany, most of which are small- and medium-sized enterprises with long histories. Big names include Play Mobil, Ban Dai, Nici, Noch and Steiff.

Last year, DVSI members earned three billion euros in revenue. They employed more than 11,000 workers and accounted for about 80 percent of the German toy market.



Workers at a toy factory in Vietnam.



Asean Economic Community

Singapore bond market frenzy distorting credit costs, says S&P

SINGAPORE (The Straits Times, ANN) - Corporate bond offerings by some of Singapore's biggest companies are drawing such strong demand from investors that they are artificially lowering borrowing costs for weaker borrowers, according to S&P Global Ratings.

Recent offerings from issuers such as state investment company Temasek Holdings, port operator PSA Corp and electricity distributor Singapore Power were "well over-subscribed" amid heightened threat of non-payments by riskier borrowers across Southeast Asia, analysts Bertrand Jabouley and Xavier Jean wrote in an e-mail interview.

Singapore's bond market suffered its first defaults since 2009 when PT Trikonsel Oke missed payments on two bonds with S\$215 million of face value in late 2015. Fishery group Pacific Andes Resources Development Ltd reneged on a S\$200 million note in January, while recent debt failures



Containers handled by port operator PSA Corp.

across the region have included PT Berau Coal Energy and Malaysia Development Bhd.

"In an environment of perceived rising risks, flight to quality has been a bit irrational," the Singapore-based analysts wrote. "Issuance of highly creditworthy corporates and the frenzy they trigger do not revive the market but simply artificially adjust the cost of credit to the downside, as everyone raising bonds benchmarks their cost of funding against them."

The phenomenon isn't

unique to Singapore's debt market. S&P's study shows there's "limited differentiation" across capital structures among 150 prominent listed entities in Southeast Asia. Their median cost of funding has fluctuated in a band of 100 basis points, or 1 percentage-point, regardless of their balance sheet quality or leverage levels, the analysts said.

"It is not much more onerous to finance a levered balance sheet," Jabouley and Jean wrote. "Credit risk has looked ill-priced in Asean."



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
ອົງການຈັດຕັ້ງສາກົນເພື່ອການເຄື່ອນຍ້າຍຖືກຖານ

IOM is inviting interested Lao nationals to join our team in the post of:

NATIONAL PROJECT OFFICER

Reference Code: LASVN2016-01

The successful candidate will be based in a southern province of Lao PDR (exact locations to be determined) and will have three main functions including, but not limited to, the following: a) Assist in the effective implementation for prevention, testing and treatment in all project sites, b) Assist in developing strong malaria capacity in project sites in order to ensure project success, and c) Sustainable hand over of the project to the Lao PDR Ministry of Health (MOH) upon completion of the project.

S/he will be appointed under a Special Short Term, All-Inclusive Contract (Grade NO-A, 9 months with possibility of extension). Complete Terms of Reference may be found at website (<http://th.iom.int>).

Required Qualifications and Experience

Master's degree (or equivalent or higher) from an accredited academic institution, or Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) with at least 2 years of relevant work experience; Previous work experience in a similar role, in international organizations and companies would be an advantage; Excellent track record, preferably training community health workers/ village malaria workers. Strong knowledge of public health and training issue; Good knowledge of information technology and proficiency in Microsoft Office applications; Ability to communicate effectively (written and spoken) in English and Lao is required. Ability and willingness to travel to project sites as required.

How to Apply

Interested candidates are invited to submit their curriculum vitae with a cover letter via e-mail to LaoHR@iom.int by June 16, 2016 at the latest. Please include the reference code LASVN2016-01 in the subject line. Since this is a National Professional Officer position, only candidates of Lao nationality with a good knowledge and experience of the local conditions in Lao PDR will be considered. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (RE-ADVERTISED) Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

Background

The Government of Lao PDR has received a loan from the Special Funds resources of the Asian Development Bank toward the cost of the Health Sector Governance Program. The Program intends to apply part of the loan to recruit three planning and monitoring officers in order to support the project implementation. The executive agency for the Program is the Ministry of Health through the Department of Planning and International Cooperation. The Program is implemented in 18 provinces of Lao PDR.

Location

Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR, with travel to provinces.

Duration of contract

Thirty six months

Scope of Work:

Assist the Program manager of the Health Sector Governance Program to develop, implement, monitor, and report on Program's plans and budgets;

Tasks:

The planning and monitoring officer will work under the direction of the Program director. The planning and monitoring officers are responsible for the following tasks:

- Assist MOH departments and provincial health offices in the preparation of 2016 to 2018 annual operational plans and budgets;
- Review provincial plans and budgets submitted by MOH departments and provincial health offices and support improvement of these plans with recommendations and guidance from the Program management;
- Monitor and report on implementation of annual operational plans and budgets;
- Participate in the design, collect, and processing of information and data required for the monitoring and evaluation of the Program;
- Assist the Program manager with regard to administrative and financial tasks, reporting, communication, organization of meetings, participation in meeting, field trips etc.;

Qualifications:

- The Planning and Monitoring Officer has a Bachelor or Master's degree in Medicine, Public Health or a Master degree in business and administration, or equivalent with at least three years' experience in project planning, budgeting, administration and management.
- Good computer skills (Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Competency in both spoken and written English language, and the ability to work at national, provincial and district levels.

Applicants should submit not later than 16 June 2016, a letter of interest and curriculum vitae addressed to:

Dr. Prasongsidh BOUPHA

Director General Department of Planning and International Cooperation, MoH

Program Director, National Program Coordination Office (NPCO)

Ministry of Health, Fa Ngum Road, Sisattanak, district, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR (in front of Don Chan Palace)

Tel: 223146, 252753 Fax: 223146

Email: pcu.hsdp@gmail.com

Only short listed candidates will be notified.

Detailed TOR can be obtained upon request at the above e-mail address.

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 vacancy below-

IT Executive 1 position base in Vientiane Capital

Responsibility:

- Ensure IT facilities provided to users are up and running properly and perform helpdesk support to users.
- Support IT administrator to implement and maintain information systems, network infrastructure, and IT security.
- Manage specific projects as assigned by IT administrator or IS manager.
- Assist the Team Leader to ensure IS Compliance.
- Support IT administrator to maintain IS Budget.
- Assist IT administrator to maintain IT Hardware/Software asset management database

Requirements:

- Bachelor degree in Telecommunication or Information Technology.
- Minimum 3 years' IT experience.
- Operation System Knowledge (Microsoft Windows 7, Windows Server 2008 and 2012, IOS).
- Microsoft Office Knowledge and basic Networking knowledge.
- Troubleshooting Hardware device including Printer and Computer.
- Cisco product configuration knowledge is advantage.
- Knowledge in SQL is a plus.
- Good communication in English and Lao.

Benefits:

- Competitive remuneration/benefit are offer to successful applicant.
- Access to company leisure facilities, including football and badminton.
- Opportunities to be considered for any future job vacancy within the company.

Interested applicants - send your CV and a covering letter detailing your suitability.
Closing date **17th June 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

ບໍລິສັດ ຢາສູບລາວ ຈຳກັດ
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Graduate Management Trainee 2 positions base in Vientiane Capital

Responsibilities:

- Successful candidate will be trained Functional roles & responsibility. He/she will start first at the junior level of each Function, then go through all needed assignments that develop him/her to become a well performing Functional Manager of the company in the future.
- Within a two year program, the incumbent will be able to exposure to the knowledge and skills of Sales & Trade Marketing (if choosing Sales & Trade Marketing) and Finance (if choosing Finance) with multiple jobs to learn in the business.
- Working with team and gain experience from task in our business for growth.
- Register to get access Commerce Academy, Field Force Academy, Finance Academy, Our – Learning, ect. via online resources
- Ensure all assigned assessments are done under instructions.
- Ensure team compliance to all LTL policies and procedures. Including but not limited to the Internal Working Rules and OHSE

Desired Skills and Experience:

- Fresh or 1 years graduates from Laos and/or Overseas Universities
- Good command of English with prove of English efficiency is required (IELTS at least 5.5 or equivalent, TOEFL at least 513, etc...)
- Grade Point Average (GPA) at least 7/10.
- Fully efficient on Microsoft Offices are essential.
- A pursuer of knowledge who is committed to learning and growth.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills both Lao and English languages.
- Strong organization skills, team work and leadership skills
- To be keen to develop full potential skill and talent and learning new things
- To show all-round skills, achievement and an enthusiasm to work where ever they may be around the world.

Benefits:

- Competitive remuneration/benefit are offer to successful applicant.
- Access to company leisure facilities, including football and badminton.
- Opportunities to be considered for any future job vacancy within the company

Interested applicants meeting the above requirements should submit their CVs with clear choice of application to **Sales/Trade Marketing or Finance**, covering letters and academic transcripts to recruitment.laos@la.imptob.com or <http://careers.imperialtobacco.com/globalgraduateprogramme/apply/>

Closing date **24th June 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

GOLPET

Government of Laos Professional English Language Training

*Do you need to use English in your workplace? Are you ready for a challenge?
If your answer to both questions is **YES**, then this program might be for you.*



Government of Laos Professional English Language Training (GOLPET) is an intensive 20 week full time program at Vientiane College designed to build English language capacity for Lao Government officials.

Applications for GOLPET 2016-17 are now open.

How to apply:

Application forms are available at the Personnel Departments of all Government of Laos Ministries and all Provincial Education and Sports Services around the country. Forms can also be downloaded from www.laosaustraliainstitute.org

Applications must be submitted to:

Lao Australia Institute
Setthathirath Avenue, Xiengneun Village
Chanthabouly District, Vientiane Capital
by 4.00 pm on 24 June 2016

Enquiries:

Email: infoawards@laosaustraliainstitute.org
Tel: +856 21 265721-2

Women and provincial-based staff are encouraged to apply. Special provisions are available for applicants with disabilities.

Reaching out to 1.9 Billion People



WELCOME TO THE 13TH CHINA-ASEAN EXPO

September 23rd – 26th, 2016 Nanning, China

- ◆ Major Laos exhibits: Wood Furniture & Wood Products, Jewelry, Handicrafts, Apparels & Textiles, Travel Agents
- ◆ Major Chinese exhibits: engineering machinery, vehicles, food processing and packaging machinery, electric power equipments, new sources of energy, electronics & electrical appliances and building materials that cater for the Laos market
- ◆ A host of sideline high-end forums, conferences and cultural programs
- ◆ 170 Chinese and international media will visit and cover the event

Contact Us

Trade and Product Promotion Department, Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Lao PDR

Tel : +856-21-454091 Fax : +856-21-454090 E-mail : indavongchay@gmail.com

China-ASEAN Expo Secretariat

Tel : +86-771-5813135 Fax : +86-771-5813355 E-mail : carolcaexpo@163.com



THE 13TH CHINA-ASEAN EXPO

September 23rd – 26th, 2016 Nanning, China

Hotline : +86-771-12343

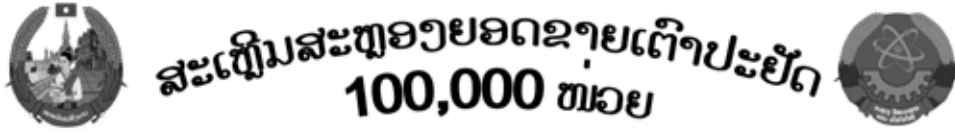
www.caexpo.org



CAEXPO WECHAT



CAEXPO SINA WEIBO



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100,000 ໜ່ວຍ

Celebration of 100,000 Improved Cookstoves
ເລີ່ມເວລາ 17:00 - 20:00 ໂມງຂອງວັນທີ 10 ມິຖຸນາ 2016

Friday, 10th June 2016
Starting at 5pm until 8pm
Venue: Vientiane Center
Fashion Show and Dancing
by EDWDC
Prizes and Games

ຄອບຄົວຍຸກໃໝ່
ຖືກໃຈໃຊ້ເຕົ້າປະຍັດ



ເຊີນຮ່ວມງານສະເຫຼີມສະຫຼອງ
ຍອດຂາຍເຕົ້າປະຍັດ 100,000 ໜ່ວຍ

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Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)

Analyst – Malaria Elimination

Overview

Founded in 2002 by President Clinton, CHAI is a global health organization committed to strengthening integrated health systems and expanding access to care and treatment for HIV/AIDS, malaria and other illnesses. Based on the premise that business oriented strategy can facilitate solutions to global health challenges, CHAI acts as a catalyst to mobilize new resources and optimize the impact of these resources to save lives, via improved organization of commodity markets and more effective local management. CHAI's teams are working side-by-side with more than 30 governments to tackle many of the largest barriers to effective health care.

In 2014, CHAI established a partnership with the Ministry of Health (MOH) in Lao PDR to provide technical assistance focused on strengthening the National Malaria Control Program (CMPE.) The primary objective is to provide operational support to the MOH as the country scales up its efforts towards achieving malaria elimination by 2030. The activities are focused on improving operational planning, epidemiological analysis, resource mobilization and supply management.

Summary of Position:

CHAI is seeking a highly-motivated individual with experience working in client-facing positions, strong analytical abilities and communication skills, and the ability to work independently. The Analyst will provide support to improve the operations of CMPE. This includes conducting analysis on epidemiological, logistics, operational and financial data, drafting proposals and reports, presenting and sharing findings from projects with senior management at CMPE. This position will also have a strong focus on capacity building, as all projects will be completed in partnership with CMPE staff. The Analyst will be based in Vientiane, Lao PDR with some travel to provide operational support to the provincial- and district-level anti-malarial stations.

Major Responsibilities

- Lead initiatives to increase nationwide testing of malaria and improve commodities flow to health facilities
- Support Epidemiology Unit to conduct routine analysis of monthly data to target interventions and respond to potential outbreaks
- Assist in developing operational plans and quarterly work plans to streamline operations at central-, provincial- and district-levels.

Qualifications

- Strong written and oral communication skills in Lao and English, including the ability to prepare compelling presentations and program planning and memo documents
- Minimum 3-5 years of work experience in a fast paced, results oriented work environment, either public or private sector
- Proficient problem solving, analytical and quantitative skills, including previous experience working in Excel
- Strong diplomatic and interpersonal skills, and the ability to build professional and collaborative relationships with a range of stakeholders
- Ability to handle multiple workstreams in parallel, set priorities and work independently and quickly with limited supervision
- Bachelor's degree or higher

Application Details

Deadline: Monday, June 13, 2016

How to apply: Candidates should submit resumes to CHAI.LaoPDR@gmail.com or online at <http://www.clintonhealthaccess.org/jobs/>

SNV

Netherlands
Development
Organisation

We are currently seeking three (3)
PROJECT ADMINISTRATORS
for Enhancing Nutrition of Upland Farming Families (ENUFF)
1) Based in Houaphan Province
2) Based in Oudomxay Province
3) Based in Vientiane Capital

OBJECTIVES

To collect, record (financial) data into systems, analyse data, and take appropriate actions in case of deviations. To prepare the financial reports including HR and/or project-related data for donors and SNV according to donor and SNV project management, accounting, and control framework policies and procedures. The Project Administrators will work under guidance and directions of the Project Manager and/or Finance Officer in order to ensure full administrative compliance, data accessibility and accurate insights at any time for the relevant projects.

DUTIES AND TASKS

- Support to ENUFF project finance and administration
- Reporting and monitoring, organisation of relevant documentation for donors
- General project support and logistical assistance as needed
- Responsible for administrative work: filing system, phone, email correspondence, photocopying, review/develop administration-related forms, develop and update contact list,
- Maintain office equipment, furniture, and other assets,
- Arrange appointment and venue for training/meeting/workshops as required.
- Arrange for travelling (ticketing, taxi and hotel) as needed.
- Be responsible for the general tidiness of the office, in co-operation with other staff members at all times.
- Assist in bank transaction and bank account monitoring and report to Finance/Accountant Officer through Provincial Coordinator for staff based in the provincial level.
- Manage a petty cash and develop monthly report to Provincial Coordinator for staff based in the provincial level.
- Assist in cash management including paying advances and allowances to the program staff and partners.
- Assist in liaison with related departments for internal and external auditing.
- Ensure securing of petty cash box.
- Assist Financial Officer in controlling the expenditures in accordance with budget.
- Assist entering the data into Accounting Programme or excel sheet as needed.
- Carry out any other reasonable related task as assigned by Project Manager or Provincial Coordinator.

CANDIDATE PROFILE

- Good command of written and oral communication in English
- Minimum 5 years of accounting experience
- Experience and understanding of different donor requirements
- Minimum Diploma degree in accounting or a related discipline
- Analytical thinking abilities
- Proven accounting and numeric skills
- Good understanding of statutory requirements
- Organised and able to meet deadlines
- Good command of MS Word and Excel software
- Strong interpersonal and teamwork skills

DUTY STATION

One Project Administrator will be based in Houaphan Province, one in Oudomxay Province, and one in Vientiane Capital.

HOW TO APPLY?

Interested applicants should submit an application letter with an updated CV and preference of position location before 17 June 2016 to HR Officer Mr. Ngeune Khamphouong at nkhamphouong@snnworld.org. A full TOR is available upon request. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

**Basic Education Quality and Access in Lao PDR
Financial Management
Training Specialist
(Lao national)**



Australian Aid



- 12 month, full time contract position with the potential for extension
- Based in Vientiane
- Open to applications from Lao nationals only

The Program

The goal of BEQUAL is to ensure all girls and boys, especially those experiencing disadvantage, complete a quality basic education to achieve literacy, numeracy and other life skills. The program will address education policy, planning and coordination, increased child participation in and access to basic education, teacher education and improved school infrastructure.

Coffey through BEQUAL is currently seeking applications from Lao nationals for the position of Financial Management Training Specialist.

The Position

The Financial Management Training Specialist will work closely with the international Finance Specialist, and the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) department of finance, to develop and deliver training and capacity building programs for education sector finance officials at central, provincial and district levels of government. Training will cover government financial management procedures and systems, and will be undertaken in Lao language. In addition, this position will support the strengthening of accounting and financial reporting procedures and templates within MoES, and at provincial and district level education offices.

The Person

The ideal candidate will have first-hand experience working with Lao government budgeting, accounting and reporting systems at central, provincial or district level. Experience in developing and delivering staff training programs will be required for success as well as an ability to work effectively with colleagues and stakeholders from diverse backgrounds. English language skills are essential. Qualifications in finance or other relevant fields will also be important.

How to Apply

For a detailed position description and to apply for this position please visit www.coffey.com/careers and search for the job reference number **493543**. You will be required to submit a copy of your CV in English. Earlier applicants for this position (advertised in March/April 2016) do not need to submit new applications. For further enquiries please contact us at internationaldevelopment@coffey.com

Applications close 6.00pm (Laos time) 13th June 2016



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

coffey.com

Legacy in blue

THAILAND (The Nation, ANN) – For more than 40 years, Wongduan Udomdechawate’s nimble fingers have been busy weaving the beautiful silk cloth and indigo-dyed cotton that have become synonymous with Na Wa district in the northeast province of Nakhon Phanom. A former nurse, the 76-year-old Wongduan today spends much of her day at Wat Phrathat Prasit Community Enterprise passing on her skills and knowledge to the women and girls in this mainly agricultural area in the hope that they will continue a tradition that dates back more years than she can remember.

Like other women of her generation, Wongduan learnt the hand-weaving techniques from her mother while she was still a child. She recalls with pride the day in 1972 when His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Her Majesty the Queen Sirikit visited Wat Phrathat Prasit to present Kathin robes to the monks. “My elder sister and I were among the six villagers chosen to present our silk to Her Majesty,” she says.

The Queen was impressed by the shimmering pineapple-patterned silk and shortly after named Baan Na Wa the first hand-weaving group under the Foundation of the Promotion of Supplementary Occupations and Related Techniques of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand, better known as the

Support Foundation.

In 1978, Wongduan gave up her nursing career and returned home, joining a small group of weavers in producing the indigo-dyed fabrics for Support. The group gradually grew, going from its 25 founding members to 90, making improvements to both its management system and quality control and, in 2005, formally registering itself as Wat Phrathat Prasit Community Enterprise.

The group’s hard work has paid off too and last year, Wat Phrathat Prasit Community Enterprise was selected by the Queen Sirikit Sericulture Centre (Sakon Nakhon) as a smart farmer model for sustainable development.

Thanks to the continued development in the design and production process, Na Wa’s indigo-dyed fabrics have steadily increased in popularity, gaining more buyers and making a name for themselves among foreign tourists.

“Our enterprise has been recognised by leading firms and today we produce indigo-dyed clothes for Jim Thompson and Lemon Farm,” Wongduan says.

In addition to developing the weavers in the group, Wongduan also invites students from various universities to practise the weaving process, allowing them to stay at her home at no charge.

“I intend working as a



Indigo dyeing pots at Non Rua Samakkee Farm Women's Group in Sakon Nakhon.

master weaver for as long as I can. I am very proud to be able to help the poor earn extra so they can enjoy a better quality of life. I also want to transfer our heritage to the young generation so that the tradition of hand-weaving is preserved and this career can be further developed in the future,” she says.

Like Wat Phrathat Prasit, Non Rua Samakkee Farm Women’s Group in adjacent Sakon Nakhon’s Phanna Nihom district is famous for the natural indigo-dyed fabrics.

Waree Chaitamat, 72, is head of the group and like Wongduan, a Support master who constantly develops the production process.

She also works hard to create new patterns and

products to meet evolving market trends and today the group offers a wide variety of goods including clothes, scarves, shawls and sarongs, both in the original blue and in other shades obtained by mixing the dye with other natural products.

“Our weavers produce the indigo-dyed fabrics at their homes while Non Rua Samakkee Farm Women Group serves as a centre for coordinating orders and sales,” she explains. “We provide training and also maintain quality control through the entire production process, thereby ensuring that all products meet the same standards.”

The secrets of natural indigo dyeing - kram as is known locally - have been passed



Master Waree Chaitamat.

down through the generations. Today Sakon Nakhon is home to more than 20 communities experienced in indigo dyeing and pattern creation.

The cottage industry continues to enjoy growth, not least because indigo-dyed cotton is very popular as the demand for all things organic, chemical-free, and natural

expands worldwide.

Considered the “king of blue”, indigo-dyed cotton has a beautiful deep blue colour that doesn’t wash off. The traditional process of indigo dyeing does not require any chemicals, which means the dye does not damage the fibre of the fabric and so the clothes last longer.



Oxfam is an international confederation of 17 organizations networked together in 94 countries, as part of a global movement for change, to build a future free from the injustice of poverty. Since 2009, the Oxfam confederation has accelerated its harmonisation process working towards ‘one voice and one programme’ in a single management structure. Oxfam has a presence in Laos since the late 1980s, and works to deliver the country strategy that focuses on sustainable livelihoods, humanitarian assistance, governance and civil society, and gender and diversity.

Oxfam is currently looking for a: **Humanitarian and Resilient Programme Advisor (Lao National)**

Overall Responsibilities

- Work for in managing all aspects of the Humanitarian and Resilience Program in Laos, with a special attention to capacity building, update and manage Oxfam’s Country Contingency Plan and emergency preparedness and Response.
- Work with the DRR and Resilience Programme Officers, partners for integrating DRR into development plan and building community and partners capacity
- Is responsible for establishing and maintaining good relations with local partners, and for implementing capacity building strategies
- Contributes to MEL for the programme and Oxfam Country Strategy (OCS) and programme development in Laos in line with the Resilience Community Goal (Domain 3) in the Oxfam Country Strategy (OCS) under guidance of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) and the Country Director (CD) Laos.
- Represents Oxfam in partner meetings and other meetings, as required by the HC in Laos

Required qualifications

- University graduate and 5 years’ experience in humanitarian (emergency preparedness and response) and Disaster Risk Management work
- Project proposal and report writing skills
- Experience with result-based project management, including budget management
- Strong communication and facilitation skills, using participatory approaches
- Familiarity with gender issues
- Lao speaker with good spoken and written English

Desirable

- Previous experience with Emergency Response, and sectoral expertise in Emergency Food Security and Vulnerable Livelihoods (EFSVL), Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), SPHERE minimum standards, HAP standards etc.
- Experience in coordination and clusters under UN system
- Working experiences with MoNRE and other MoLSW

More information and application procedure:

For further information, please refer to the website: www.directoryofngos.org and go to Directory News/Job Openings.

Are you interested in this position? Send your application in writing, including a motivation letter and curriculum vitae to sth@oxfamsol.be no later than 03 July 2016.

We promote diversity and practice equity

Only short-listed applicants will be contacted for a personal interview



Oxfam is an international confederation of 17 organizations networked together in 94 countries, as part of a global movement for change, to build a future free from the injustice of poverty.

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Oxfam is currently looking for a: **Business Support Manager**

Overall Responsibilities

- Ensures all functions within the Business support unit (HR, Admin, IT, etc.) activities are performed in a timely and efficient manner and effectively support the delivery of programme implementations for Oxfam in Laos.
- Actively practices and support mentoring, succession planning and management development within the field of business support.
- Ensures strategic partnership on the business support area with high level analysis and advice to Senior Management Team.
- Produce and ensure implementation of support function procedures for the Country.

Required qualifications

- Highly developed analytical and problem solving skills.
- Proven senior management experience.
- In-depth knowledge of specific areas of work with post graduate qualification in the related field of study or at least 5 years of experience in the similar position
- Experience of strategic design, planning and implementation.
- Proven high level of Human Resources management skills
- Ability to influence senior managers and peers over a wide range of issues.
- Ability to develop close working relationships with internal and external stakeholders.
- Strong communication skills including the ability to deliver complex and technical messages in simple terms.
- Must demonstrate commitment and sensitivity to gender issues.

More information and application procedure:

For further information, please refer to the website: www.directoryofngos.org and go to Directory News/Job Openings.

Are you interested in this position? Send your application in writing, including a motivation letter and curriculum vitae to sth@oxfamsol.be no later than 26 June 2016.

We promote diversity and practice equity

Only short-listed applicants will be contacted for a personal interview

Streetwise Do you have problems driving during the wet season?

Many people have said they have problems driving during the wet season because Vientiane roads are in disrepair or lack proper drainage. The roads also pose a risk for traffic accidents. These issues have been ongoing in Vientiane for many years but have not yet been resolved. Vientiane Times asked the public to share their thoughts.

Times Reporters

Ms Phaeng Souvannakhasy, a businesswoman in Phonthan village, Sisattanak district, Vientiane: It's very



dangerous to drive around here, especially around

That Luang Road and Kamphaengmeuang Road because the water channels don't work very well. The channels are small and easily blocked and the roads are also broken. When it's raining the road is always flooded so the drivers can't see the road well. The problems have happened for many years now but have gotten worse as people are constantly building and blocking the channels with many things including sand.

Mr Soukun, a businessman in Phonpapao village, Sisattanak district, Vientiane: I think it is much easier to drive during the wet season in Vientiane this year

because a lot of roads have been repaired. Last year I saw many motorcycle accidents on Phonpapao Road because the road was broken, dark, and had a small ditch. Many roads in Vientiane need lights as they are then safer for drivers. On the other hand, it's not only in the city that people are having problems; the rural areas have similar problems mainly because of dust and potholes.

Ms Athai Phimmasone, a graduate student from Pakpasak Technical College: Many roads in Vientiane have been repaired and many more are being repaired now. But I would like to call on the authorities to continue

making good roads with proper water channels or we will continue to have



problems during the wet and dry seasons. I had an accident before because of a flooded road. Luckily I wasn't hurt

because I was driving slowly. There are many people that get in road accidents because of these problems. So everyone needs to help, like not building anything that could block water channels and to try to keep the roads clean from plastic bags and sand.

Mr Soulin Punyavong, a company employee from Xaythany district, Vientiane: I think that we are having many problems with the water channels, especially for the motorcycles as they often get sprayed with dirt from the cars that drive too fast on flooded roads. I don't understand why the roads

in Vientiane get flooded so quickly when it's raining. The authorities should check on water channels more often. Maybe there is something blocking the water going through.



Announcement

The book "40 Years of the Lao PDR" in two languages - Lao and English - is now available at the Vientiane Times office.

The book consists of 213 pages and is divided into three parts: Laos in Brief; Achievements in National Protection and Development; and Vision of the Lao PDR.

Information on all sectors of national socio-economic development, national protection and foreign policy as well as international cooperation of the Lao PDR are included in the book.

The video DVD and CD of the "40 Years of the Lao PDR" are also available here.

In addition, the media directory book consisting of the history, telephone numbers, emails and website addresses of all Lao media organisations published in the Lao PDR is also available here. These books would make interesting gifts for your friends. For more information call: 021 336042-8.

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Fighting diabetes: Why the target is white rice

Salma Khalik

SINGAPORE (The Straits Times, ANN) -- News that the Health Promotion Board (HPB) is targeting white rice in its fight against diabetes has created a storm of protest from rice lovers. Could the staple food of Asians for centuries truly be bad for health, they asked.

Many of those outraged by the report on the targeting ("Diabetes: the rice you eat is worse than sugary drinks", May 6) were more than happy to make sweet drinks and junk food the real villains that cause diabetes, which, while enjoyable, are not part of Singapore's heritage. But they were vehement that it could not be the traditional, steaming bowls of white rice that they consider essential.

Yes, sweet drinks and junk food are bad, and no one, least of all the HPB, is denying this. What it is saying, though, is that white rice is also a major culprit - largely because it is a staple, so more of it is eaten.

Starchy white rice, it has been found, can overload Asian bodies with blood sugar and heighten their risk of diabetes. Then add to that, this in terms of consumption: The 2010 National Nutrition Survey found a typical serving of rice here was 250g, and that a third of Singaporeans' daily intake of calories comes from rice - compared to 3.5 percent from sugary drinks.

Then there is this: A Harvard School of Public Health study found that each serving of white rice a day raises the risk of diabetes by 11 percent. A study of rice and noodle consumption by 2,728 Chinese here by the National University Health System found it resulted in greater insulin resistance.

For those who argue that rice has been eaten for centuries with no ill effects, the counter-arguments are:

• In the pre-industrialisation era, there was a lot more physical exertion. Even in everyday life, people walked a lot more than today. Exercise is known to offset some of the ill-effects of unhealthy food.

• People did not live as long in the past. In Singapore, for example, life expectancy at Independence in 1965 was only 65 years. Today,



Singaporeans are living 20 years longer. This alone provides chronic diseases with a greater opportunity to surface. Among people 65 years and older, one in three is diabetic.

How brown rice is better

For decades, nutritionists have condemned processed food as unhealthy. Traditionalists raising their eyebrows at brown rice might consider this: What is white rice but processed brown or red rice?

And consider this: White rice, which is a simple carbohydrate and tastes more starchy, is likely to turn into sugar more quickly than unpolished rice.

White rice has a glycaemic index (GI) of 78-98, while the GI for brown rice is 65-76. The higher the index, the more blood sugar is produced.

So while having a lot of white rice in the diet is certainly not the only contributory factor, it is difficult to deny that it does contribute significantly to the high level of diabetes here.

Having said that, changing people's taste is not an easy task.

This is why HPB's chief executive officer, Mr Zee Yoong Kang, has been quick to say that he is not asking people to stop eating white rice. What he would like to see is more people adding some brown rice to their diet - a modest 20 percent of it mixed with 80 percent white rice.

This is because another Harvard study, which followed 197,000 people over 20 years, found that replacing a fifth of white rice with brown cut the risk of diabetes by 16 percent.

Soaking brown rice in water before adding it to the pot to be cooked with white rice makes it softer. With only

one in five grains of rice being brown, the taste is pretty much like normal white rice.

Aside from having a lower glycaemic index - indicating a lower surge in blood sugar - brown rice also has vital nutrients, such as zinc and iron, that white rice lacks. These nutrients are taken off when the husk of bran and germ are removed. But getting people to adopt this 20 percent brown-mixed-into-white-rice is going to be a big challenge.

The Government can take the lead by insisting that caterers serve such rice for all functions. Or at the very least, to offer this as a choice.

Foodcourts and restaurants should also be encouraged to sell this mixture. Many readers have complained that it is difficult to get brown rice when they eat out - which most workers do for weekday lunch.

Schools should also tell their canteen operators to offer this version instead of plain white rice, since habits picked up when young tend to remain as people age.

Nsmen can help in the battle

And, of course, a brown-white rice mix should be the default option served to full-time national servicemen. While they do a lot of physical activity - so white rice should do them less harm than the population at large - the combination is better for them.

Hopefully, after two years of eating this mix, they will continue with it after leaving NS. It would be even better if they were to urge their parents to serve this at home.

Today, brown rice costs more than white rice - which, when you think about it, doesn't make sense as there is less processing needed.

So the higher cost is probably due to low demand -

only 5 percent of rice sold here is unpolished. It then follows that if demand rises, the price should come down, so price would no longer be a major reason for choosing white rice.

While it is difficult to change people's tastes, it is not impossible.

The HPB has shown this with its campaign for wholemeal bread in 2009/10. At that time, only 18 percent of bread sold here was wholemeal or wholegrain. This has gone up to 30 percent today.

Part of this is due to the superfine wholemeal flour that is available today, that makes bread taste like soft white bread. With this flour, there are now also wholemeal noodles that are more nutritious and have a lower GI than noodles made from white flour.

People are generally reluctant to give up what they enjoy eating - which is why the focus is on adding some brown rice, rather than replacing white with brown.

So this battle will be a long one. In the meantime, the HPB should not let up on discouraging the consumption of junk food, including sweetened soda drinks.

One complaint that was a constant in comments from supporters of brown rice is the difficulty in getting this when eating out.

Several also said that at foodcourts and restaurants, water can be as expensive, and sometimes even more expensive, than buying drinks. Ensuring that all food outlets offer free water to diners would be a good way to reduce the unnecessary calories many are now consuming - sometimes unwillingly.

There is no one single formula for beating the rising rates of diabetes here. But action needs to be taken, and fast.

According to a study by the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, diabetes already costs Singapore \$1 billion a year, and is expected to soar to \$2.5 billion by 2050.

If we can reduce the rate of diabetes by just 10 percent, it would cut \$250 million off the bill in 2050. That's a lot of money.

More importantly, it would also cut down on much suffering, since diabetes is a leading cause of kidney failure, blindness and amputations.

What the Lao papers say

Drive safely during the rainy season

Translated by Times Reporters

During wet weather many roads are slippery so all motorists must give safety top priority when driving.

It doesn't matter if you're in a big or small vehicle, you can be involved in an accident if you're not careful. Mishaps can strike on short or long trips.

To make matters worse the constant rain is damaging many roads with potholes and poor drainage. These hazards add to the dangers for all motorists. But even upgraded main roads can become slippery during heavy rain.

So motorists must drive slowly and give right-of-way to each other while driving because hurrying only increases the risk of accidents.

Besides this, all vehicles should receive technical inspections before driving long distances and motorists should check weather forecasts and road conditions before departing.

The route between Thasy village and the Meuangkao area of Borikhamxay province is one example of a muddy road after heavy rainfall has caused motorists to slide around and some to get bogged.

--Pasaxon Van-Athit Weekly, June 5

Materialism is encouraging poor behaviour

Modern materialism and the perceived need to acquire the latest gadgets or luxury items are causing many people to display bad attitudes to others in society.

At present, some people in expensive cars are driving like they're showing off their power, not respecting traffic laws and especially not giving right-of-way to other motorists.

This behaviour is causing fear among other road users worried they will be involved in an accident.

Besides this, some individuals seem to be influenced by the bad behaviour of TV and movie characters that are openly ostentatious and a poor example for society.

--Vientiane Mai Daily, May 30

Villagers help to protect forest

On National Arbor Day many sectors joined together to grow trees with the contribution of Phoumakneng villagers in Khounkham district, Khammuan province a good example.

This year the villagers planted 6,800 trees provided by Theun Hinboun Power Company.

A villager Ms Noy said that growing trees in her community was important because it replaced forest that had been destroyed.

She added that all people in her family would take care of the growing trees because forests were important habitats for wildlife and also helped to lessen natural disasters.

Ms Noy explained that forest health related to the living conditions of villagers because they could find forest products to consume and sell so she urged everyone to protect forests and stop cutting down trees.

--Lao Phatthana Daily, June 7

Vientiane Times on CD-ROM

Issues of Vientiane Times from 1994 to June 2016 have been recorded on CD-ROM. Now available at Vientiane Times office, Phonpapao Village, Unit 32, Sisattanak district, Vientiane.

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Performance to promote Chinese cultural exchange

Sisouphan Amphonephong

Performances by Chinese artists and Lao students created to promote cultural exchange between the two nations were deemed a success by audiences at the National School of Arts yesterday.

The cultural performances were designed by the Chinese Cultural Centre and the National School of Arts who were also responsible for bringing the completed programme together.

The ten scheduled performances began after a speech by National School of Arts Director, Mr Tuan Muanchan thanking the Chinese artists for their support and training of Lao students at the school.

He said the National School of Arts had support from Chinese artists in the past by sharing knowledge in the area of traditional Chinese music and arts. Previously, artists from the Mishia area in China have brought their performances to the school for exchange and to build friendly ties.

Training of Chinese traditional dance and the

Chinese boxing dance known as "thaikek" had started on May 8 to students of the National School of Art, an art troupe of National Defence, and the National Art Ensemble.

More than 160 students took part in the training.

The purpose of the almost one month long training was to give the students a better understanding of Chinese culture as well as strengthening the relations between Laos and China.

Director of the China Cultural Centre in Laos, Mr Que Xiaohua said he appreciated the trust the centre received from the school to bring Chinese artists to Laos for the exchange.

He also thanked the students for their attention and patience in learning about Chinese culture. In the future, he encourages more young Lao to join the cultural activities that the centre organises. Those who take part in training could join future performances for the promotion of Chinese culture.

Along with traditional Chinese dance the students also directed and performed traditional Lao dance, including



Students, artists, and officials pose for a group photo after the performance.



A beautiful traditional Chinese fan dance.

Champa Meuanglao.

After the performance, students who passed the



Dancers perform the traditional Lao dance, *Champa Meuanglao*.

training were presented with certificates from the National School of Arts. Lao souvenirs

were also presented to participating Chinese artists to both congratulate them on

the show's success and to thank them for their support leading up to yesterday's performance.

Singers battle it out in audition

Sisouphan Amphonephong

A singing contest project launched by TK Records entitled *Nakhong Siengdy* gained a good reception at Nut Pop 2 restaurant last Friday night.

The six contestants had to battle it out in front of the judges and TK Records Manager, Mr Thavisack Thammavongsa, with the winner being selected to go through to the next round of auditions.

One of the judges, Mr Sonan explained that in the final audition round the contestants who passed each audition round will join to showcase

their singing performances on the stage again as part of a mini-concert for fans.

The judges will then take a shortlist of candidates who perform well to progress one step further towards possible signing with the record label.

The audition rounds commenced a few months ago, opening opportunities for young people who dream of launching their own careers in the entertainment industry.

Nakhong Siengdy is a well-regarded singing contest project which helps to promote Lao folksongs as well as encourage young people to

use their time beneficially.

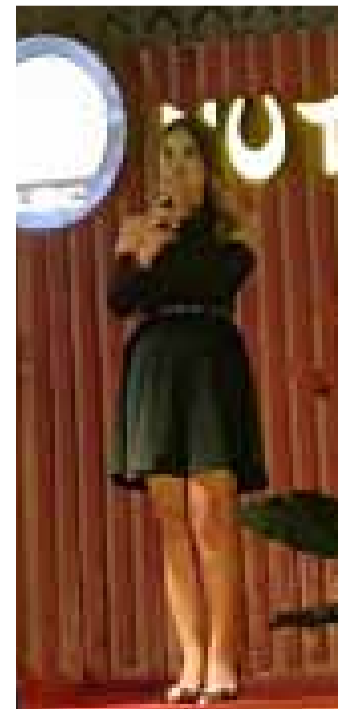
The singers of TK Records currently gain more exposure than artists trying to self-promote and can easily build their fan bases through the exposure the record label offers them.

As part of the contest, established TK singers such as Mr Win Nakhonesum and Moddy have shown off their latest tracks for TK, for the entertainment of the audience.

Music fans who want to see who will pass the final round of auditions can witness all the action at the same venue, Nut Pop 2, this Friday night.




TK singer Mr Win Nakhonesum belts out a tune.



TK singer Ms Moddy performs onstage.



A contestant showcases her talents during the audition round.



Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF)
Request for Data Analysis & Reporting Officer (Lao National)
Based in Vientiane

Country:	Lao People's Democratic Republic		
Project:	The Poverty Reduction Fund		
Description:	Data Analysis & Reporting Officer		
Grant No.:	H685-LA		
Project No.:	P 123480.		
Date of Issue	June 8, 2016	Deadline: June 22, 2016	

The Government of Laos, with support from the World Bank, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, AuSAID and JSDF has set up the Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF) to deliver small scale development project including support to livelihood activities at the Kum ban and Village levels. The project is now seeking for Data Analysis & Reporting Officer, as the details below:

Main tasks:

- Prepare all project reports (in both English and Lao versions), in consultation with the different PRF divisions and units to ensure that the contents of the different reports are consistent with the guidelines and requirements as set in the PRF Manual of Operations, the GoL and donors's;
- Ensure that reports are completed and submitted according to the agreed deadlines;
- Combine the outcomes of the data analysis into the different reports, following the project results framework;
- Ensure that all findings and recommendations related to the environmental or social impacts are filled in the different reports following the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Compensation and Resettlement Policy Framework (CRPF), Ethnic Group Policy Framework (EGPF), Simplify Pest Management Plan (PMP) and monitor that necessary actions are taken;
- Ensure that reports are more analytical, focusing upon issues, trends and recommendations for improvement

Please see the detailed job descriptions on PRF website <http://www.prflaos.org> or it can be obtained at PRF Office).

Required qualifications and experience:

- At least possess a bachelor degree of Arts, majoring in English, social sciences or other related fields but strong English report drafting knowledge is plus
- At least 5 years of relevant work experience in technical writing/paper work, project planning, implementation and evaluation;
- Fluency in both Lao and English writing, editing, reporting and speaking are very essential;
- Strong analytical and reporting skills;
- Comprehensive computer skills: in particular MS Word, Excel, power point.
- Ability to translate and interpret English-Lao and vice versa;
- Familiarity with government and foreign aid project operations;

Preferable condition

- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Willingness to work occasionally in rural areas
- Ability to speak any ethnic group languages will be given preference
- Qualified women are strongly encouraged to apply.

All interested applicants should submit (1) a cover letter outlining clearly how the candidate meets the required qualifications and experience of the position mentioned above, (2) a detailed CV with one (3x4) photo and (3) supporting documents (certificate of the most recent employment, certificates of qualification/graduation, transcript of graduation, a list of at least three referees from most recent work places, etc) to the HR Officer, Poverty Reduction Fund, Prime Minister's Office 501 building, Sisavathtai Village, Chanthabouly District, P.O Box 4625 Vientiane, Tel: 021 261479 - 80, Email: piengneune@prflaos.org & khemphone@prflaos.org. Please note that all submitted documents will not be returned. PRF provides competitive salary and benefits.

Deadline for applications: June 22, 2016
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for negotiation

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JOB VACANCY

Administrative Assistant

The Land Management and Decentralized Planning project (LMDP) as part of the German Development Cooperation in Laos and implemented through GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) is currently seeking 2 qualified Laotian candidates for the position of Administrative Assistant.

Starting Date: As soon as possible
Duration of Assignment: 1 year, with possibility of extension
Work Location: Luang Namtha or Houaphan Province

The main tasks for the position are:

- Supporting an international Development Adviser with interpreting (Eng/Lao) during meetings and discussions with Lao partners.
- Providing accurate translations (Eng/Lao) of documents.
- Supporting the local project team with general administrative tasks as required.

Other tasks for the position are also:

- Assisting in the preparation of meetings, workshops and seminars.
- Coordinating closely with local government agencies (DPI, PoNRE, PAFO) relevant for planning and land management.
- Participating in internal and external (team) meetings and workshops and assisting with documenting these, e.g. by writing minutes.
- Support coordinating drivers and the use of the project cars.
- Preparing visitor programmes, drawing up travel schedules, organising transport of visitors and making hotel and ticket reservations.
- Preparing and participating in field visits as required by the project.

Experience and Qualifications of the candidate:

- Certificate or Diploma in Administration, English or related
- 1-3 years' professional experience in a comparable position
- Good working knowledge of ITC technologies (related software, phone, fax, email, internet) and computer applications (e.g. MS Office)
- Very good knowledge of English language, experience with translation/interpretation of advantage
- Customer and service-oriented attitude
- Willing to acquire new skills and techniques as required by the tasks to be performed

GIZ is an equal opportunity employer. Women and persons with disabilities are especially encouraged to apply.

Interested candidates are asked to send/submit their application with a comprehensive CV including at least 3 reliable references and cover letter explaining their motivation as well as how their experience meets the requirements latest by 16 Hr on 15th of June 2016 to the HR Division of GIZ Office Vientiane, P.O. Box 9233, Vientiane Capital, or e-mail to job-gizlaos@giz.de

All applications will be treated confidentially and only short-listed candidates will be notified.

ບໍລິສັດ ຢາສູບລາວ ຈຳກັດ

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Personal Assistant to Managing Director 1 position (Re-advertised)

Responsibility:

- Manage and maintain the Managing Director (MD)'s diary and make appointments.
- Devise and maintain office systems, including data management, filing, etc.
- Organise and attend meetings and ensure MD is well prepared for meetings.
- Write & keep minutes of meetings and circulate it to respective parties. Translation – verbal and written as required.
- Depute for MD, making decisions and delegating work to others in his absence.
- Arrange travel and accommodation and, occasionally, travelling with MD to take notes or dictation at meetings or to provide general assistance during business trips.
- Filter general information, queries, phone calls and invitations to the MD and correspondence on behalf of MD.
- Ensure guests meeting with the MD are well taken care of.
- Manage the maintenance of MD's house, car and provide day to day Laos living support, etc.

Requirements:

- University degree in Legal or Business Management or related field is expected.
- Previous secretarial and administrative experience. Thorough knowledge of legal or business framework.
- Strong organisation and planning skills. Good interpersonal and problem solving skills.
- Willing to travel and works in different environments with various nations.
- Advance English communication skills both verbal and written.
- Advanced IT skill, Microsoft Word, Excel.

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.

Interested applicants - send your CV and a covering letter detailing your suitability.
Closing date 10th June 2016

Contact to:
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Vientiane Capital

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National GPAR Programme

NATIONAL CONSULTANCY NOTICE (Re-Advertise)
 Short-term Local Consultant for Development of the Lao Glossary on Governance-Public Administration

Post Title: Short-term Local Consultant for Development of the Lao Glossary on Governance-Public Administration
Agency/Project Name: National GPAR Programme, SLIFEPA Project 2014-2017
Location: Based in Vientiane Capital, Ministry of Home Affairs, and, some travels to Provinces
Duration: Total 40 Days July- August 2016
Deadline for submission: 17 June 2016
Planned Starting day: July 2016

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) through the project *Strengthening the Legal and Institutional Framework for Effective Public Administration* which is supported by the European Union and UNDP has identified the need to develop and implement a glossary for governance and public administration. The implementation of a glossary is aimed at contributing to improved officials and citizens' knowledge and awareness of new legal and regulatory framework for public administration.

EXPERTISE AND QUALIFICATIONS

The preferred local consultant should have the following qualifications and experience:

- o Master's Degree in Literature, Communications/Development Communication, Journalism, Management, Marketing, Public Administration or related field, or exceptionally strong relevant experience in lieu.
- o 5 or more years of experience in public relations, or similarly relevant area.
- o Knowledge of Lao culture and working methods and practices of Lao government bureaucracy would be an advantage.
- o Fluency in both written and spoken Lao preferable.

Full details are available in the **Terms of Reference** on: www.moha.gov.la { Projects -> NPGAR}.
 Candidates should submit a covering letter and CV to **NGPAR Programme Manager, Ministry of Home Affairs, Nahaidiao Compound, Vientiane Capital, FAX:(021)217619; or E-mail to: ngpar@moha.gov.la. Mark Subject Line: " Lao Glossary Development"**

Please Note: Closing Date 17 June 2016
 Female candidates are encouraged to apply
 Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interview

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What's On

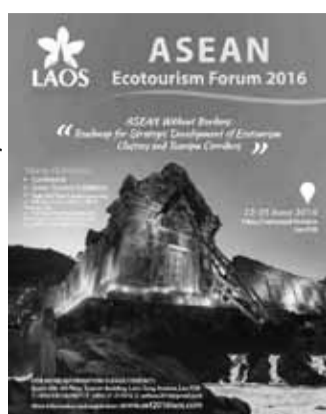
Asean Ecotourism Forum

The Asean Ecotourism Forum 2016 will offer activities, a conference and a green tourism exhibition as well as a special tour to promote eco-tourism.

Where: Pakxe district, Champassak province.

When: June 22-25

More information contact: 0305824071 or visit www.aef2016laos.com



Fanglao Black Box dance

Your chance to see an exciting performance of contemporary dance.

Where: Asean Mall

When: June 15-16, starting at 7 pm.

For more information call: 020 52236211



Celebration of 100,000 improved cookstoves

Join us for fun and festivities as we celebrate this milestone in making Lao cooking cleaner and greener.

When: Friday June 10, 5-8pm

Where: Vientiane Centre

For more information, please call: 91889000. www.icslao.info

Free concert

Come along to a concert starring Lao singer Sam Ay Nong Nouhuang and Thai celeb Miss Jintara Poonlarb, along with a host of other performers.

When: June 11, 4pm

Where: National Culture Hall, Vientiane

Music festival

Pole Activities Francophone invites all young people to a music festival, featuring a quiz team of TV stars and musical performances.

When: June 17, starting 6pm

Where: Second floor of Meeting Hall at the National University of Laos (Dongdok campus)

Lacquer artwork exhibition

Modern lacquer artwork "Back to Toronto" by French artist Ms Marie-Do Hyman-Boneu, who has been based in Laos since 2010.

When: June 9-19

Where: French Institute, Lane Xang Avenue, Vientiane

More information: info@if-laos.org



Donations for disabled students

The Education for Development Foundation is inviting the public to help support the needs of disabled students through education. It costs 500,000 kip to educate one student per year.

When: For the academic year 2016-17

Where: Donors are asked to contact the Education for Development Foundation in Sisavath village, Chanthabouly district.

P.O. Box 7337, Tel/Fax: (856-21) 222720, Email: info@edfao.org.

URL: <http://www.edfao.org>

Cameras and Stories Photojournalism Exchange

The US Embassy in Vientiane will be presenting an information session and exchange on photojournalism. Join them for a fun and interactive afternoon.

When: Thursday June 9, 2016 from 4:00 – 5:30pm

Where: American Centre at That Dam

Register by emailing: irc_vientiane@state.gov



Art exhibition

Luang Prabang's French Institute is delighted to present an exhibition celebrating 50 years of publishing for the editor Ecole des Loisirs. Come and see these beautiful children's book illustrations and bring your kids.

When: From now until July 22, from 9.30am -12noon and 2.30pm-7.30pm.

Where: French Institute, Luang Prabang



Summer scout camp

Enroll your children in Australian International School (AIS) summer workshops. Let them grow their talents and learn new skills.

When: June 27- August 19

Where: AIS, Nongduang village, Vientiane

For more information: 021 264 800, 020 2222 0526

Lao-Cambodian cultural performance

The Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism in collaboration with the Royal Embassy of Cambodia to Laos is holding a joint cultural performance by the National Artist Groups of Laos and Cambodia. The performance marks the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Lao PDR and Kingdom of Cambodia (June 15, 1956-June 15, 2016).

When: June 16, 7pm

Where: National Culture Hall

Call 021 314952, 020 7752 5854, or 020 2998 0070

Vientiane Book Festival

The National University of Laos is hosting the first Vientiane Book Festival, themed "Tomorrow's Generation Today".

When: June 17 and 18

Where: Meeting hall, National University of Laos Dongdok campus

Come along for aerobics!

When: Every evening, 5-6pm

Where: Chao Anouvong Park, Mekong River, Vientiane

Carabao in concert

Enjoy a concert featuring popular Thai singer Carabao.

Where: Lao-ITECC, Vientiane.

When: June 27, 8pm

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: lattanyphone@yahoo.com

Free Summer English classes

Open for high school students ages 14-19 are 4 week intensive English language classes aimed at improving students' reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills.

When: June 20-July 15, every Tues and Thurs afternoons.

Deadline to apply is June 13. Accepting the first 30 students to apply at: <http://goo.gl/forms/ULSto6bh6xeERS92>

Where: American Centre, That Dam, Vientiane

For more information visit: [facebook.com/usembassyvt](https://www.facebook.com/usembassyvt)



Rocket Festival

Join for fun and to preserve the rocket festival tradition taking place this month in Khammuan. Participants will see various types of rockets and will have a chance to enjoy live music including Phanthamit DJ Noum Loukeuila.

When: June 9 - 11

Where: Siengdy village, Nongbok district, Khammuan province



Student Film Festival

Don't miss the Student Film Festival featuring short films and documentaries.

Where: National Culture Hall

When: June 17, at 1:30 pm

More information contact: 020 22865991.

Lao Home & Living Fair

The Lao Furniture Association in cooperation with the Trade and Product Promotion Department of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce is holding the 1st Lao Home and Living Fair.

When: July 18-24

Where: Lao-ITECC

Pool Moon Party

Enjoy cool sounds by DJ Faahsai and DJ Window.

When: June 25 starting 6 pm

Where: Rashmi's The Plaza on Thadeua Road, Vientiane

For more information call: 020 5988 4455, 021 315 088

Charity walk

This charity walk is organised by the Japan Alumni and Embassy of Japan to raise money in support of Kumamoto residents who suffered losses in the earthquakes in April.

When: June 18, 6pm

Where: Mekong River, 5km walk from the night market flagpoles to the Landmark Hotel and back. Registration 80,000 kip. For more information call: 030 5746 744

Photo exhibition

An exhibition of photographs of Poi Sang Long Shinbyu ordination ceremonies in rural Thailand and Myanmar by Tessa Bunney and Mick Shippen.

When: Opens Sunday May 29, 5:30-8:30pm. The exhibition will continue until June 17.

Where: Maison de la Culture Ban Naxay, Nongbone Road, Xaysettha district, Vientiane

Call: 020 2983 3468

Vietnam to invest big on top junior athletes

HO CHI MINH CITY (Xinhua) -- Vietnam will create more favorable conditions for its most outstanding junior athletes in preparation for the Olympic Games 2024, a local sports official said on Tuesday.

"A special talent training program designated for Olympics 2024 campaign is taking shape. Most prominent young athletes in key events will have long training courses in the United States or European countries," the official from the Vietnamese General Department of Sports and Physical Training said, declining to be named.

The Vietnamese youths,

who have won gold medals at the recent 17th Asian Junior Athletics Championships, will be included in the program, the official said, noting that local athletics stars such as Truong Thanh Hang, Vu Thi Huong and Nguyen Dinh Cuong have all emerged from Asian junior sporting events.

At the 17th Asian Junior Athletics Championship from June 3 to 6 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam is ranked 7th in medal standings with two golds, three silvers and three bronzes. Vietnamese girl Nguyen Thi Truc Mai grabbed a gold in the long jump with 6.34 meters. Her compatriot Le

Tu Chinh secured another gold in the women's 200 meters with 23.94 seconds, while the Olympics 2016 sets the standard at 23.20 seconds.

Japan topped the medal tally with 13 golds, 10 silvers and four bronzes, followed by China's 11 golds, seven silvers and four bronzes and India's seven golds, four silvers and four bronzes in the tournament.

So far, Vietnam has booked 19 berths in the upcoming Rio Olympic Games out of badminton, rowing, shooting, fencing, race walking, weightlifting, gymnastics, weightlifting, Judo, according to the local committee.

Argentina tops Chile 2-1 in last year's Copa final rematch

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) -- On the day his grandmother died back home, Angel Di Maria's mother asked him to stay with his team, stay focused, and represent his country well in Copa America. He made them all proud with a gutsy performance.

Di Maria scored in the 51st minute off a pass from Ever Banega, then later assisted on Banega's goal, and top-ranked Argentina looked plenty powerful without injured captain Lionel Messi in beating Chile 2-1 in its Copa America opener Monday night.

After his goal, Di Maria held up a shirt reading "Grandma, I'll miss you very much."

"I am so happy because I was able to score. It was for my grandmother and my family that are having a difficult time," Di Maria said. "In the morning when I knew what happened I knew that I would score today, and that happened, and it was for her. The coach was afraid I was not going to play, but if I don't play my grandma was going to get mad."

His coach didn't even know until afterward and was impressed with Di Maria's poise given the emotional day.

"Those are very important circumstances and aspects of life that transcend football," Gerardo Martino said. "He didn't tell me anything. He was feeling good to play. Not all people respond the same in those situations."

Di Maria assisted on Banega's deflected goal in the 59th minute as Messi cheered from the bench.

Jose Pedro Fuenzalida scored in the third minute of stoppage time as Chile avoided a shootout.

There were five yellow cards issued in a testy rematch of last year's final won by La Roja on penalty kicks. Cards were given to Di Maria and Gary Medel in the 65th minute after they tussled near the left sideline of Argentina's offensive half.

Chile's Eugenio Mena was



Chile's Alexis Sanchez, right, vies for the ball against Argentina's Angel Di Maria, left, during a Copa America Centenario Group A soccer match at the Levi's Stadium. --Photo AP

taken off on a stretcher in the 53rd minute after pulling up and appearing to grab his right hamstring, with no contact made.

Playing at home last year, Chile beat Argentina and Messi 4-1 on penalty kicks for La Roja's first Copa championship. Argentina's senior team has not won a major title since the 1993 Copa, losing to Germany in the 2014 World Cup final.

Argentina beat Chile 2-1 in World Cup qualifying in Santiago on March 24.

Monday's match in the San Francisco 49ers' \$1.3 billion stadium attracted a sellout crowd of 69,451 - outdrawing the Friday opener in which Colombia beat the United States 2-0 and a crowd of 67,439 was announced.

Both teams had good chances in a fast-paced first half featuring two yellow cards against Chile.

Nicolas Gaitan had a header from 8 yards in the second minute that Chile goalkeeper Johnny Herrera punched over the crossbar.

In the 18th minute, Gaitan - starting in place of Messi - went down hard and his right knee buckled after a tackle from behind by Arturo Vidal that earned him a yellow card.

Gonzalo Higuain's shot from the left side in the box

went just left off the post in the 23rd minute, then Argentina had another chance thwarted on Marcos Rojo's header off a corner kick.

La Albiceleste goalkeeper Mariano Andujar made a great diving stop in the 30th minute, using his right hand to swat away a shot by Alexis Sanchez after a pair of pretty passes from Marcelo Diaz and Vidal, prompting Messi to clap on the bench.

"The team is different if Messi is playing or not," Chile coach Juan Antonio Pizzi said. "Messi's probably more dangerous than any other soccer player. That's an advantage we had. But the player who replaced Messi, Gaitan, played well. He has other virtues, other characteristics. He helped them have a better structure and made them a solid team. They were able to take advantage of their opportunity."

The news about Messi not starting was hardly a surprise given the 28-year-old Barcelona star's recent back injury. The midfielder practiced on the side during Sunday's training and not with the full team.

Martino is optimistic Messi might be ready to return for Friday's match against Panama in Chicago.

Roger Federer says he is ready for grass-court season

STUTTGART, Germany (AP) -- Seven-time Wimbledon champion Roger Federer is healthy again and looking forward to the grass-court season.

Federer is still without a title this year and has been battling injuries. The former No. 1 underwent meniscus surgery after losing in the Australian Open semifinals to Novak Djokovic and then missed the French Open because of a back injury. The top-ranked Djokovic won his first French Open title on Sunday to complete a career Grand Slam.

"It's been a difficult year for me, to put it mildly,"

Federer said Monday, adding he has had no setbacks in the last three weeks. "Now, I am feeling really well."

"It's OK after all the years to miss a major," said Federer, who had played a record 65 straight Grand Slams since 1999.

The 17-time Grand Slam champion is the top-seeded player at the inaugural edition of the Mercedes Cup on grass and has a bye into the second round.

"If I survive a couple of matches, when you are in the semifinals, you start thinking about the title. But to think now about the title here would be a little premature," he said. "Now it's important to come

back from injuries. That's really the only thing that matters for me."

The 34-year-old Swiss great said he was pleased about the opportunity to add another grass-court event in the build-up to Wimbledon. He is also scheduled to play next week in Halle, his traditional warm-up for Wimbledon, where he's won a record eight titles.

Federer, who is now ranked No. 3, praised Djokovic's win in Paris, saying it was "super for tennis, world class."

"It was wonderful the way he did it," Federer said of Djokovic's triumph, which brought him to 12 Grand Slam titles.



Terms of Reference Data Collection for LEARN Project Impact Evaluation June 2016

Plan Laos and Save the Children seek a survey firm to conduct data collection for the impact evaluation in the Lao Educational Access, Research and Networking (LEARN) Project. LEARN is an action research project funded by Dubai Cares and implemented by Plan International in Laos and Save the Children International in Laos that focuses on improving retention and learning in the early grades of primary school.

The LEARN Project seeks a survey firm to conduct the following data collection activities:

1. Baseline: September-October 2016
2. Mid-term: September-October 2017
3. Endline: April/May 2018
4. Follow-Up for School-Based Record Review: September-October 2018

The data collection tools to be used will include the following:

- **School record review/information** to gather or verify key information about the school and community.
- **Parent questionnaire** to gather background information on family and child
- **One-on-one child assessment** using the existing tool from the World-Bank funded ECE project currently being implemented by MOES.
- Collection of **child biometric data** including weight, height and arm circumference.
- **Classroom observation** to assess teaching and learning practices as well as the overall classroom environment.
- Collection of **school-based cost data** to assist in cost effectiveness analysis for the project.

Data collection will take place in four districts in Oudomxay Province (Houn, Namong, Nga and Pak Beng) and two districts in Luang Prabang Province (Nambak and Ngoi). The survey firm is requested to provide quotations for two different scenarios: 1) a sample size of 90 schools/communities at baseline, mid-term and endline; and 2) a sample size of 120 schools/communities at baseline, mid-term and endline. This is a longitudinal study, and as such the target children (approximately 20 per school) will include the following the same group of children from approximately age 5 at baseline to age 7 at endline.

Qualifications

- Previous expertise and experience in conducting similar surveys in the education and child development sectors in Lao PDR. Note: Lao-based survey firms are strongly preferred. Non Lao-based firms will be considered only if they have previous, recent experience conducting similar work in Laos.
- Thorough knowledge of the operational context for data collection in Lao PDR including remote, mountainous communities where Lao is not commonly spoken.
- Clear evidence of commitment to gender equality, child protection and ethics in survey activities.
- Key staff members qualified at the masters or PhD level in relevant disciplines.
- Evidence of complementary skills and expertise among the proposed team members.
- Clear management structure and past track record demonstrating the ability to deliver results in complex impact evaluations.
- Previous experience with electronic data collection, such as with tablets, in a similar context for similar data collection purposes.

Please Note: A detailed TOR for this opportunity is available by contacting Phonesavanh Sivilay, LEARN Project Coordinator, at Phonesavanh.Sivilay@plan-international.org

To Apply

Please submit the following documents in hard copy, in two separate, sealed envelopes as described below:

Envelope 1:

- Covering letter indicating the names and contact information of three references who can be contacted regarding relevant experience
- Technical proposal including proposed survey design and plans, as well as a management plan including the CVs of proposed team members. The management plan should be clear in its description of how the survey firm's team will be set up from the senior level to the field level to ensure quality provision of deliverables.
- A copy of at least one previous report (or other documentation) of similar survey work undertaken in Lao PDR

Envelope 2:

- Cost proposal clearly stating the daily rate of all team members included in the bid and the number of estimated days required for each team member, as well as other non-remuneration costs. Cost proposals should be quoted in US dollars with the USD-LAK exchange rate that was used, clearly indicated in the proposal.

Please deliver your application in hard copy to the receptionist, Plan International in Lao PDR offices at House no. 413, Saphanthong Tai Village, Sisattanak District Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR, by no later than 3:00 pm local time in Lao PDR on Friday, 24 June 2016. The application envelopes should be clearly labeled with "Data Collection for LEARN Project Impact Evaluation."

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted. Shortlisted applicants may be requested to participate in an in-person or Skype interview process. We anticipate awarding a multi-year contract to the successful survey firm.

Sports

Muguruza rises to No. 2, behind Williams, after French title



Spain's Garbine Muguruza clenches her fist after scoring a point in the final of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France. --Photo AP

PARIS (AP) -- French Open champion Garbine Muguruza jumped two spots to a career-high No. 2 in the WTA rankings on Monday, while runner-up Serena Williams remained at No. 1, where she's been for more than three years. Williams' sister Venus returned to the top 10, going to No. 9 from No. 11 after getting to the fourth round at

Roland Garros. Muguruza's straight-set victory over Serena Williams in Saturday's final gave the 22-year-old Spaniard her first Grand Slam title. It was her second major final, following a loss to Williams at Wimbledon a year ago. Novak Djokovic, who won his fourth consecutive major title by beating Andy Murray in the French Open final Sunday, added to his lead atop the ATP rankings. Djokovic has more ranking points than No. 2 Murray and No. 3 Roger Federer combined. Rafael Nadal rose to No. 4, swapping places with No. 5 Stan Wawrinka, who won the 2015 French Open and lost to Murray in this year's semifinals. Dominic Thiem, a 22-year-old from Austria who lost to Djokovic in his first Grand Slam semifinal, climbed to a career-best No. 7 from No. 15. In men's doubles, Nicolas Mahut is the new No. 1, going up from No. 2. The 34-year-old Frenchman is best known for participating in the longest singles match in tennis history, a 70-68 fifth-set loss to John Isner at Wimbledon in 2010.

Malaysia score another emphatic victory over Timor Leste

JOHOR BARU (The Star, ANN) -- Malaysia have won their ticket into the qualifying round of the 2019 Asian Cup Finals.

The Malaysian team made short work of Timor Leste with a 3-0 win in the second leg of the playoff at the Larkin Stadium in Johor Baru on Monday. Malaysia advanced 6-0 on aggregate and will join 23 other teams in the qualifying tournament next year.

National coach Datuk Ong Kim Swee made one change to the line-up, which beat Timor Leste 3-0 in the first leg of the playoff in Larkin on Thursday.

The former international introduced New Zealand-born Khair Jones and the Malacca midfielder got the ball rolling with the opening goal in the 15th minute. Ahmad Hazwan Bakri doubled the score in the 58th before substitute S. Chanturu nailed the third goal in the 68th minute.

Khair tucked the ball past the arms of goalkeeper Ramos Maxanches into the bottom left corner of the Timor Leste goal after a pass from Hazwan.



Khair Jones (right) got on the scoresheet in Malaysia's 3-0 win over Timor Leste at Larkin Stadium on Monday. --Photo The Star

In the second half, Hazwan got his name in the score-sheet after he headed in a cross from Mohd Asrif Nasrulhaq in the 57th minute.

Substitute Chanturu, who replaced Khair before the start of the second half, then made it 3-0 for Malaysia after he

volleyed the ball into the net following a cross by his Johor Darul Ta'zim (JDT) team-mate S. Kunalan in the 68th minute.

In the qualifying competition next year, the 24 teams will be divided into six groups, with the top two qualifying for the Finals in

United Arab Emirates. To date, 12 teams have won automatic berths to the 2019 Finals. They are the United Arab Emirates as host, Qatar, South Korea, Japan, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Uzbekistan, Syria, Iraq, Iran and China.

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