



SKILLS FOR TOURISM PROJECT • LAO/029

IMPACT STORIES

TVET TEACHERS

“PTHAS gave us the confidence to work closely with the private sector”



Image: Ms. Somhak Siayamon, Ms. Phonsay Thonethongdeth, and Ms. Oudone Thengsombath. Credit: Swisscontact

Somhak Siayamon, Phonsay Thonethongdeth, and Oudone Thengsombath are teachers at Champasak TVET college. They are also coaches and mentors for students under the Enhanced PTHAS Training Programme. In addition to teaching the PTHAS programme, they also encourage students and assist them after graduation.

“The training helped us improve our skills and teaching methods to be more inclusive of students who don’t have a high school diploma...”

All three teachers attended a Training of Trainers (TOT) at the former Lao National Institute for Tourism and Hospitality (Lanith) to introduce them to new material and student-centred teaching methods. “The training helped us improve our skills and teaching methods to be more inclusive of students who don’t have a high school diploma”, says Somhak. They love the approach and the training materials, and have applied them in their regular classes as well.

Somhak, Phonsay and Oudone’s Journey

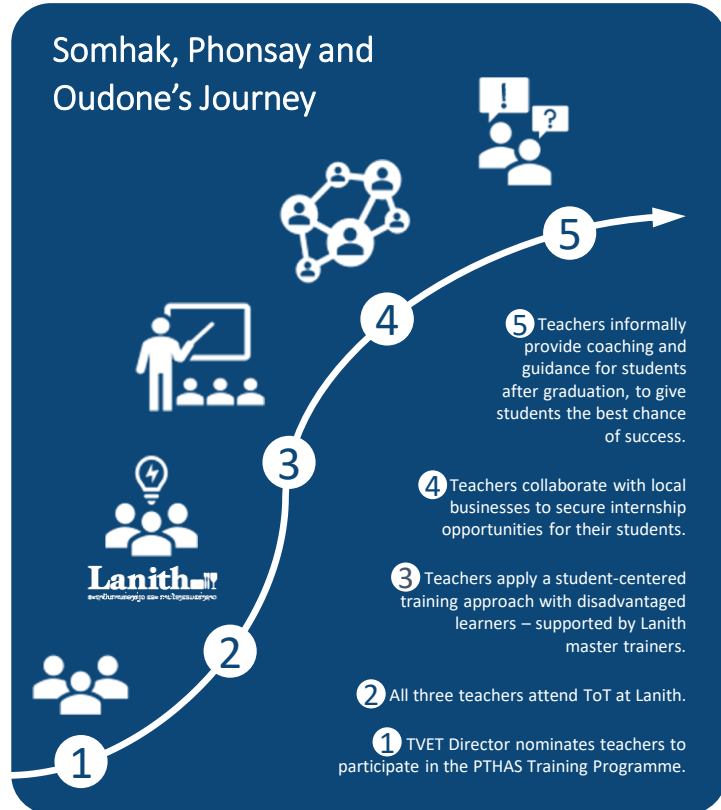




Image: Training of Trainers Completion Ceremony for TVET teachers at the former Lanith, Vientiane. Credit: Swisscontact

PTHAS places a high importance on preparing students for work in the private sector. Teachers arrange industry days and internships, and counsel students in collaboration with local businesses.

“Before PTHAS, we didn’t really talk to local businesses”, Phonsay explains, although tourism and hospitality classes were being taught previously, they only collaborated “with a few businesses”.

“For most students, initially their abilities are low, but their motivation is very high – that’s why they’re able to learn fast and employers see that”

Oudone Thengsombath

Somhak talks warmly of her relationship with local business owners in Champasak Province, “they were not just involved in recruiting the students with us, they also made themselves available for us during industry days and for internships”.

The teachers agree that this engagement with the private sector was crucial as it helped students bridge the gap between the theory and practice of tourism and hospitality. Oudone proudly affirms, “I believe internships lead to employment”, and continues, “PTHAS gave us the confidence to work closely with the private sector to make this happen”.



Image: Industry day at a hotel in Pakse, Champasak Province. Students receive a practical introduction to front office operations. Credit: Swisscontact

Pheun Than Heng A Sip (PTHAS) Training Programme



RESULTS TO DATE: TEACHER CAPACITY BUILDING

 **27** TVET teachers trained (23 female) from 6 provinces

 **73%** approval rating from teachers (3.85/5)*

 **55** private sector partnerships for TVET schools

 **‘Very Good’** rating of training by graduates (4.4/5)**

In collaboration with the Skills for Tourism Project (LAO/029), Swisscontact implements the Pheun Than Heng A Sip (PTHAS) Training Programme.

PTHAS seeks to upgrade hospitality skills amongst 500 MSME staff (upskilling) and support 500 more people from disadvantaged backgrounds to enter the tourism and hospitality sector (labour market insertion) in selected southern and central provinces.

The Skills for Tourism Project (LAO/029) is co-financed by the Governments of Lao PDR, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and Switzerland, and is implemented by the Ministry of Education and Sports of Lao PDR and LuxDev, the Luxembourg Development Cooperation Agency.

*From TVET teacher feedback data collected by Swisscontact 2018-2020 with 73% stating to be satisfied or highly satisfied on a 5-point Likert scale

** From enhanced graduates feedback data collected by Swisscontact 2018-2020 using a five-point Likert scale: 1=poor 2=fair, 3=satisfactory, 4=good, 5=very good