

Thai princess visits Laos to enhance ties, mutual understanding

Times Reporters

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand arrived in Vientiane yesterday for a two-day official visit to Laos, aimed at enhancing bilateral ties between the two neighbours and mutual understanding between the Lao and Thai peoples.

Her visit is in response to an invitation from Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Thongloun Sisoulith, the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a press release.

The ministry said the princess's visit will be an important boost in enhancing mutual understanding between the people of Laos and Thailand, and furthering relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Shortly after landing at Wattay International Airport where Her Royal Highness was warmly welcomed by high-ranking Lao officials, the princess visited an ethnic and cultural school for orphans in Vientiane province where she attended the official opening of a computer studies building.

During her visit, Princess



President Choummaly Sayasone (right) yesterday welcomes Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand.

Sirindhorn presented study materials and sports equipment to the school.

Later in the day, the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of goods production and circulation, Mr Somsavat

Lengsavad, hosted a dinner for the princess at the Lao Plaza Hotel in Vientiane.

In the afternoon, the princess paid a courtesy visit to President Choummaly Sayasone at the Presidential

Office.

The president, on behalf of the Lao people, expressed heartfelt thanks to Her Royal Highness for the valuable assistance she has extended

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Huaphan vehicle caravan expected to grow

Souknilundon Southivongnorath

A vehicle caravan travelling to the northern provinces from December 11-15 this year should double in size compared to the previous year, according to the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism yesterday.

The ministry arranged a press conference to officially announce the caravan to the public. The main objective of the activity was to promote tourism sites among local people and foreign visitors or foreign residents in Laos.

They said it is also part of celebrating the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the 95th anniversary of President Kaysone Phomvihane's birthday on December 13.

The conference reported today that so far about 65 vehicles have joined the caravan and it is believed that this number shall increase to over 100 before December 11, the scheduled date of departure from Vientiane to the northern provinces.

Deputy Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Mr Chaleun Warintrasak said this year the caravan will visit many great activities relating to the celebrations, in particular in Huaphan province, which played

a major historical role in the struggle for the independence of the Lao people in the past.

The caravan shall depart Vientiane before passing through Xieng Khuang province on its way to Viengkay district of Huaphan province under the theme "Return to the Birthplace-Glorification to the revolution of Laos"

Running from December 11-15, the trip will start from That Luang Esplanade in the capital and head up through Xieng Khuang on its way to Huaphan province.

The caravan group will visit the Kaysone Phomvihane Memorial Cave, the Caves of the Government Leaders and join a photo exhibition at Xang-Lot Cave in Viengkay district.

The caravan will then move to Xamneua district in the evening of December 13 to enjoy a traditional arts show by local communities in Huaphan province.

During its return to the capital on December 14, the participants of the caravan will enjoy various other activities and new experiences at the historic tourist sites in Xieng Khuang province before returning to Vientiane on December 15.

Mr Chaleun explained that there will be many great events

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NA seeks power to control public debt

Times Reporters

The National Assembly is debating whether to assume oversight of government and public debt in a bid to safeguard macroeconomic stability.

Assembly Vice President Mr Somphanh Phengkhammy on Monday proposed a number of changes to the constitution. One of these would require the

government to seek approval from the legislative body if it wishes to change the proportion of government debt in relation to GDP.

The Constitution Drafting Committee has suggested that public debt be kept within a certain percentage of GDP. At present, there is no regulation governing the matter in the Lao constitution.

National Assembly members are currently debating the inclusion of such a regulation in the constitution.

Many expect that a change to the constitution, which outlines the role and duties of the assembly, will receive a majority vote. Once enshrined in the constitution, this law would empower the assembly to more closely monitor

government expenditure.

The decision of the Constitution Drafting Committee on the issue comes as the country is facing increasing public pressure concerning government activities that take place without the approval of the National Assembly.

No exact information

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City authorities, JICA confer on development planning

Times Reporters

The 4th Joint Coordination Committee meeting of the Urban Development Management Project between Vientiane authorities and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) experts has reported on results so far and improvements needed.

The meeting in the capital yesterday explained the project's progress, particularly covering general and detailed land use plans and zoning codes as well as a cityscape code for historic areas.

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport's Director General of the Department of Housing and Urban Planning, Mr Khamthavy Thaiphachanh chaired the meeting which also conferred on further actions required.

In his address, Mr Khamthavy said the meeting was based on the master plan study that was jointly conducted by the Lao government and JICA between 2010 and 2011.

Participants heard further progress regarding the development of the general land use plan and zoning code for 62,000 hectares across the city as well as developments for a detailed land use plan and zoning code for 4,000 ha of the inner city.

Mr Khamthavy emphasised participants had previous agreed with the idea of dividing the urban development process into two stages - obtaining permission for land development and permission for building construction.

In addition, a consensus was reached on the need for appropriate measures and administrative tools to cope with illegal urban development and construction, with concrete steps to be taken to address this.

Based on the inclusive planning process, the project has already organised stakeholders' meetings in order to explain the project components and to obtain further support from community representatives of Vientiane.

The results of the stakeholder meetings were reported to the project.

For the historic area covering 190 ha, the basic concept for the area as well as proposals for the cityscape control and the pilot project were also presented yesterday.

The project is attempting to set up basic principles and conditions for the development of Vientiane and is seen as a very significant but also challenging step.

Participants agreed that it was important for everybody not only to have active discussions but also to take concrete actions in order to support the development of Vientiane.

Mr Khamthavy said he hoped that after yesterday's discussion the involved sectors could see tangible results and a clear way forward for each project activity.

He also asked for the continuous efforts of participants in support of the project and future cooperation with JICA experts to ensure its successful implementation.

UNFPA to employ new strategy for helping women, girls

Phetphoxay Sengpaseuth

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will use a transformative new agenda and strategy for helping women and girls in the natural crisis-prone world, it was highlighted at a recent meeting.

Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment, Dr Kikeo Chanthabouly spoke at a press conference to announce 'Shelter from the storm: A transformative agenda for women and girls in a crisis-prone world' on Monday in Vientiane.

"The new strategy is important to the current global context because the new strategy can play an important role to solve the problems of violence against women and girls in today's natural crisis-prone world," Dr Kikeo said.

For many years, the governments of countries around the world have been working to solve the problems of violence against women and girls. Now, they need to solve the problems of women and adolescent girls bearing extraordinary burdens with the worsening storm of crises, wars and natural disasters, UNFPA officials highlighted.

Dr Kikeo said Laos has enjoyed a peaceful society and less major natural disaster events in the past decades. However the Lao government has sought to exchange experience on helping women and girls in the natural crisis-prone world with many partners internationally.

The new strategy is important to Laos for the



Dr Kikeo Chanthabouly (right) and Dr Hassan Mohtashami (left).

protection of family and community, as women and adolescent girls can easily become victims of sexual violence, unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, he added.

Dr Kikeo explained that critical basic services like maternal health and contraception are necessary to save women's lives and enable adolescents to make a safe and healthy transition to adulthood, with their rights and dignity intact.

UNFPA to Laos representative, Dr Hassan Mohtashami said without the usual protection of family and community, women and adolescent girls can easily become victims of sexual violence, unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections.

Dr Hassan said that women's health and rights are under siege when natural disasters topple hospitals, when conflicts undermine rule of law

and heighten vulnerabilities to rape, when an epidemic makes it unsafe for expectant mothers to find the services of a midwife.

The report calls on governments and assistance groups everywhere to move women's health and rights, and in particular women's sexual and reproductive health, from the backseat to the front seat of the world's humanitarian agenda, he said.

The risks and vulnerabilities for women and girls in these situations are disproportionately high but the services and support available to them in crises are disproportionately low.

According to the UNFPA, the report has given us the striking fact that every day 507 women and adolescent girls die during pregnancy and childbirth in crises like earthquakes and conflicts, while one hundred million people needed humanitarian assistance this year.

New e-library system boosts health learning process

Times Reporters

Medical lecturers and medical students now enjoy free access to information on public health and medical research within the Lao PDR and also from elsewhere throughout the world.

The University of Health Sciences has been providing the E-Library services since September.

The library is very vital for students and lecturers in the health sector to upgrade their knowledge, experience and skills in the different branches of medicine. The University of Health Sciences (UHS) operates under the Ministry of Health. It is a unique institution in the country that trains medical and health professionals. UHS has consistently been trying its best to improve the quality of its teaching and learning in order to bring it into line with international standards, such as the Asean educational standards.

With financial and technical support from the Wellcome Trust and the University of Oxford, United Kingdom (UK), the UHS has been collaborating with the research unit based at Mahosot Hospital - the Lao Oxford-Mahosot Hospital-Wellcome Trust Research Unit (LOMWRU) - in establishing a repository of information on public health and medical research in the Lao PDR, called,

in short, the "E-Library."

Embedded in the website of the UHS (www.uhs.edu.la), the E-library contains links to allow doctors and students to download PDF files of scientific papers and other information on medicine and health within and outside the Lao PDR.

The repository is organised under various subject headings such as diagnosis methods, health in the Lao PDR, health systems, infectious diseases, the Lao Medical Journal, Mahosot Microbiology Review, medical statistics, medicine quality and pharmacy, non-communicable diseases, nutrition and toxicology.

"The E-Library is a knowledge and wisdom source where our university lecturers and students can search for the information that they need for their professional and academic purposes 24 hours a day without limits," said Deputy Head of Office of the UHS, in charge of Administration and International Relations, Dr Bansa Oupathana.

He added that people do not need to go and sit in the library like before to search for and carry very heavy books to read - all they need is a computer with an internet connection and then they will be able to find the information that they want easily on their computer.

Students can also get access to the lectures of their lecturers without attending classes in some

cases. In addition to providing the information on health and medicine, the website also links viewers to organisations with an active interest in health in the Lao PDR and these are given on the 'Useful Links' page of the web.

People can also suggest additional subjects and deposit their papers and reports, which they think will be useful in improving the health of people in the Lao PDR by writing to the email address: mayfong@tropmedres.ac

However, it is the responsibility of the depositor to ensure that the relevant copyright laws are adhered to and the University of Health Sciences takes no responsibility for wrongful deposition.

"We hope that this E-Library will be useful to medical students, lecturers and health workers taking care of patients in Laos and will become a valuable resource for informing health policy," said Director of LOMWRU at Mahosot Hospital Prof. Paul Newton. He added that it was a repository of information that lecturers and doctors hope will inform evidence-based medical practice. "We greatly encourage institutions and individuals to disseminate the information they have collected through this medium in accordance with the terms of use, which appears at the bottom of the website's home page.

Huaphan vehicle caravan... FROM PAGE 1

during the trip because of the celebrations. "The caravan organising committees gained previous caravan experiences to improve this journey and I do believe we are now 100 percent ready," he said.

During the conference, the committee also reported to those attendees to prepare their vehicles and check everything for safety prior to departure while they also reminded people who eat meals at regular times to bring some snacks along the way because the caravan might not be on time for lunch or dinner.

The caravan has also cooperated with the military and public security ministries to ensure security along the route, while the media will also enjoy good arrangements within the caravan to promote this travel route.

Mr Chaleun said tourism aims to help people relax and experience the many historical



Deputy Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Mr Chaleun Warintrasak (second right) and the caravan committees attend a press conference in Vientiane to promote the caravan to the northern provinces.

and natural sites on offer, of which there are many in northern Laos, especially Huaphan province. Anyone interested in participating can register with the Tourism Marketing and Promotion Department by phoning 021 212 248, 020 5548

9959 and 020 7766 6474, or Email: info@tourism.la, or visit the Facebook pages Laos Travel and Laos Simply Beautiful.

Registered participants will receive a free shirt, hat and four stickers.

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Chomphet town relocated to a larger space



Mr Chan points to the new town on a road linking Luang Prabang province and Xayaboury province.

Khonesavanh Latsaphao

The town of Chomphet district in Luang Prabang province has been relocated as the old area of Xiengman where the town was located was confined by mountains and unable to be further developed.

Governor of Chomphet district Mr Chan Vannasy, told *Vientiane Times* on Monday evening that the new relocation site of Chomphet town is about six kilometres from the old site.

The new town was removed from the Xiengman area on the banks of the Mekong River, opposite the town of Luang Prabang district.

"We moved because there was no more space in the town for the construction of new houses as it's a mountainous site," Mr Chan explained.

Most of the state buildings of Chomphet district have been relocated and district authorities have been working at the new town site, which is situated in the two villages of Pholath and Bomlong, for a few years already.

Currently, only the district Public Works and Transport section and district health section are working in the old town because the funds for the reconstruction of these buildings in the new town area are insufficient as yet.

The new town of Chomphet district is located on a road linking the district of Chomphet in Luang Prabang province to Hongsa district of Xayaboury province. The road is currently unpaved.

However Mr Chan said it is expected that the road will start

to be improved with asphalt this year, starting from Hongsa district of Xayaboury province and moving towards Chomphet district in Luang Prabang province.

According to Xayaboury provincial Public Works and Transport Department, National Road No. 4B, which links the two provinces of Xayaboury and Luang Prabang and is currently unpaved, will be surfaced with a double layer of asphalt.

The government has borrowed more than 766 million baht (over 177 billion kip) from Thailand's Neighbouring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency (NEDA) to upgrade the 113 kilometre road.

An agreement to upgrade the road was signed in Xayaboury province on August 13.

The dirt road runs from Xayaboury's Hongsa district to Luang Prabang's Chomphet district but is not widely used because of the problems it causes motorists. As well as having a rough surface, the road passes through mountainous terrain.

When the road is complete many people will choose to travel this way between Hongsa and Chomphet districts as it will take less time.

According to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, NEDA helped with consultancy on the survey and design of an additional section of Road No. 11 from the Namsang Bridge in Sangthong district, Vientiane, to the Nasak-Khokkhaodor Mekong Bridge in Xanakham district, Vientiane province, over a distance of about 150 kilometres.

Southern Laos launches tourism destination brand

Times Reporters

The new brand "Southern Laos, Charming by nature", has been officially launched to promote the four southern provinces of Saravan, Xekong, Attapeu and Champassak as one tourism destination.

The event took place recently in Champassak province and was attended by high level public and private sector representatives from Saravan, Xekong, Attapeu and Champassak provinces, as well as the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism.

In his opening speech, Deputy Governor of Champassak Mr Buasone Vongsongkhone said "Like the anniversary of our country, today's brand launch event is about our identity, about who we are, about what we stand for."

He further stressed that, "The brand reminds us about what we need to treasure and what kind of tourism we want to promote such as a sustainable tourism which is respectful to our culture, to our environment and which helps to share economic benefits amongst all members of the society in southern Laos."

The brand was developed in a participatory process over a period of 10 months, facilitated by Swisscontact and supported by international branding expertise from the marketing agency QUO, based in Bangkok.

According to Tim Gamper, Country Manager of Swisscontact in Laos, the



Mr Buasone Vongsongkhone (left) and Mr Tim Gamper launch the Southern Laos destination brand.

most important element of the branding process for southern Laos was not its output of a logo and a tagline, but the fact that it brought tourism stakeholders together from the public and private sector, across provincial borders and across business interests.

CEO of QUO Mr David Keen underlined that the brand launching event was just the start of a journey which is likely to contribute significantly to the economic success of the four southern provinces of Laos.

But he stressed the importance for local

stakeholders to take ownership of the brand and to live it in their day-to-day operations.

The event was surrounded by cultural performances from southern Laos and brought to life by large picture banners, giving a glimpse of the charming nature of the destination.

A big list of media tools was also launched for stakeholders to incorporate with their own material creatively. Part of the media package is a new website (www.southern-laos.com) filled with highlights on things to do or see, as well as an area for tourism trade professionals.

Botanical experts on Southeast Asia meet in Vientiane

Times Reporters

Botanical experts from Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam are meeting in Vientiane this week to discuss and report on the success of botanical research in tropical Asia.

The third such meeting was organised in the Lao capital from December 7-10, 2015, on the topic "International Congress on Botanical Research in Tropical Asia."

It opened in Vientiane yesterday to discuss and report the success of botanical research in tropical Asia, attended by Deputy Minister of Education and Sports, Ms Sengdean Lachanthaboun, and Vice President of the National University of Laos, Associate Prof. Phouth Simmalavong.

This meeting is aimed to stimulate North-South collaboration in the study of tropical flora. In particular, various botanical research topics will be reported at the meeting, with technical exchanges between experts, researchers and students.

A total of 121 titles including seven lectures will be given by keynote speakers, including 62 oral presentations

and 52 poster presentations by researchers from domestic and international institutes.

In addition, there will be a botanical ink drawing master class guided by French experts, herbarium practical training, and a best student posters award contest, officials confirmed.

Speaking at the meeting, Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the National University of Laos and a representative of Laos Botanical Research in Tropical Asia, Dr Somchanh Bouphanmy said that this meeting has been eagerly awaited as a forum where recent research results can be presented, advice on plant conservation policy in tropical Asia can be given, and the sustainable use of plant resources can be promoted.

Dr Somchanh said it will provide valuable opportunities for Lao researchers to exchange ideas and promote collaboration with foreign experts and researchers. It will also promote Laos' botanical research as well as scientific research to be upgraded and gradually brought in line regional and international standards.

This meeting will

offer its stage for four days of informative lectures and presentations, productive dialogues and networking opportunities to address some eight fields of research including: taxonomy, ethnobotany, ethno-pharmacology, photo-chemistry, biodiversity and a conservation and botanical gardens ecology database, she added.

Dr Somchanh said "This will be a memorable symposium and we are looking forward to this meeting providing a unique opportunity for sharing the latest research, strengthening the research network, and mostly pointing out new tools for better conservation and plant biodiversity and their sustainable use in this region."

According to the Faculty of Natural Sciences, the first symposium (December 8-14, 2008) was organised by the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle and the Royal University of Phnom Penh, gathering some 350 participants from more than 20 countries.

There were 57 oral presentations and 60 posters, and a workshop on botanical illustration which attracted about 40 people.

NA seeks power... FROM PAGE 1

is available about the total extent of public debt but top government leaders including Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong have expressed concern over rising public debt on many occasions.

In a bid to curb the budget deficit the government has cut the living allowance that was recently awarded to all state officials and has deferred a pay rise for government workers.

According to the Annual Economic Report of the Bank of the Lao PDR, which is posted on its official website, Laos' total external debt was recorded as US\$5.1 billion in 2014. This is a 24 percent increase on the

figure for 2013 and accounts for 44 percent of GDP.

The report does not provide data on domestic debt but it is widely acknowledged that this has seen a massive increase in recent years.

This is largely attributed to the government and local authorities' practice of allowing private companies to pay the cost of government-owned development projects initially, with the government reimbursing the company at a later date.

Most of the government funding involved in such schemes has not been approved or monitored by the National

Assembly.

Economists welcomed the Constitution Drafting Committee's suggestion of giving power to the National Assembly, as the people's representative, to oversee government debt and safeguard macroeconomic stability.

"I support the idea of the NA having the power to oversee government expenditure," said economist Dr Mana Southichak.

Dr Mana welcomed the proposed change, saying it would allow the National Assembly to take a more active role in monitoring the government's performance.

Thai princess visits... FROM PAGE 1

to Laos over the years. This has helped to improve the livelihoods of the Lao people and boost socio-economic development.

On the same day, the princess and her delegation travelled to the southern province of Champassak where she was welcomed by Mr Thongloun, the Governor of Champassak province Dr Bounthong Divixay, and local residents.

A baci ceremony was organised to wish the princess well and Dr Bounthong hosted a dinner in her honour.

Today, the princess is scheduled to visit a livestock

demonstration centre in Champassak province. There are plans to expand and develop the centre through a pilot project that will grow vegetables and fruit that do well in cool weather.

Arrangements have also been made for the princess to visit Pakxong district hospital where Her Royal Highness is to be briefed on a development project taking place at the hospital through technical cooperation between Laos and Thailand.

The princess will present medical equipment to the hospital and visit some local landmarks before returning

home the same day.

Princess Sirindhorn has made regular visits to Laos. Last year, she came to Vientiane for the 20th anniversary of the Houayson-Houaysua Agriculture Service and Development Centre. The centre was established in 1994 through cooperation by the heads-of-state of Laos and Thailand.

From 1993 to 2014, Thailand has provided more than 236.6 million baht (almost 59 billion kip) to finance the construction of infrastructure and facilities at the centre along with technical assistance to train Lao staff and farmers.

PBM, Interplast provide free surgery in Xieng Khuang

Times Reporters

A medical team led by doctors from Interplast Australia and New Zealand arrived in Laos to provide free surgical treatment for people in Xieng Khuang province suffering from conditions such as burn scar contractures, cleft lip or cleft palate.

The programme, worth a total of US\$150,000, is funded by Phu Bia Mining (PBM) and supported by the Women's International Group (WIG).

The team of plastic and reconstructive surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses from Interplast are working at the Lao-Mongolian Friendship Hospital in Xieng Khuang from December 1-10, 2015. They will also work alongside and train staff from Mahosot Hospital in Vientiane.

During the programme, the WIG provided pre and post-operative assistance to all patients, and financial support to those who travelled to receive treatment.

In 2014, a total of 91 procedures were performed, which included 33 people undergoing reconstructive burns surgery, 13 for repair of cleft lip and palates and 27 for treatment to reduce scarring from burns. The majority of the 91 procedures were on female patients. Specialist reconstructive or plastic surgery is life-changing treatment for the people in Xieng Khuang province benefitting from the programme.

Those born with cleft palates would have difficulties eating or speaking, while burn scar contractures can result in restrictions of movement around the injured area. Chairman of Phu Bia Mining, Mr Chanpheng Bounnaphol said that it is the fourth year the company has supported the programme.

"The specialist medical treatment has transformed the lives of more than 200 people in Xieng Khuang over the last three years. To mark the 40th anniversary of Laos, the company also extended support to local



An Interplast doctor checks the organs of a baby with cleft lip in Xieng Khuang province.

communities in Xaysomboun province who wished to travel to Xieng Khuang province to receive free surgery. We expect to provide treatment to more than 90 people this year," Mr Chanpheng said. He added that Phu Bia Mining will continue to support Interplast and work with local authorities to address health and poverty.

News in Brief

Two accidents kill one, injure another

A motorbike rider was killed in an accident, while another one was injured in a separate accident on Sunday in Vientiane. The first accident occurred in Phonsa-ard village, Xaysettha district when a car crashed into a motorbike killing the rider instantly, according to *Laophathana* newspaper. The victim was Mr Bounmak and the car driver was Mr Souksavanh, 15, who is a student of Phonphanao village, Xaysettha district.

The second accident occurred as a pick-up crashed into the front fence of the Presidential Office. The pick-up driver, Mr Phouthasone, 20, a student of Kaengpayang village, Hadxaifong district, was seriously injured.

Drug dealer arrested in Vientiane

Vientiane Police Department recently arrested a drug dealer and seized more than 1,800 amphetamine pills in his possession. The drug dealer, Mr Mo, 28, is a resident of Phalanxay village, Sisattanak district, Vientiane, according to *Khuamsangob* newspaper. He confessed he had sold illegal drugs since 2013 and bought 200-400 amphetamine pills per time from Mr Pom, 30. The dealer told police that he resold the drugs to Mr Lar, 33, of Donnokkhoum village, Mr Saengthavi, 31, of Phanman village, Mr Noy, 33, of Thaphalanxay village and to other youths. Mr Saengthavi, Mr Noy and Mr Lar were later arrested. Currently police are continuing to investigate the case.

New school facilities help local children make the grade

A newly-constructed primary school and kindergarten are set to help school-age children in Km12 village in Pakxong district of Champassak province make the grade, thanks to financial support from a foundation of Monaco and local businesses.

The handover of the new facilities took place recently, according to the *Socio-Economic Daily*. The Monaco foundation extended financial support of 425 million kip, while local people and businesses contributed more than 128 million kip.

Goods exhibition promotes commercial production, trade in Savannakhet

Savannakhet province has organised a product expo to promote commercial production and trade in the central region. The expo is being held at the International Trade Exhibition and Convention Centre (I-TECC) in the province from November 30 until December 30. Main commodities showcased at the expo are made-in-Laos handicraft products, according to the *Socio-Economic Daily*. Some 250 local and foreign enterprises and organisations are promoting their goods at the expo.

U.S. Embassy Auction
December 12, 2015

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Vehicles (1 truck and 1 SUV),
Tools and much more.....

Pre-registration is required for bidders:
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From 09:00 to 11:00 Hrs

Late-registration will also be accepted:
December 12, 2015
From 08:00 to 10:30 Hrs

December 12, 2015:
08:00 Doors open / item viewing
09:30 Bidding begins
15:00 Bidding closes on a rolling basis
15:00 Make payments & Items removal

Embassy Field: Ban Watnak, Sisattanak District, Vientiane.
Tel: 020-5551-5996, 020 5552-9692
(For Vehicles 020 5552-9616)

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
PROGRAMME ASSOCIATE
Fixed Term Appointment at ICS-6 Level (Contract 12 months)

UNDP is seeking a national Programme Associate to work in close collaboration with the operations, programme and projects' staff in the CO, UNDP HQ and Bangkok Regional Hub as required for resolving complex finance-related issues and exchange of information.

Duties and responsibilities

- Support to formulation of programme strategies and implementation of the Country Programme Action Plan
 - Collection, analysis and presentation of background information for preparation of UNDAF, CPO, CFAF, effective application of RBM tools and establishment of management targets (BSC)
 - Presentation of background information for formulation of country programme, draft project documents, work plans, budgets, proposals on implementation arrangements
- Support to management of the CO programme
 - Creation of a project in Atlas, preparation of required budget revisions, revision of project award and project status, determination of unutilized funds, operational and financial close of a project
 - Undertakes check of the project IPOA settlement and advance requests and creates non vouchers for the concerned projects
 - Review project financial and substantive reports and help Programme analysts to prepare project budgets into ATLAS
- Administrative support to the Programme Unit
 - Draft non-substantive correspondence relating to Environment Unit programme. Maintains policy, confidentiality and general management file
 - Assist in arranging appointments, organizing meetings, taking minutes of Environment unit meeting
 - Make travel arrangements for the supervisor and unit team and performs liaison duties with other units
 - Draft/translate Eng-Lao/Eng related project documents as assigned by supervisor
- Support to resource mobilization
 - Analysis of information on donors, preparation of donor's profile
 - Track and report on mobilized resources. Review of contributions agreement, managing contributions in Atlas
- Facilitation of knowledge building and knowledge sharing
 - Organization of trainings for the operations/ projects staff on programme
 - Synthesis of lessons learnt and best practices in programme
 - Sound contributions to knowledge networks and communities of practice

Competencies

- Demonstrating/safeguarding ethics and integrity
- Demonstrate corporate knowledge and sound judgment
- Self-development, initiative-taking
- Acting as a team player and facilitating team work
- Facilitating and encouraging open communication in the team, communicating effectively
- Creating synergies through self-control
- Managing conflict
- Informed and transparent decision making

Qualifications and experience

- Secondary Education, preferably with specialized certification in Accounting and Finance. University Degree in Business or Public Administration, Economics, Political Sciences and Social Sciences would be desirable, but it is not a requirement.
- 6 years of progressively responsible administrative or programme experience is required at the national or international level.
- Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages (MS Word, Excel, etc) and advance knowledge of spreadsheet and database packages, experience in handling of web based management systems.
- Fluency in written and spoken English and Lao.

This UNDP fixed term appointment will be based in the UNDP Country Office in Vientiane. This post is for **Lao Nationals only**.
The applicants are required to **Apply Online** by 19 December 2015.
Telephone: 0856-211 267 777 or Fax: 0856-211 267 799
Female candidates are encouraged to apply
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/la_la_pdr/en/home/operations/job/



Officials from the Ministry of Public Works and Transport and representatives of authorised Toyota dealers in Laos gather for a group photo last week during a one-day driving course in Vientiane titled Safe Driving Education, organised by Toyota Motor Thailand Company Limited. The company's Executive Vice President Mr Wichien Emprasertsuk, Deputy Head of the Operations Office for the Mekong Division Mr Kumpol Akameteepun and senior Lao officials attended the event.

UNFPA to Laos representative, Dr Hassan Mohtashami (left) hands over the report on the State of the World Population 2015 to Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment, Dr Kikeo Chanthabouly (right). The UNFPA also highlighted its new strategy 'Shelter from the storm: A transformative agenda for women and girls in a crisis-prone world' on Monday in Vientiane.



A ferry takes vehicles and passengers across the Mekong River between the town of Luang Prabang and Chomphet district in Luang Prabang province.



Tourists listen attentively as a guide explains the history of some of the landmarks in Luang Prabang.

ລາວໂຕໂຢຕ້າ ແລກໂຊກບ້າຍປີ

ເຊິ່ງຈະມີການຈັບລາງວັນ 3 ຄັ້ງ

- ຄັ້ງທີ 1 ວັນທີ 11/11/2015
- ຄັ້ງທີ 2 ວັນທີ 12/01/2016
- ຄັ້ງທີ 3 ວັນທີ 16/01/2016

ເລີ່ມ
01/10/2015 - 29/12/2015

ລູກຄ້າທີ່ ຊື້ລົດ ໂຕໂຢຕ້າ ມື້ນີ້ ມີສິດລຸ້ນໂຊກໃຫຍ່ 2 ຊັ້ນ

ໂຊກຊັ້ນທີ 1

- : HILUX REVO PRERUNNER 1 ລາງວັນ
- : VIOS AT 1 ລາງວັນ
- : ລົດຈັກ Yamaha FINO 10 ລາງວັນ :
- : ສາຍຄໍຄໍາສັ່ງ 10 ບາດ 5 ລາງວັນ
- : ສາຍຄໍຄໍາສັ່ງ 5 ບາດ 8 ລາງວັນ
- : ສາຍຄໍຄໍາສັ່ງ 2 ບາດ 40 ລາງວັນ
- : ສາຍຄໍຄໍາສັ່ງ 1 ບາດ 50 ລາງວັນ
- : iPhone 6s 50 ລາງວັນ
- : Ipad Mini3 42 ລາງວັນ

ເຊິ່ງຈະມີການຈັບລາງວັນ 2 ຄັ້ງ : ຄັ້ງທີ 1 ວັນທີ 11/11/2015
: ຄັ້ງທີ 2 ວັນທີ 12/01/2016

ໂຊກຊັ້ນທີ 2

(ພິເສດສຳລັບລູກຄ້າທີ່ຊື້ ລົດ ກະບະ REVO Prerunner, REVO 2x4, PC

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- : ລົດ TOYOTA FT 86 1 ລາງວັນ
- : iPhone 6s 16G 10 ລາງວັນ
- : TV 50" 10 ລາງວັນ
- : ຈັບລາງວັນ ໃນວັນທີ 16/01/2016

ສອບຖາມຂໍ້ມູນ ເພີ່ມຕື່ມ

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ສາຂາສີໂຄດຕະບອງ ຖະໜົນ ຫຼວງພະບາງ, (13 ເໜືອ), ບ້ານນາແຮ່, ເມືອງ ສີໂຄດຕະບອງ, ນະຄອນຫຼວງວຽງຈັນ ໂທລະສານ : (856-21)621055

Region

Afghanistan seeks united anti-terror approach at Heart of Asia conference

ISLAMABAD (Xinhua) -- Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai on Tuesday called for a united and collective approach to counter the menace of terrorism and violent extremism at the meeting of senior officials of the Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process.

Karzai is leading Afghanistan in the day-long meeting of the senior officials that will finalise the agenda for the ministerial conference to be held on Wednesday.

"The Heart of Asia conference is taking place at a critical juncture when the region is confronted by many challenges including terrorism," the Afghan deputy foreign minister said at the opening session. He said the activities of terror outfits including Daesh once again remind the related parties of the gravity of the problem and demand a collective approach to tackle this international phenomenon.

"Afghanistan is determined to continue the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," he said, adding a peaceful and stable Afghanistan is in the best interest of the region.

The Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister said his country attaches importance to having strong relations with all the regional countries for promotion of economic relations and meeting the challenges.

Pakistan's PM Advisor on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz told the opening session that his country desires durable peace in Afghanistan as instability there is not in the interest of Pakistan.

"Pakistan will continue to support all endeavors aiming at strengthening peace and security in Afghanistan," Aziz said.

Sartaj Aziz stressed that Heart of Asia Conference is an effective platform for promoting regional economic cooperation and connectivity with Afghanistan at its centre. He said it provides an opportunity to member countries in result-oriented engagements for a peaceful and stable Afghanistan, and a secure and prosperous region as a whole.

He said since the launching of Heart of Asia conference in 2011, the forum has made good progress towards realisation of its core objective of promoting durable peace and stability in

Afghanistan. He said the key achievements include political consultation involving Afghanistan and its neighbors and the regional countries with a view to promoting mutual trust in the areas of security and economic interaction.

He said the confidence building measures identified in the Istanbul process document are leading to enhanced regional engagement and cooperation of the Heart of Asia countries with Afghanistan in areas of trade and economic, energy, counter terrorism, narcotics, disaster management, regional infrastructure and education.

Senior officials of the Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process Tuesday started meeting in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad to finalize agenda for the ministerial conference to be held on Wednesday.

Pakistan's foreign affairs adviser Sartaj Aziz and Afghan deputy foreign minister Hekmat Karzai jointly inaugurated the day-long Senior Officials Meeting.

Speaking at the opening session, Aziz and Karzai hoped that the ministerial conference will help in evolving strategy against the threats of terrorism and extremism.

World Bank warns of Indonesia's rising inequality

INDONESIA (The Jakarta Post) - Indonesia is at risk of leaving its poor and vulnerable behind as the nation's income inequality continues its rapid rise, a World Bank official has said.

World Bank Indonesia country director Rodrigo Chaves said Indonesia's poverty reduction had begun to stagnate as it had a near zero poverty decline in 2014. Indonesia's inequality level is high, climbing at a faster rate than most of its East Asian neighbours.

"Income inequality is rapidly rising, up to one third of this is explained by the inequality of opportunities," said Chaves at the launch of the World Bank "Indonesia's Rising Divide" report in Jakarta on Tuesday.

The analyst further said that healthy and well-educated children in Indonesia lived side by side with children who suffered from malnutrition, learned little when they were in school and dropped out too early.

"There are stark inequalities between regions as well. For example, 6 percent of children in Jakarta do not have access to proper sanitation, while at the same time, 98 percent of children in rural Papua have no access," said Chaves, adding that this kind of inequality dims the prospect of important segments of society for generations.

Chaves further explained that results of a national survey showed that when Indonesian people were asked to choose between lower economic growth or less inequality, more than 50 percent of Indonesians chose less inequality. It was clear to them that it was more important to share prosperity with people in countries worldwide, he went on.

According to the World Bank "Indonesia's Rising

Divide" report, Indonesia's economic growth over the past decade has primarily benefited the richest 20 percent and left the remaining 80 percent of the population, about 205 million people, behind.

With rising disparities in living conditions and an increased concentration of wealth in the hands of the few, Indonesia's level of inequality is becoming increasingly high and continues to climb faster than most of its East Asian neighbors, the report says.

A popular measure of inequality is the Gini coefficient, in which 0 represents complete equality and 100 represents a complete inequality. During 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis, during which poverty increased sharply, the Gini coefficient also fell. Since then, the Gini coefficient had increased from 30 points in 2000 and reached its highest level at 41 points in 2014.

Meanwhile, the benefits of economic growth have been enjoyed largely by the growing consumer class. Between 2003 and 2010, consumption per person of the richest 10 percent of Indonesians grew at over 6 percent per year after adjusting for inflation, but it grew less than 2 percent per year for the poorest 40 percent.

This contributed to a slowdown in poverty reduction, with the number of poor falling by only 2 percent per year since 2002.

World Bank Indonesia senior economist Matthew Wai-Pai said that in the long run, it is improved access to quality health and education that would reduce unequal access to good jobs. In the short run, more could be done to improve the skill of today's workers and create more productive jobs.

"To improve education, Indonesia could learn from Vietnam. Why is education in Vietnam achieving better results? This is because it has a competitive curriculum and the teachers are well-paid," he said.

The Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction (TNP2K) head of policy working group Elan Satriawan said that in order to eliminate poverty and improve education, the government had reformed several aid programmes for poor students.

"In 2013 we changed the aid mechanisms, which were previously determined by the school, to be based on unified data via Indonesia Smart Card (KIP). The impact was quite large," he said.

Australia's opposition leader's popularity hits record low of 14 percent

CANBERRA (Xinhua) -- Support for Australia's opposition leader Bill Shorten to be the next prime minister has slumped to a record low for a Labor leader, falling one point to 14 percent in the latest Newspoll published Tuesday.

The embattled Labor Party leader recorded a third successive drop as preferred prime minister, equalling Simon Crean's low approval rating in November 2003.

Shorten's satisfaction

rating - how the electorate has viewed his performance - also dropped to 23 percent in the poll, published in *The Australian* newspaper, which is the lowest for any opposition leader, again since Crean in 2003.

In the previous Newspoll, conducted a fortnight ago, Shorten's satisfaction rating was 26 percent.

Responding to the disastrous poll results, Shorten told *News Corp* on Tuesday that he "won't quit because I

don't quit."

While Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has recently returned from a five-nation tour where he met 20 world leaders, his standing as preferred prime minister also fell.

Turnbull's rating dropped four points to 60 percent, though his coalition government still holds a 6 percent margin in the two-party preferred vote, 53 percent to Labor's 47 percent.



Filthy Rich: A small child brushes her teeth with river water. Considerable numbers of Indonesian people continue to lack adequate access to clean water and basic sanitation. (Courtesy of the Public Works and Public Housing Ministry)

In brief from Asia News Network

Baihe finds perfect match in match-making websitemerger

CHINA (China Daily) - China's two leading match-making websites Jiayuan.com and baihe.com announced a merger late Monday. LoveWorld, a subsidiary of Baihe will buy Jiayuan for US\$7.56 per American depository share (ADS), a total value of US\$252 million. According to the Wall Street Journal, the deal is expected to close in the first quarter of 2016. Jiayuan executive Wu Linguang will become co-executive of the new company which will undergo a name-change. Jiayuan.com International, the largest online dating platform in China, said that after the acquisition, the company will pull out of the US Nasdaq market and become a private company.

'Half a million students involved in gambling'

THAILAND (The Nation) - Many university students are addicted to gambling and some use money borrowed from the Student Loan Fund (SLF) to fuel their habit, a network of academics who monitor gambling revealed during a seminar yesterday. They urged officials to seriously tackle the issue, suggesting that cellphone operators be asked to help by blocking youths' access to gambling websites. Surachai Chupaka, a professor of mass communications at Ramkhamhaeng University, cited a 2012-2013 study of university students' gambling habits, sponsored by Sodsri-Saridwongsa Foundation, that 500,000 students took part in gambling - mostly football betting or playing cards.

Associate Project Analyst

The ADB-Lao Resident Mission (LRM) was established to assist its Headquarters in the implementation of projects and programs, in project processing, country programming, and economic and sector work. It also coordinates ADB's activities with other resident diplomatic and donor missions, NGOs, academic institutions, local think tanks, private sector and other members of the civil society.

Description of Responsibilities

To provide administrative and analytical support to the functions of portfolio management and project administration in general.

Reporting Arrangement

- Supervisor: Designated International Staff (IS) and senior National Staff (NS).

Selection Criteria

- Specific criteria include:
- Suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level
 - Bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline
 - At least 5 years of relevant professional experience
 - Proven ability to work independently on assigned transactions, areas of analysis and research, which have well-defined scope and steps
 - Able to conduct cost-benefit analysis to support decision-making
 - Effective report-writing and communication skills in English and the national language (as required)

- Proficient in spreadsheets and required information technologies
- Able to provide guidance to other AS staff on assigned area of work
- Able to liaise and work effectively with government officials within own work location and with colleagues throughout ADB
- Able to work collaboratively with teams as a constructive team member

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 67 members. The advertised position is a local staff position with a local remuneration package. It is open only to persons who are nationals and residents of Lao PDR. The position is for a 3-year fixed term appointment. ADB offers a competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for the Lao Resident Mission, ADB staff may be required to serve in any location outside the Resident Mission at the discretion of Management.

To apply, visit www.adb.org/careers/adb-hr-15-0693. Deadline for applications is on 17 December 2015.

We encourage diversity in our workplace and support an inclusive environment.

Vacancy Reference Numbers: ADB-HR-15-0693

India set to agree on bullet train import from Japan in summit talks

Tokyo (Kyodo News) -- India is making final arrangements to adopt Japanese bullet train technology for a high-speed railway project, with the leaders of the two countries set to unveil the agreement in a joint statement this week, a Japanese government source said Tuesday.

The statement following talks between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday is expected to incorporate this accord, which would mark India's first high-speed railway project, the source said. Abe's meeting with Modi during his three-day visit to India from Friday will come at a time Japan hopes to regain lost ground after losing out to China in its bid to secure a key high-speed railway contract in Indonesia.

The proposed railway of about 500 kilometres will link Mumbai in western India and Ahmadabad, north of Mumbai, in roughly two hours, the source said. Construction of the project, which is estimated to cost 980 billion rupee (about US\$14.68 billion), will begin in 2017, with the aim of starting railway operations in 2023.

Tokyo has sounded New Delhi out about a plan for Japan to provide yen loans on the

premise that the railway contract will be given to a consortium of Japanese firms, the source said.

The Japanese side has also been considering offering a package which includes rail cars and railway operation systems, as the Indian government has been cautious given its financial circumstances. Some have called for a competitive international tender.

Should India agree to adopt the Japanese shinkansen train technology, Japan is expected to take advantage of a policy of relaxing conditions for extending yen loans announced by Abe during an international conference in Kuala Lumpur last month, the source said.

Abe said his country will ease conditions in carrying out its yen loan scheme for emerging

countries in Asia, as Japan seeks to spur its economy through infrastructure exports to the fast-growing region.

Tokyo's move to review its yen loan scheme to make it more acceptable to potential partner countries is seen as a countermeasure to Beijing, which has tapped into the huge infrastructure development needs of Asia.

Competition between Japan and China over the Indian railway project has been tough as China also offered funds and technology transfer to India.

China successfully bid for the Indonesian railway project connecting Jakarta and the West Java provincial capital of Bandung in October. The project was estimated to cost 78 trillion rupiah (US\$5.5 billion).



Sydney Opera House in Sydney, Australia, November 11, 2014.

--Photo IC

Chinese tourists in Australia outspend Brits, Americans, Canadians combined

CHINA (China Daily) -- Chinese tourists in the past year reportedly spent AUS\$7.7 billion (US\$5.6 billion) in Australia, an increase of more than three times the rate of overall spending by visitors.

According to a report in *The Australian*, spending by visitors from China rose 43 percent in the 12 months to September, while the number of tourists from China increased by one quarter.

The depreciation of the Australian dollar, which has made the country more

affordable than before, has been cited as the main driving force behind the significant rise of Chinese spending. What is more, the number is so huge that it even exceeds the spending by the British, Americans and Canadians combined.

With the rise and expansion of China's middle class, outbound travel has become a trend among a good many Chinese families, who usually choose overseas holiday destinations over domestic ones when making vacation choices. Australia, with its

natural and cultural landscape, has emerged as one of the most popular resort places for Chinese tourists.

"The problem of time, distance and cost mean that Australia will never be a high volume destination," said John O'Sullivan, Tourism Research Australia managing director. "Our Tourism2020 strategy is unashamedly focused upon yield: encouraging international visitors to stay longer, disperse further and ultimately do more and spend more while in our country."

LET'S GO Bangkok

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Ticketing date 01 Dec 2015 - 25 Jan 2016
Traveling date 06 Dec 2015 - 30 Jan 2016

* ລາຄານີ້ແມ່ນລາຄາໄດ້ຮັບກ່ອນມີເດີນທາງ ຢ່າງນ້ອຍ 5 ມື້ / Ticket must be issue at least 5 days before
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JOB VACANCY
Land Registration Expert (Lao National)

The Land Management and Decentral Planning Program (LMDP) is a project of the German Development Cooperation implemented through GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit). The project comprises two main areas of activity: 1) securing land rights through systematic land registration and titling; and 2) decentral development planning and poverty-focused investment management. Through a multi-level approach, activities are supported at central, provincial and district levels in four provinces, including Sayaboury, Luang Namtha, Houaphan and Khammuane.

For the Land Registration component of the project, GIZ LMDP is seeking a qualified Lao National Expert in the field of land registration/land management in Huaphanh province.

Starting Date: 04.01.2016
Duration of Assignment: until 31.12.2017
Work Location: Huaphanh Province

Main tasks and responsibilities:

- Advise the partner agencies (mainly provincial and district offices of Natural Resources and Environment) in cadastral survey, land adjudication and registration (including technical and administrative tasks).
- Conduct quality control and monitoring of the registration processes (GPS parcel surveying, adjudication and digital data management).
- Support the development and improvement of workflows and quality assessments for land registration in cooperation with the line agencies and other GIZ project advisors.
- Train and coach partner staff in the use of surveying equipment, GIS software and related programs used for registration and cadastral mapping.
- Support streamlining of processes at district and provincial level with national directives.
- Closely coordinate and cooperate with relevant partner departments and divisions and related projects
- Prepare reports and contribute to other tasks as assigned by the GIZ supervisor

Experience and Qualifications:

- University/Master's degree in the area related to the function
- At least 3 years' professional experience in a comparable position, preferably with an educational background in the field of land management, surveying or related.
- proficient computer skills (MS Office, data management), knowledge of GIS and use of GPS devices
- good working knowledge of ITC technologies (related software, phone, fax, email, the internet)
- strong managerial and organisational competence
- willingness to work in rural areas and under demanding conditions, including frequent travels to the field
- ability and willingness to work in a team of national / international experts
- personal flexibility and high motivation
- very good command of the English language
- very good communication skills

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 16:00 Hr on 18th of December 2015 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.

World

Southern California shooters radicalised “for some time”: FBI

LOS ANGELES (Xinhua) -- Investigators believed that the suspect couple who killed 14 people and injured 21 others in a deadly shooting in San Bernardino of Southern California had been radicalised “for some time,” the FBI said on Monday.

“We have learned both subjects were radicalised and have been for some time,” David Bowdich, assistant director in charge of the FBI’s Los Angeles Field Office, told a press conference.

“Did the female radicalise the male in this case? The answer is we still do not know,” Bowdich said. “As the investigation has progressed, we have learned and believe that both subjects were radicalised and have been for quite some time.”

The latest revelation in the FBI-led probe came five days after Syed Rizwan Farook, 28, and his wife, 29, shoot out at a Christmas party of San Bernardino County Health Department, where Farook had worked for five years.

Farook, a US born citizen, and his wife Tashfeen Malik from Pakistan, were killed in a face-off with police hours after their attack on Wednesday morning in a conference room at the Inland Regional Centre social services agency in San Bernardino, about 100 km east



National flags are placed near the building of the Inland Regional Centre where 14 people were killed in a mass shooting.

of Los Angeles. The FBI said on Friday that authorities were investigating the mass shooting as an “act of terrorism.”

“The investigation so far has developed indications of radicalisation by the killers and of potential inspiration by foreign terrorist organisations,” FBI Director James Comey said on Friday.

The authorities, however, have no indication that the couple were part of an organised

larger group, he added.

On Sunday night, US President Barack Obama said the two shooters were “self-radicalised,” as no evidence had been found of links between the couple and any terrorist groups.

Bowdich said on Monday that the FBI investigators interviewed more than 400 people and gathered more than 300 pieces of evidence to figure out how and when the couple were radicalised.

Both of them had participated in target practice in the broader Los Angeles area and one of the target practices was done within days of shooting, he said.

Besides two hand guns, two assault rifles, and more than 6,000 rounds of ammunitions, police and investigators also found 12 pipe bombs and tools to make pipe bombs in their car and at their home after the couple were shot dead during the street shootout with police.

Russian role seen in Ankara-Baghdad tension over Turkish reinforcements to Mosul

ISTANBUL (Xinhua) -- The wrangling between Turkey and Russia over a downed Russian warplane has spilled over into Iraq, as Baghdad asked Turkey to withdraw its troops sent into Mosul over the weekend over perceived pressure from Moscow.

The Iraqi central government on Sunday gave Turkish troops 48 hours to leave, calling the reinforcements to a military camp in the town of Bashiqa near Mosul in northern Iraq a violation of Iraq’s sovereignty.

As a matter of fact, the camp has been used by Turkish troops to train Kurdish and local Arab forces to fight against the Islamic State (IS) militant group since 2014.

Turkish analysts who spoke to Xinhua described Ankara’s latest deployment to the region, in which a training battalion equipped with armoured vehicles was dispatched, as a step within the framework of an agreement signed with Iraq’s Kurdish autonomous region.

The analysts even advised the central government in Baghdad to perceive the latest move, which brought the number of Turkey’s special forces in the camp to 600, as part of the counter-terrorism efforts.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi of Iraq, however, on Monday gave the Turkish troops 48 hours to leave, threatening to use all available options, including going to the UN Security Council, if Ankara refuses to comply.

Iraqi President Fuad Masum called the act “a violation of international norms, laws and Iraq’s national sovereignty” and one contributing to increased tensions in the region.

Hakim al-Zamili, head of Iraqi parliament’s security and defense committee, even called for airstrikes against the Turkish troops in case they remain near Mosul, Iraq’s second largest city under IS control since June 2014.

Turkey’s act has sparked a strong reaction from Iran and Syria as well, with Iran warning of chaos and regional security to be threatened.

In the view of Serdar Erdurmaz, a military analyst, Russian pressure was playing an important role in what he called the “bitter words” coming from Baghdad.

“After the downing of Russia’s jet on November 24 by Turkey, Moscow started to apply an immense pressure over Turkey in every occasion, and this one is the latest example of it,” he said.

BS Capital Lao Leasing Co., Ltd.
 Phivath Village, Sisattanak District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR. (Opposite Simeuang Temple)
 Tel: +(856)21 226 030-2 Fax: +(856)21 226 033

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1. Sale Managers – 01 Posts (Male)

- Inter-Personal Skills & Leadership;
- Manage Sales Staffs and achieve the Target Sales every month;
- Documentation Skills & Fluency in English is necessary;
- Should have experience in Sales for more than 3 years;
- Age/ Education level is not the primary Consideration of Hiring.

2. Sale Staffs – 06 Post (Male/Female)

- Good conversational skill with Customers & Dealers;
- Good understanding of Lao Market Trends;
- Actively achieve the Target Sales every month;
- Should have experience in Sales for more than 3 years;
- Keep contacting Clients with up-coming payment due.

3. Accounting Officer -02 Post (Male / Female)

- Min 1 year experience at Leasing Institutions or Banks or finance field in managerial position;
- Manage process of receive, payment to domestic & foreign;
- Record any transaction in Accounting Software;
- Coordinate with dealer for invoice;
- Manage cash flow and all other assignments.

4. Credit Manager / Officer -03 Post (Male / Female)

- Min 3 years experiences at Leasing Institutions or Banks in managerial position.(Only manager);
- Thorough knowledge of credit and risk management;
- Proven experience in credit, relationship general banking and administration;
- Demonstrate sound credit judgment, analytical skills, self-motivation and professional presentation;
- Good understanding of Lao leasing company rules and regulations, accounting legislation.

5. Teller Officer -01 Post (Male / Female)

6. Administration Officer -01 Post (Male / Female)

Managers are **Welcome**

Minimum Requirements

- University graduated with Banking, Finance, Accounting, Business, Economics or equivalent
- At least 2 year work experiences.
- Good computer skill in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel & PowerPoint)
- Good in English required, Korean language proficiency is beneficial
- Honesty, initiative, creativity, flexibility, commitments and good inter-personal skills.
- Possess excellent leadership skills, analytical mind and strong interpersonal skills.

Interested candidates can apply to persons from at 3 well address as below with resume CV/ please mention the recruitment matter

M : 020 7733 7333 E-mail : phomin.ksp@gmail.com, M : 020 9629 4455 E-mail : phonethip.spy@gmail.com

BNK LEASE FOR YOUR DAILY NEEDS

About US

BS Capital Lao is operating as a limited leasing company incorporated and existing under the laws of Lao PDR, we are one of the subsidiaries company of BNK Financial Group in Korea.

BNK Financial Group is now exploring opportunities to expand its business in Laos and recruiting strong commitment, skillful and energetic candidate for following positions


 世界の医師団

JOB Description

Position: **Project Assistant (9 months)**
 Location: Based in Vientiane Office with frequent travel to the field
 Duration: 9 months January – September 2016 (probation period: 2 months)
 Reports to: Expatriate Project Coordinator

General Conditions:

Médecins du Monde (MDM) is a non-profit international organisation registered since 1980 as a humanitarian organisation officially recognized to serve public purposes. Médecins du Monde has been running a Mother and Child Health project in Sukuma and Mounlapamock since 2010 implemented jointly by Mdm Japon and Mdm France. The current project is ending in December 2015, in 2016 Mdm intends to keep monitoring the situation as well as prepare and design new projects.

Duties description:

Directly reporting to an expatriate from Mdm Japon, the Project Officer will be in charge of implementing any necessary tasks to conduct research and follow-up visit as well as day to day office administration.

1. Liaising with relevant authorities (MoH, MoFA, PHO, DHO etc.)
2. Administrative and logistic preparation of field visits
3. Translation and interpretation (lao/English – English/Lao)
4. Participating in all relevant internal/external meetings (write the meeting minutes)
5. Office administration
6. Accounting tasks
7. Logistics tasks

Profile of the candidate

*) Candidates may not meet all items listed below. When applying, candidates need to address weaknesses and strengths and how to compensate.
 *) Contact of two referees to be provided.

8. Professional experience

- Experience in liaising/negotiating with the authorities
- Basic knowledge of accounting
- Experience as translator/ interpreter
- Previous experience working with international NGO/organisations
- At least 3 years working experience

9. Required Skills

- Laotian (native level)
- Fluent in English (writing, reading, speaking)
- Interest, curiosity and respect for different cultural backgrounds
- Good communication skills (internal, external)
- Patience and understanding
- Strong computer skills (word, excel, PowerPoint) (good will to improve by yourself in practice)

10. Desirable skills:

- Project logistics (not as your main task)

Qualified candidates are invited to submit their application sending a cover letter and comprehensive CV in English to: genco.laos@medecinsdumonde.net by Friday 11th of December 2015. Only short-listed candidates for interviews will be notified.

Business

Read more news at www.vientianetimes.org.la

Wednesday December 9, 2015

VN eyes renewable energy

HCM CITY (VNS, ANN) -- Reducing the use of scarce natural resources through measurement of energy efficiency is critically needed to meet the energy demand of a growing economy like Vietnam, Vu Van Khiem, director general of the Ministry of Science and Technology's National Office of the Southern Region, has said.

Speaking at a three-day training conference on sustainable energy technology last week in HCM City, Khiem said that Vietnam was facing an energy shortage within the next few decades.

Economic growth and rapid industrial expansion based on low energy costs have consumed significant amounts of energy and other resources, increasing greenhouse gas emissions and exhausting natural resources.

In the future, Vietnam will shift from an exporter to an importer of energy and the level of dependence on imported energy would increase, he added.

State agencies in Vietnam such as the Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Industry and Trade and other

agencies have worked with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) on labeling energy and building energy efficiency standards for appliances and replacing the use of fossil fuels.

As a result, there have been positive results in management and energy savings, he said.

In recent decades, with the present rate of consumption of traditional energy resources, energy reserves are expected to be depleted rapidly, Khiem said.

According to forecasts, by 2035 the level of global energy consumption will increase by 53 percent. Enterprises around the world are constantly conducting research to seek new and renewable energy sources, he said.

The traditional burning of fossil fuels has caused adverse environmental impact such as the greenhouse effect, rising radioactivity and global warming, he added.

Also speaking at the conference, Cho Chang-hee, principal researcher of the Korea Electrotechnology Research Institute, said that in Korea,

island microgrids were being used to meet demand.

Microgrids that have helped meet increased demand for green energy globally are especially suitable for remote villages, he said. They have helped improve electricity penetration ratio and reduced petroleum use.

"Fewer CO2 emissions are the result," he said. "It also decreases transmission losses."

A microgrid is a system of multiple power sources of different sizes and technologies connected to the central grid. The system can disconnect and function autonomously as physical and economic conditions dictate.

More than 1,400 microgrid projects have been deployed in more than 100 countries, Cho said.

The conference was organised by the National Research Council of Science & Technology, ASEM SMEs Eco-Innovation Center, Korea Institute of Energy Research, Korea Electrotechnology Research Institute, and Korea Institute of Industrial Technology.



Buses await passengers at the Southern Bus Terminal in Vientiane.

Bus fares drop as fuel price dips

Times Reporters

Users of public transport can look forward to lower bus fares now that the Ministry of Public Works and Transport has announced a decrease in ticket prices on routes from Vientiane to the provinces.

The Transport Department says the drop in fares is the result of a steady decline in the price of fuel over the past five years.

In 2011, the price of petrol was 8,500 kip per litre. At present, the price of fuel is about 6,300 kip per litre, with the price of diesel and petrol ranging from 6,000 to 7,000 kip.

Passengers travelling from Vientiane to the northern provinces are currently charged at a rate of 238 kip per kilometre, while those going to the central and southern provinces are charged at a rate of 164 kip per kilometre.

Bus fares have been adjusted

to reflect the drop in the fuel price and to ensure the new charges match the costs incurred by transport service providers while being fair for passengers.

From December 10, bus fares on routes from Vientiane to the northern provinces will be charged at 185 kip per kilometre. The price of fuel is calculated to be 6,000 kip to 7,000 kip per litre based on that used by ordinary buses.

However, the price of a ticket on a Category 2 VIP bus will be increased to 20 percent higher than the fare on an ordinary bus, while the fare on a Category 1 VIP bus will now be 30 percent higher than the price of travel on an ordinary bus.

The lowest long-distance bus fare on a northern route, from Vientiane to Vangvieng, will be 28,000 kip, while the highest fare, on VIP 1 bus from Vientiane to Bokeo province,

will be 215,000 kip.

Meanwhile the fares on buses from Vientiane to the central and southern provinces will be charged at 139 kip per kilometre, with the fuel price estimated at 6,000 kip to 7,000 kip per litre.

In addition, the fare on a VIP 2 bus will rise to 20 percent of the fare on an ordinary bus while a ticket on a VIP 1 bus will cost 30 percent of the ordinary fare.

A ticket on an ordinary bus from Vientiane to Borikhamxay province will be 20,000 kip per person, while the most expensive ticket, that bought for a VIP 1 bus from Vientiane to Attapeu province, will cost 210,000 kip.

Inter-provincial fares will be calculated by the provincial public works and transport departments, with the routes from province to province to be agreed by the two parties involved.



Wind turbines at the Tuy Phong Wind Power Plant in Binh Thuan province.

Bank deposits "haircut", Grexit off the table, Greece implements all commitments: PM

ATHENS (Xinhua) -- Greece has pushed the risk of a "haircut" on bank deposits and Grexit off the table by implementing all its commitments under the latest bailout agreement with international creditors, Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said on Monday night.

A few hours after his Left-led coalition government passed on

Sunday the latest crunch test in the parliament during the vote on the 2016 state budget, the prime minister granted an interview to state broadcaster ERT.

He hailed as a significant milestone in efforts to overcome the six-year debt crisis and restore growth the recapitalisation of Greek banks this December, the third in

three years.

"There is no more fear of deposit cuts and Grexit," he underlined, dismissing reports in some international media suggesting that Greece was a "rudderless ship" heading towards the rocks.

A German daily cited this week an alleged report of the German embassy in Athens containing the particular

description. The report was dismissed from officials in both countries.

Tsipras attributed it to the "never ending efforts of some conservative circles to attack the government."

Amidst refueled concern over the stability of his ruling coalition after the recent expulsion of two lawmakers who voted against party line on prior actions for the disbursement of more

loans to Athens, he assured that he feels "very safe" with the reduced parliamentary majority of 153 MPs in the 300-member strong chamber.

He does not intend to seek the formation of a unity government, but would most welcome wider consensus on major issues, such as the upcoming pension system reform and the refugee crisis.

Exchange rates as of December 8, 2015

Banque pour le Commerce Extérieur Lao Public

Foreign Currencies	Buying	Selling
US Dollar 50-100	8,138	8,178
Thai Baht	227.85	229.55
Euro 50-500	8,803	8,847

IN BRIEF

New Zealand gov't deficit better than expected: treasury

WELLINGTON (Xinhua) -- The New Zealand government deficit for the four months to the end of October came in below forecast, putting the full-year accounts on the road to a second successive surplus, according to financial statements from the Treasury on Tuesday. Overall the fiscal results had improved from the previous year with the operating deficit of NZ\$478 million (US\$317.48 million) well under the NZ\$1 billion (US\$664.2 million) at the same time last year, and net debt relatively constant. Core tax revenue was up by 5.8 percent while core expenses grew by 2.5 percent over that time. The operating deficit was NZ\$687 million (US\$456.3 million) under the Treasury forecast in May, due to tax and other revenue coming in above the forecast.

Canadian gov't announces tax cut to strengthen middle class

OTTAWA (Xinhua) -- Canada announced Monday a tax-cut measure to strengthen the middle class. The tax cut will provide some CA\$3.4 billion (US\$25.2 billion) in annual tax relief to the middle class and will benefit about CA\$9 million (US\$6.7 million) every year. Canadian Finance Minister Bill Morneau tabled in the House of Commons a Notice of Ways and Means Motion to reduce the 22-percent personal income tax rate to 20.5 percent.

Ford says auto sales rising rapidly with ventures in China

CHICAGO (Xinhua) -- Leading US automaker Ford said Monday that auto sales with its Chinese ventures were rising 9 percent last month year on year. The Ford invested auto-making ventures in China sold more than 106,283 vehicles in China in November, up 9 percent compared to that of 2014 and bringing the year-to-date total sales to more than 990,356, according to a document posted at the automaker's website. "We are pleased that more and more customers are relying on Ford to provide them with vehicles they both want and value," said John Lawler, chairman and CEO of Ford Motor China, in the statement. "We remain committed to offering a full range of high-quality, safe, smart and fuel-efficient vehicles in China."

Iron ore demand to fall further next year

A worker at a steel plant in Dalian, Liaoning province, weighs alloy strips.

CHINA (China Daily, ANN) -- Iron ore demand is expected to fall further in China next year as the country continues to scale down steel output, according to forecast by an industry organisation on Monday.

Demand for iron ore will fall by 4.2 percent in 2016 from a year ago, said the forecast, made by the China Metallurgical Industry Planning and Research Institute. Steel production will fall by 3.1 percent to 781 million metric tons during the same period, as economic growth continues to moderate.

Iron ore demand, which may fall by 0.4 percent this year, will decline by 4.2 percent in 2016 to around 1.07 billion tonnes.

According to the institute's estimates, total steel output this year will be about 709

million tonnes, while iron ore consumption is estimated at about 1.12 billion tonnes.

"Slower GDP growth, industrial upgrade of the conventional resources-driven growth and eliminating excess, outdated capacity have crimped demand for steel and as a result for imported iron ore. The slower offtake by downstream industries, such as real estate, construction, machinery, energy and automobile industries, has also contributed to the sluggishness," said Li Xinchuang, director of the institute.

Unsold inventories of commercial apartments continue to be at a high this year, the report said, adding that supply will continue to outstrip demand next year.

The total consumption of

iron and steel for construction purposes this year is expected to be about 360 million tonnes, down 7.2 percent from the same period in 2014.

Machinery industry, another major steel user, saw slower revenue growth this year due to poor demand. Equipment with higher iron and steel consumption per ton will see more output declines next year, it said. The automobile industry, the mainstay of the steel sector for long, recorded its slowest growth ever this year.

Total output for next year also does not give much comfort to steelmakers as output is set to grow by just 1 percent. With the industry increasingly veering toward vehicles with smaller sizes, the situation is not all that bright, said industry experts.

Global stocks down after oil slide, weak China trade

BEIJING (AP) -- Global stocks fell on Tuesday after Chinese trade contracted and oil traded at its lowest in six years.

In early European trading, Germany's DAX lost 0.7 percent to 10,814.51 and France's CAC-40 shed 0.6 percent to 4,728.91. Britain's FTSE 100 fell 0.4 percent to 6,202.01. Wall Street looked set for a second day of declines. Dow futures were down 0.4 percent to 17,679.00 and S&P 500 futures dropped 0.5 percent to 2,071.50.

Oil was at its lowest since mid-2009 after OPEC's decision last week to maintain production levels. That stance combined with slower global growth has left the world awash in oil. Brent crude added 21 cents to US\$40.94 per barrel in London after plunging US\$2.27 on Monday to close at US\$40.73. Benchmark US crude gained 9 cents to US\$37.74 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract lost US\$1.32 on Monday to close at US\$37.65.

"Market focus at the moment is the potential deflationary effects of lower oil prices, and the signaling that aggregate demand is weak," said Michael McCarthy, chief strategist at CMC Markets in Sydney. "At

some stage however, there may be a collective awakening to the immediate impact lower input prices have on profits," he said in a commentary. "The slide in oil prices is a 'good' fall in that it reflects increasing supply rather than falling demand, and this is not yet reflected in share prices."

Customs data showed imports and exports shrank again in November, though there were signs weak domestic demand might be improving. Exports contracted by 6.8 percent, accelerating from October's 3.6 percent fall. Imports fell 8.7 percent, an improvement over the previous month's 16 percent decline. Import volumes of some goods such as crude oil, fresh fruit and cooking oil rose. "It may suggest a stabilization of domestic demand momentum," said Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economics in a report.

China's Shanghai Composite Index fell 1.9 percent to 3,470.07 and Japan's Nikkei 225 lost 1 percent to 19,492.60. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 retreated 0.9 percent to 5,108.60 and Seoul's Kospi declined 0.7 percent to 1,949.04. India's Sensex was off 0.5 percent at 25,401. Taiwan, Singapore, Jakarta and New Zealand also declined.

Korea ponders options before Fed tightening

S.KOREA (The Korea Herald, ANN) -- With the US Federal Reserve widely expected to make a major shift in its monetary policy next week, ending the world's largest economy's historic era of near-zero interest rates, many in Korea are trying to gauge its possible impact on the local economy and how to best cope with it.

Yet, the job inherently falls in the lap of the Bank of Korea.

The BOK is tasked with navigating the murky waters of monetary policymaking, expected to get even murkier if and when the Fed starts raising interest rates on December 16, a move long expected and feared by emerging economies, including Korea.

The seven members of the BOK's monetary policy board will meet on Thursday, before the Fed decides, to review the current interest rate level. Korea's key rate currently stands at a record low 1.5 percent, unchanged since June, and down 1 percentage point from the past year.

"There seems to be a market consensus that December will likely be a 'no-move' month," said Seo Hyang-mi, an analyst from HI Investment & Securities, predicting the BOK will freeze the rate.

Prospects of the Fed tightening will be enough to have the BOK stand pat on its key rate at least to wait and see the actual impact of the US rate change. Besides, the Korean economy's better-than-expected performance in the third quarter has given the central bank some confidence to stick with its current stance, she added. Gross domestic product expanded 1.3 percent on-quarter in the July-September period, marking the fastest growth rate in over five years.

Look a little further ahead,

however, things are not that easy to predict.

Higher interest rates in the US are feared to prompt capital outflows from emerging markets and lead to a stronger dollar and weaker currencies in vulnerable economies. How hard this will affect the Korean economy, which, according to BOK Gov. Lee Ju-yeol, is gradually recovering on the back of a pickup in domestic consumption, is an open question.

Hinting at the BOK's future approach to the US move, the top central banker has said repeatedly that although the global economic environment is an important factor, Korea's monetary policy is bound to be shaped by domestic matters.

"Even if the US raises interest rates, the BOK doesn't necessarily have to follow in the move right away, hiking its own rate," he has said.

Chung Soon-won who sits on the BOK's rate-setting board also said: "Even if the US raises its key rate, it may take some time before we consider raising our own rate unless our country's economy shows strong signs of recovery."

"The most important element is local economic conditions."

Many analysts differ in their forecasts. While most see that Korea's key rate will have to move in tandem with the US borrowing rates, they differ in the details, including the timing and scope of a rate change.

And there are economists like Kwon Young-sun at the Hong Kong-based Nomura International, who predicts two rate cuts in Korea next year.

"The BOK is expected to lower the policy rate to 1 percent by the end of next year," Kwon said.

Job Opportunity

**Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Department of Small and Medium Enterprise Promotion (DOSMEP)
ADB Loan 3037- LAO: Second Private Sector and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Development Program – Subprogram 2**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
National Project Coordinator for e-Commerce Platform****A. Background**

1. The Government of Laos has obtained a Loan from the Asian Development Bank for the Second Private Sector and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Development Program, Subprogram 2 (PSME-2) to build capacity of SME competitiveness through business climate reform, technology upgrade, and skills development.

B. Objective of the Assignment

2. A National Project Coordinator for e-Commerce Platform will be recruited for a period of two 2 years to support the international team responsible to develop and implement the SEED and to work with DIMEX and other relevant government agencies and ministries, the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI) and Lao Young Entrepreneurs Association to coordinate the implementation of the e-commerce platform. The consultant is expected to be fielded in December 2015.

C. Scope of Work

3. To link Lao SMEs to buyers and sellers in the Asian market through the respective chamber of commerce in these countries; to design a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) wizard to help SMEs determine whether their products qualify under tariff preference. The project will also explore ways for the system to be linked to government processes and procedures. Discussion and consultation will also be held with women stakeholder groups to help women entrepreneurs use the system. Additional training for women entrepreneurs may also be provided.

D. Key Tasks

4. The Coordinator is expected to perform the following key tasks: i) assist the international experts in training needs assessment of staff of the line ministries and stakeholders; ii) assist with the preparation of material for dissemination of information on SEED platform and FTA wizard; iii) translate necessary information on the e-commerce platform, guidelines, and documents from English to Lao language; iv) assist in the preparation and undertaking of public outreach activities to collect data and promote the SEED platform; v) assist in preparing the budget and logistics for seminars, workshops, meetings and consultations; vi) ensure coordination with relevant ministries, agencies and stakeholders; and vii) perform other administrative work as required and requested.

E. Key qualifications

5. Good communication skills in English are desirable, having a degree from a recognized university in business administration, management or other relevant discipline and a minimum of 3 years of experience administering projects or relevant work experience in an administrative capacity and experience in translation work including financial, procurement and administrative reports is required. Effective written and verbal communication skills in English is essential.

For more information and submission of application, please visit: www.cms.adb.org
The ADB submission system will be closed by midnight of 13 December 2015.
If you have any question, please contact us at (+856-21) 410025.



Lao stock market report

BCEL-KT

Trade Summary

December 8 was a cloudy day for the Lao stock market as two listed stocks took a big hit, dragging the index down by as much as 24.69 points to 1,208.73 points. The decrease was supported by low demand for all stocks, accompanied by a low-price selloff of EDL-Gen. The market saw just 17,724 shares in terms of trading volume.

The market heavyweight, EDL-Gen, dropped 150 kip to facilitate the selling of 5k shares at the market closing, leaving no demand for the blue-chip of the LSX for the day. The total trading volume for the stock was 14,080 shares.

One good thing for the day was the pickup of BCEL as it added 100 shares to the market price. Still, the exchange of shares was not something impressive. In the meantime, LWPC lost 100 kip to 7,500 kip, while PTL stayed still at 3,000 kip.

Daily Turnover by Investor Types (LAKm)

Daily Turnover by Investor Types (Million kip)			
	Buy	Sell	Net purchase
General Corporations	-	-	-
Individuals	26	16	11
Foreigners	78	89	-11
Securities Companies	-	-	-
Others	0	0	0



Last 7 days Trading Information

Date	LSX			EDL-Gen		BCEL		LWPC		PTL	
	Current Index (Point)	Change (%)	Trading Value (Kip)	Closing Price (Kip)	Change	Closing Price (Kip)	Change	Closing Price (Kip)	Change	Closing Price (Kip)	Change
8/12/15	1,208.73	-2.00%	104,517,150	6,050	-150	5,100	100	7,500	-100	3,000	0
7/12/15	1,233.42	-0.01%	55,115,150	6,200	0	5,000	-100	7,600	300	3,000	0
4/12/15	1,233.60	-0.06%	24,986,350	6,200	0	5,100	-50	7,300	0	3,000	0
3/12/15	1,234.29	-0.69%	119,643,450	6,200	-50	5,150	0	7,300	0	3,000	0
1/12/15	1,242.85	0.00%	68,778,700	6,250	0	5,150	0	7,300	0	3,000	0
30/11/15	1,242.85	0.35%	116,484,000	6,250	0	5,150	50	7,300	0	3,000	150
27/11/15	1,238.56	0.00%	2,302,367,450	6,250	0	5,100	0	7,300	0	2,850	0

BCEL-KT Securities Company Limited Email: Broker@bcel-kt.com Tel: (856) 21 265481-87



CAB Cakaran plans to set up Indonesian poultry joint venture



Newly hatched chicks at CAB's hatchery incubator in Penang.

KUALA LUMPUR (The Star, ANN) -- Integrated poultry producer CAB Cakaran Corp Bhd plans to set up a fully integrated poultry business in Indonesia and has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Salim Group, one of Indonesia's largest conglomerates.

In a filing with Bursa Malaysia on Monday, the company said it and Salim Group's investment holding company KMP Private Ltd would study the possibility of having a joint venture, in which a Salim Group special purpose vehicle would initially hold 90 percent and CAB 10 percent.

"However, CAB will have the option to increase its shareholding percentage up to 30

percent in the next three years' time after the initial setup, depending on its financial condition," it said. CAB said the cost of investment could not be forecast at this time.

The MoU is valid for 12 months from the date of its signing (December 6) or until the execution of the valid joint venture agreement, whichever comes earlier.

CAB, the largest poultry company in the peninsula's northern region, currently has 10 breeder farms and 140 broiler farms throughout Peninsular Malaysia. It produces 4.2 million broiler birds per month currently, 20 percent higher than the 3.5 million birds produced monthly last year.

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Small and Medium Enterprises Access to Finance Project
Credit No. 5471-LA, Grant No. H958-LA

Re-advertise REQUEST FOR EXPRESS OF INTEREST

Recruitment of Legal Specialist (Part - Time)

The Government of Lao PDR is receiving US\$20 million financing from the World Bank Group's International Development Association (IDA) for the Small and Medium Enterprise Access to Finance Project (SME A2F). The Project's development objective is to provide long-term funding sources for banks to provide long-term credit to small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The project will support the growth of privately-owned SMEs by increasing the supply of long-term finance provided by commercial banks and by strengthening the capability of Department of SME Promotion to formulate and implement public policies that promote access to finance for SMEs.

The Department of SME Promotion (DOSMEP) at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC) is the Executing Agency for the Project; other agencies involved in project implementation include the International Finance Corporation (IFC), selected commercial banks (PFIs) and National Implementation (NIU, responsible for fiduciary aspects). The Project includes three components.

The Consultant will be hired on a retainer basis for 45 working days over a 36 months period and will be called upon to assist DOSMEP as per the scope of work and when required. The number of days or contract duration may be adjusted up or down if required at the sole discretion of DOSMEP. The full text of the ToR can be accessed at the NIU's website: <http://t4dlaos.org/index.php/en/work-with-us/vacancies>.

In order to qualify for this position, the candidates shall meet the following experience and competence requirements:

- University degree in law, preferably with specialization in commercial and business law.
- At least 10 years of working experience with both public and private sectors in Laos in developing business contracts, contract negotiation and business dispute resolution.
- Minimum 5 years of experience in development projects, performing tasks related to legal drafting and review of contracts.
- English language fluency in reading, writing and speaking is mandatory.
- High degree of computer literacy and sound knowledge of Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, PowerPoint) and internet.

The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the World Bank's Guidelines "Selection and Employment of Consultants", Individual Consultants (IC) selection method, January 2011.

The NIU now invites interested eligible consultants to provide information indicating that you are qualified to perform the services (curriculum vitae with expressions of interest and references). Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below. **Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below on or before December 18, 2015, 16:00 o'clock (submissions via email are also acceptable).**

To: Mr. KeophouthoneInthivong, Procurement Officer, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, National Implementation Unit (NIU), Ban Phonxay, Xaysettha District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR, Tel: +856 (21) 41 39 16 - 45 39 82; Fax: +856(21) 41 39 16, E-mail: keophouthone.in@laosoft.org; Attn: Mr. PhouviengPhongsa, NIU Director. Only Short-listed candidates will be contacted for the interview.

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Small and Medium Enterprises Access to Finance Project
Credit No. 5471-LA, Grant No. H958-LA

REQUEST FOR EXPRESS OF INTEREST National Environment & Social Safeguards Specialist

The Government of Lao PDR is receiving support from the World Bank Group for improving access to finance by small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through the Small and Medium Enterprises Access to Finance Project (the Project). The objective of the Project is to provide long-term funding sources for banks to provide long-term credit to small and medium enterprises. This will be achieved by increasing the supply of long-term finance provided by commercial banks and by strengthening the capability of DOSMEP to formulate and implement public policies that promote access to finance for SMEs. The Project includes three components: 1) A Line of Credit Facility; 2) A Risk Sharing Facility; and 3) Technical Assistance.

As part of the Component 3 above, the DOSMEP is looking for a dynamic and experienced Full Time National Consultant to fill the position of the above position to assist DOSMEP in the management and coordination of the SME Access to Finance Project.

The Consultant will be engaged on a part time basis equivalent to 4 months in each of the three years (a total of 12 months). This duration may be modified and agreed to in writing by both parties during the life of the contract. The full text of the ToR can be accessed at the NIU's website: <http://t4dlaos.org/index.php/en/work-with-us/vacancies>.

In order to qualify for this position, the candidates shall meet the following experience and competence requirements:

1. Minimum Master's degree in Environmental Management, Environmental Economic, Ecology, Natural Resource Management, Civil Engineering or a related field. In lieu of a Master's degree, a Bachelors degree with at least 7 years' experience in Lao will be acceptable.
2. At least 5 years of relevant experience in environment management in Lao including work in preparation and implementation of environmental impact assessments.
3. At least 5 years of relevant experience in social risk management in Lao.
4. Experience in capacity building and communication will be an asset
5. Familiarity with the legal, policy, and institutional frameworks of environmental management, land acquisition and ethnic minority issues, governance, economics and sustainable development in Lao.
6. Familiarity with World Bank safeguards requirements will be a plus
7. Experience with the banking and/or finance sector in Lao will be desirable.
8. Excellent IT, communication and reporting skills in English.

The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the World Bank's Guidelines "Selection and Employment of Consultants", Individual Consultant(IC) selection method, January 2011.

The NIU now invites interested eligible consultants to provide information indicating that you are qualified to perform the services (curriculum vitae with expressions of interest and references). Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below. Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below or no later than **December 18, 2015, 16:00 o'clock (submissions via email are also acceptable).**

To: **Mr. KeophouthoneInthivong, Procurement Officer**, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, National Implementation Unit (NIU), Ban Phonxay, Xaysettha District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR, Tel: +856(21) 41 39 16 - 45 39 82; Fax: +856(21) 41 39 16, E-mail: keophouthone.in@laosoft.org; Attn: Mr. PhouviengPhongsa, NIU Director. Only Short-listed candidates will be contacted for the interview.

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ມື້ນີ້...ທຸກຜະລິດຕະພັນກາຊ້າງ ໄດ້ແກ່
 ປູນຊີມັງ ເຫຼັກ ຂີ້ຕົ້ນພິວີຊີ ກະເບື້ອງຫຼັງຄາ ແຜ່ນລຽບສະມາດບອດ ໄມ້ສັງເຄາະ
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 ຊື່ໃໝ່ ຄຸນະພາບພົ້ນໃຈໄດ້ຄືເກົ່າ



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Ministry of Public Health - Center of Malariaology, Parasitology and Entomology (CMPE)
supported by Global Fund to Fight AIDS/Tuberculosis and Malaria

Expression of Interest

Date: 23 November 2015

Background:

Ministry of Health (MOH) of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has received grants since 2003 from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and currently is under the round of New Funding Model (NFM) to implement the activities under the National malaria Control Program (NMCP). The Center of Malariaology, Parasitology and Entomology (CMPE) is currently seeking for the qualified candidates to provide technical assistance to the mentioned above programme.

Procurement and Logistics Specialist: 1 Position, based in Center of Malariaology, Parasitology and Entomology (CMPE), Vientiane Capital.

Responsibilities:

1. Procurement Process:

- Define the responsibilities of all procurement staff within the procurement and supply management (PSM) plan of CMPE Sub-Recipient, in collaboration with PR Procurement Unit, Finance Unit and Project Coordinator.
- Organize bid opening, bid evaluation, decision meeting and prepare contract for the selected bid.
- Check all local procurement activities before sending to head of procurement unit for approval.
- Manage, and record the whole procurement process (international and local).

2. Store and Reporting:

- Receive and consolidate all monthly, quarterly and annual stock/inventory reports into Logistic Management Information System (LMIS).
- Prepare a quarterly summary of stock situation, present finding and make recommendations to head of unit and to CMPE technical/management staff.

3. Distribution:

- Prepare distribution plan with technical staff and relevant Partners after taking into account latest consumption, epi data, stock levels and forecasted needs.

4. Monitoring:

- Provide technical input into supervision checklist, participate in field supervision and prepares report and recommendations.

5. Training:

- Technical expertise in designing/fine tuning training curriculum with the logistic management and PR logistic Unit.
- Prepare report on trainings outcomes together with the logistic staff at CMPE and evaluate training needs assessment to improve future trainings.

6. Others:

- Support Project Coordinator and CMPE management team to response OSDV, PUDR and management letter from the Global fund related to PSM issues.
- Perform other duties are requested by the Head of Unit, Project Coordinator and Manager.

Qualifications required:

- Lao national.
- Master or Bachelor Degree in Business Management or Procurement and Supply Chain Management is an advantage.
- At least 3-4 years of experience in Procurement and Logistics process.
- Experience in training with Procurement and Logistics issues.
- Comprehensive computer and database software analytical skills (Microsoft Word, Excel database, Microsoft Access, Internet, E-mail...).
- Experience with government and international aid project or with the Global Fund Project is an advantage.
- Good English level (spoken and written) and Lao, with Lao-English translation capability.
- Ability to work effectively with a team and provide leadership when needed.
- Ability to work under pressure.

Technical Working Groups Assistant (TWGs Assistant): 1 Position, based in Center of Malariaology, Parasitology and Entomology (CMPE), Vientiane Capital.

Responsibilities:

- Initiate and follow up all administrative processes for implementation of activities as instructed by TWGs.
- Maintain filing system for all documents and records, official correspondence, email etc. with all MOH and external stakeholders.
- Keep regular and updated minutes of all TWG meeting and ensure distribution to stakeholders.
- Ensure timely receipt of all reports related to TWGs activities, both technical and financial reports.
- Liaison and coordination with external stakeholders, as advised by TWGs coordinator to ensure regular communication and feedback.
- Assist the TWGs coordinator to prepare relevant presentations and technical documents as instructed.
- Work closely with CMPE relevant staff related to the implementation of TWGs activities i.e. (Meeting, workshop, training).

Qualifications required:

- Bachelor Degree of Art or Business Administration or related field.
- At least one year experience in secretarial/administrative work.
- Good written and spoken English.
- Computer literacy in Word and Excel or similar package.
- A self-managed and self-motivated person who needs minimal supervision.
- Willingness to learn new things and updating own capacity
- A capacity to be flexible under stressful conditions
- Previous experience of working with INGO or international organizations or knowledge of international standard pattern.

Interested Candidates should submit their Expression of Interest and Curriculum Vitae, for this position, to:

Dr. Viengphone Sengsavath

Project Coordinator
Mobile: 020 2286 0186

Email: viengphone@gmail.com

Mr. Yosa Nyialor

Procurement and Logistics Specialist
Mobile: 020 9793 0597

Email: yosan1666@gmail.com

And CC to:

Ms. Thidthida

Local Procurement Assistant
Mobile: 020 5884 8471

Email: lmiscmpe@gmail.com

Ban Khualuang Neua, Chanthabuly District, Vientiane Capital

Office Number: 021 214010

Fax: 021 218131

Closing date: 09 December 2015 (16:30 local time)

Only-Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interview.



British Embassy
Vientiane

Policy and Project Officer One-year contract (renewable)

(Deadline for all applications: 18 December 2015)

The British Embassy Vientiane is part of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) world-wide network of 230 Posts, representing British political, military, economic, visa and consular interests overseas.

The role of Policy and projects Officer is to provide top-class policy, communications, economic and security advice to the Ambassador, Deputy Head of Mission (DHM) and Foreign Office in London. This is an exciting job at the frontline of the Embassy's work, and would suit an experienced analyst with top-notch research and advisory skills. The jobholder will help promote trade and investment between the UK and Laos, and support British interests and businesses. He/ she will also liaise with regional colleagues based in Singapore on economic and climate change/environmental issues. This job is high-profile, at the heart of the Embassy's policy and Projects activities, and therefore essential for the Embassy to successfully deliver its objectives. The jobholder will be given responsibility and license to be innovative, but will also work as part of the Embassy team in a friendly and supportive environment. The FCO has a strong ethos of diversity, equality and teamwork within Embassies, and provides a number of benefits to locally employed staff.

- Research and analyse socio-economic development trends of Laos in order to help develop UK-Laos bilateral relations across a wide range of policy sectors, of direct interest to the UK government
- Contact building and coordinate with the government in the areas of prosperity, education, environment—climate change and energy, illegal wildlife trade and anti-money laundering
- Manage Bilateral Programme Budget including Development of strategy for use of Embassy Bilateral Programme Budget and inviting and assessing bids. Organising the Embassy BPB Committee meetings.
- Lead on implementing in-house projects or activities including BPB and prosperity ASEAN programme fund through CEOP.
- Manage the Chevening scholarship programme including developing marketing promotion and organising and be part of the interview panel.
- Help involve in drafting, translating, editing and proof reading of press release, speeches and other documents.
- Lead on organising high profile visits within Laos by the Ambassador and DHM as well as inward visits to Laos by senior UK officials,

Requirements

- Fluent written and spoken English.
- At least 3 years experience working in a Project/communications/ business in an office or Embassy, some of which must have been gained in an international or English-speaking environment;
- A good general understanding of the policy and economic landscape in Laos.
- Ability to work under own initiative, and at times under pressure, but also to work effectively as part of a small team.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Experience of working with government and the media an advantage.
- Fluency in Lao an advantage;

Salary

The grade of the job will be B3. The successful applicant must be available to start work in January 2016.

The successful applicant will be offered a one-year fixed-term contract, subject to a 2-month probationary period. There is the possibility of upgrading to a permanent contract.

The British Government is an equal opportunities employer and this position is open to both Lao and foreign nationals. The successful candidate will work full-time, 40 hours per week. Normal working will be 0830-1630 Monday-Friday.

Employees will be entitled to 20 days of leave per year, as well as up to a combined annual total of 14 Lao National and British public holidays. They will also benefit from a private medical package. Travel to the UK or to British Embassies in the region may be required and occasional work during evenings and weekends which will be compensated with time off in lieu. Training opportunities will be provided, as necessary, for the successful applicant.

To Apply

Please send your cover letter detailing why you're interested in the position, CV and the **completed application form**, which can be downloaded from our website at, <https://www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/british-embassy-vientiane/about/recruitment> by **18 December 2015**, to laos.recruitment@fco.gov.uk. Please clearly indicate your name and position title in the subject of your email.

Please note that incomplete applications will not be taken into consideration.

No accommodation or relocation expenses are payable in connection with this position. You must have or be able to obtain work authorisation for Laos in order to apply. Applicants must have or be able to obtain Laos work authorisation. Staff recruited locally by the British Embassy is subject to terms and conditions of service according to local Laos employment law. Employment offers are subject to successful clearance of pre-employment checks. Only short-listed applications will be called for personal interviews.


The British Embassy is an equal opportunities employer and does not discriminate on grounds of ethnic origin, race, religious beliefs, age, disability, gender or sexual orientation.



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Vacancy Interim Accountant

Background

MAF, UNDP, and FAO Agro-Biodiversity Project(2011-2016) is seeking an interim account during the maternity leave of our accountant at our head office in MAF Vientiane

Scope of work


- Maintain financial records and filing in accordance with prevailing UNDP procedures;
- Prepare draft financial reports for the project team and advise them accordingly;
- Monitor and analyze project expenditures with respect to approved budgets and work plans;
- Prepare quarterly and annual budget and expenditures;
- Prepare monthly basis, bank, CDR and expenditures reconciliations against project budget;
- Complete monthly, quarterly and annual expenditure reports and updates;
- Prepare travel documents and payments of per diem, other allowances, etc;
- Prepare requests for direct payment and /or advance;
- Prepare and maintain updated ledgers and inventories of supplies and non-expendable property;
- Ensure financial guidelines and NIM best practices are followed of all project activities;
- Lease with UNDP financial Unit and UNDP programme officer as required and
- Performing other relevant duties as required.

Degree of Expertise and Qualifications

- At least a degree in accounting or financial management.
- Extensive professional experience, at least three years in project account/ management;
- Good understanding of the Government of Lao PDR, UNDP policies, structure and procedures;
- Experience in externally-funded projects and working in teams.
- Excellent reporting skills;
- Good skills in Microsoft Office;
- High level of proficiency in English and UNDP experience Lao would be an advantage.

Interested candidates/applicants should send a letter of interest together with an updated CV with 3 references, received **no later than 16 Dec 2015**, by email to: sirisomphou@gmail.com, cc : olesped@gmail.com. Detailed Terms of reference can be download from the UNDP website: http://www.la.undp.org/content/lao_pdr/en/home/operation/jobs/

Short-listed candidates will only be notified. Female candidates are encouraged to apply.



Xe-PianXe-Namnoy Power Company Limited
6F Capital Tower, 23 Singha Rd., Nongbone Village
Vientiane Capital, Xaysettha District, Lao PDR

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Xe-PianXe-Namnoy Power Company Limited (PNPC) is the owner and developer of the 410 MW Xe-PianXe-Namnoy Hydroelectric Power Project located in the Provinces of Champasack and Attapeu, Lao PDR which is currently under construction.

The PNPC is currently seeking for a Canteen Operator for the Main Construction Camp located in the BolavenPlateu, Paksong District, Champasack Province. Any interested and qualified business entities can submit their expressions of interest with the following requirements;

1. Letter of Interest
2. Copy of Business License
3. Copy of Financial Statement/Bank Statement
4. Staff Plan (List of Canteen Personnel with attached education-training certificates and certificates of experiences)
5. Operations Plan for a LAK40,000/meal/person at three times/day, 7 days/week
6. List of equipment and materials to operate the canteen
7. A minimum experience of three years in operating and managing a restaurant
8. Restriction: Any entity with relatives working at the PNPC are not entitled to submit expressions of interest.

Interested entities should personally submit their documents to the PNPC at 6th Floor Capital Tower, 23 Singha Road, Nongbone Village, Xaysettha District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR or at the Pakse Office, HouayGnangkam Village, Pakse District, Champasack Province, Lao PDR. **The closing date for submission is on 11 December 2015.** For further inquiries, interested entities may contact mindh@pnpclaos.com or khemaksonep@pnpclaos.com. comor call (021) 45 5045 at the PNPC Vientiane Office and (031) 21 5048 at the Pakse Office.



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Chusri Ngamprasert

THAILAND (The Nation) -- One of Thailand's most popular tourist destinations, Phuket is known for its sparkling clear waters, white sand, accommodation to suit most pockets and, of course, its seafood.

Now it has another attraction, one that will have gourmets salivating - an organic sweet corn farm that allows you to taste the goodies on site.

Spread over 45 rai of land in the island's Muang district, Vanich Farm is run by Apirag Vanich, chief executive of the Vanich Group.

"Sweet corn had never been grown on Phuket until I introduced it in 2010. The idea for developing the farm came to me during a visit to Nakhon Ratchasima. I love corn and thought that my fellow islanders would also enjoy nibbling on freshly picked corn grown organically," he says.

Apirag has taken his dream of corn farming in the city much further and today Vanich Farm is also a learning centre and an

agricultural lifestyle tourism destination.

A shopping area is located around the entrance with a small selection of shops offering more than 1,000 items. There's an ice-cream parlour with cones and cups selling corn ices and a fresh market selling corn milk, corn silk tea, popcorn and corn on the cob. A souvenir shop has premium OTOP products from the island as well as from other southern provinces.

There are corners with cool props for photos but they all fade into the background as visitors spot the sheep, miniature cows and rabbits.

"I've never focused on making a profit. My aim is to produce food that is tasty and safe while creating a sustainable environment.

"When I was young, Phuket was a beautiful place. It was full of greenery. Hotels and other buildings have mushroomed over the last 30 to 40 years and that greenery has been severely eroded. I am trying to bring nature back to downtown Phuket so our younger generation can learn about nature and, I hope,



An organic farm in Phuket offers sweet corn, rice, vegetables and a whole lot more.

preserve it.

"It's heartbreaking to see so many vegetables and fruits in the markets that are not safe to eat. That's why I focus on chemical-free farming. I am lucky to have the help of corn guru Surapol Chowchong and organic farming expert Uthai Ganlom," he says.

Visitors are welcome to walk through the four large fields of corn and sunn hemp or climb into an electric-powered cart to the traditional Thai house that borders the rice paddies to take photos of the albino buffaloes and kids dressed in old-style attire.

"The sunn hemp has beautiful yellow flowers but our main reason for growing it here is to use them as green manure to improve and protect the soil," agronomist Surapol explains.

"Kids these days have no idea where their food comes from. They don't know that it takes time to grow rice and vegetables. They just know the food comes in plastic bags

and is sometimes ready to eat straight out the packet. They can't tell the difference between kraprao (Holy Basil), horapha (Thai Sweet Basil) and maenglak (Lemon Basil). This learning centre allows them to see the plants, touch them and smell their different aromas before they are cooked and put on the dining tables," adds Uthai, a farmer from Nakorn Ratchasima who looks after the organic rice paddy and garden in the farm.

The main building is an airy, two-storey construction covered with brown cedar shingles that's designed to mimic the shape of a large corn husk. From here, you can admire the farm in all its glory,

enjoy cold corn milk, tuck into fine dishes or sip the farm's signature drink, a cocktail in which the main ingredient is the South Korean favourite soju. It's mixed with domestic organic fruits and vegetables from the farm including corn, mulberry, pandanus leaf and pineapple.

A free-form split-level tree house stands along side. Ten metres tall, it is designed by architects from Studio Miti and is covered with a giant net made from pine lumber. It will soon be used as an exclusive dining venue for parties of four, who will be served a meal from the famous Thai restaurant Nara that will open in the main building.

**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE**

**Small and Medium Enterprises Access to Finance Project
Credit No. 5471-LA, Grant No. H958-LA**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESS OF INTEREST
National Finance Officer**

The Government of Lao PDR has received financing from the World Bank (WB)'s International Development Association (IDA) for the Government's Small and Medium Enterprise Access to Finance Project, in the amount of 20 million USD. The Project's development objective is to provide long-term funding sources for banks to provide long-term credit to small and medium enterprises. The project will support the growth of privately-owned SMEs by increasing the supply of long-term finance provided by commercial banks and by strengthening the capability of Department of SME Promotion (DOSMEP) to formulate and implement public policies that promote access to finance for SMEs.

The Department of SME Promotion (DOSMEP) at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC) is the Executing Agency for the project; other agencies involved in project implementation include selected commercial banks (PFIs) and National Implementation Unit (NIU). DOSMEP was established in 2005 under the Prime Minister Decree No. 42/2004, dated 20 April 2004 with the mandate to develop national strategy and policy to promote SME development and to coordinate and supervise their implementation. Detailed information on the project is available on DOSMEP website in these relevant documents: Project Appraisal Document (PAD) and Project Implementation Manual (PIM). The project includes the following components:

- 1) A Line of Credit Facility
- 2) A Risk Sharing Facility
- 3) Technical Assistance

Component 1: A Line of Credit Facility is designed to improve SMEs' access to investment capital, especially long term finance through provision of long-term funding to financially-sound and well administered commercial banks for extending long term loans up to 2-7 years maturity to SMEs, enabling them to carry out long term capital investments that increase their business operations and enhance their productivity.

Component 2: Risk Sharing Facility, This component is being cancelled.

Component 3: Technical Assistance consists of: (i) Provision of technical assistance to DOSMEP and other relevant agencies to strengthen their capacity to formulate and implement strategies, policies, instruments and other activities related to the promotion of SMEs, and to implement, monitor and evaluate the Project; (ii) Provision of technical assistance to Participating Financial Institutions and other relevant financial institutions to improve their SME banking strategies, products and practices, including their compliance with environmental social due diligence and safeguard requirements; (iii) Provision of technical assistance to SMEs to build their capacity in business development and administration and financial management;

As part of the Component 3 above, the DOSMEP is seeking a dynamic and experienced full-time national consultant to fill the position of National Finance Officer (NFO) to assist the DOSMEP in managing the SME Access to Finance Project funds and to provide support to the NIU finance team.

The Consultant shall perform the Services during the life of the project until June 30, 2019 with yearly performance assessment or any other period as may be subsequently agreed by the parties in writing. The National Finance Officer will work under the day-to-day supervision of the NIU's Head of Finance. The DOSMEP/NIU may terminate this contract anytime at its sole discretion by giving 30 days notice to the Consultant. The workplace of the NFO will be at the NIU Office, Ministry of Industry and Commerce. The full text of the ToR can be accessed at the NIU's website: <http://t4dlaos.org/index.php/en/work-with-us/vacancies>.

In order to qualify for this position, the candidates shall meet the following experience and competence requirements:

- Minimum Bachelor Degree in accounting, finance or related subject;
- Certification as Public Accountant (CPA) is an advantage;
- Minimum 3 years of working experience in book keeping procedures, finance management and/or accounting;
- Minimum 2 years of experience in finance or accounting with WB or other similar donor funded projects;
- Knowledge of accounting software package, such as QuickBooks;
- Familiarity with National Treasury MOF payment procedures;
- Excellent communication skills, including speaking and writing in both English and Lao languages;
- High degree of computer literacy, and intermediate to advanced knowledge of Microsoft Office Package (Excel, Word, PowerPoint) and internet.

The National Finance Officer will be selected in accordance with the World Bank's Guidelines "Selection and Employment of National Finance Officers", Individual National Finance Officers (IC) selection method, January 2011.

The NIU now invites interested eligible National Finance Officers to provide information indicating that you are qualified to perform the services (curriculum vitae with expressions of interest and references). Interested National Finance Officers may obtain further information at the address below. Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below or no later than **December 18, 2015, 16:00 o'clock** (submissions via email are also acceptable).

To: **Mr. Keophouthone Inthivong, Procurement Officer**, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, National Implementation Unit (NIU), Ban Phonxay, Xaysetha District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR, Tel: +856(21) 41 39 16 - 45 39 82; Fax: +856(21) 41 39 16, E-mail: keophouthone.in@laosafit.org; Attn: Mr. Phouvieng Phongsas, NIU Director. Only Short-listed candidates will be contacted for the interview.



ທະນາຄານ ບູຢອງລາວ ຈຳກັດ
BOOYOUNG LAO BANK

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are looking for Lao National to join our bank as position below:

POSITION IN VACANT:

1. Banking Experienced Manager 2 position Male/female.

GENERAL QUALIFICATION:

1. Higher or Bachelor's degree in Financial, Business Administrative, Marketing or related field.
2. Computer literacy
3. Fluent in both verbal and writing English
4. Ability to make a documentation in English
5. Experience in Accounting, Deposit Marketing of bank at least 3-5 years
6. Ability to make Marketing plan and Reporting

Interested candidates should send Cover letter, CV, Proof, of qualifications to:

Contact: Booyoung Lao Bank Head Quarter.

Unit 34 Nongbone Rd, Phonxay Vill
Xaysetha Dist, Vientiane Capital

Tel: 856 21 454 500
Fax: 856 21 454 501

www.booyounglaobank.com

Children & Development

An emotional return home



Ms Sorn is one of the human trafficking victims.



“I missed you my beloved daughter, said my mother as I ran into her arms, tears streaming down my face,” Sorn (not her real name) shares.

“Every day, I had to sell cucumbers, pineapples and vegetables for my traffickers. I worked in Thailand for 3 years without work permits and pay. I worked from 7am to midnight every day for 3 years. No days off and no free time. At 11pm every night, I would be given my only

meal of the day,” she says.

“Returning home brought a warm feeling within me and gratefulness to be able to see my mother and family again,” Sorn says.

“My father hadn’t allowed me to leave. I asked both my parents’ permission when I was 16, but they refused. When my father went to tend to the cows, I left with my friends for the border and crossed with the hope of working to help my family’s condition. We were poor, with

barely enough rice to eat and a home that was falling apart; I wanted to help. The broker I met told me I would receive a good salary that would help my family become better. However in the end, I was found with a broken dream, no way to help my family and in trouble,” Sorn says.

“My cousin and I were asked to deliver vegetables to a nearby building when we decided to escape. We approached the police for help and they sent us to KorKed Centre for a year, a place

for human trafficking survivors to learn valuable skills, before going back to Laos,” Sorn shares.

Now 21-years-old, she is completing grade 4 of primary school in the province of Saravan.

Sorn is also one of the participants who joined the trafficking prevention programmes.

“This event was a great success for human trafficking survivors. Such an event builds awareness, teaches them how to protect themselves and helps them identify their strengths and weaknesses. The lessons they have learned from this event will help them succeed in society and hopefully allow them to learn and improve,” said Mr Thongphone Oudanith, deputy office of the Savannakhet Provincial Labour and Social Welfare Department.

“I was very happy and grateful to join the human trafficking survivors’ events in the province of Savannakhet. It was the first time I got to join activities like this and meet other people from different places that were facing the same problem. It made me feel good. I will use the lessons learned from these activities in my daily life and share with my friends,” Sorn says with hope.

“I have learned about the dangers of human trafficking,

from the dangers of working without the right documentation to recognising signs of abuse from employers who refuse to pay employees,” she says.

Sorn recently finished taking sewing classes at Village Focus

with all the sewing materials necessary to set up a small business in her home.

“I would like to thank my sponsor who helped and supported me. I will try my best to make a better life for myself and make my dreams come true,” she added.

Child protection and participation are central to World Vision’s work as a child-focused organisation. The legal framework in Laos supports both child protection and child participation. Laos became a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991, and National Decree Number 4 (2007) provides for the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Children.

World Vision actively works with its partners to protect children throughout the country. According to a recent Lao Social Indicator Survey (2012), 76 percent of children have experienced violent discipline and hundreds of children continue to be victims of exploitative labour and human trafficking.

World Vision Laos is working towards systemic change, which requires both changes in community behaviours and institutional strengthening.

—Source World Vision Laos

“I have learned about the dangers of human trafficking, from the dangers of working without the right documentation to recognising signs of abuse from employers who refuse to pay employees,” she says.

International, an NGO that works with vulnerable communities to give them valuable skills and knowledge to be independent. World Vision provided Sorn



LAO PEOPLE’S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

Mekong Integrated Water Resources Management Project (M-IWRMP): APL I
Department of Water Resources (DWR)-Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
IDA Project No.: M-IWRMP (P-104806)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
Audit of the Financial Statements
(M-IWRMP Procurement No.: C2.0-ICS-017)

The Government of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic towards the cost of the Mekong Integrated Water Resource Management Project (M-IWRMP) funded by the World Bank thru the International Development Association (IDA) intends to apply part of the proceeds to eligible payments under the Contract for which this Request for Expression of Interest is issued by Department of Water Resources (DWR) as National Project Management Unit of M-IWRMP.

- The objective of the yearly audit of the Project Financial Statements (PFS) is to enable the auditor:
• To express an independent opinion on the consolidated financial statements of the MIWRMP which includes the financial information of Components 2 and 3 financed under H675-LA for the following period:
a) 01 January 2015 until 31 December 2015;
b) 01 January 2016 until 31 December 2016; and
c) 01 January 2017 until 31 March 2018 (Project Closing Date)
• To assess the compliance with laws, regulations and funding agreements that have a direct and material financial effect on the project’s financial reports, and;
• To express an opinion on management’s assertions that they complied with laws, regulations and provisions of financing agreement and that they maintained an effective internal control framework over the project

The M-IWRMP now invites eligible firms or companies to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.)

A firm will be selected under *Consultants Qualification Selection (CQS)* procedures as specified in the World Bank’s *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits - Selection and Employment of Consultants* which can be found at the following website: www.worldbank.org/procure.

Expressions of Interest must be delivered by postal mail, Fax or e-mail to the address below by **22 December 2015**.

Mr. Ounakone Xayviliya
National Project Manager-M-IWRMP
National Project Management Unit
Department of Water Resource
Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment
Mobile no: 021 241744-110
Email address: miwrmp.ounakone@gmail.com or ounakone@gmail.com

Advertisement for Green City solar products. It features images of solar panels, a solar street light, and a solar home system. The text is in Lao and English, describing the products and their benefits. Contact information is provided at the bottom: TEL: 021-773068, Mob: 020-28546888 (Laos).

Streetwise

What are your thoughts on the amendments to the constitution?

The National Assembly opened its ongoing ordinary session on Monday, with the meeting scheduled to end on December 25. Lawmakers are debating amendments to the constitution and Vientiane Times asked various NA members for their opinion on the need for these changes.

Times Reporters

Mr Khamdeng Kommadon, President of the Xekong Lao Front for National Construction and NA member for Xekong province: It's great that we're getting together again at the National Assembly



to discuss the problems we have in Laos and how we can resolve them. This time we're debating changes to the constitution. This is the third time we've held these talks. We're having in-depth

discussions because these issues are very important for our country as the constitution is the basis of our laws. As Laos changes and develops, so the constitution must be amended. This is especially important with the coming of the Asean Economic Community (AEC) and globalisation. When the constitution is amended, some laws must be changed so that certain situations and the regulations governing them are compatible. NA members are sharing their ideas, especially on important parts of the constitution as it will govern our development process.

Mr Vankham Inthachack, President of the Savannakhet Lao Front for National Construction and NA member for Savannakhet province: The constitution is the basis of our legal system and governs

all our activities. It needs to be amended because Laos is developing and the people need a stronger constitution that reflects the changing circumstances. The constitution is at the heart of everything we do so NA members are sharing their ideas on amendments and additions to laws that have been in existence for over 40



years. Many things have to be changed so that we can integrate with the AEC and the rest of the world, and make it easier for us to mitigate and

resolve problems. If we create a revised constitution and ensure that it works well, we can be confident that our laws are effective. The authorities should publicise the content of the new constitution to people around the country and make sure everyone understands it, so that it has public support.

Mr Bounthien Thongkeo, Head of the Nongnokkhan International Border Checkpoint and NA member for Champassak province: We've been talking about these changes for a long time



and everyone has voiced their opinion. We need agreement from everyone involved so that we embark on a path that will foster development. Changes to the constitution are important because they are the

foundation of government and will underlie the development process. Any country will move forward and enjoy peace if it has a solid constitution as it will steer the nation in the right direction.

Mr Simoun Ounlasy, Vice President of the Lao Trade Union and NA member for Savannakhet province: It's important that we amend the constitution as it should be as useful as possible and agreed to



by almost everyone. We want to rewrite some of the laws that need updating because many things are changing, especially as we prepare to join the AEC. To promote the new constitution, we should make sure the general public understands it and complies with it. In the past people have been fairly law abiding but not

completely as some people didn't fully understand the laws.

Associate Professor Dr Bounpong Keorodom, Acting Rector of Savannakhet University and NA member for Savannakhet province: It is very important to amend the constitution because there have been a lot of changes, both in society and in terms of economics. The constitution has not been changed a lot. Some articles have been



added but not many things have changed. We amended some of the articles to make improvements and have made changes to about 20 percent. This has been done because we want everything in Laos to run smoothly and ensure that we are in a strong position to compete with other countries.

Vientiane Times Subscription 2015

1. DOMESTIC SUBSCRIPTION (6 issues/week) and online fee				
Regular price	78 issues (3 months)	305,000k	+100,000k <input type="checkbox"/>	405,000k <input type="checkbox"/>
	156 issues (6 months)	609,000k	+100,000k <input type="checkbox"/>	709,000k <input type="checkbox"/>
	312 issues (1 year)	1,217,000k	+100,000k <input type="checkbox"/>	1,317,000k <input type="checkbox"/>
Home Delivery (City Centre) Area: Thadeua Rd. Dongdok, Ban Tanmixay and Sikhay villages.	78 issues (3 months)	390,000k	+100,000k <input type="checkbox"/>	490,000k <input type="checkbox"/>
	156 issues (6 months)	780,000k	+100,000k <input type="checkbox"/>	880,000k <input type="checkbox"/>
	312 issues (1 year)	1,560,000k	+100,000k <input type="checkbox"/>	1,660,000k <input type="checkbox"/>
2. DOMESTIC SUBSCRIPTION FOR PROVINCES (6 issues/week), inclusive of postage cost				
Deliver to Provinces	156 issues (6 months)	1,451,000k		
	312 issues (1 year)	2,902,000k		
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	312 issues (1 year)	2,902,000k	+100,000k <input type="checkbox"/>	3,002,000k <input type="checkbox"/>
3. OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTION (6 issues/week) and online fee Total + Online fee				
Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia	156 issues (6 months)	3,328,000k	+100,000k <input type="checkbox"/>	3,428,000k <input type="checkbox"/>
	312 issues (1 year)	7,488,000k	+100,000k <input type="checkbox"/>	7,588,000k <input type="checkbox"/>
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	312 issues (1 year)	8,736,000k	+100,000k <input type="checkbox"/>	8,836,000k <input type="checkbox"/>
Europe (Including Russia)	156 issues (6 months)	4,992,000k	+100,000k <input type="checkbox"/>	5,092,000k <input type="checkbox"/>
	312 issues (1 year)	9,984,000k	+100,000k <input type="checkbox"/>	10,084,000k <input type="checkbox"/>
America and Canada	156 issues (6 months)	6,240,000k	+100,000k <input type="checkbox"/>	6,340,000k <input type="checkbox"/>
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Website is update four (4) times a day and every issue is published on our website in HTML and PDF

3 months (78 issues)	150,000 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 months (156 issues)	270,000 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 year (312 issues)	500,000 <input type="checkbox"/>
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Please return this form with the following information to Vientiane Times

FULL NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TEL: _____ FAX: _____ EMAIL: _____

FOR ONLINE: Name: _____ PREFERRED PASSWORD _____

(Password not more than 8 characters)

Mail this completed form with your cheque to:

Vientiane Times, T4 Rd, Phonpapao Village, Unit 32 Sisattanak District, Vientiane Lao PDR
PO Box 5723. Tel: 021 336042, Fax: 021 336041
Website: www.vientianetimes.org.la
Email: editor@vientianetimes.la

Payment in advance

Please request rates for other destinations at editor@vientianetimes.la. Make your payment to Vientiane Times bank account at the BCEL (US\$) A/c 010110100989471001 or (kip) A/c 010110000989471001

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: 15-36

OPEN TO: All Interested Candidates
POSITION: Budget Analyst (Temporary), FSN-7
OPENING DATE: November 30, 2015
CLOSING DATE: December 11, 2015
WORK HOURS: Full-time; 40 hours/week
CONTRACT: Temporary Employment, 3-6 months with possible extension.
SALARY: Actual salary will be based on the qualifications of the applicant.

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

The U.S. Embassy in Vientiane is seeking an individual for the position of Budget Analyst (Temp.) in the Financial Management Office.
BASIC FUNCTION OF POSITION
The incumbent serves as the Embassy Budget Analyst. He/she provides the full range of budget oversight, controls and execution for assigned budget areas. He/she makes obligations, and assures that all budget and program requirements are met. Oversees and carries out the allotment accounting for assigned offices. Prepares budget projections and makes recommendations on budgeting and accounting obligations to the Financial Specialist and to the Financial Management Officer. He/she serves as the primary backup to the senior Budget Analyst.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED
All applicants must address each selection criterion detailed below with specific and comprehensive information supporting each item.
1. **Education:** Completion of secondary school is required as a minimum.
2. **Prior Work Experience:** At least two years of experience required in finance/budgeting/accounting fields.
3. **Language Proficiency:** Fluently spoken and written English and Lao (level IV) to understand complex financial regulations and provides complex explanations to American staff.
4. **Knowledge:** Must be completely familiar with all of the regulations and guidance. Must understand local economic situation in order to prepare accurate budget forecast.
5. **Skills and Abilities:** Good typing skills. Must be able to use computer software including accounting packages and Microsoft Office Suite. Must be able to prepare Excel spreadsheets to track accounting data.

SELECTION PROCESS
When fully qualified, U.S. Citizen Eligible Family Members (USEFMs) and U.S Veterans are given preference. Therefore, it is essential that the candidate specifically address the required qualifications above in the application.

ADDITIONAL SELECTION CRITERIA
Management will consider nepotism/conflict of interest, budget, and residency status in determining successful candidacy.
1. Current employees serving a probation period are not eligible to apply.
2. Current Ordinary Resident employees with an Overall Summary Rating of Needs Improvement or Unsatisfactory on their most recent Employee Performance Report are not eligible to apply.
3. Currently employed U.S. Citizen EFMs who hold a Family Member Appointment (FMA) are ineligible to apply for advertised positions within the first 90 calendar days of their employment.
4. Currently employed NORs hired under a Personal Services Agreement (PSA) are ineligible to apply for advertised positions within the first 90 calendar days of their employment unless currently hired into a position with a When Actually Employed (WAE) schedule.
5. The candidate must be able to obtain and hold a security clearance.

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

SUBMIT APPLICATION TO
Human Resources Office
American Embassy
Thadeua Road, Somvang Tai Village
PO Box 114, Vientiane, Laos
(Hardcopy or e-mail attachments are accepted)
E-mail: VientianeHRO@state.gov
POINT OF CONTACT
Telephone: 856-21-487000
Fax: 856-21-488002

CLOSING DATE FOR THIS POSITION: DECEMBER 11, 2015

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

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

The Lao PDR celebrates 40 years in grand style

Editorial Desk

The Lao people can be justifiably proud of the widespread and meaningful celebrations to mark 40 years of the Lao PDR and the nation's great achievements on the road to development.

The historic event took place amid reverence and solemnity on December 2 in the nation's capital of Vientiane. Tens of thousands of people attended, including Lao citizens, foreign guests and people of Lao origin now living overseas.

The programme of activities staged for the giant ceremony featured Lao and foreign musical shows, a wonderful parade involving 15,000 people, the official ground-breaking ceremony for the high speed Laos-China railway, and a colourful artistic event featuring 4,000 people and firework displays.

Speaking at the parade, which took place at the That Luang esplanade, Secretary General of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and President of the Lao PDR Choummaly Sayasone said "Today, we together with our Lao compatriots of all ethnicities to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Lao PDR. When we look back at the 40 years that have passed since December 2, 1975, it is with great pride that we remember how the Congress of People's Representatives, which represented the aspirations of the entire Lao population, agreed to proclaim the establishment of the Lao PDR, finally erasing the feudal and colonial regimes that had occupied Laos for so many years."

"The proclamation of the Lao PDR was the fruit of the democratic national revolution that took place for many years under the great and capable leadership of the Party. It was a victory for the solidarity of the masses and the unity of our army and people, which enhanced the tradition of ardent patriotism, as well as the valiant and brave struggle of our nation."

"During 40 years of protection and development by the new regime under the leadership of the Party, our country has headed firmly towards its targeted destination. This makes us proud, as in no era before has our beloved country been so peaceful, developed or progressive, or enjoyed the status it does today in the regional and international arena," he added.

The magnificent ceremony was put on to mark this noteworthy occasion, which took place in an atmosphere of joy as people all across the country marked the achievements made in national development and protection.

Every sector and every community throughout the country actively took part in the celebrations, either by attending parades, watching or participating in a show, or helping out with security.

The celebrations enabled the people of Laos and the world to appreciate the scale and fruitfulness of development under the leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party over the past four decades. Economic infrastructure has constantly improved and poverty has been addressed step by step. The government spent a large sum of money on the celebrations to ensure they were praiseworthy and successful.

The sectors involved worked hard on the



A magnificent firework display brings the celebrations to a close.



A vast parade assembles in Vientiane on the morning of December 2.

preparations, including rehearsals, decorations and security, in order to achieve an outstanding result. We should offer them our thanks for carrying out this huge task.

The night before the parade, students, officials and other participants were encouraged to gather and sleep in schools, government offices and ministries to ensure they were ready to transport people to the site of the parade early the next morning.

This was yet another demonstration of the solidarity and unity of the Lao people in serving their country. It was a great opportunity for a large number of people to take part in these activities and it was a day for everyone involved to remember.

On the day itself, crowds turned out to watch the wonderful parades at the That Luang esplanade and in the evening there was an amazing show at

the National Sports Complex. At night, people gathered to enjoy stunning fireworks displays at the That Luang esplanade and the sports complex, which aptly reflected the success of the whole celebrations.

The celebrations were conducted in a peaceful and orderly manner throughout the country and the magnificent fireworks displays were a fitting end to this long-anticipated event.

Following the celebrations in Vientiane all of the provinces also organised heartfelt events to mark the occasion, including Borikhamxay, Champassak, Savannakhet and Luang Prabang. The celebrations that took place in Luang Prabang province coincided with events staged by the authorities to mark the 20th anniversary of Luang Prabang as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Benefits of Trans-Pacific Partnership and issues to look out for

Anwar Nasution

JAKARTA (The Jakarta Post) -- Indonesia should join the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) as a way to promote structural reform.

Such reform would include restructuring state-owned enterprises (SOEs), improving the investment climate, improving economic efficiency and productivity to create jobs for the nation's surplus labor and promoting exports. The spectacular experience of East Asia indicates that East Asian countries have become more developed and prosperous during the past 60 years mainly due to their greater penetration into international markets through trade and incoming private investment.

The People's Republic of China (PRC), which started deregulating its economy in 1978, 12 years after Indonesia in 1966, has grown much faster than Indonesia. Its currency, the renminbi (RMB), is now an elite international currency and a member of the International Monetary Fund's special drawing rights. During Mao Zedong's years, nobody held the RMB as a store of value.

By contrast, our rupiah moves like a yo-yo and it is very much affected by short-term capital flows.

Using Mao Zedong's terminology, Deng Xiaoping adopted "capitalist roaders" by inviting foreign direct investment (FDI), owned by foreign capitalists, to create job opportunities for China's labour surplus, to modernise the economy and to promote the export of agricultural and manufacturing products. Starting as a poor country with assembly plants to produce cheap and low quality industrial goods and products, China's gross domestic product (GDP) is now bigger than the GDP of Japan and its export value is the second biggest in the world after Germany. The country is the biggest recipient of FDI among emerging economies and is now a major military power in the Asia Pacific.

FDI brings in not only capital but also skills and technology as well as networks of international markets. Severe international market competition forced companies in China to increase efficiency, reduce costs, move to higher value-added products and upgrade the quality of production. Because of these trends, the PRC now exports its own

telecommunications sets, computers, aircraft, high-speed locomotives and nuclear generating plants. Indonesia, on the other hand, remains a producer and exporter of unprocessed raw materials and a borrower from China.

Unlike in Singapore, SOEs in Indonesia still demand capital injections from the government.

Because of limited job opportunities at home, Indonesia exports its uneducated and low-skilled labour surplus all over the world. Other options for the unemployed are to work in the non-formal sector, such as peddlers and ojek (motorcycle taxi) drivers with very low productivity.

The objective of America's TPP trade agreement is to achieve "free and open trade and investment" in the Asia Pacific. Such an objective mimics the ambitions outlined in the Bogor Goals crafted in an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum 20 years ago. The TPP now has 12 member countries but is largely a free trade agreement between two big countries, the US and Japan. Trade between these two economic giants accounts for about 60 percent of the TPP's economic benefits.

What the Lao papers say

Police continuing to tackle social problems

Translated by Times Reporters

Groups of youths are continuing to ride motorbikes recklessly and disturbing society so police are disseminating traffic regulations to students at many schools around Vientiane.

Recently, police organised to spread the information in Nongbone and Xaysettha Secondary Schools and will continue their efforts at many lower and higher secondary schools around the capital.

Deputy Head of Vientiane Traffic Police Department, Major Sangkhom Phommalat said that police were not only distributing traffic regulations to students but also urging them not to join groups of youths on motorbikes involved in antisocial behaviour.

Police also encouraged students to help protect the peace and order of society. Police said they would use strict measures to punish anyone who did not respect the law.

Police are also increasing efforts to solve traffic problems and prevent crime in society.

--Vientiane Mai Daily, December 3

Everyone should take responsibility to clean up rubbish

Many people are still not taking responsibility for their actions and throwing rubbish everywhere. This has to stop if we want to make the city clean and tidy.

One reader called in about one littering incident near Talat Sao Shopping Mall. Although the amount of rubbish was not that much the concerned officials need to solve this problem as the mall is a key tourist area in Vientiane.

This problem is the result of people not putting garbage in the bin or that the cleaners did not properly clean up the area. Either way it has clean to attract tourists.

Cleaning-up will mean the city is tidy with fresh air and a good environment and many people will want to come and visit, in the opinion of a *Pasaxon Van-Athit* reader.

Everyone must contribute to cleanliness and not litter to solve this problem.

--Pasaxon Van-Athit Weekly, November 6

Modified motorbikes causing social disturbance

Many youths in Vientiane province are still using modified motorbikes to cause social disorder so all concerned officials are working hard to solve this.

To tackle the problem traffic police of Phonhong district, Vientiane province have organised random checks on modified motorbikes.

Phonhong district traffic police reported they recently instigated checks along many roads around the community and at schools and have seized 18 modified motorbikes and re-educated the motorcyclists.

Traffic police urged owners not to modify their motorbikes because it breaks the law and increases the risk of road accidents.

Modified motorbikes also disturb other people, especially bikes with loud exhausts involved in illegal street racing.

--Khuamsangob Daily, December 8

Vangvieng to set the scene for a new music experience



A promotional poster for the inaugural Vangvieng Music Festival 2015.

Sisouphan Amphonephong

The first ever Vangvieng Music Festival 2015 is set to take place later this month, offering a scenic venue for a different musical experience that is expected to be well patronised by both Lao and foreign fans alike.

President of Lao Pride Records and Lao Bangfai Prime Association Mr Anousa Phothisane said Vangvieng Music Festival 2015 will take place over a fun-filled two days from December 18-19 in the parking lot of Lom cave in Vangvieng district.

Music fans from far and wide will be able to enjoy listening to leading Lao rock artists and rock bands from neighbouring countries as well touching base with world class DJs from Japan, Germany, Thailand, France and

EDM party.

With different DJs slated to perform on each night of the festival, it is expected to be a funky atmosphere for all in the cool December climate of Vangvieng.

The Lao artists will be led by Sack Cells, Black Eyes, Boxer, Metallic, Leprosy, and Taiy Akard while the Thai rock bands will be led by Instinct and Skykick Ranger.

Meanwhile the Lao DJs shall be led by DJ Taiy, Energy King Z and Vientiane Electro. They shall be joined by famous DJ from Germany DJ Nicone, DJ Xam Zimbabwe from France, DJ Yoshi, DJ Ruby, DJ Hicol and DJ Hirota from Japan and DJ PBLAA from Thailand.

This first Vangvieng Music Festival is expected to help promote the domestic

tourism atmosphere, especially Vangvieng, as a well-known place in the world.

Lao Pride Records and Smart Event Organiser are seeking to create new musical experiences in the country as well to open chances for Lao artists to showcase their skills on the stage with the foreign artists.

During the festival, a product exhibition will be available for the promotion of domestic products, which is set to run from December 13-19, starting at 10am.

A film festival will also run from December 13-17, screening a number of outstanding Lao films for audiences, starting at 5:00pm each evening.

The Vangvieng Music Festival will start from 1pm on December 18-19, encouraging the audience to immerse themselves in the atmosphere and take in all the musical styles on offer at the different stages.

People who are interested to join this big music festival event can now book their tickets, which are currently on sale to members of the public. The tickets will have different prices ranging from 70,000kip to 250,000 kip and can be purchased by contacting 030 9414245 or 030 9414246 for booking.

The 70,000 kip tickets are valid for one person only. They can be used for watching the live music during the two days of performing.

The 250,000 kip tickets are valid for two people with free camping provided for the duration of the event.

Mr Anousa expected that crowds of both local and foreign people will come to join the first Vangvieng Music Festival in Laos, which should offer a great experience for all.

He urged city folk to head north to join the festival and take in all the scenery and relaxed ambience of the Vangvieng countryside.

For more information, fans can visit the Vangvieng Music Festival Facebook page.

Namfon adds glamour to Minister Cup 2015

Sisouphan Amphonephong

Local pop princess Namfon added to the atmosphere of the football action at The Minister Cup last week performing alongside other local artists for fans.

Namfon Inthavong's performance at Lanexang Stadium in Nonghay village, Hadxaifong district was hot on the heels of her appearance in the Asean Celebrity Explore Quest Malaysia 2015, where she represented Laos while joining other regional personalities in various activities during her weeklong trip around Malaysia.

Meanwhile, Namfon expressed her happiness being able to join with other Lao stars such as Neung Super One and Kimmy Temple Guy to perform at the recent football event. The pre-match entertainment bill also featured dance teams including Project -X, X-Junior, Beautiful and Handsome who showcased their best moves for fans.

In other news, Namfon also performed at the 40th wedding anniversary celebrations of Lao Brewery Company Managing Director Mr Kissana Vongsay and his wife. Namfon said it was great to sing at such a warm and loving event for the well known couple.

Namfon has also been performing at other various



A poster promoting the football event.

corporate events including golf days and recently took up a role as presenter for Adidas sportswear.

Namfon said fans could follow her live performing schedule and other events on her Facebook page.

Flash to appear in 'Batman v Superman'

LOS ANGELES (The Statesman) -- The Flash, a popular superhero character, may appear in 'Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice', Michael Wilkinson, who designed the costumes for some characters in the film, has revealed.

During a presentation at CCXP - Comic Con Experience 2015, the costume designer was asked about how he made a modern and different costume for The Flash, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"Well, I'm not really at liberty to talk about The Flash right now, but it's something that you'll be seeing in the future in our films," Wilkinson said.

He later revealed that fans would see him in 'Batman v Superman'.

"You do get a glimpse of



Flash.

him, of course, in 'Batman v Superman'. But I'm really looking forward to taking the amazing, iconic costume for The Flash and interpreting it in a fresh way where Ezra Miller is playing The Flash," he added.

'Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice' also stars Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman, Jesse Eisenberg as Lex Luthor, Amy Adams as Lois Lane and Jason Momoa as Aquaman. The movie is scheduled to release on March 25 next year.

Mekong River Commission

The role of MRC is to promote and coordinate sustainable management and development of water and related resources for the countries' mutual benefit and the people's well-being

MRC Secretariat is now recruiting a highly qualified Lao candidate for the position of

Maintenance Technician

Consultant Type : Individual Consultant, General Support position
Division/Section : Finance and Administration Section
Work location : Mekong River Commission in Vientiane, Lao PDR
Contract type/ Duration : 6 months Service Contract

Key Responsibilities:

- Plan and direct all maintenance work on the MRC premises, ensuring that buildings and equipment are kept in good condition and that staff enjoy good uninterrupted working conditions;
- Prepare maintenance schedules for the MRC premises, equipment and appliances, and perform routine maintenance to ensure smooth functioning of all equipment. This includes, but is not limited to, power supply, communications, utilities, health and safety issues etc. Liaises with authorities regarding problems encountered with utilities;
- Maintain a system to control MRC archive and storage by checking/updating the equipment/documents on a regular basis;
- Maintain and update the inventory list of the MRCS and prepare inventory reports on quarterly basis. Ensure the effective maintenance and control of the MRC fixed assets on a regular basis. Reconcile the fixed assets with Solomon Financial Management System in cooperation with Finance unit;
- Coordinate with Unit/Division/Sections and the Property Survey Committee to identify any fixed assets items to be sold out and/or donated and update the inventory record accordingly;
- Coordinate and work with the auditor on the audit of Fixed Assets;
- Keep the maintenance equipment inventory listing;
- Oversee proper setting up of the conference room and meeting rooms for official functions and takes and monitor bookings for the rooms;
- Supervise and coordinate daily activities of all cleaners, gardeners, helpers, and security staff, plus any staff working for contractors hired to do maintenance work; oversees regular mowing of grass within MRC grounds and proper disposal of cut grass, tree branches, trunks and related materials;
- Manage the provision of adequate office space, cleaning and security services;
- Arrange for official transportation for the MRC staff, consultant and visitors;
- Supervise all office drivers and ensure proper records are maintained on monthly basis;
- Assist in the routine maintenance of the MRCS vehicles by monitoring the mileage, wear and tear of spare parts, etc, and prepare request for maintenance and keep maintenance record of each vehicle for reference;
- Perform other duties related to post as required by the supervisor.

Qualifications/Requirements:

- University degree, diploma or vocational school in related fields;
- At least five years experience in the area of maintenance and at least one year in supervisory level, preferably in an international organisation;
- Experience in dealing with authorities / government agencies;
- Wide experience of maintenance, i.e. electrical equipment, furniture, office building, is required;
- Very good knowledge of written and spoken English required;
- Knowledge of more than one riparian language is an advantage.

The Terms of Reference and other information can be obtained from the MRC website <http://www.mrcmekong.org/working-with-mrc/employment>. Qualified female candidates are encouraged to apply. Only short-listed candidates will be notified.

Application procedures:

Only Lao nationals are eligible to apply. The application should include (i) a cover letter outlining clearly how the candidate meets the requirements of the position, (ii) a detailed CV, and (iii) MRC Personal History Form. The position title and section/division must be indicated in the cover letter.

The application should be sent to:
Mekong River Commission
Office of the Secretariat in Vientiane (OSV)
P.O. Box 6101, 184 Fa Ngoum Road
Vientiane 01000, Lao PDR
Email: mrcs@mrcmekong.org
Closing date for applications: 14 December 2015

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Individual consultant
Designing Case Management Systems for Judicial Sector in Lao PDR
 Date of issue: 26.11.2015

Country/Location:	Vientiane, Lao PDR
Description of assignment:	International Consultant On Preparing a training module on judgment writing for People's Supreme Court in Lao PDR
Project Title:	Support Project for Implementation of Legal Sector Master Plan (Project number: 00087142)
Deadline for submission of application:	Friday, 4 December 2015 Late or incomplete proposals will be rejected
Type of Contract:	Individual Contract
Period of assignment/Duration:	10 Working Days Over 4 Months
Starting Date :	ASAP

Scope of work:

Several training requirements were identified during this assessment and it was decided to focus on skills relevant to judgment writing on a priority basis. The SPLSMP project has thus agreed with PSC to support the process of developing the required curricular and supporting the trainers at the PSC training center to roll out training on judgement writing to selected number of PSC officials.

Experience and qualification requirements:

- Experienced judge (at least 10 years)
- At least 4 years of experience in designing training curricular and conducting training
- Excellent facilitating skills including dealing with diverse audience
- Experience in working with governments and institutions
- Demonstrated flexibility, adaptability and understanding in taking on consultancy for development projects
- Familiarity with the country or the region strongly preferred. Understanding of development issues in Lao PDR an asset
- Fluency in spoken and written English including excellent drafting skills, particularly in being able to write documents (such as reports) concisely and in simple-to-understand English that is easy to translate into another language
- Knowledge on Lao, French or similar legal systems will be an added advantage

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

Requirements for submission of proposals:
 All interested and qualified candidates should apply on-line through the UNDP website at <http://www.la.undp.org/content/laopdr/en/home/operations/jobs/> or http://jobs.undp.org/ij_view_jobs.cfm

Please make sure to submit all the requested documents/information otherwise your application will be considered incomplete. All requests for clarification must be sent in writing to the following e-mail address: kazuo.fukuda@undp.org with CC to phadthakone.sophavilay@undp.org.


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


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Persons interested in being partners in educational business development investment with insured incomes for your investment and already expanded business building and facilities, kindly contact number 020-91833335 or e-mail: inthanin_school@yahoo.com

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Position: Finance & Administrative Manager

On Board: Immediately

Application close: 31 December 2015

Main responsibilities:


- Taking care the overall finance, accounting, MIS, and procurement. Ensuring compliance with all company financial policies and procedure Set up and develop finance and accounting policies/procedure and other policies which will affect the control in overall corporate.
- Conduct, modify and implement full financial and accounting system/procedure according to the statutory requirement and company's policy.
- Ensure that adequate internal control is established to safeguard the operations' assets.
- Maintains a sound tax planning and tax reports in compliance with all legal and statutory requirement.
- Direct the preparations of statutory financial statements and co-ordinate with external auditor where appropriate.
- Being a company representative in dealing with government agency related to company financial and tax.
- Coordinate the preparation and participation in the evaluation of the strategic plan, capital plan and annual operating plan and regular forecast of earnings and other financial results.
- Appraises the economic effect of proposed plans and programs on the operation and recommend alternative course of action.
- Supervise and coordinate capital expenditure, budgeting control and cost control.
- Supervise Procurement leader for all procurement matters, including import and export business. Also familiar with all documents and tax regarding cross border trading.
- Supervise MIS leader in the area of infrastructure and hardware installment.
- Performs other necessary duties as assigned by General Manager.

Qualification:

- Bachelor or Master Degree in Accounting or Financing or another related field.
- At least 5 years working experience for the managerial position in accounting, finance or credit.
- Excellent interpersonal and strong leadership skills.
- Computer literacy in Excel, Access, Word and Navigation.
- Ability to work in high pressure, working in long hours and experience of sharing knowledge.
- Good communication in both English and Lao.

If you think you are qualified and interested in this position, please submit the resume and cover letter to email: recruitment@laoscoke.com or leave the hand copies of your CV in the office with address: Hai Village, Xaythani District, Vientiane capital.

Received applications will not be returned



Australian Embassy
Lao PDR

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The Australian Embassy has several vacancies, representing exciting career and learning opportunities. We are seeking experienced and highly motivated individuals able to work independently and as part of a small team, contributing to the Embassy's work across the Lao PDR.

To be successful in this role you will have:

- A Masters and/or Bachelor degree in a relevant discipline such as international relations or economics.
- Fluency in both English and Lao languages, and strong written and oral communication skills in both languages.
- High level interpersonal, liaison and negotiation skills, and the ability to communicate effectively.
- An interest in, and understanding of, Australian society and culture.
- Work experience in a relevant environment, such as government, NGO or the private sector.

The Embassy is looking to fill two important positions: a Logistics Officer (Corporate) and a Logistics Manager (Corporate). The Australian Embassy is an equal opportunity employer - all applicants will be considered on their merit.

To apply for the position at the Australian Embassy, applicants must prepare a written response that directly address the selection criteria for the position. The position description and application instructions can be found on the Embassy's website www.laos.embassy.gov.au/vtan/aboutus.html

Applications must be submitted by **5.00pm Friday 18 December 2015**. Applications that do not address the selection criteria will NOT be considered.

What's On



Barcamp Vientiane 2015

The 5th Barcamp Vientiane is on this month. Barcamp is an international network of user-generated conferences which allow people to join and participate freely. Everybody can talk about any topics that they think are interesting, knowledgeable or fun.

When: December 12, 9am-5pm, free event
Where: Pakpasak Technical College, Sithane Road, Vientiane
 For more information: Facebook/barcampvientiane

Vangvieng Music Festival

The first Vangvieng rock music festival rock will be held this month, organised by Samart Event Organiser & Lao Pride Records.

Where: Tham Lom cave parking, Vangvieng district, Vientiane province
When: December 18-19, start 13am, facebook/vangvieng music festival



Photo exhibition

Archives photographiques de l'École française d'Extrême-Orient will hold an exhibition with photos echoing Luang Prabang at the beginning of the 20th century.

When: December 3-19 at the French Institute

December 6-10 at Luang Prabang National Museum
Where: French Institute, Lane Xang Avenue, Vientiane
 Luang Prabang National Museum, Luang Prabang province
 For more information: info@if-laos.org



Painting course

Eastern Art Academy and Gallery organises painting courses for children. The course costs 600,000 kip per person per month.

Where: Eastern Art Academy and Gallery, Simeuang village, Vientiane
When: Monday-Friday 6 pm-7pm
 Saturday-Sunday 9am-11am
 For more information: 020 5564 6679, 020 7782 5316. 020 5809 6984

Photo exhibition 'Kin Khao'

Photo exhibition 'Kin Khao', depicting landscapes, farmers and food by Tessa Bunney and Mick Shippen. Food provided for the opening event by Doi Ka Noi restaurant.

When: November 21 until December 16. Open daily.
Where: I:Cat Gallery, Setthathirath road, Simeuang village.
 Call 020 77839674
 Email: icatgallery@gmail.com
 Facebook: Icat Gallery



Miss and Mister Institut Francais 2015

Come and participate in a great event and choose the next ambassadors of the French language 2015! Register at the secretariat of classes until November 20. Vote for your favourite candidates on Facebook or vote by ballot at the secretariat of classes until December 8.

When: Saturday December 12, 7pm, free entry
Where: French Institute, Lane Xang Avenue, Vientiane
 More information: info@if-laos.org



Faculty of Agriculture 20th anniversary

Alumni from the Faculty of Agriculture, Nabong Campus are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the faculty in Vientiane.

Where: Faculty of Agriculture, Nabong village, Xaythany district.
When: December 11
 More information: 020 2224 0334, 021 870 046

Mini Vientiane Short Film Competition

Vientiane International Film Festival is hosting a short film competition. The competition is open to anyone currently living in Laos, regardless of nationality and level of filmmaking experience.

When: All films will be screened on the last day of the Mini Vientiane Film Festival in February 2016.
Deadline: January 15, 2016
Contact: Email: festival@vientiane.org
Call: 020 95353595 (Lao), 020 58891465 (Lao/English)

Vangvieng Boat Racing Festival

Vangvieng district, Vientiane province, is holding a boat racing festival this week. Information on the event can be obtained from the Head of Thaheua village, Mr Chantai, on 020-9710 0571.

Where: Thaheua-tai village, Vangvieng district.
When: December 12.



Fang Mae Khong International Dance Festival 2015

Enjoy the Fang Mae Khong International Dance Festival 2015 performing at various locations.

When and where:
 December 17-18, at French Institute, Vientiane 7pm
 December 20, at Vivankou Gallery, Savannakhet province, 7:30pm
 For more information: 020 5226 2111, 020 7752 7911
 Email: fmkdancecontest@gmail.com
 Website: www.fmkfestival.org



Romeo and Juliet Contest

For their 9th anniversary the Romeo Club in Vientiane is organising a cosplay prince Romeo and princess Juliet contest. The event also features guest lady DJ Angel and prize draws.

When: Friday December 11
Where: Romeo Club, Vientiane, call 020 7748 2222



'A Forest Dream' collection

'A Forest Dream' collection brings together the elements of nature, styling, beauty, and photography. Produced and directed by Michelle Bronkhourst, Photography by Stacy K. Dixon. Featuring sweet tunes by Kinnari. Models: Renee Gilbert, Marion Le Roux, and Miriam Felicia Bergli.

Where: L'Atmosphere Bar, Simeuang village
When: Friday December 11 at 9 pm, December 12 at 12 noon



Watercolour Exhibition

Watercolour paintings of Luang Prabang exhibition by Vincent Besançon.

When: December 3-19
Where: French Institute, Lane Xang Avenue, Vientiane. Free entry
More details: info@if-lao.org



Art exhibition "Vibrance"

Solo art exhibition "Vibrance" by Mr Jan Wollen, painted in Vientiane over the past year.

When: November 12 opening reception 6:30-8:30pm. Exhibition runs until December 10.
Where: Couleur d'Asie gallery and restaurant, Nokeokoumane Street, opposite Vat Mixay.
 For more information: 020 2122 3008, www.facebook.com/CouleurdAsie

Warm for Winter appeal

The Lao Red Cross asks everyone to help people living in northern Laos keep warm this winter. Please donate clean blankets, warm clothing, towels, shoes, gloves and socks to our Warm for Winter Appeal 2015.

Where: Lao Red Cross
When: Normal working hours
 For more information: 021 253 014, Facebook/LaoRedCrossSociety
 Thank you so much for your generosity!

Elephant caravan

The Lao Elephant Conservation Centre is organising an Elephant Caravan, comprising 12 elephants travelling through Xayaboury and Luang Prabang provinces to mark the 20th anniversary of Luang Prabang's listing as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

When: October 27 to December 17
Where: The caravan will travel from Paklai district in Xayaboury province to the town of Luang Prabang.

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

Buddha image consecration ceremony

Merit makers can attend a Buddha image consecration ceremony at Khualuang village temple, on December 11. There will be also an almsgiving ceremony on the morning of December 12.

Where: Khualuang village temple, Chanthabouly district, Vientiane.
When: December 11, at 7pm.
 For more information call: 020 9819 4644; 020 56521300; 020 9140 0091.



Cremation ceremony for the Most Venerable Dr Phong Samaleuk

The cremation ceremony of the Most Venerable Dr Phramaha Phong Samaleuk will be held at That Luang square on December 20. There will be a special procession travelling from Ongteu temple to That Luang square. All interested people and devotees can take part in the ceremony.

Where: That Luang square, That Luang village, Xaysettha district.
When: December 20.



Invitation to join a convoy to Viengxay

The Tourism Promotion Department of the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism is inviting the public to take part in a caravan of vehicles that will travel to the birthplace of the revolution in Viengxay district, Huaphan province. The convoy will travel from Vientiane through Borikhamxay and Xieng Khuang provinces before reaching Viengxay.

When: December 11-15.
Where: People who wish to take part are asked to register at Room No. 103 in the Tourism Information Centre on Lane Xang Avenue. Tel/Fax: 021 212248, mobile nos. 020 5548 9959; 77666474; 77723100
 Those who do not have a vehicle are asked to register at Room No. 220 in the Lao Tourism Business Association. Tel: 021 243501. **Mobile:** 5551 6171 (Mr Saleum) or 2826 7182 (Mr Khone).
Opening times: Mon-Fri 8:30am-12 noon, 13:00-16:00; Saturday and Sunday: 9am -15:30.

Christmas concert

Enjoy drinks and food at the Christmas concert by Thai artist Parn Tanaphon.

When: December 25
Where: Mix Restaurant & Bar, Nam Phou, Vientiane
Call: 021 260 963, 020 5858 6464

Art and Drink Event

Artist, Olé Scovill, has prepared a selection of intricate limited edition drawings to colour in while enjoying an evening of wine, music and good company. Now booked out! Please keep expressing your interest, should any spots become available they'll be offered to those on the waiting list. Tickets 150,000 kip.

When: Saturday, December 12, 5:30pm-7pm
Where: At i:cat gallery, Simeuang village
 For more information: icatgallery@gmail.com, call 020 7783 9674



Startup Weekend

A Startup Weekend will be conducted for young entrepreneurs this month in Vientiane over a fast paced 54 hours. Interested young people can register for 180, 000 kip each, 120, 000 for students before December 15.

When: December 18-20
Where: American Centre, Thatdam, Vientiane
 Registration at Tohlao Coworking Space & Service
 For more information call: 030 532 9008, 020 7766 0082, email: info@tohlao.com
 Facebook: Startup Weekend Vientiane, Facebook: Tohlao Coworking Space & Service



Indian Scholarships

The Embassy of India in Vientiane provides scholarships for Lao students for both under graduate and post graduate courses in Indian universities, starting July 2016. Available courses: information technology, vocational training, business management, economics, archaeology, architecture, history and Buddhist studies. Applicants are required to have good knowledge of English.

When: Deadline for application submission is on December 20, 2015
Where: Embassy of India in Vientiane. House No. 125, Unit 07, Saphanthong-kang village, Sisattanak district. Tel: 021 352301,
Email: info@indianembassy.laos.org

Concert

Come along to an exciting live show by Thai solo artists and bands.

Where: Phoenix Night Club (formerly the Echo Pub) Vatnak village, Sisattanak district.
When: The band 25 Hours will play on November 9, while BANK Clash will perform on November 28, AOF Pongsak on December 12 and Jazz on December 9.
 More information contact: 020 22737771, 02055505584.

Sepp Blatter at risk again from FIFA kickbacks scandal



FIFA president Sepp Blatter is surrounded by banknotes thrown by British comedian Simon Brodtkin during a press conference following the Extraordinary FIFA Executive Committee meeting at the headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland on Monday. (File photo AP)

GENEVA (AP) -- Sepp Blatter is at risk again from the World Cup bribery scandal that tainted much of his FIFA presidency.

Switzerland's justice ministry confirmed on Monday that American authorities formally asked for files in the ISL kickbacks case to aid their sprawling investigation of alleged racketeering by international soccer leaders.

The ISL marketing agency was found to have routinely bribed top sports officials, including Blatter's predecessor Joao Havelange, before collapsing into criminal bankruptcy in 2001.

British broadcaster the BBC aired a programme Monday alleging it had seen a letter obtained by the FBI that was written by Havelange and said Blatter had "full knowledge"

of kickback payments in the 1990s. Blatter was Havelange's general secretary for 17 years until becoming president in 1998.

Blatter would not comment on the BBC's claim, his spokesman Klaus Stoeckli told *The Associated Press* on Monday.

FIFA said it is cooperating to provide "all relevant information" to ongoing American and Swiss investigations, and would not comment on specific allegations.

The ISL case sent FIFA into financial crisis, then dogged the governing body and Blatter through a criminal trial of six agency executives in 2008. A legal fight followed as FIFA tried to keep sealed the identity of officials named in a settlement deal to repay bribes.

Two years ago, FIFA finally declared the case closed after

its ethics committee reviewed the case.

The ethics judgment confirmed three longtime executive committee members as bribe-takers: Havelange, who was FIFA president from 1974-1998, resigned as honorary president; his former son-in-law Ricardo Teixeira of Brazil, who had resigned a year earlier; and Nicolas Leoz of Paraguay, who resigned as president of the South American confederation CONMEBOL.

Criticising Havelange and Teixeira for "morally and ethically reproachable" conduct, the ethics ruling of April 2013 also noted that commercial bribery was not illegal in Switzerland in the 1990s.

And Blatter's behaviour over the years did not amount to "any criminal or ethical misconduct," ethics judge Joachim Eckert wrote.

Blatter had been merely "clumsy," Eckert said, when in March 1997 he sent back a payment of 1.5 million Swiss francs (then US\$1 million) which arrived at FIFA for Havelange from ISL.

Being cleared of misconduct was a relief to the FIFA president, FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke told the AP days after the ruling was published. The name ISL that was "tattooed on his forehead" for more than a decade was washed away from Blatter by the ethics panel's summary, Valcke said in May 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Athletics Federation to hold more track and field events

Sangkhomsay Bupphanouvong

The Lao Amateur Athletics Federation will be ready to host 18 track and field events at the upcoming 1st Lao National University Games in Vientiane in March next year.

The Lao National University Games will be hosted by the National University of Laos (NUOL) while the Lao Athletics Federation will provide the sporting equipment for the track and field events at NUOL's Dongdok campus.

Secretary of the Lao Amateur Athletics Federation, Mr Sithixay Sakpaseuth said the NUOL will check and improve the stadium again before hosting the track and field events.

Teams from a number of provinces, the University of Health Sciences, Police Academy, Army Academy, Banking Institute and the hosts

NUOL are expected to field athletics teams for the games.

The provincial universities in Luang Prabang, Savannakhet and Champassak provinces are expected to field athletics teams, as are private colleges from other provinces nationwide.

Mr Sithixay said next month, the provinces and other teams will be able to register at the federation's office before attending the games.

He said national athletes will be able to attend the 1st games if they are currently studying at a university. However national athletes will be unable to compete in the games if they have already graduated from university.

The first National University Games will include football, badminton, table tennis, sepak takraw, petanque, taekwondo, volleyball, and beach volleyball.

During competition at the 1st games, the Athletics Federation will select the best athletes to represent the NUOL to compete

in the Asean University Games in Singapore in June 2016.

The federation has over 10 athletes who can compete at the national level. They previously competed at the 10th National Games in Oudomxay province in 2014 and also the 2014 Asean University Games in Indonesia.

Laos came away empty-handed in the athletics events at the 28th SEA Games in Singapore and won only two bronze medals in track and field at the 27th SEA Games in Myanmar.

At the 16th Asean University Games held in Vientiane in 2012 the Lao athletes secured four bronze medals in the track and field events.

At the 26th SEA Games in Indonesia, Laos failed to win any medals but won a bronze at the 25th SEA Games in 2009. At the 15th Asean University Games in 2010, Laos won one silver and five bronze medals.

Everton rescues 1-1 draw against Crystal Palace in EPL

LIVERPOOL, England (AP) -- Romelu Lukaku scored his 50th goal for Everton in his 100th appearance to give the team a 1-1 draw against Crystal Palace on Monday in the Premier League.

Lukaku hit the woodwork twice before Gerard Deulofeu found him with a low cross in the 81st minute and the Belgium striker had a simple tap-in from close range for his seventh goal in six matches.

In an entertaining second half, Scott Dann headed Crystal Palace into the lead in the 76th minute after poor marking by Everton from a corner.

Lukaku nearly leveled immediately but thumped a shot against the crossbar, having struck the post with a low effort in the first half.

Palace is sixth on 23 points from 15 games, with Everton a point back in ninth place.



Everton's Romelu Lukaku (left) and Middlesbrough's Daniel Ayala battle for the ball during the quarterfinal English League Cup at the Riverside Stadium, Middlesbrough, England on Tuesday. --Photo AP

Watson wins World Challenge by 3 shots

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) -- A few years after Bubba Watson made it onto the PGA Tour, he started waking up early to play practice rounds with Tiger Woods. He didn't ask a lot of questions of the world's No. 1 player who already had 14 majors when he was 32.

"I learn by watching and listening," Watson said. "So I just watched. How would you not want to learn from the best player of our generation?"

Woods, the tournament host, was watching Sunday as Watson delivered a performance that looked familiar in its efficiency.

Staked to a two-shot lead going into the final round, Watson made four birdies in seven holes and was never seriously challenged. He sailed home to a 6-under 66 and a three-shot victory over Patrick Reed at Albany Golf Club in the

Hero World Challenge.

Watson wasn't even planning to play this week. He turned down his invitation a few months ago because he didn't have a passport for his newly adopted daughter, Dakota. But when PGA champion Jason Day backed out to stay home with his newborn daughter, Watson's wife was able to expedite all the right documents for the family to come over to the Bahamas.

He left with a US\$1 million payoff and a firm grasp on No. 4 in the world the rest of the year.

"I guess I've got to thank Jason Day for backing out. I have to thank the US government and passport office for getting Dakota a passport so we could be here," Watson said. "For us, it's a good ride, a fun ride."

Even if it didn't feel easy to him, it sure looked that way.

Watson didn't make a bogey all weekend until the final hole, when he jokingly asked NBC field reporter Notah Begay how many shots he needed to win. He played it safe and made bogey, and all that cost him was the tournament record. Watson finished at 25-under 263, one shot from Jordan Spieth's record last year at Isleworth.

Reed also had a 66 to finish alone in second, moving him to No. 10 in the world for the first time. Rickie Fowler had a 64 to finish third.

Spieth tried to stay in range and was three shots behind until he missed a 4-foot birdie putt on the ninth hole and never converted many chances after that. He ended his year with a 67, and walking up the 18th, he and caddie Michael Greller allowed for a quick reflection.

Government's Office

Environment Protection Fund

Second Lao Environment and Social Project

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST For Individual National Consultant

Position: Project Management Consultant

Duration of the assignment: 24 months spread over 4 years

The LENS2 executing agency is the Environment Protection Fund Office (EPFO). The project will function as a financing mechanism for a suite of sub-projects implemented by various sub-project delivery agencies (SDAs), within the framework of three project components: Component 1: Institution development and capacity building; Component 2: Adaptive management of natural resources, environmental and social issues; and Component 3: Project administration and EPF capacity building. Around 40 sub-projects have been identified during preparation of PAW and LENS2. There is additional reserved funding for scaling up successful sub-projects or for new sub-projects.

As part of the LENS2 implementation a number of national, regional, and/or international consultants will be mobilized to assist the various SDAs to implement the sub-projects. Provincial Office of Forest Inspection is one SDA prioritized under PAW/LENS2 where project will be implemented by POFI. The sub-project objective is: to improve provincial capacity to combat illegal wildlife trafficking in Bolikhamxay, Khamouan and Huaphanh provinces. POFI seeks an experienced Project Management Consultant (National) to support the agency to implement the above-described sub-project.

The consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures so called Individual Consultant in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by Bank Borrowers, dated January 2011.

Key Qualification and experience required are as follow:

- Undergraduate degree (or higher);
- 5 - 8 years working experience in project implementation and/or management;
- Experience in at least one similar assignment (i.e project management role with government agencies or development agencies, reference required).
- Minimum of 2 years working on large projects, and/or with international development agencies;
- Demonstrated experience in project management and project reporting, including monitoring activities, and developing Annual Work Plans and Budgets;
- Demonstrated skills in teamwork, problem solving skills and be able to constructively work through problems with co-workers and project partners;
- Excellent English speaking and writing;
- Ability to listen well, ask questions and hold effective and respectful two-way communication; open, inclusive and able to keep co-workers and other partners informed; comfortable with public speaking;
- Able to develop a productive and positive working relationship with co-workers at DOFI and in Lao WEN; ensures client buy-in and participation in all aspects of work.

Interested individual Consultant may download Term of Reference from Environment Protection Fund Website: <http://www.laoepf.org.la>. Expression of Interest must be submitted to the address below no later than December 25th, 2015. **Only short-listed candidate will be contacted for an interview**

Attention: Procurement Unit, Environment Protection Fund

Tel: (856-21) 252 739

Fax: (856-21) 252 741

Email: Epf.career@laoepf.org.la

Sports

Local coaches getting upgrade at Japanese clinic



Mr Pasith Souphab (seated third right), Mr Kimura Hironori (seated second left), Mr Shigeo Yamazaki (seated fourth right) and local coaches attending the seminar at the Lao Football Federation's office on Tuesday.

Sangkhomsay Bubphanouvong

More than 30 Lao coaches from various Vientiane clubs will be able to better instruct young footballers following a coaching seminar being delivered by the Japan Football Association from December 8-9.

Many Lao coaches are getting B and C level licenses from the Asian Football Confederation. The coaches are studying to develop their practical and theoretical knowledge under Japan Football Association representative Mr Shigeo Yamazaki.

The coaching seminar is supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The opening ceremony of the seminar was attended by Lao Football Federation's Vice President Mr Pasith Souphab and a senior official from JICA Mr Kimura Hironori.

The seminar is also helping commemorate the 60th anniversary of Laos-Japan diplomatic relations and 50th anniversary of JICA volunteers coming to Laos. Currently, JICA sends more than 800 Japanese volunteers to assist in many development areas such as sport, education, agriculture, society and other organisations in Laos.

Mr Pasith said the Lao Football Federation was happy to have the cooperation of the Japan Football Association and the local coaches were keen to take away important lessons from the coaching seminar.

This event is the first of its kind following the strategic alliance agreement with JICA, Japan Football Federation and the J-League.

JICA selected football as the sport to build good relations with the hope that Lao coaches will be able to further develop the local game.

Mr Shigeo said the Japan Football Association had been able to develop its footballers to a skilful level, and at the same time, is able to exchange ideas with Lao coaches.

"During the seminar, we are able to show training methods and also the playing system of Japanese football teams and we would like to see Lao coaches be able to train local footballers to be as skilful as Japanese footballers," Mr Shigeo said.



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This is an exciting time to join Phu Bia Mining. Our Phu Kham Copper-Gold Operation and Ban Houayxai Gold-Silver Operation are both delivering strong production and cost performances and our exploration team has an exciting pipeline of projects both in Laos and SE Asia. In addition, the PanAust Group is progressing well in its Stage 1 Feasibility Study of the newly acquired Frieda River Copper Project in PNG.

We are a growing company, committed to the future development of Lao PDR and its people. By joining the Phu Bia Mining team, you will have the opportunity to truly discover your potential and enjoy a long term, successful career. Working in a multi-cultural environment, you will be supported by experienced expatriates and Lao supervisors who will provide you with training and development and the opportunity to develop and improve your English language skills. You will be rewarded with a generous salary and benefits package, including family medical insurance and performance bonuses.

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Visit our website at www.panaust.com.au/careers to explore our current opportunities.

We encourage you to apply online via our website, or to apply in person at our Vientiane office at 7th Floor Capital Tower (Indochina Bank Building), 23 Singha Road, Saysetha District, Vientiane. For general enquiries or assistance completing an online application, please contact our Recruitment team on 021 268 000.



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