



SKILLS FOR TOURISM PROJECT • LAO/029

IMPACT STORIES

TVET TEACHERS

“Students understand concepts and processes better during practical exercises than lectures. We’ve gotten so much positive feedback on this approach that we’ve adapted it to our regular classes”



Image Ms. Thippaphone Sounthorne and Mrs. Phetsamai Nanthavong. Credit: Swisscontact

TVET school teachers play a key role in preparing young people for employment in the tourism and hospitality sector. Under the Enhanced PTHAS Training Programme, not only do they teach the hospitality and tourism material, but they also form bonds with students and coach them all the way to graduation. Mrs. Phetsamai Nanthavong and Ms. Thippaphone Sounthorne are both vocational education teachers in the Integrated Vocational Education and Training (IVET) School in Salavanh province.

“It’s not just students who are learning new things through the PTHAS Training Programme, it’s also very informative for teachers”.

Ms. Thippaphone Sounthorne

The two teachers attended a comprehensive 10-day Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop at the former Lao National Institute for Tourism and Hospitality (Lanith) to orient them on new material and impactful teaching methods. Ms. Sounthorne enjoyed the workshop and asserts, “At the end of the training, all of us conducted a mock lecture and others gave us feedback. It really built my confidence”.

Phetsamai and Thippaphone’s Journey

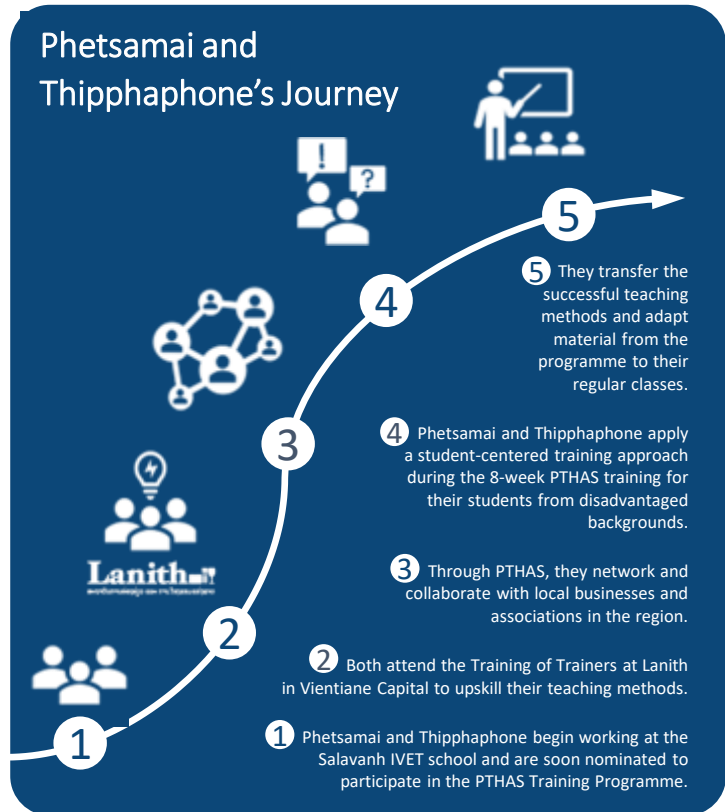




Image: Ms. Sounthorne (left) takes a picture with her 'Training of Trainers' Certificate at Lanith, Vientiane. Credit: Swisscontact

During the 8-week TVET training, teachers complete 75 detailed teaching units of the PTHAS programme. The teaching units include flashcard activities, role-play exercises and self-directed group activities. They put into practice what they learned at Lanith. Ms. Nanthavong explains, "Many students understand concepts and processes better during practical exercises than in lectures. We've gotten so much positive feedback the approach that we've adapted it to our regular classes".

"Through PTHAS we are now connected to many businesses in Salavanh and Champasak Province"

Mrs. Phetsamai Nanthavong

Of all the training areas, Ms. Sounthorne is most impressed with the life skills and employment skills training. "Its more than just vocational training, they're being taught skills they can use in their everyday life". Both teachers agree that this type of comprehensive education is needed in any industry.

In addition to improving the educational content, The PTHAS Programme places a high importance on preparing students for the needs of the private sector. Teachers arrange industry days and internships, and counsel students in collaboration with local businesses.

This was welcome, as Mrs. Nanthavong remarks, "Prior to PTHAS, collaboration was not easy for us. We only had a few businesses to work with and none of them were local hotels or guesthouses. In contrast, through PTHAS we are now connected to many businesses with provincial hotel and restaurant associations in Salavanh and Champasak Provinces".



Image: Students of the 8-week PTHAS Training programme participating in group activities. Credit: Swisscontact

Pheun Than Heng A Sip (PTHAS) Training Programme



RESULTS TO DATE: TEACHER CAPACITY BUILDING

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

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

 **55** private sector partnerships for TVET schools

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

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

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

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

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

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