



Leaders and the meeting presidium stand for the national anthem at the opening ceremony.

--Photo Khamphanh

Companies failing to replace trees felled during projects

Somsack Pongkhao

All companies carrying out projects in Laos which resulted in deforestation are required to plant trees to offset the loss, forestry officials and researchers have stated.

But less than 10 percent of companies in question pursued the country's laws and regulations, causing great loss in forestry resources over recent decades.

A researcher from the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), Dr Palikone Thalongsengchanh, told *Vientiane Times* yesterday that many companies were only interested in cutting down big trees, without caring about Lao forests.

"Some companies have carried out projects solely with an aim to cut trees," he said, saying that Laos had lost enormous areas of woodland over the past years devastating ecosystems.

Indeed, planting trees is part of the obligations for companies operating in Laos to compensate forest cut down to pave the way for the construction of their projects, notably hydropower, mining and other mega projects.

Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Mr Thongphat Vongmany commented yesterday that laws and regulations related to this matter shall be enforced strictly to ensure all companies fulfilling their obligations.

According to the law, those carrying out concession projects which permanently converted

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Lao Front to have broader structure

Times Reporters

The Lao Front for National Construction will have a broader organisational structure with the number of its Standing Committee members increased and a broadened personnel structure.

The approval of the plan has been in the agenda of the 10th meeting of the Front's representatives nationwide

which continues today in Vientiane.

President Bounnhang Vorachit, Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith, National Assembly President Ms Pany Yathotou, Politburo members, Party Secretariat members, and representatives from other mass organisations, and invited guests attend the meeting's opening ceremony yesterday.

Former President of the

Front Prof. Dr Phanduangchit Vongsa delivered the opening remarks at the meeting.

It was entitled: "Enhancing the conciliation and solidarity of the entire nation, mobilising people of all walks in enhancing patriotism and developmental spirit to implement the 10th Party resolution and the Eighth five-year National Socio-Economic Development Plan, breaking

through in all four approaches for the enhancement of roles and the activity quality of the Lao Front for National Construction".

"The title as slogan will be a shadow of every activity of the Front at all levels through its five-year term," Prof. Dr Phanduangchit said.

The meeting will approve its political report, new Front statute, report on the past five-

year leadership of the Front, approve the appointment of the Front Committee, President and Vice Presidents, and Standing Committee, which will have more members.

"This shows the growth, related political role and the characteristics of the Front, which represents the Lao people of all ethnic groups, social strata, religions, sexes

CONTINUED PAGE 2

Bokeo authorities mull inspection of petrol importers

Times Reporters

Bokeo provincial authorities are focusing on the inspection of petrol stations and petrol import companies after finding that different petrol operators are operating without licenses.

Many petrol agencies or branches are operating petrol

import businesses in the province without licenses or paying taxes, according to the provincial industry and commerce department.

From 2001 until the present, the province saw 12 companies breach the regulations for petrol imports. Of this number, eight companies have registered their

licenses under the appropriate regulations while four have not, the department's Director, Ms Phouangphan Phounsavanh reported.

Provincial authorities have ordered one company of the four importing petrol to cease operations after it failed to

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May road accidents claim 65 lives nationwide

Times Reporters

More than 400 road accidents occurred nationwide in May resulting in the death of 65 people which was 40 less fatalities than recorded in April.

Most of the 402 road accidents occurred in Vientiane, Champassak and Vientiane provinces with only the five provinces of Phongsaly, Luang Namtha, Xieng Khuang, Attapeu and Xaysomboun not recording any road fatalities.

Some 604 people were injured and 708 vehicles sustained damage during the month but the number of accidents recorded was down by 216 compared to April.

The Traffic Police Department of the Ministry of Public Security reported that while most motorists complied with traffic regulations some people's irresponsible actions still led to accidents occurring and contributed to congestion in the cities.

The main causes of



A road accident scene in Vientiane.

--Photo Lao Red Cross

accidents were put down to drivers not following the traffic regulations, drunk driving, speeding and being unable to control their vehicles.

Technical failures and the

unsafe condition of vehicles were also factors in some of the accidents.

Vientiane traffic police reported recently a fatal accident in Huayhong village,

Chanthabouly district when a motorbike crashed into a pick-up truck resulting in two men being killed instantly and another being seriously injured.

Log trucks still plying the roads

Times Reporters

Many log trucks can still be seen hauling timber through the Phameuang and Thasy areas in Borikhan district, Borikhamxay province.

An announcement from the new Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith recently banned the removal of logs from *Sanam I* or log collection points inside a forest. However the removal of logs from *Sanam II* (log collection points outside of a forest) is still permitted.

An official from the provincial Agriculture and Forestry Department, who asked not to be named, told *Vientiane Times* on Wednesday that a number of log trucks have been sighted in the Phameuang and Thasy areas.

The trucks are taking

timbers from Xaysomboun province to a sawmill in Borikhan district that is located along that road, she said. Other official also said that the loggers have the correct documents required under the regulations for removing timber from the province of Xaysomboun to be taken to the sawmill in Borikhamxay province's Borikhan district.

"Yes, everything is correct according to the rules because these wood trucks are carrying logs from *Sanam II*," she mentioned.

However she had yet to collate how many trucks passed through, how many trips were made or how long it would take to transport the logs.

Officials plan to recheck after they finish the delivery of all the lumber and make sure

that everything corresponds with the documentation submitted.

Members of the public are complaining that it's not only in Borikhamxay province where there are remaining timbers from *Sanam II* being moved but also several other provinces and they are wondering when all this *Sanam II* timber will be finished being moved.

An official from the provincial Public Works and Transport Department Mr Khaythong Khamsounthone, said that a road section between Thasy village and the Meuangkao area of Borikhan district via Phameuang area is currently under construction.

It will take two years to finish the work with a double layer of asphalt yet to be laid, at

a cost of 138 billion kip.

A 29 kilometre section of road in Borikhamxay province that links to the two northern provinces is currently being rebuilt.

Sometimes, long queues of vehicles are to be seen on the road between Thasy village and the Meuangkao area of Borikhan district, Borikhamxay province, as motorists get stuck in the mud when it rains.

Director of the provincial Agriculture and Forestry Department Mr Khampiew Thimmathad said that they are meeting about this matter and maybe they will make a proposal to higher authorities to see the removal of the timber delayed until after the rainy season in a bid to avoid traffic chaos along the route.

Dengue death toll up to six in Champassak

Times Reporters

After a rise in deaths related to dengue fever the Champassak Provincial Health Department has called on the public to clean up their communities by removing or emptying containers that can harbour mosquito larvae.

The containers can be jars, vases, tyres, or any other items that hold stagnant water, which is where the mosquito larvae develop.

The warning was made after a recent outbreak of dengue fever in the province, according to the department.

From January 1 to June 8, more than 450 people in 10 districts have been reported to have contracted the virus which is equivalent to approximately 3 people per day. Of these cases there have been six reported deaths.

This information was confirmed by the Provincial Health Department Director, Dr Somkiat Voralath while reporting on related topics to the *Vientiane Times* yesterday.

Most of the reported cases have been in Soukhouma, Phonthong and Pakxe districts.

"People from all walks of life should get into the habit of throwing out water that is found in jars, vases and dishes and should cover such vessels to prevent more rain collecting in them," he said.

Dr Somkiat said the higher prevalence of dengue is attributed to fluctuating weather patterns, hot weather and heavy rainfall. These

conditions are conducive to high mosquito breeding rates, helping to spread the virus.

However, Dr Somkiat said he strongly believes the number of people infected with dengue will decrease if everyone joins forces to fight against the disease's spread by paying attention to cleaning their homes and surroundings in order to eradicate mosquito breeding sites.

The highest number of infections has occurred in the 10-15 year age group.

Because of the severity of the dengue outbreak, the health authorities have taken extra measures by dispatching a group of medical students to hospitals in the target areas to help with the treatment of the large number of patients.

The department will also order more machines to spray insecticides in the outbreak areas, according to department reports.

District health authorities are responsible for providing guidance to the public on how to stay healthy each wet season.

Dr Somkiat noted that the outbreak of dengue fever this year occurred in many areas at the same time. The virus strain causing most of the problems is Den 4.

Dengue is an infectious tropical disease transmitted by mosquitoes and characterised by rashes, severe headaches, and pain in the joints. The mosquitoes doing the damage are the *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* species.

Companies failing... FROM PAGE 1

woodland areas into other classifications must plant trees to offset the areas lost.

Therefore, projects temporarily carried out in woodland areas must plant trees after their projects ended.

Mr Thongphat called for government sectors to take this matter into account before approving investment projects and pledged to collaborate with other sectors to ensure all companies met their obligations.

Currently, forests covered only roughly 47 percent of the country's land area and the government plans to increase this to 70 percent (around 17 million hectares in total) by 2020.

This year the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry planned to encourage other government bodies and the private sector to plant about 24,000 hectares of trees and reforest over 200,000 hectares for environmental protection

areas.

Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith also issued a ban on timber exports in a move to minimise loopholes for illegal logging.

The government announced forestry closure nationwide to review wood quotas granted in the past year.

Forests play an important role in sustaining water supplies, protecting the soils of important watershed areas and in minimising the effects of catastrophic floods and landslides.

Most forestry loss is due to slash and burn cultivation, development projects and illegal logging triggered by strong demand for timber in both Laos and abroad.

Dr Palikone said the loss of forests would affect Laos both short and long term given that the country will have to spend large sums of money assisting people affected by natural disasters.

Lao Front to have broader ... FROM PAGE 1

and generations throughout the country, including the Lao people living overseas," Prof. Dr Phanduangchit said.

In his reading of the meeting's political report, Lao Front for National Construction Acting President Mr Khambay Damlath highlighted the achievements made by the Front in the past five years such as the promotion of patriotism,

responsibility, self-reliance, and self-based strength building among the multi-ethnic people of all social strata and religions.

A matter for the attention of the Front was the unification of the multi-ethnic people, and maintaining the alliance between workers, farmers and intelligent classes, as well as enhancing the leading role of the working class

in implementing the renovation policy.

In its participation in Party construction and the improvement of people's democratic power, the Front at all levels induced people to raise constructive comments on the Party's improvement, trust and protect the Party, as well as implement the development plans created by authorities at

each level.

An important achievement was that the Front has represented mass organisations and multiethnic people to report about public oversight of the National Assembly at every session of the National Assembly, with 55 comments having been raised over the past five year term of the National Legislature.

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Laos, Cambodia look to maintain good historical relationship



Dr Sok Touch delivers lecture on Lao-Cambodian relations.

Somxay Sengdara

Sharing the same state religion, a docile way of living, and geographical links have all helped in maintaining a good relationship between Laos and Cambodia throughout their modern histories.

A Cambodian diplomat and cultural expert commented as such when delivering a lecture in Vientiane on Tuesday ahead of marking the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries on June 15.

In his opening remark Cambodian Ambassador to Laos, Mr Hos Sereythanh reminded everyone of the historical relations between the two nations in the era of King Fa Ngum, who grew up in a Khmer king's custody

eventually becoming a son-in-law who united the region through the introduction of Buddhism and the creation of the kingdom of Lane Xang.

The Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Institute of Foreign Affairs, Asia-Pacific and Africa Department, and the Cambodian Embassy in Laos jointly organised the lecture, with the Vice President of the Royal Academy of Cambodia and Director General of the International Institute of Cambodia, Dr Sok Touch invited to deliver a lecture entitled: "Sixty Years of Cambodian-Lao Diplomatic Relations: Achievements and Ways Forward".

Dr Sok said, "Even though 1956 was regarded as the beginning of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the relations between our nations and people have started nearly a thousand year ago".

"These relations are based in the legacy of our ancestors and previous leaders of our two nations", he added.

Dr Sok also pointed to Buddhism, which the two countries share as a state religion, as a long-standing cultural bond.

"The same traditions attached to the compassion and peaceful minded consciousness taught through Buddhism make the people of our two nations eternally brothers and sisters", he said.

He shared his fascination

with Buddhism in Laos suggesting that he wouldn't mind being ordained after he finished his diplomatic mission in Laos.

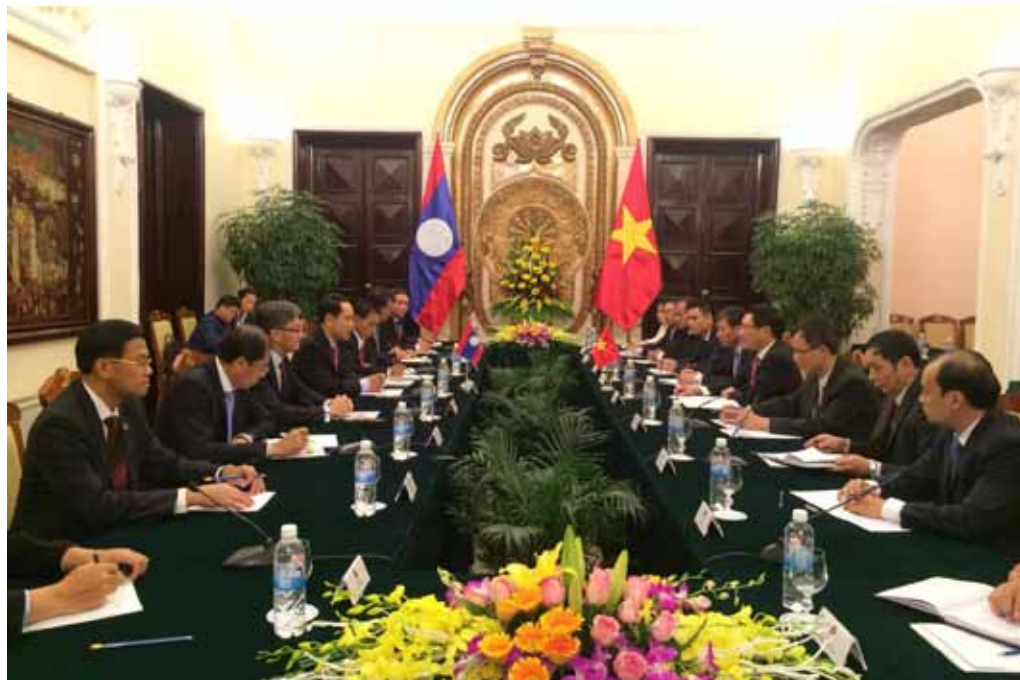
He also spoke to the years of Democratic Kampuchea rule in the late 1970s when the relations between the two countries were deteriorating, having been restored to close relations after the collapse of Khmer Rouge on January 7, 1979.

Dr Sok noted the two countries have also shared similar difficulties like the economic embargos by some of the world's super-powers during the Cold War.

He highlighted the bilateral relations between the two nations, which he said had been strengthened and expanded steadily in the recent years through exchange of frequent state visits between top leaders of Cambodia and Laos.

He remarked on both countries political cooperation, saying they supported each other both materially and spiritually and at regional and global levels.

He ended by saying Cambodia was highly appreciative of Laos' important contributions to their peace process over the past decade, while Laos was also appreciative of Cambodia's contribution to its national re-construction and defence, as leaders of both governments have also frequently mentioned.



Lao delegates (left) led by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Saleumxay Kommasith hold talks with Vietnamese counterpart in Vietnam yesterday.

Laos, Vietnam to further enhance special ties

Phaisythong Chandara

Laos and Vietnam will jointly organise various activities to mark the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries next year

The two parties have plans to work together to join celebration the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Lao-Vietnamese Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation in 2017.

The two governments will also closely work together to enhance their cooperation ties in supporting each other on the regional and international stages.

This information was outlined yesterday by the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the visit to Vietnam by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Saleumxay Kommasith and his delegation from June 8-10.

The short-working visit of Mr Saleumxay and his delegation was in response to an invitation by Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr Pham Binh Minh.

The visit's aim was to reflect the special friendship ties and to strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries, especially the two ministries.

Another objective was to expand cooperation to further foster the friendship between the two countries.

The ties between Vietnam and Laos are of great importance to the Parties, states and people of the two countries, and have made significant contributions to maintaining independence and political stability, as well as raising the countries' prestige in the region and the world.

During meeting with his counterpart, the two countries highly valued their bilateral cooperation, especially in the fields of political, defence, security, economic, information and culture, as well as external relations.

Citing the cooperation ties, Vietnam has reaffirmed its commitment to assist and support Laos to host the Asean Chairmanship in 2016.

Besides that, the two nations have agreed to the on-going implementation of various agreements, especially the agreements of the two ministries from 2014-2020 as well as the MOUs among the departments and future cooperation plans in their respective fields of interest.

Laos and Vietnam have seen many great achievements in cooperation towards each other's development, recorded

high economic growth and markedly improved their peoples' living conditions.

The two countries have effectively implemented various economic cooperation projects, including construction, hydropower, roads, and rubber plantation projects.

The traditional friendship, solidarity and comprehensive cooperation between Laos and Vietnam has been consistently consolidated and developed in both scale and depth in the fields of politics, economics, culture, security, national defence and external relations.

The two countries welcomed concrete progress in deploying the comprehensive cooperation between the two countries, particularly the advances in economic cooperation in trade and investment, transport, energy, hydropower, industrial tree-planting, and mining.

During this visit to Vietnam, Mr Saleumxay and his delegation will take the opportunity to pay a courtesy visit to Vietnamese President Mr Tran Dai Quang and Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc.

Mr Saleumxay and his delegation will also take the opportunity to visit tourist sites and other places in Vietnam.

New meat processing factory to boost food safety

Times Reporters

The Lao Fresh Meats factory at Sivilay village (Nam Xuang) in Naxaithong district, Vientiane, a Hungarian government assistance project, aims to boost food safety standards for domestic supply and export.

The factory's opening ceremony on Tuesday was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, Dr Peter Szijarto and Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Dr Lien Thikeyo along with Lao government officials and private sector representatives.

The modern factory is expected to produce about five tonnes of high quality products for domestic supply and export according to a partner of the joint venture company.

The main domestic customers for the factory will be restaurants, supermarkets and hotels with plans to export to Singapore.

Recently, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry received the first phase support of a Tied Aid Loan from the government of Hungary amounting to US\$8.6 million, which focused on the improvement of feed production, livestock and fishery farming and human resource development as well as construction of the plant as well, Dr Lien explained at the ceremony.

"The successful outcome from the previous project has led to improvements in



Dr Lien Thikeyo (left) and Dr Peter Szijarto (second left) inspect equipment in the new factory.

the sector such as the private sectors of Hungary and Laos establishing a company to run the joint venture," he said.

Furthermore, the earlier project activities had stimulated changes to old production styles from the single lateral management scheme into a joint venture consisting of a public-private partnership, Dr Lien revealed.

He informed that in last April, the government of both sides reached an agreement to adopt a financial cooperative framework, loan and commercial contract to support the implementation of the collaborative project to improve the food chain safety system in Laos amounting to US\$30 million.

He believed the project would greatly benefit the development of modern livestock production systems,

organic products and improve efficiency.

An emphasis will be placed on updating standardisation for quality testing and certifying the safe food chain system starting from improving legislation, management mechanisms and building capacity for testing and certifying hygienic aspects. This will start with the quality of soil, water and plants for raw materials in feed production, as well as animal diseases up until the slaughter and processing of primary products.

The project will also focus on improving state and private model farm activities to support the production of safe food in compliance with international standards and certifications.

"Based on the success of the model farm we will further expand it to other farms across the country," Dr Lian said.

Bokeo authorities mull... FROM PAGE 1

pay taxes into the government budget.

Some 73 other petrol stations have been found operating with only 40 of those stations licensed.

To manage petrol imports into the country, especially the province and garner revenue from tax payments for the government's budget for socio-economic development, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce directed each provincial industry and commerce department to implement more strict management and inspection.

The problem is that there are opportunities for people who have money to establish their own companies easily without paying taxes which impacts on the government's

budget.

Companies or operators who would like to invest in the petrol business should issue a proposal to the relevant government sector for operation, according to the provincial domestic trade section deputy head, Mr Philasaen Keodara.

The main important government agencies are Public Works and Transportation, Natural Resources and Environment, Science and Technology and Industry and Commerce, he said.

He complained that in previous years some petrol operators, especially those with a lot of money established unlicensed businesses.

They just imported petrol for sale to domestic petrol

stations without their own petrol stockpile by cooperating with some local authorities to run the documents, said Mr Philasaen.

These petrol importing operators tended to import only when petrol prices were high and cease trading when they were low.

Mr Philasaen believed that three remain petrol importing companies may be ordered to close if they continue to operate without the appropriate licences or paying taxes.

He was also concerned that the operations of these illegal companies would not help ensure confidence among consumers because the sourced petrol was not from the same company selling it.

Mahosot Hospital still needs oxygenators



Lao –Luxembourg Heart Center located in Mahosot Hospital.

Phetphoxay Sengpaseuth

Mahosot Hospital is still in need of the oxygenators to help in heart surgeries performed at the Lao –Luxembourg Heart Centre.

With the increasing number of people who visit the centre to receive surgery and treatment each year, the demands for new equipment also increases. Unfortunately, even after oxygenators had been recently donated by DKSH Laos and the Terumo Company, the center says they still need more.

Vice Director of the centre, Dr Monekeo Siphakanlagna, interviewed yesterday by *Vientiane Times* said that this support plays a crucial role in helping heart patients.

He said for several years, private entrepreneurs and NGOs including Aid Développement de la Santé de France (ADS), have been the main donors of equipment to the center but there is still not an adequate supply as the number of people with heart problems rises.

Those with a family history of heart disease are at risk throughout their life, increasing the importance of preventative measures, he said.

The people with heart problems should eat a diet of fish, vegetables, fruit, and poultry and should avoid drinking coffee, beer, and smoking tobacco.

Regular exercise is also important for people who already have symptoms of heart disease. However, people at risk should consult a doctor in order

to develop a suitable exercise regime.

Going to bed early and sleeping deeply for at least seven or eight hours every day is also helpful in assisting the body to keep heart disease under control. While heart disease often fails to display symptoms prior to an attack, there are some warning signs to watch for. Chest or arm pain or discomfort can be a symptom of heart disease and a warning sign of a heart attack.

Shortness of breath (feeling like you can't get enough air), dizziness, nausea, abnormal heartbeats, or feeling very tired are also warning signs.

According to the World Health Organisation, by 2030 almost 23.6 million people will die from cardiovascular diseases annually – mainly heart disease and stroke.

News in Brief

Xekong striving to secure 5,200 billion to finance five-year plan

Xekong province has set a target to mobilise more than 5,200 billion kip in funding over the next five years (2016-2020) for the southern province's investment plan, *Pasaxon* newspaper reported yesterday. Provincial Planning and Investment Department said they planned to mobilise the funds from various financial sources such as bank credit of more than 2,400 billion kip, domestic and foreign investment of about 1,308 billion kip, grants and loans of more than 940 billion kip, with 523 billion kip coming from state investment.

Hotline number set up to prevent unfair trade

Ministry of Industry and Commerce on Tuesday inaugurated its free-of-charge hotline number 1510 in an attempt to prevent unfair trade in the country, *Lao Economic Daily* newspaper reported yesterday. Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce, Mr Somchith Inthamith said the hotline would welcome public calls regarding unfair trading to help protect the rights and interests of consumers. Ministry officials said the hotline was being operated collaboratively by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and other relevant sectors. Its inauguration ceremony was held at Lao Plaza Hotel.

Three men arrested with 2,000 amphetamine pills, guns

Champassak provincial police recently arrested three men and confiscated about 2,000 amphetamine pills, two guns, two cars and other items in Lomsak-neua village, Bachiengchaleunsouk district. Those arrested were named Mr Sisamoud, 61, of Phoumuang village, Pakxe district, Mr Khamfong, 67, and Mr Kasin, 52, both of Huayyangkham village, in the same district, according to *Khuamsangob* newspaper. They told police they sold drugs on many occasions in Laosak-neua and other villages. Elsewhere, police in Pakkading district, Borikhamxay province arrested Mr Lui, 30, of Nongsaphang village, Xayboully district, Savannakhet province and Ms Siahee, 26, of Thongnamee village, Pakkading district with more than 400 amphetamine pills in their possession.

Champassak improves irrigation to develop agriculture

Farmers in eight districts of Champassak province expected to have sufficient water for agricultural crops after the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry handed over an irrigation development project to the Agriculture and Forestry Department in Champassak province recently. Irrigation Department officials reported the project was worth more than US\$17 million, with the Lao government using a loan from India. The project involved the repair and installation of water pumps, the upgrade of three water pump service centres and other initiatives to supply water to more than 5,900 hectares of farmland in the eight districts. The project began in 2009 and was completed recently.

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Pioneers present bouquets of flowers to the Party and the Lao Front for National Construction leaders during the opening ceremony of the meeting of nationwide Front representatives yesterday. --Photo Khamphanh



President Bounnhang Vorachit (eighth left), Party leaders, and leaders of the Lao Front for National Construction pose for a group photo at the opening ceremony of the 10th meeting of the nationwide Front representatives in Vientiane yesterday. --Photo Khamphanh



Provincial health officials join WHO Representative to Laos, Dr Juliet Fleischl (seated left) and Deputy Minister of Health, Mr Khamphone Phouthavong (seated centre) at the workshop on Global Health Security Agenda and International Health Regulations on Wednesday in Vientiane.



President of the State Audit Organisation Dr Viengthong Siphandone (centre) joins a group photo with other Asean leaders while attending the Asean auditing meeting held in Jakarta, Indonesia recently to review their past cooperation and give input to the draft Audit Charter and Manual as well as issues related to the expenditure of the Asean Secretariat. Photo Asean Secretariat

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Interviews will take place in Vientiane on the 17th June

WFD is dedicated to supporting the development of democratic systems of government. The Foundation was established in 1992 and is sponsored by the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Region

Singapore is 10th most expensive Asian city for expats: Survey

Thailand first in Asia to eliminate mother-to- baby HIV:WHO

HANOI (Vietnam News) -- Prime Minister Nguyen XuAn Phuc has asked ministries and agencies to initiate drastic and effective measures to ensure a balance in the State budget amid decreasing revenues and rising expenditure. Under Directive No22/CT-TTg aimed to enhance the implementation of the State budget and finance tasks in 2016, the PM has required the Ministry of Finance (MoF), other relevant agencies, and municipal and provincial authorities to implement tax laws effectively and strive to exceed the State budget collection estimate set by the National Assembly (NA) for 2016.

Khammouane, dated June 6, 2016
NT2 WMPA BOD

Police, students clash in Papua New Guinea; 23 injured

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) -- Police in Papua New Guinea fired gunshots Wednesday to quell a student protest demanding the prime minister's resignation, the government said. The country's police commissioner said nearly two dozen people were injured, but denied reports that as many as four people were killed.

Students in the South Pacific nation have been demanding for weeks that Prime Minister Peter O'Neill resign because of alleged corruption and mismanagement.

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said she had been advised by the Australian embassy that police shot students in Port Moresby, the capital, as hundreds prepared to march from the University of Papua New Guinea to Parliament.

"I know that students have been shot, but we're still trying to determine whether there have been deaths and how many have been injured," Bishop told reporters. "We call on all sides to be calm and to de-escalate the tension and certainly call on all sides to respect the peaceful and lawful right to protest."

Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported that a Papua New Guinea lawmaker told Parliament that four students had been killed and seven wounded.

Joe Duhube, personal assistant to lawmaker Gary Juffa, told The Associated Press that Juffa spoke to students after the shooting and was told "one of the students got killed instantly and others are in serious and critical condition."

Papua New Guinea Police

Commissioner Gari Baki, however, said no deaths had been reported. In a statement, Baki said 23 people believed to be university students were treated at hospitals after the clash. The head of the emergency ward at Port Moresby General Hospital told police that five of the students were in critical condition, Baki said.

O'Neill issued a statement saying he was told that a small group of students became violent, threw rocks at police and "provoked a response that came in the form of tear gas and warning shots."

Staycey Yalo, a journalism student at the university, said police did not fire warning shots — they fired directly at the students. Yalo said she and the other protesters encountered a line of police officers blocking them when they tried to march to Parliament. The police demanded they hand over the student president. When the protesters said no, an argument broke out, she said.

"They threw tear gas and amidst the smoke, they started shooting directly at the students," Yalo told the AP by telephone. "That's when we all ran."

Police in vehicles began chasing after the protesters, with officers firing from their cars at fleeing students, Yalo said. While she was running, a student running alongside her tried to jump over a fence to escape an approaching police car.

Xi eyes key exchanges with Obama

CHINA (China Daily, ANN) -- President Xi Jinping said on Tuesday that he expects to exchange views on key issues with his United States counterpart Barack Obama during the G20 summit in China in September.

Xi also called on the US to strengthen macroeconomic policy coordination with China to inject confidence and new impetus into the world economy during the summit in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province.

He made the appeal at a meeting with the US delegation to the annual China-US Strategic and Economic Dialogue in Beijing, which ended on Tuesday.

At the two-day event — the highest-level formal dialogue between the world's top two economies — more than 100 agreements and deals were signed in strategic areas and more than 60 in economic sectors.

Xi urged the two governments to ensure these achievements produce quick results to benefit the two peoples.

He said there are many things that China and the US can work together on, and both nations should do more for the



President Xi Jinping meets with US Secretary of State John Kerry. --Photo China Daily

good of Sino-US cooperation.

The president added that the two countries could enhance cooperation in areas including trade, clean energy and environmental protection.

"In terms of the

disagreements that exist between China and the US, the key is to respect each other's core interests and important concerns," Xi said, adding that the two nations should control their disputes constructively.

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The Program

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

Coffey and LAI are currently seeking applications for a consultant to undertake a review of Interpreting and Translation Services in Laos.

The Position

The Consultant will design and undertake a consultative review, including document review and interviews with stakeholders to examine the provision of English interpreting and translating services in the Government of Laos, in particular those provided through the Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

The Consultant will provide recommendations to the Government of Laos for the management and delivery of interpreting and translating services that are of high quality, cost effective and sustainable.



The Person

The ideal candidate will have post-graduate qualifications in a relevant field and will demonstrate experience in the design and completion of evaluations and reviews, preferably in a public sector context and including the design of tailored methodologies and tools. A strong ability to engage effectively with stakeholders and government counterparts and experience preparing high quality reports for clients is required for success. Previous experience working in a developing country context similar to Laos and substantial knowledge of interpreting, translating services and English language training is desirable.

This position is Category B, Level 3 under the DFAT Adviser Remuneration Framework. Please visit <https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/adviser-remuneration-framework.pdf> for further detail.

How to Apply

For a detailed position description and to apply for this position please visit www.coffey.com/careers click on 'career opportunities' and search for the job reference number 493550

Applications close 5.00pm (Vientiane time) 20th June 2016

For further enquires please contact:
internationaldevelopment@coffey.com

This program is managed by Coffey in association with Vientiane College on behalf of the Australian Government



World

Car bomb attack targeting police kills 11 people in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (AP) -- A car bomb hit a police vehicle in Istanbul during the morning rush hour on Tuesday, killing 11 people and wounding 36, the fourth bombing to hit the city this year.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but Turkey has seen a recent increase in violence linked to Kurdish rebels or to the Islamic State group which has found recruits and established cells in the country.

Speaking at the scene of the blast in Beyazit district, Istanbul Gov. Vasip Sahin said a bomb placed inside a car detonated as a police vehicle passed by. The dead were seven police officers and four civilians. At least three of the wounded were in serious condition.

Sahin declined to comment on who may be behind the

attack and authorities imposed a news blackout preventing media from reporting details of the probe in Turkey, citing concerns over security and police and forensic efforts to investigate the attack.

Such bans primarily affect the diffusion of graphic images on local television channels. Turkish citizens can access information from other sources via the internet or satellite dishes.

"We urge the government to hold off the news bans which are actually not effective at all," said Ozgur Ogret, the Turkey representative for the Committee to Protect Journalists, calling the bans a violation of press freedom and people's right to be informed.

News bans became commonplace after a 2013 bombing attack in Reyhanli,

near the border with Syria, which killed 52 people. Since then, Turkey has witnessed a resurgence of conflict with Kurdish rebels and growing spillover from the war in Syria.

In a sign of escalating conflict both on the Kurdish and IS front, the pace of violence has accelerated and shifted away from border areas to major cities, including Ankara, the capital. Istanbul alone has endured two bombings targeting security forces and two hitting tourism sites in 2016.

These attacks have contributed to a dip in tourism and taken a toll on the economy.

Tuesday's bomb went off in a bustling Istanbul neighborhood just north of the iconic Golden Horn, where the Bosphorus Strait meets the Sea of Marmara. The area is home



Turkish security officials and firefighters work at the explosion site after a bus carrying riot police official was struck by a bomb in Istanbul. --Photo AP

to the offices of provincial authorities, three universities and ancient sites including Roman-era aqueducts.

The police bus was

flipped over by the force of the blast, which also damaged nearby buildings, among them a closed hotel where the entrance appeared gutted

and windows were blown out. The blast also shattered the stained glass windows of a famous 16th-century Ottoman mosque, Sehzebeasi.

EgyptAir flight lands in Uzbekistan after bomb threat

CAIRO (AP) -- A bomb threat forced an EgyptAir aircraft en route to Beijing from Cairo to make an emergency landing in Uzbekistan on Wednesday, Egyptian officials said.

All the 135 passengers and crew on board the Airbus A-330-220 were evacuated and the aircraft was being searched, the officials said.

The plane landed at the airport in the town of Urgench, about 840 kilometres west of the Uzbek capital, Tashkent, three hours after it took off from Cairo at around 11:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

According to the Egyptian officials, an anonymous caller telephoned security agents at the Cairo airport to say a bomb was on board the flight. The

agents immediately contacted the aircraft and ordered it to land at the nearest airport, they said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media. In Russia, the news agency RIA Novosti quoted unnamed officials as saying the airport has been closed following the EgyptAir plane's emergency landing. The incident came nearly three weeks after an EgyptAir flight crashed in the Mediterranean Sea as it was approaching the Egyptian coast while en route to Cairo from Paris. All 66 people on board were killed and the search for the plane's flight and data recorders, the so called black boxes is still underway.

LIMA (Xinhua) -- The former World Bank economist Pedro Pablo Kuczynski maintained a very narrow lead over his rival Keiko Fujimori in the tightest presidential race in Peru in more than two decades.

Kuczynski, 77, had 50.32 percent of the vote against 49.68 percent for Fujimori, with 92.55 percent of votes counted, National Office of Electoral Processes (ONPE) director Mariano Cuchos said on Monday.

With less than one percentage point between the two candidates, the election is the tightest in Peru in 25 years, according to Peruvian daily El Comercio.

Both sides are anxious to get

Ex-banker Kuczynski narrowly leads in tight Peruvian presidential race

a final result. However, Cucho said, both candidates should remain calm until all votes are fully tallied.

The tight race was likely due to a lack of ideological differences between the two candidates. Kuczynski and Fujimori could name the same economic minister, political analyst Arturo Maldonado told local media.

The winner will assume presidency on July 28 with a mandate of five years.

Kuczynski will install a government of national unity in order to bring parties together, should his victory in Sunday's elections be confirmed, said Martin Vizcarra, vice presidential

candidate from Kuczynski's Alliance for Change (PPK) party, on Monday.

Vizcarra said that Kuczynski would seek to bring together all of Peru's political forces to reach a broad understanding.

"We have the obligation of taking Peru forward. It is very important for us to see agreement between the capital and all of Peru's regions," said the potential vice president at a press conference.

He added that one of the priorities of a Kuczynski administration would be to bring various political organizations into government in return for their support in barring the 41-year-old Fujimori from power.

Maintaining economic growth will perhaps be the main challenge facing the next Peruvian president, said Carlos Aquino, director of economic research at the National University of San Marcos, in an interview with Xinhua.

"Despite having problems, the Peruvian economy is growing at an average rate far higher than other Latin American countries," and Peru should reach 4 percent GDP growth in 2016, Aquino said.

"However, there are still uncertainties among the private sector as to what the next president's economic priorities will be, as this sector has not grown as much," he said.



The Energy and Environment Partnership Programme with the Mekong Region

6th Call for Proposals Clean Energy Promotion in the Mekong Region

The Energy and Environment Partnership Programme with the Mekong Region (EEP Mekong), funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, aims to improve access to sustainable energy in the EEP Mekong countries Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

Through this Call for Proposals (CfP), EEP Mekong is seeking high quality applications to support solid access to sustainable energy projects. Proposed projects should be close to commercial maturity and have prospects for scaling-up and/or replication.

The CfP applications are sought in two stages: Concept Notes (present stage), and Full Project Proposals.

Depending on the project size and the level of verifiable project self-financing capacity, the maximum grant allocation for a selected project can be up to €1,000,000. To be eligible, projects have to be implemented in one or more of the EEP Mekong partner countries Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. Projects demonstrating partnership between Mekong countries and Finnish companies will be preferred.

Interested project developers are requested to submit their **Concept Notes (CN)** online through the link provided on the EEP Mekong website, www.eepmekong.org, by the **12 August, at 16:00hrs (Vientiane time)**.

Project Developers whose CNs pass the evaluation criteria will be invited to submit Full Project Proposals for subsequent assessment and possible funding.

For detailed information about the EEP Mekong programme and how to apply for project funding, please visit www.eepmekong.org or contact Bernhard Meyhoefer, Programme Manager by e-mail: bernhard.meyhoefer@eepmekong.org.



Vacancy Announcement

Lao Consulting Group Ltd. has been providing Engineering and Community Development Consulting Services in the Lao PDR since 1993. Presently, we have the following vacant positions to fill:

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- At least 2 years' experience related to irrigation design
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Interested candidates are invited to submit their CV and letter of interest in English for the respective positions to Lao Consulting Group Ltd., at the address below before 29 June 2016. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

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Three mining companies suspended from operations

Times Reporters

Vientiane provincial authorities have suspended three companies who illegally undertook gold mining in Maed district, a senior official reported.

Provincial Energy and Mines Department Director Mr Khambong Khonesavanh yesterday told *Vientiane Times* that three companies had their business operations suspended last month after the department found they had undertaken gold mining illegally.

He explained the companies were licensed for sand mining but in fact were using their machinery to extract gold from rivers which was against the law.

Authorities were paying attention to inspecting mining operations but this issue still occurred in the province, Mr Khambong added.

Currently, the province has a total of 63 mining companies, of which 11 companies were licensed by the central government and 52 companies licensed by provincial authorities.

The number of companies has increased by 22.2 percent since 2014.

The mining companies are operating 88 businesses looking for 10 minerals, including gold, barite, zinc, iron, copper, coal, saltpetre,

lime, tar sand and salt.

So far, a total of 683,937 hectares of land has been conceded for mineral processing and excavation, but the department observed that mining activities had not been implemented effectively.

In the past many projects had not begun their activities while some conducted mining operations slowly in an effort to tie-up concession areas.

“This impacts and retards the expansion of the mining sector in the province,” he said.

Mr Khambong said authorities, especially the department, would pay close attention to monitoring mining operations and processing to ensure that investors followed economic and technical feasibility studies as well as social and environmental impact evaluations and contracts.

In addition, the department will support the implementation of regulations and law in order to effectively manage natural resources to ensure environmental protection and promote construction of copper, gold and barite processing plants.

They will also continue to inspect both government and private sector electricity generators such as the Nam Samoy and Nam Phai hydropower projects to ensure they continue to benefit the province and investors.

Lao hemp product maker eyes foreign buyers



Founder of Sisterhood Handicrafts, Ms Noimaniphone Lorbliayao poses with her products at a recent One District, One Product (ODOP) Fair, held at Lao-ITECC in Vientiane.

Times Reporters

Lao hemp products are now attracting more demand from foreign buyers in America and European countries but their makers’ ability to supply high volumes remains low because the handmade products always take a long time to make.

Founder of Sisterhood Handicrafts, a social enterprise of Sisterhood for Development Ms Noimaniphone Lorbliayao told *Vientiane Times* at a recent One District, One Product (ODOP) Fair that the group was formed in 2012 to promote handicraft abilities of Hmong women from around the country who are currently living in Vientiane.

“Hmong women have gained their skills in handicrafts, sewing and knitting since the birth of their ethnic group but many disadvantaged women have no chance to demonstrate their skills for earning basic incomes,” she said.

Currently the group has almost 80 members and all of them have been given different responsibilities including sewing, knitting

and cultivating the hemp trees to be used in production process.

“Now, we have more than 100 items of products made from hemp, silk, cotton, and bamboo. These are all made from environment-friendly materials,” Ms Noimaniphone said.

She said a variety of handbag products, textiles, and other handicraft goods made by sisterhood artisans have been sent to Europe and America, noting that around 60 percent of products were exported to foreign countries.

The maximum price of her goods is 320,000 kip per one item and the minimum price is 30,000 kip per item.

As a part of this contemporary product collection, sewing traditional Hmong motifs generates income for Hmong ethnic women in Laos.

Hemp products in Vientiane are part of the value chain with local farmers in Huaphan province. They are cultivating the young hemp trees to support the handicraft group in the capital.

In addition, these women continue to contribute to the cycle of economic and social

community growth by training new groups of ethnic women in Laos in business development, handicrafts design, production and marketing.

“This year’s ODOP fair, we don’t expect an increased volume of products to be sold but we want members of the public to acknowledge our products,” Ms Noimaniphone said.

Despite the fact that hemp products are not popular for today’s Hmong women, many small Hmong communities in northern Laos continue the practice of making the traditional pleated skirts made from hemp.

So, Sisterhood Handicrafts as a social enterprise look set to promote and generate income for disadvantaged Hmong women by forming a group as a platform to showcase their sewing skills and make incomes possible to earn.

“Although the ability to supply the demand of foreign customers is still low, the influx of foreign tourists to Laos, especially Vientiane will open up the opportunity for us to sell more products in the years to come,” Ms Noimaniphone added.

Global stocks mixed on improved China trade, Japan GDP data



Shoppers choose clothes at Ameyoko shopping district in Tokyo.

BEIJING (AP) -- Global stocks were mixed on Wednesday after Japan upgraded its growth estimate and China reported weak but improved trade in May.

In early trading, Germany’s DAX was off 0.5 percent at 10,236.67 points and France’s CAC-40 shed 0.5 percent to 4,454.16. Britain’s FTSE 100

was unchanged at 6,285.11. The FTSE 100 edged up 0.1 percent. On Wall Street, futures for the Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor’s 500 were unchanged.

Japan said its economy grew 1.9 percent in the first quarter, rather than the 1.7 percent previously estimated.

That reflected improved figures for corporate investment, though economists expect growth to weaken in the current quarter.

China reported exports and imports contracted again in May in a sign of weak global and domestic demand. Exports fell 4.1 percent from a year earlier compared with April’s 1.8 percent decline. Imports shrank 0.4 percent to US\$131.1 billion, an improvement over the previous month’s 10.9 percent fall and a better performance than forecasters expected. The weakness threatens to disrupt Beijing’s efforts to lift the economy out of a slump, potentially requiring more stimulus that would set back efforts to reduce reliance on trade and investment.

“It does seem like the various financial markets are a little disjointed, as trades are somewhat odd,” said Bernard Aw of IG in a report. He pointed to a slump in yields on German, Japanese and other sovereign bonds, which forces investors to buy riskier assets. “Global equities are firmer, but it is not indicative of an uptake in risk appetite,” said Aw. “The up-move was mostly driven by higher oil prices.”

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Foreign Currencies	Buying	Selling
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Thai Baht	230.84	232.56
Euro 50-500	9,175	9,221

Ministry reviews SME promotion



Minister of Industry and Commerce, Ms Khemmani Pholsena chairs the seminar.

Times Reporters

The Promotion and Product Development Department (PPDD) of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MIC) is reviewing assistance to Small Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) to boost cooperation and the success of overseas exhibitions.

PPDD yesterday held a seminar in the capital which served as a platform for dialogue while reviewing the challenges and opportunities for trade and enterprise development utilising overseas exhibitions.

Minister of Industry and Commerce, Ms Khemmani Pholsena said as a part of Asean Economic Community it was necessary for Lao SMEs to continue promoting and improving their products to compete in the region.

Ms Khemmani explained the MIC has urged SMEs to attend various exhibitions overseas which were important for lifting the profile of local products across the region as well to seek business partnerships.

MIC has led Lao SMEs to promote their products domestically and internationally since 2000, especially at Expos in Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea and China and recently Italy.

A SME representative said Lao products were attracting interest at exhibitions, especially at the China-Asean Expo, and it was a good chance for Lao products to improve in response to overseas customer feedback.

China is a huge potential market for Lao SMEs if they can develop high standard products and exhibitions gave them the chance to meet business partners.

A seminar attendant also said the PPDD was continuing to help Lao entrepreneurs to improve their products before exhibiting such as supporting them to access easier funding, along with modern technology and tools for production and packaging.

“PPDD should also increase funding to hold exhibitions and Expos in the country as this would make it easier for Lao entrepreneurs to promote their products, expand cooperation and build a network among international partners,” he added.

S. Korean, Chinese manufacturers top list of LCDTV shipments

CHINA (China Daily, ANN) -- South Korean and Chinese TV manufacturers dominate the top 10 list of global LCD television shipments, while their Japanese counterparts have been kicked out of the top five for the first time.

According to statistics from market consulting institute IHS Inc, South Korean tech giant Samsung Electronics Co Ltd is expected to ship 48.1 million LCD TVs globally in 2016, retaining its dominant position in the LCD business, followed by LG Electronics Inc with 28.4 million units.

The global LCD TV shipments of Chinese home appliances maker Hisense Group will reach 15 million this year, ranking third. TCL Corp and Skyworth Group are expected to ship 13.5 million and 12 million units, respectively,

taking fourth and fifth place. The total shipments of the five Chinese TV brands in the top 10 will surpass 50 million units.

Japanese brands on the whole are gradually losing market shares to the rapidly growing Chinese brands. Japanese TV vendor Sony Corp is expected to ship 11.5 million units this year, being knocked out of the top five for global LCD TV shipments.

Industry sources said as Japanese TV manufacturers have stepped up their pace of transformation, their sales and market shares are gradually tapering off, and the current competition in the global LCD TV market is between South Korean and Chinese firms.

Zhang Yanbin, assistant director of All View Cloud, a Beijing-based consultancy specialising in home appliances, said: “The rise of homegrown

Chinese home appliances makers has made Japanese electronics giants exit from the fierce competition, pushing the latter into business-to-business sales.

“However, South Korean enterprises, which have strong R&D capacities and advantages in the whole industrial chain, are active in technical innovation, and they have gained an upper hand compared with their Chinese rivals.”

Ricky Lin, research manager of WitsView, a division of TrendForce Corp and a display market research firm, said a recent notable trend in the TV market has been the rise of Chinese internet brands. By offering affordable premium products online, these internet brands have seized much of the domestic market and upended the strategies of established TV makers.

The stand of Sichuan Changhong Electric Co Ltd at an international consumer electronics expo in Berlin, Germany.



IN BRIEF

Micro Eco-medicine Introduced

PYONGYANG (KCNA) -- In the DPRK a micro eco-medicine is widely used for water purification and prevention of diseases. The micro eco-medicine has been introduced to the Rungna Dolphinarium, Munsu Water Park, aquariums of the Central Zoo and fish farms across the country in recent years to produce great results.

According to O Jin Wi, section chief of the Bioengineering Branch of the State Academy of Sciences, the micro eco-medicine is made of useful microbes with high water purification ability and antibiosis. It helps remove ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, organic matters, heavy metal and other pollutants, deter outbreak of pathogen and deodorise in water.

This eco-medicine for water purification and feed makes it possible to considerably raise the production of fries in pisciculture and decrease the death rate in stockbreeding without use of antibiotic. It also helps lengthen the period of exchanging water at aquariums.

World Bank maintains Vietnam's economic growth forecast in 2016-2018

HANOI (Xinhua) -- The World Bank (WB) on Wednesday maintained its forecast for Vietnam's average economic growth of 6.3 percent during the 2016-2018 period, unchanged compared to its earlier forecast in January 2016. In the latest update of WB's Global Economic Prospects, Vietnam's economic growth during 2016-2018 period is based on all categories of demand buoyed by strong foreign direct investment, growing exports of manufactures, and solid labor markets. Among the large developing Asean economies, Vietnam and the Philippines have the strongest growth prospects, said a press release by WB Vietnam on Wednesday.

Russia's gas revenues down 29 percent in first four months of 2016

MOSCOW (Xinhua) -- Russian gas revenues in the first four months of the year plunged 29 percent year on year to US\$10.78 billion, the Federal Customs Service said on Wednesday. However, the volume of gas exports from Russia in the four-month period stood at 66.2 billion cubic metres, an increase of 11.4 percent compared with the same period last year, it said. Russia exported 185.5 billion cubic metres of gas in 2015. The country is heavily dependent on oil and gas exports for fiscal revenues but it is making efforts to diversify its economy.

Myanmar's economic zone near China border to be completed in 2017-18

YANGON (Xinhua) -- The Muse Central Economic Zone of Myanmar, which is located near its border with China in eastern Myanmar, will be completed in the fiscal year 2017-18, official media reported on Wednesday. The zone is set up on about 120 hectares of land on the river's edge near Muse township in northern Shan State. It is being implemented in cooperation with the Shan State government and New Starlight Company.

The project is undertaken with a fund of over US\$51 million. Local authorities approved plans for the Muse Central Economic Zone in early 2013 to boost cross-border trade at the most important crossing between Myanmar and China.

Asian Development Bank Lao PDR Resident Mission Invitation for Bids

The Asian Development Bank now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire fighting (MEPF) works of a new office block within the compound of ADB at Vientiane. The Installation works is to be completed within 5 months following the lead contractor.

National Competitive Bidding (NCB) will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: One-Envelope procedure. The NCB is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.

Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

- Should be a reputable firm with independent legal existence for a minimum of five (5) years experienced in electrical, air-conditioning and mechanical ventilation, and plumbing installation in building, transformer installation, fire detection and alarm system.
- Have good experience in IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission), ASHRAE (The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating & Air-Conditioning Engineers) and IPC (International Plumbing Code) standard or equivalent standard of electrical, mechanical and plumbing installation.
- Have good experience in testing and commissioning of electrical, mechanical and plumbing system (such as: cable continuity testing, cable insulation testing, earth resistance testing, residual current device testing, pressure testing, and verification of installation,...).
- Have experience in preparation of shop drawings/details drawings, as built drawings, material specification, data sheets.
- Have an average annual contract of at least US\$ 300,000 over the past three (3) years from 2012 to 2015;
- Have at least one similar project in Lao consisting of demolition and reconstruction of office block to showcase company's expertise/capability in this kind of project which require environmental control and pollution prevention while some buildings in the compound are used for business operation.
- Should be a firm with a business license providing for mechanical and electrical installation and engineering works;
- Should not be under a declaration or record of ineligibility for corrupt and/or fraudulent practices issued or kept by ADB; and
- Should be from an eligible member country of ADB.

To obtain bidding documents, further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact:

Senior Finance/Administrative Officer
Asian Development Bank
Lao PDR Resident Mission
Corner of Lanexang Av. & Samsenthai Rd.
P.O. Box 9724
Vientiane, Lao PDR
Tel: 021 250 444
E-mail: svongthevanh@adb.org

From 8:30-11:30 and 13:30 – 16:00 hours, Monday to Friday, from 08 June 2016 to 24 June 2016.

Deliver your bid

- Address to: Country Director
Asian Development Bank
Lao PDR Resident Mission
Corner of Lanexang Av. & Samsenthai Rd.
P.O. Box 9724
Vientiane, Lao PDR

• On or before 24 June 2016 at 10:00 am

www.adb.org/lrm

Asian Development Bank
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Lao stock market report

BCEL-KT

Trade Summary

The Lao stock market traded lower on Wednesday, as energy stocks decreased 50 kip at the beginning and then declined a further 100 kip. Fortunately it rebounded to close up 50 kip at 5,650 kip, posting trading volume of 17,100 shares, while banking stocks recovered from an early loss of 50 kip to trade flat in the final trading session at 5,050 kip. BCEL posted 7,600 shares traded in terms of volume.

Today, the index closed down slightly by 0.72% or 8.18 point to 1,127.47 points, with a trading volume of 24,700 shares lower compared to the previous day, worth around 134 million kip.

Daily Turnover by Investor Types (LAKm)

Daily Turnover by Investor Types (Million kip)			
08.06.2016	Buy	Sell	Net purchase
General Corporations	-	-	-
Individuals	61	70	- 9
Foreigners	73	64	9
Securities Companies	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-



Last 7 days Trading Information

Date	LSX			EDL-Gem		BCEL		LWPC		PTL		SVN	
	Current Index (Point)	Change (%)	Trading Value (Kip)	Closing Price (Kip)	Change	Closing Price (Kip)	Change	Closing Price (Kip)	Change	Closing Price (Kip)	Change	Closing Price (Kip)	Change
8/06/16	1,127.47	-0.72%	134,335,000	5,650	-50	5,050	0	6,900	0	2,600	0	3,100	0
7/06/16	1,135.65	0.67%	237,085,000	5,700	50	5,050	-50	6,900	0	2,600	0	3,100	0
6/06/16	1,128.14	-0.78%	22,775,000	5,650	-50	5,100	-50	6,900	0	2,600	0	3,100	0
3/06/16	1,136.98	0.00%	36,775,000	5,700	0	5,150	0	6,900	0	2,600	0	3,100	0
2/06/16	1,136.98	0.52%	28,255,000	5,700	50	5,150	-50	6,900	0	2,600	0	3,100	-100
1/06/16	1,131.08	-0.20%	322,080,000	5,650	0	5,200	-50	6,900	0	2,600	0	3,200	-100
31/05/16	1,133.35	0.98%	65,525,000	5,650	50	5,250	-50	6,900	0	2,600	0	3,300	200

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



Asean Economic Community

Competition watchdog calls for tariff system for beef imports



Business Competition Supervisory Commission (KPPU) chairman Syarkawi Rauf answer journalists' questions at the KPPU office recently.

JAKARTA (The Jakarta Post, ANN) -- The Business Competition Supervisory Commission (KPPU) has called on the government to improve beef import controls by ditching the existing quota system for a tariff system.

According to KPPU chairman Syarkawi Rauf, a tariff system is more effective for controlling the supply and the price. The government will only need to reduce the import tariff to encourage importers to buy more beef if the local price is high due to limited supply.

"If the supply increases, this will make the price fall gradually. However, an extremely low price is also harmful for local breeders," he said

in Jakarta on Tuesday.

The government could lift the import tariff to prevent excessive beef imports if there was adequate supply in the local market. This would eventually lead to stability in the domestic price, Syarkawi said.

He also called on the government to cut the long supply chain that has been driving significant beef price increases. The beef price has reached a peak of Rp 120,000 (US\$9.06) per kilogramme this year.

"The government should also provide incentives for logistic transportation," Syarkawi said.



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
ອົງການຈັດຕັ້ງສາກົນເພື່ອການເຄື່ອນຍ້າຍຊົນຖານ

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

NATIONAL PROJECT OFFICER
Reference Code: LASVN2016-01

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

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

Required Qualifications and Experience

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

How to Apply

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

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESS OF INTEREST
Small and Medium Enterprises Access to Finance Project
Credit No. 5471-LA, Grant No. H958-LA

Administrative Officer

The Government of Lao PDR is receiving 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. This 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 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 the IFC, selected commercial banks (PFIs) and the Department of Planning and Cooperation-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. The project has three components: 1). A Line of Credit Facility; 2). A Risk Sharing Facility; 3). Technical Assistance. As part of the Component 3 above, the Project is now seeking dynamic and experienced full-time national consultants to fill the following 04 positions to assist the DOSMEP in implementing the Project through efficient organization and administration of the Project related activities. Specifically, the following staff positions are currently opened:

- The Administrative Officers shall ensure overall efficient support to the Project's Director, Project Coordinator, as well as other Project and DOSMEP staff members. In order to qualify for this position, the candidates shall meet the following experience and competence requirements:
- University degree (Bachelor or equivalent);
 - At least 3 years of relevant work experience in an administrative capacity;
 - Knowledge or experience of working with development programs or projects in collaboration with the Government and international communities;
 - Proven knowledge of office administration, file keeping procedures and office equipment maintenance;
 - Excellent communication skills, including speaking and writing in both English and Lao languages;
 - Good skills in computer typewriting and data analysis;
 - High degree of computer literacy, and intermediate to advanced knowledge of Microsoft Office Package (Excel, Word, and PowerPoint) and internet.

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

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 in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by June 17, 2016, 16:00 o'clock.**

Attn: Mr. Sengphanomchone Inthasane, NIU Manager, CC: Mr. Keophouthone Inthivong, 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; cc amphaphone.t@laosoft.org
Note: Only Short-listed candidates will be contacted.








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Savannakhet	HOUAMOUNG TAI VILLAGE, KASONE PHOMVIHAN DISTRICT, TEL : 041 260 403 / 020 2264 9071
Champasack	PHONKOUNG VILLAGE, PAKSE DISTRICT, CHAMPASACK PROVINCE TEL : 031-260340, 0205903-3990, FAX : 031-260341
Khammoum	PHONSAVANH VILLAGE, THAKHEK DISTRICT, TEL : 051 251 331
Attapue	LUK 3 VILLAGE, SAMAKHAY DISTRICT, ATTAPUE PROVINCE TEL : 036-210160, 036 210164, FAX : 036 210161, MOB : 020 2260 8424
Luangnamtha	BAN, VIENGKHAM M. NAMTHA, P. LUANGNAMTHA TEL : 086-212308, FAX : 086-212310
Xaymungskun	XAYMUNGKUN VILLAGE, NAXAITHANG DISTRICT, VIENTIANE CAPITAL TEL : 021 612482-3, 020 2333 3028



Phongsavanh Bank has opened a new unit service at phonethan Plus

ທະນາຄານພົງສະຫວັນ
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You're not just another customer,
We're not just another Bank...

In the May 06, 2016 recently Phongsavanh bank Limited has officially launched at phonethan unit service and has honor to speak of opening by Mr.Sengkham PHANTHA-VONG Acting Deputy Managing Director of Phongsavanh bank Limited.

The guests were invited to attend this event consist of Mr. Thongbay INTHILATH from department of business bank management, Mr. Gen Bounsong DALASEN from security of saysetha District, Mr Phaiboun KEOKHAMDY Chief of Phonethan village and from other part related.

The unit service was established at Phonethan village Saysetha District , Vientiane capital and location is inside of Petrol plus station.

ພິທີເປີດ ໜ່ວຍບໍລິການໂພນທັນ ພັສ
ຢ່າງເປັນທາງການ

ໜ່ວຍບໍລິການໂພນທັນເປີດໃຫ້ບໍລິການທຸກວັນ ຈາກເວລາ 08:30 ຈົນເຖິງ 17:00 ໂມງ

ເງື່ອນໄຂການຮັບຂອງຂາດຂອງແກມ ໃນໄລຍະເປີດ ໜ່ວຍບໍລິການໃໝ່

- ເປີດບັນຊີເງິນຝາກປະຈຳ 1,000,000 ກີບ ຮັບໄປເລີຍ ຈອກແກວ 1 ໜ່ວຍຮັບບັນຊີ.
- ຮ້ານຄ້າທີ່ສະໜອງບັນຊີເກດເບີດ ແລະ ເຄື່ອງຮູດບັດ ຮັບໄປ ເລີຍຄືນຄືນງານ 1 ຄັນ.
- ສະໜອງບັນຊີ ATM, Debit (VISA & UPI) ຮັບໄປເລີຍ ຈອກແກວ 1 ໜ່ວຍ.
- ສະໜອງບັນຊີ Credit (VISA, Master, JCB & UPI) ຮັບໄປເລີຍຄືນຄືນງານ 1 ຄັນ.

ເລີ່ມແຕ່ມື້ຈົນເຖິງວັນທີ 01/07/2016

ພິເສດ:

ຍົກເວັ້ນຄ່າທຳນຽມສະໜັບສະໜູນ ATM, VISA Debit ຂອງທະນາຄານ ພົງສະຫວັນ ໃນໄລຍະເວລາ 3 ເດືອນ ເລີ່ມແຕ່ວັນທີ 06/05/2016 ຈົນເຖິງວັນທີ 06/08/2016 ຫາກມີ.








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Alounnail	Tel: 021 455 075	Thongphong	Tel: 021 620 658	Savannakhet	Tel: 041 260 400	Attapue	Tel: 036 210 150
Phonkeng	Tel: 021 454 275	Phonsavan	Tel: 030 505 703	Xainoungkoun	Tel: 021 612 483	Luangnamtha	Tel: 086 212 305

0.69%

6 year

10

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(Announcement No. 16/24)

OPEN TO: All Interested Candidates
POSITION: **Communications Specialist, FSN-10**
OPENING DATE: June 03, 2016
CLOSING DATE: June 17, 2016
WORK HOURS: Full-time; 40 hours/week
SALARY: Actual grade and salary will be based on the qualifications of the applicant.

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

The U.S. Embassy in Vientiane is seeking an individual for the position of Communications Specialist in the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)/Country Office.

BASIC FUNCTION OF POSITION

The Communications Specialist provides outreach and communications support to United States Agency for International Development/ Regional Development Mission Asia (USAID/RDMA) Country Office in Laos under the direct supervision of the Supervisory General Development Officer. Specifically, the Communications Specialist serves as the primary point of contact for media and public information requests and works closely with the Supervisory Regional Development Outreach Communication Specialist (SRDOCS) in (USAID/RDMA) to maintain social media accounts and the website, and to assist in developing and updating standard Mission communications products related to activities in Laos, including fact sheets, social media and web content. In consultation with the SRDOCS, the Communications Specialist helps develop planning and tracking systems to meet the demands of the growing foreign assistance program in Laos.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

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

1. **Education:** A bachelor’s degree in communications, journalism, graphic design or a related field is required.
2. **Prior Work Experience:** Five or more years of progressively responsible experience in communications, journalism, marketing, advertising, public relations, mass media, or arts. Proven experience in disseminating information to a variety of target audiences, via print, broadcast, social media and/or the Web, is required.
3. **Post Entry Training:** On-the-job training on USAID policies and procedures, especially ADS 320 (Branding and Marking). The incumbent must be able to impart procedural policies to counterparts. The incumbent will be eligible for regional DOC training and AOR/COR training. Independent study via web tutorial on social media, writing, and design.
4. **Language Proficiency:** Lao and English at IV level. Must be able to write acceptable Lao and English language press copy and to translate highly technical materials verbally or in writing.
5. **Knowledge:** Must be thoroughly familiar with local media influencers and the relationships between media organizations. Must understand political orientation of local media outlets, as well as U.S. government policies and their local implications. Demonstrated skills and/or experience in public relations; A broad understanding of issues related to international development and transition economies. Through knowledge of media operations (print, television, Internet, radio).
6. **Skills and Abilities:** The ability to establish and maintain collegial relations with press and media contacts and exercise sound judgment in representing the U.S. Government while discussing program activities with the press and media are essential elements of the job; Demonstrated ability to work as a team member and provide leadership in the areas of his/her competencies; Possess the ability to craft information messages in various media formats (such as press release, speech, talking points, fact sheets) targeting a variety of audiences; Must be comfortable working independently, managing several activities at once, and working under pressure to meet short deadlines, including how to shape a story and get it published; Demonstrated ability to populate, maintain and analyze web and social media usage. Excellent working use of Google and MS Office, including PowerPoint, and strong digital photography and photo editing skills. Ability to contribute to different types of social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, and Instagram. A flair for graphic design, manipulation of scanning software, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and/or Adobe In-Design software. Must be able to edit both languages to produce final products in good journalistic style.

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

HIRING PREFERENCE ORDER:

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

ADDITIONAL SELECTION CRITERIA

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

TO APPLY

Interested candidates for this position must submit the following for consideration of the application:

1. Universal Application for Employment as Locally Employed Staff or Family Member (DS-174); Download the form at: http://laos.usembassy.gov/job_opportunities.html; 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: June 17, 2016

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

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

**Country Representative, Laos
Based in Vientiane, Laos
Full Time - Fixed Term Contract until December 2017
Competitive Salary**

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) is an independent foundation sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth (FCO) and the Department for International Development (DFID). WFD specialises in parliamentary strengthening and political party development. It does this by supporting the development of parliaments, political party structures and civil society organisations. It is uniquely placed to draw directly on the expertise of the Westminster political parties in all its work.

Established in 1992, WFD has supported transitions to democracy in central and Eastern Europe, strengthened multi-party democracies in Africa, Middle East and North Africa and is expanding its work in Asia.

Main Purpose of the Role:

WFD is looking to recruit an experienced Country Representative to lead WFD’s programme in Laos. The main objective of the programme is to work in partnership with the Sapha Heng Xat to develop a programme of exchange of best practices, technical assistance, and advisory services to strengthen the institution of parliament. The Country Representative for Laos will have responsibility for management of WFD’s programme in Vientiane, which includes managing the full programme cycle from office set-up and registration, Programme design, planning and implementation, through to transition/end of project, as well as budget management and monitoring and evaluation. This programme is supported by the British Embassy and has a focus to support the National Assembly and its committees. The post holder will play a central role in stakeholder management (MPs, political parties, parliamentary Secretariat, academic institutions, think tanks, civil society as well as the international donor community and the British Embassy). The post holder will also be expected to contribute to development of future business opportunities in Laos and in the region.

The successful candidate will have the following skills and experience:

Essential

- Educated to Master’s Degree level or above in a relevant discipline such as political science, law, social development, public administration or international relations desired; Bachelor’s Degree required.
- Thorough knowledge of the political environment in Laos
- An understanding of gender equality issues in Laos
- A sound understanding of parliamentary and political systems
- Significant experience in designing and implementing programmes. This should include management experience of parliamentary strengthening or related democracy development work.
- Experience implementing UK funded or other OECD donor-funded programmes
- Strong English, written and oral communications skills necessary to produce proposals and reports and to present them to WFD’s Board and funders, to donors, and to local partners and other stakeholders
- Excellent Lao spoken and written skills necessary to communicate with key stakeholders
- Thorough understanding and experience of financial management and numerical competency
- Significant experience of gathering and consolidating information for monitoring and evaluation purposes
- Significant experience of producing programme reports with analysis and documentation of outcomes and programme learning

Desirable

- Credibility and confidence to lead programme implementation and coordination
- The flexibility to work in a fast changing environment with the ability to manage and prioritise a range of operational, financial and administrative responsibilities
- Good judgement in taking decisions where there is sometimes no precedent
- Ability to work independently and effectively, and drive to manage workload, with limited supervision
- Ability and confidence to multi-task in an international environment
- Strong diplomatic skills and ability to influence and negotiate with senior officials, politicians, and representatives of international organisations and NGOs
- Demonstrated ability to capture lessons learnt to inform new ways of working and identify future opportunities and challenges
- Achieves a level of delivery which exceed client expectations and enhances the reputation of the organisation and promotes the programmes successes

For a full list of the required skills and competencies for the role please download the job description below

The appointment will be made on merit on the basis of fair and open competition.

Please submit a completed application form to recruitment@wfd.org by 23:59 (GMT) 15 June 2016.

For more information, please download the job description and candidate guidance notes.

Please send completed application forms to recruitment@wfd.org

Please note this statement is for information only and does not form part of a contract.

EDUCATION

Investing in the right degree



INDIA (The Statesman, ANN) -- Nelson Mandela had said, "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world". His words still ring true and anyone who has a passion for education and a genuine and profound interest in the development and empowerment of young people can make a difference. Helping the youth know themselves better, acknowledging their wants and needs and guiding them on how to determine their routes to a successful and above all, happy career should be the primary goals of an educator.

We live in difficult economic times filled with challenging financial trade-offs and there is no guarantee with any investment but the evidence on education is clear — the more one educates themselves, the better their job prospects and future earnings become. The only thing growing

faster than the sticker price on a college education may be the debate around the value of one, particularly, if a student majors in something with no obvious pathway to a decent job.

The question of what a student should major in and what sort of return on investment it can generate is becoming an increasingly important question, as families struggle to pay for college and graduates shoulder growing education debts. In such a scenario students should look for a college or university that has organised its educational programme and co-curriculum activities in a way to help students gain greater knowledge of the world around them; develop high-level skills and acquire real-world experience, and above all, find their own sense of purpose and vocation.

That said every student also needs practical guidance

in connecting their studies with career choices and in knowing the range of prospective salaries for possible career paths. Assessing the return on investment of college degrees has never been more important to the growth of our economy and the financial well being of graduates.

As the economic value of education increases, one will need to remember that higher education is worth more than just rupees. The initial investment in a high-quality education does, for most graduates, pay off over time. Those trained in a particular skill in college will suffer when their chosen industry pivots away from them.

There is no job that always pays better than another as one's salary is shaped by many different factors including his/her skill set, experience, education, and of course, location. One reason we haven't made much progress academically down the years is because it hasn't been economically imperative for Indian students to master sophisticated problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

The country needs schools that mirror our own reality or what the economy requires. We need a major overhaul not only in the system but also in the mindset of parents who want good education for their children. A student must want to explore new horizons with the goal of becoming a more thoughtful and creative person.

POLITIC

Timor-Leste looks to benefit from Asean membership

Just 14 years into independence, Timor-Leste has secured membership of a number of international forums, declaring its intent to catch up with the rest of the developing world.

Now, through its shared history with Indonesia, the world's second-youngest nation is eyeing full Asean membership, as it seeks to identify with a region poised to become "the powerhouse of the 21st century", Timor-Leste's deputy foreign affairs and cooperation minister, Roberto Sarmiento de Oliveira Soares, told The Jakarta Post.

"Timor-Leste has manifested its desire to be part of Asean since the very beginning of our inception in 2002. And that desire, the commitment of Timor Leste, has always been raised in numerous meetings, forums in the region and beyond, and at the bilateral level," he said.

Timor-Leste officially submitted its application letter to be considered an Asean member in 2011, during Indonesia's chairmanship.

"Our application was overwhelmingly welcomed and supported by Indonesia, and of course, through the Indonesian chairmanship, then President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono successfully secured all the endorsements and acceptances from all Asean member countries to officially endorse Timor Leste's membership, by establishing two important mechanisms to assess [our] readiness."

Soares said the mechanisms were the Asean Coordinating Council and the technical or working level, which were mandated to assess Timor-Leste's readiness covering all three important pillars: the political and security, the economic and



Roberto Sarmiento de Oliveira Soares.

the sociocultural pillars.

"All three pillars [have undergone] assessment, so now we are basically waiting for the Asean side to make a final decision about our accession," he said.

With regard to President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's commitment, Soares said Timor-Leste was very much grateful.

"Indeed, during his visit to Timor-Leste, [the President] continued to reiterate the strong commitment of Indonesia and he will do whatever he can in his capacity to push for our accession to Asean."

"Asean very much lies on Timor-Leste's foreign policy priority; our desire to be part of Asean is indeed to further safeguard our own regional identity, because we are one of the only countries in Southeast Asia that does not yet belong to any regional organization."

Soares credited Asean as a unique and dynamic regional organization.

"At the time when Asean established itself, it was mainly focused on political peace and stability. But a few decades later, Asean expanded on its concentration by looking beyond

political stability, into what is the most important [aspect] in our globalized world today: economic integration and competitiveness," he said.

"Being part of Asean will further safeguard Timor-Leste's own independence and sovereignty, and of course, peace and stability in our region."

On the other hand, Soares said Timor-Leste could also be a bridge between Asean and the Pacific.

"At the same time, Timor-Leste can also contribute beyond Asia Pacific through [its] own linkages and partners," he emphasized.

Soares pointed to the fact that Timor-Leste could connect Asean with the community of Portuguese-speaking countries, the CPLP, which are located in Africa, Europe and Latin America.

"They offer vast economic opportunities, but also for political and sociocultural cooperation. So that can also be another important [way] Timor-Leste contributes to Asean," Soares said.

The story is attributed by The Embassy of Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste in Vientiane, Laos

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

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

Deadline: June 22, 2016

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

Main tasks:

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

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

Required qualifications and experience:

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

Preferable condition

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

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

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

Announcement

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

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

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

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

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

Travel

Mogao Caves: the Thousand Buddha Grottoes

VIETNAM (Vietnam News, ANN) -- The sun dazzles brilliantly all day over indulgent sand dunes stretching towards the horizon while tourist pilgrims riding on camels move smoothly with their shadows on a small sandy path.

This was the incredible attractive facet of the Gobi desert attributed to the honest and introvert people of Dunhuang, a city in China's north-western Gansu province, which is now hastening the revival of the Silk Road.

Holding a particularly important position on the ancient road and described as an oasis in the Gobi desert, the city used to welcome foreign merchants and monks from the West as well as officials and soldiers from central China to bring their own cultures to and make it a trading centre and a cultural "melting pot".

The economic, military, political and cultural activities which took place at this crossroad provided the basis for the flourishing of one of China's earliest Buddhist centres.

Most Buddhist monks came to China from India and Central Asia by way of the Silk Road. Foreign monks and their Chinese disciples formed the earliest Buddhist communities at Dunhuang in the late 3rd and early 4th centuries.

Dunhuang today remains a thriving town surrounded by

fields of cotton and maize. Green energy with solar power plants has emerged as the potential for the city to help cut pollution, reduce water consumption and boost social economic development of China.

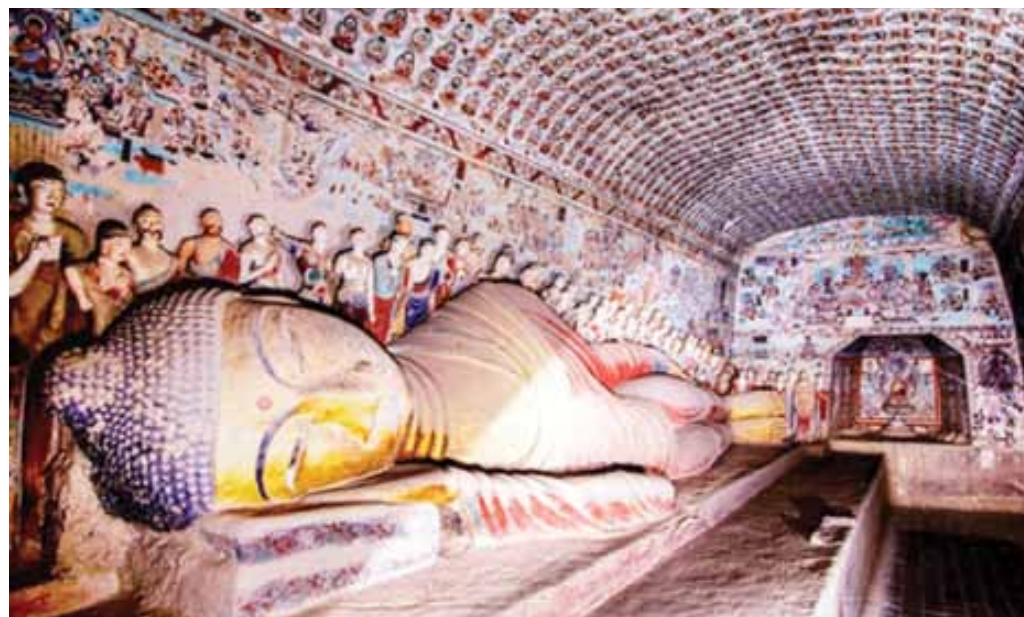
And it is also a famous tourist destination.

This is because of the painted and decorated Buddhist cave temples 25km southeast of the town, the Mogao caves.

The Mogao cave temples were made between AD 400 and 1200 by Buddhist believers, including officials, soldiers, merchants, and monks, in addition to nuns, travellers and the ordinary men and women of Dunhuang. At that time, Buddhism was the main religion of Dunhuang and China.

The message of Buddhism had been brought by monks and other travellers from India and the original Buddhist texts were in Indian languages written on leaves from palm trees which grew in northern India. Some of these were brought to the city by monks over 1,500 years ago and were kept in a special library at the Buddhist caves.

A legend tells the story of the first monk at Dunhuang – monk Yuezun – who was far away from home. His family was in central China but he had left them to become a Buddhist monk, seeking enlightenment, and had travelled over a thousand miles



At rest: One of the Buddhist statues in the Mogao Caves.

west to the remote area of Gansu. One day when wandering in the desert southeast of Dunhuang, he had a vision of a golden light emitted from Mount Sanwei as if a thousand Buddhas were glowing.

He thought it was a message from the Buddha to make a shrine here, and so he dug a small cave from the cliff in order to meditate on his vision and a statue of the Buddha to pray to.

Soon words spread and other monks joined him and dug their own caves for prayer, rest and meditation. Others paid for more elaborate temple caves, hiring

artists to paint the walls with beautiful images of Buddhism and sculptors to make statues of the Buddha and his disciples.

Today almost 500 caves survive and the site is famous throughout the world. It is one of the world's greatest art galleries.

Fast growing economy

With a strategic goal to recover the world's trade journey between the east and west and to lay out an extensive vision for close relations with dozens of countries that were loosely connected along the Silk Road more than 1,000 years ago, the Chinese government is

pouring billions of dollars into Gansu province and has chosen Dunhuang as one of the key targets of the nation's Belt and Road Initiative.

Though it is still a controversial plan that has caused geopolitical scepticism among both, westerners and those traders from the East that they could increasingly become too dependent on China, the strategy has obviously breathed a new life to this desert city.

Dunhuang welcomed an explosive GDP growth in recent years thanks to its outstanding success in tourism development.

With a total population of more than 180,000 but only a minor 28,000 officially working in tourism industry, Dunhuang last year welcomed 6.6 million tourists and is expected to receive about 8 million this year – more than 40 times the number of the local population, the city's Tourism Department reports.

Dunhuang deputy mayor, Wang Xiaoling, said that in the past five years, the city's GDP increased about two folds to 11.5 billion yuan, or about US\$1.8 billion, in which the culture tourism contributed approximately 60 percent.

Last year alone, total investment in Dunhuang assets reached 19 billion yuan (US\$2.9 billion), said the official.

Dunhuang, along with 29 other cities of China, has entered the list of tourism destinations that build qualified international characteristics, according to China's National Tourism Administration.

Dunhuang is the only city in Gansu on the list. Entering the list provides more opportunities for Dunhuang city, according to the authority.

As it will hold the First Silk Road (Dunhuang) International Cultural Expo, the city is expected to promote tourism, comprehensive service and its brand recognition by focussing on tourism content and advanced regional collaboration.

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Streetwise

What should be done to ensure fairness during school examinations?

Lower and upper secondary schools will hold their annual exams this month. The Ministry of Education and Sports is currently preparing for the end-of-year exams this month and is teaming up with other ministries to stop the leaking of exam papers and other forms of cheating. They are jointly laying down regulations on examinations that will be applied to all the venues. Vientiane Times asked some members of the public what they thought about the regulations governing exams.

Times Reporters

Mr Mee Thammavong, a resident of Vangvieng district, Vientiane province: It's very important to prevent the leaking of exam papers and if the exam papers are leaked that means the authorities are neglecting



their responsibilities and it is not fair for the students. Until now, members of the public are still uncertain as to what happened last year and why the exam papers were leaked. We don't know what they

did. However I hope it's an experience and that it doesn't happen again.

Mr Anousith Sengsavanh, a student at Thongpong Secondary School: Now I'm studying very hard during school time and on the weekend as well because I'm going for my exams this month. I returned to all of the lessons I had studied and asked



many friends and teachers if I didn't understand. I want everyone to study hard and don't think that they can just

copy from someone. They should try to do everything by themselves according to what they understand. Of course, everyone would like to get good score but we should not break the rules because we will make a problem for ourselves and our teachers if we are caught.

Ms Khamphou, a resident of Vientiane: The exams papers should be kept under wraps before the exams start but we have never had any problems before, except last year. This means that the authorities are not responsible for their duties and it could happen again if they don't receive punishment. Examinations are for testing the students' knowledge but how can they work if the papers are leaked? On the other hand teachers should try to prevent students copying the answers of their friends because it is unfair on students who have studied hard and sets a bad example for

other children who will then want to copy as well.

Mr Tong Phiasong, a resident of Luang Prabang province: Of course any student will try to do whatever they can to pass



their exams. Some students study hard but some don't and try to copy from someone

else. Especially now, students can use their smart phones. Of course the regulations do not permit them to do this but many people do. This is because the regulations are not strictly enforced and the teachers take pity on their students. Anyway, the rules should be strong because if students don't have any ways to copy, I believe that they would study harder and be more knowledgeable.

Ms Dany Vilayphone, a student at Thongpong Secondary School: I'm worried very much about the maths subject because I'm not good at it but I will try my best to pass it. If you ask me or any student, surely they would want to know about the exam papers

beforehand and study only that. But at the same time, as a student I don't want any exam



leaked because if the authorities find out we will have to re-sit the exam, like last year. The authorities need to be more serious about keeping the exam papers a secret.

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The Asia News Network (ANN) is a network of leading daily English language newspapers in Asia, supported by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation of Germany through its regional representative bureau in Singapore. It was established in March, 1999, to provide avenues for cooperation and optimise coverage of major news events in the region. It also aims to promote journalism, share news stories, feature articles, editorials and personality profiles. ANN is the world's most active newspaper alliance with a membership base of 18 newspapers in 16 countries. The German News Agency of Deutsche Presse-Agentur, as one of the leading international agencies and ANN's exclusive partner, distributes news and features, background stories and commentaries from ANN to subscribers worldwide. They consist of Rasmei Kampuchea (Cambodia), China Daily (China), The Statesman (India), The Korea Herald (South Korea), The Star (Malaysia), Sin Chew Daily (Malaysia), The Nation (Thailand), The Straits Times (Singapore), The Philippine Daily Inquirer (Philippines), The Jakarta Post (Indonesia), Vietnam News (Vietnam), The Daily Star (Bangladesh), Vientiane Times (Laos), The Kathmandu Post (Nepal), The Island (Sri Lanka), Brunei Times (Brunei), The Nation (Pakistan), and China Post (Taiwan). The combined circulation of these newspapers is more than 14 million copies per day.



Indonesia's bureaucratic dead wood

JAKARTA (The Jakarta Post/ANN) -- The government has planned to lay off 300,000 civil servants from 2017 to 2019 as some of them find it difficult to follow the work pace of the central administration.

Bureaucratic reform in Indonesia has remained an unresolved debate for many years, despite the Civil Service Law, dubbed the panacea for the acute problems plaguing Indonesian bureaucracy, coming into force in 2014.

A corrupt, rent-seeking mentality has to some extent been addressed through better remuneration and stricter supervision systems. It appears however the bureaucracy finds difficulties in following the rhythm of the government, which aims high and works fast.

Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform Minister Yuddy Chrisnandi says the presence of hundreds of thousands of incompetent, crooked, unaccountable civil servants has slowed the performance of the entire bureaucracy, which is why he has come up with a roadmap for bureaucratic streamlining.

According to the plan, the government will lay off 300,000

civil servants from 2017 to 2019 through golden handshakes and other mechanisms. During the period 500,000 civil servants will retire and 76 government institutions will undergo consolidation for efficiency reasons.

If strictly implemented, the rationalisation will affect a total of 1 million civil servants, probably the largest number in our history. The Civil Service

governments will also benefit from rationalisation, given the fact that civil service pay devours more than 50 percent of the budget in 244 regencies and municipalities across the country.

The mass lay-offs may have serious electoral consequences for the government of President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, especially if he bids for reelection in 2019. Not many presidents

corruption. There have been reports of people who take the risk of paying a lot to get admitted to the civil service and naturally they will do anything, including the abuse of their power, to recover their initial outlay.

The next danger of a bloated bureaucracy is the employment of people unqualified for civil service positions, who a senior government official once described as "dead wood" in the bureaucracy. Allowing parasitic, if not cancerous, elements to remain within the bureaucracy will only hinder the delivery of public services, lead to a slow realisation of government programmes and eventually erode public trust in the government.

For sure any failure to lay off incompetent civil servants will do more harm than good both to the government and people. Rationalisation will require transparency in the merit system used to appraise civil servants' performance.

The government could of course convince the public about its aim to create a more professional bureaucracy if it led by example, by dismissing its own incompetent ministers.

The mass lay-offs may have serious electoral consequences for the government of President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, especially if he bids for reelection in 2019.

Law stipulates that incompetence and gross violations of the code of ethics can lead to dismissal.

From the fiscal perspective the rationalisation makes sense. The government claims the programme will enable it to shave 176 trillion rupiah (US\$13.13 billion) off its budget for bureaucracy, which it can reallocate for development spending. Regional

would take such a risky decision, let alone approaching the end of his or her first term of office.

But Jokowi could face a far more devastating calamity if the plan is left unimplemented. The bloated bureaucracy is already a cause for concern as it creates or perpetuates inefficiency, overlaps and unfairness, as hard work does not count, and most importantly a cycle of

Reform to balance responsibility and power

CHINA (China Daily/ANN) -- Reform of the professional title system requires adjustment of the responsibility and power pattern between the government and society, which is a fundamental change of the social management system.

At an executive meeting of the State Council, China's cabinet, on Wednesday, it was decided to further cancel a batch of licenses for professional titles. That brings the number of professional titles that have been abolished to 319.

It indicates the government's determination to streamline administration and delegate power to the lower levels, as well as a change in the working style of government, which has been widely praised by the public.

At the end of 2011 there were more than 1,100 profession titles granted by governments at various levels, which means that more than 780 professional titles still exist.

The reform has canceled a series of "bizarre professional titles", which few people applied for, but the professional titles of popular positions are what the reform should focus on.

Premier Li Keqiang has pointed out that too many professional titles create red tape, which restrains the public's entrepreneurship and employment, and the primary reason that the relevant authorities are unwilling to cancel them is that the licenses bring them economic benefits and even breed rent-seeking.

In many fields the licenses for professional titles have become industry chains that include selling textbooks, holding training classes, organising tests and issuing certificates.

It's not difficult to imagine the resistance cancelling these professional titles may face, considering the huge interests they may bring.

In general, except for some specific professions that require unified standards, such as doctors, lawyers and accountants, the qualifications of the majority of professions should be decided by the market.

The government should clearly define the boundary of government and society in terms of responsibility and power, and further promote the reform.

All roads should lead to car-lite Singapore

SINGAPORE (The Straits Times/ANN) -- The easing of car loan guidelines by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), three years after their institution, was prompted by current market conditions. In 2013, the MAS was motivated by a need to help restrain escalating Certificate of Entitlement (COE) premiums and the inflationary pressures that these caused. The moderation of demand now made the underlying basis of the policy outdated.

Further, the latest rules will level the playing field which was distorted when there was circumvention of the previous curbs through means like inflating the invoice value of cars traded. Closing such loopholes in a regulatory regime must remain a public policy objective even as people devise various means of getting around rules.

For cars with an open market value (OMV) of \$20,000 or less, buyers can now borrow up to 70 percent of the purchase price, up from 60 percent. Buyers of cars with OMVs of more than \$20,000 can borrow up to 60 percent of the purchase price, up from 50 percent. Separately, the loan tenure has been raised to seven years from five. Obviously, these changes will make it easier for consumers to take out car loans.

However, there are concerns about both the immediate and longer-term consequences of policies that can influence Singaporeans' desire for cars, to have and to hold. Easier access to loans could be expected to fuel old longings for the exclusive usage and perceived status

tied up with cars. These were held down by the austerity of earlier measures. Now, will these bubble up to the surface? While the weakening economy could dampen some of the enthusiasm for ownership, how far it does so remains to be seen. The fear is that COE prices could edge upwards, restarting a cycle that was cause for bitter resentment earlier.

Any policy that indirectly raises demand could lead to rising COE prices, higher inflation and unfavourable debt-to-income ratios. These would collectively take all back to square one. Hence the

need for overarching guidelines to ensure that ad hoc rules do not unintentionally undermine larger national goals.

The vision of a car-lite Singapore is driven by practical necessities, not bureaucratic whim. There is not enough space for more roads, parking spaces and other infrastructure to help clear the clogged arteries of the city.

greener environment hinges on reducing the dependence on motor vehicles and improving public transport networks.

And active mobility means turning motorways into corridors instead that have room for alternative forms of transport as well. Middle-class aspirations of driving oneself around need not be sacrificed entirely as these can be fulfilled in other ways - like car-share schemes for frequent commuters or long-term hires for extended journeys. None of these ought to cost an arm and a leg or lead to car loans the size of a small mortgage.

The vision of a car-lite Singapore is driven by practical necessities, not bureaucratic whim. There is not enough space for more roads, parking spaces and other infrastructure to help clear the clogged arteries of the city.

What the Lao papers say

Lets stamp out fights between students

Translated by Times Reporters

Fights between female students is becoming a serious social problem and needs the attention of the sector concerned.

Recently, many people have seen a short video on social media from a neighbouring country showing two female students fighting but this is also happening in Laos and needs addressing starting at the family.

These fights send a bad message to others who witness them and it disrespects the students' school because they are still in their uniforms.

Fights can cause students to be suspended and also lead to serious injuries and potentially criminal charges being laid.

Under criminal law if someone is found guilty of assault they can be sentenced from three months to one year in jail and fined from 100,000 to 500,000 kip.

In the case of aggravated assault involving serious injury those found guilty could be sent to jail from one to five years and fined from 700,000 kip to one million kip.

--Vientiane Mai Daily, June 8

Solving flooding problem in Vientiane needs everyone's help

Many areas around Vientiane are badly affected by flooding during the rainy season so everyone must help each other to ensure water drains away.

Previously, this reporter saw areas around Vientiane affected with flooding with much of the blame laid on construction waste blocking drainage systems.

This reporter also noticed many people living near roadsides not cleaning waste out from drains in front of their houses although nearby water levels increased.

Flash flooding can be prevented if everyone puts in some effort rather than just waiting for the sector concerned to act.

To play their part all concerned sectors must join together to address the issue to allow water to easily drain out during heavy rainfall.

In opinion of this reporter this should occur on an ongoing basis not just for special occasions.

With Laos hosting the Asean Summit in September we should start cleaning up now.

--Lao Phatthana Daily, June 8

Damaged road needs urgent repair

The road from Tanmixay traffic lights to Nongbeuk junction has been serious damaged causing inconvenience for traffic so the sector concerned must address this.

During the rainy season many roads around the capital are still in poor condition and full of potholes so it is difficult for traffic.

Local people are urging the sector concerned to quickly repair the Tanmixay traffic lights - Nongbeuk junction road because many stretches have fell into disrepair.

This reporter has asked the sector concerned many times how it was going to solve the problem and officials said they were undertaking consultation ahead reconstruction. But up until now no work has happened.

If this road is not repaired it will serious distress local people and road users so the sector concerned needs to act.

--Lao Phatthana Daily, June

Kumho Art Hall violinists shine at international music competitions



Korean violinist Jang Yoo-jin won first place at the 6th Sendai International Music Competition in Sendai, Japan.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA (The Korea Herald, ANN) -- Just a few weeks ago, three local Kumho Art Hall piano prodigies took the top three spots at this year's Prague Spring International Music Competition in the Czech Republic. Kumho violinist Jang Yoo-jin has now added to the phenomenon of Korean musicians dominating the podiums at international music competitions with her first place win in Japan this weekend.

Jang, 25, took home first place in the violin section at this year's sixth Sendai International Music Competition in Japan on Saturday, beating 40 musicians from 10 countries.

In the final round of the competition the violinist clinched her gold medal by performing Mendelssohn's "Violin Concerto in E minor, op.64" and Stravinsky's "Violin Concerto in D." Jang received prize money of roughly 32.6 million

won (US\$28,000) and an album recording of her solo recital competition performances.

The up-and-coming musician is no stranger to competition wins, having won a plethora of first place titles at the EWHAKyunghyang Competition and the fourth International Munetsugu Violin Competition in Japan, in which she was loaned the 1697 Rainville Stradivari violin.

Jang has performed with some of the country's leading orchestras since the age of 9, including the KBS Symphony Orchestra and the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra before debuting with Kumho in 2001 in the company's annual "Gifted Artists" concert. An active international soloist, she has appeared with Ivan Fischer's Budapest Festival Orchestra, the Bulgaria National Radio Symphony Orchestra, among others.

Along with Jang's win in Japan on Saturday, fellow Kumho violinist Kim Bom-sori was also honored at this year's 2016 Concours Musical International de Montreal, held in Canada from May 22 to June 2.

Kim, 26, took second place at this year's Concours Musical International competition, behind Japan's Tsuji Ayana. The violinist performed D. Chostakovitch's "Concerto No. 1, op. 99" and was awarded with roughly 18.1 million won in prize money. She also snagged the competition's Radio-Canada People's Choice Award, adding another 5.8 million won to her winnings.

Kim graduated from Seoul National University and at present continues her studies at the Juilliard School in New York under Sylvia Rosenberg and Ronald Copes. She debuted as a Kumho artist in 2004 as part of the "Gifted Artists" series.

In 2010 she took fourth place in the Sendai International Music Competition in Japan as well as the audience favorite award. In that same year she was one of six finalists in the Jean Sibelius Competition in Helsinki. In 2011 she won the third International Violin Competition in Qingdao, China, and won second prize at the 62nd International ARD Competition in Munich in 2013.

The Kumho Asiana Cultural Foundation, affiliated with Kumho Art Hall, has supported Korean classical musicians to train and develop their musicals skills to be able to compete at an international level.

Kai set to launch new video

Sisouphan Amphonephong

Laosinger Kai Overdance will soon launch her Kai Overdance Music Video Grand Opening ceremony after the production and editing process was completed recently.

The launching of the music video will take place at Vientiane Centre this Saturday from 1-3 pm.

People who attend the launch will be among the first to see the full music video, for which a lot of work went into its production.

Kai said people who attend the launch will also receive some souvenirs and gifts as a way to thank her fans for their support.

The dress code for attending is polite and luxurious, and people should be dressed in either white or cream to match with the concept theme.

Jao Sao Linlakhone Dai Leo is the song that continues on from Ya Sam Khan Toeng that saw good success and reached 1.2 million views through the Youtube website.

Kai said she composed this song herself, wrote the story as well as controlled the cast and crew during the production stage.

Kai also cast the actors to appear in the music video, personally selecting those with personalities matching the



A poster to promote the new music video.

characters in the film. She also invited former Miss Laos 2012 Christina Lassasima and Miss Laos 2013 Vilaylak Chanthavong to join the cast.

The behind the scenes making of the video has already been posted on Kai's Facebook page to encourage her fan club to follow and support it.

Kai said the shooting had its difficulties and everyone in the cast had to work very hard to make sure the video really shines.



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Project Manager: Maternal and Child Health Project
(1 Position, Based in Khua District, Phongsaly Province)

The Project Manager (PM) will lead CARE's maternal and child health project in Phongsaly Province. This position will work in partnership with other projects under the remote ethnic women (REW) program, and in close coordination with other CARE development projects in Lao PDR. The position covers management of all aspects of the project including ensuring a high technical quality of project delivery, managing partnerships with government, human resources, monitoring and evaluation, project cycle management and financial management. The PM will also provide technical support to ensuring the quality of M&E systems.

The Project started in March 2015 and focuses on Maternal and Child Health and works 1) with District Health Offices in Khua, Mai and Samphan Districts to improve capacity of District Health Services and 2) directly with communities to improve access to health services, preventative health practice, and specifically, improved nutrition status of women and young children. For this project, the PM will lead on both components, with a focus on managerial, technical and government coordination and is supported by the Local Advisor on Maternal and Child Health and Gender.

Tasks and responsibilities

- Operational lead on the planning, monitoring, and reporting of all activities
- Lead on liaison with district and provincial authorities
- Liaison with other organizations and actors in the project area
- Oversight and management of all project staff
- Financial management of the project

Selection Criteria

- Educational background in a public health related field
- At least two years experience in project management, ideally in a development or humanitarian response environment.
- Experience working at community level on health and nutrition.
- Experience in District Health Planning advantageous
- Strong commitment to work in remote areas working with poor communities, engaging directly in activities with target communities.
- Proven problem solving and organizational skills, flexibility and calm under pressure
- Strong communication skills, with solid written and spoken English; Khmu or Akha language skills would be highly valued.

Application Submission

Qualified candidates should submit a CV and a letter of application that address the Qualifications and Experience required to lao.jobs@careint.org before the deadline: 17th June, 2016

CARE is an equal opportunity employer committed to a diverse workforce. Women, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.

CARE is committed to protecting the rights of children. CARE reserves the right to conduct screening procedures to ensure a child safe environment.

The detailed Job Description can be provided upon request.

(Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview. CVs and other documents submitted to CARE will not be return)

Hanoi to build Disneyland-like amusement park



Visitors pose for pictures with Mickey and Minnie Mouse at Hong Kong Disneyland. Hanoi plans to build an amusement park which is inspired by Disneyland in the next five years.

HANOI (Vietnam News, ANN) -- Hanoi's People's Committee has approved a plan of building an amusement park, which is inspired by Disneyland, on the area of 198 hectares in Dong Anh district.

Kim Quy (Golden Turtle) Amusement Park, is among 25 parks that would be built in the capital city in the next five years.

The parks would be installed with modern entertainment equipments, which met the international standards.

Chairman of the committee Nguyen Duc Chung said that the city was still lack parks with green trees and entertainment areas. He said the Kim Quy Amusement Park would be a beautiful and modern park, which is expected to be compared with the famous Disneyland in Hong Kong.

The construction of 25 parks , together with planting more than 1 million of trees, would bring a greener places for city dwellers, he said.

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ANNOUCEMENT on a FREE SME and Commercial Lending Credit Analysis Training

In cooperation with the Ministry of Finance's State Asset Management Department and the Lao Bankers Association (LBA), IFC, a member of the World Bank Group is organizing a three days training on SME and Commercial Credit Analysis Training.

Credit market in Laos needs further development and innovation. There is a gap between the current credit practices and those in matured markets. The training will provides hands-on explanations for the analysis of corporate borrowers and the granting of corporate loans. It is intended to provide a systematic approach to the credit analysis and lending principles. The training will serve as a knowledge foundation for further development in movables lending in the country.

Benefits:

1. Receive a certificate at the end of the training.
2. Learn from a global expert who has over 25 years of experiences on commercial lending.
3. Free of charge and lunches will be provided throughout the training.
4. A credit analysis book and other materials will be provided.

Target participants:

1. Bank and financial institution employees including credit officers, risk management officers, auditors, treasury officers, and corporate and business development officers.
2. University or college lecturers teaching finance or banking.

Requirements:

1. Be able to commit for 3 day training
2. Relevant to your current works

Date: May 24th – 26th, 2016

Venue: International Cooperation and Training Center (ICTC).
Km5, No.13 Southern Road, Vientiane

Language: English and Lao

Secure your seat by Wednesday, May 18th, 2016 - limited seats register NOW !!!

For registration: please send your full name in both English and Lao, position, institution & phone number to **Ms. Sakhone Phomsouvanh** at psakhone@ifc.org (or contact 021 266316 or 5553 8023 for inquiry).

Remarks: Banks will be formally invited by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) or LBA. Please register directly with MoF and LBA. For other parties, please register with above email.

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Job Advertisement

The overall mission of The French Red Cross (FRC) is a non-profit humanitarian organization, constituted on the basis of the Geneva Conventions, and has been operating in the Lao PDR since 2002 in collaboration with the Lao Red Cross (LRC). Project's title: Promotion of good governance mechanism within the CCM in Lao PDR, for a meaningful dialogue between public stakeholders and civil society representatives - Component II: "Monitoring / Research-Action". The objective of this position is to facilitate the implementation and the good coordination of the research component of the project, in close cooperation with the Senior Researcher from the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement – IRD.

Job title	Research Coordinator
Location	Vientiane Capital
Duration of contract	1 year
Date of entry	July 2016
Key Tasks	A/ Management tasks - Bear overall managerial responsibility concerning the research activities (respect project's logical framework and work plan, activities organization and coordination, follow-up, reporting). - Ensure the secretariat and organization of the quarterly meetings of the Research Sub-Committee on HIV-AIDS (logistics/admin organization with the committee's Chair, agenda, minutes, global coordination). - Act as Research Officer to assist both the Project Manager and IRD Senior Researcher and facilitate the coordination with the partners on the research component. - Work closely with IRD Senior Researcher to supervise the survey teams. - Manage and integrate the primary and secondary data to the existing databases. - Assist the Project Manager on project monitoring and ensure that all deliverables from the partners are provided on due time. - Be responsible for the logistic, financial and administrative tasks in accordance with FRC policy and procedure. - Be responsible for the process of requesting all official authorizations or approvals from concerned governmental authorities to facilitate the research activities (e.g Authorization from National Ethic Committee of the Ministry of Health (MOH) for research topics, additional research authorization for data collection on sites). B/ Technical tasks - Provide support to the Project Manager and to the Senior Researcher to organize and facilitate meetings and training/dissemination sessions on HIV, gender, Malaria, Tuberculosis, New Funding Model and governance (if required). - Provide technical assistance to the research team with data collection and organize field visits; - When required, develop project tools, questionnaires, research protocols, documentation and training packages in Lao language. - Provide the needed information to the Project Manager to ensure a clear and precise reporting to donor(s). C/ Relations and communication - Coordinate relations/discussions between all the stakeholders of the project (National Assembly, civil society associations, CCM secretariat, MOH and other line Ministries, Research Institutes, UN Agencies and NGOs) to ensure quality implementation of research activities. - Ensure the good liaison between all the consortium partners on the conducted surveys and facilitate the presentation of their results at the occasion of the civil society Coordination Committee meetings or during National Assembly Action Group on HIV-AIDS meetings. - Keep all the consortium partners and other stakeholders informed regarding the collected information. - Help design Power-Point presentations when necessary. - In collaboration with the IRD senior researcher provide activity reports related to research component.
Profile/qualification	- Lao national - University degree in public health, social science, or epidemiology - Fluent written/spoken in English language is required, French being an additional asset. - A minimum of three years' experience in research and data management (Previous experience in health field and infectious disease is an asset) - Facilitator skills for leading large group discussions - Good organizational and communication skills (written, verbal and interpersonal) - Hard worker, efficient, creative, independent and committed
Application address	Interested applicants should send their CV and cover letter, with the reference "Research Coordinator FRC-072016". Application must be sent by email to: rh.frc.laos@gmail.com or by mail to French Red Cross Laos Office, Xieng Nhune alley, Setthathirath road, P.O. Box 5865, Vientiane. Only short listed candidates will be contacted within 5 days after the closing date. FRC is an equal opportunity employer. Women and ethnic minority candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.
Deadline for application	20 th June 2016
Indications/Remarks	- Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for a technical test - Attractive salary and benefit package for the right candidate as per the French Red Cross Laos Policies and Procedures - There is no compensation to cost related to the application process (transportation and accommodation) - Application might be reviewed and assessed by FRC before the deadline of the vacancy



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Data Collection for LEARN Project Impact Evaluation

June 2016

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

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

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

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

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

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

Qualifications

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

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

To Apply

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

Envelope 1:

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

Envelope 2:

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

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

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

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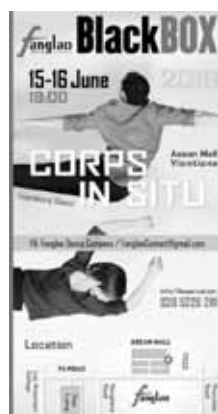
Fanglao Black Box dance

Your chance to see an exciting performance of contemporary dance.

Where: Asean Mall

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

For more information call: 020 52236211



Celebration of 100,000 improved cookstoves

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

When: Friday June 10, 5-8pm

Where: Vientiane Centre

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

Music festival

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

When: June 17, starting 6pm

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

Donations for disabled students

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

When: For the academic year 2016-17

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

P.O. Box 7337, Tel/Fax: (856-21) 222720, Email: info@edflao.org. URL: <http://www.edflao.org>

Free Rescue Services

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

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

Cameras and Stories Photojournalism Exchange

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

When: Thursday June 9, 2016 from 4:00 – 5:30pm
Where: American Centre at That Dam

Register by emailing: irc_vientiane@state.gov



Art exhibition

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

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

Where: French Institute, Luang Prabang



Summer scout camp

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

When: June 27- August 19

Where: AIS, Nongduang village, Vientiane

For more information: 021 264 800, 020 2222 0526

Lao-Cambodian cultural performance

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

When: June 16, 7pm

Where: National Culture Hall

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

Vientiane Book Festival

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

When: June 17 and 18

Where: Meeting hall, National University of Laos Dongdok campus

Come along for aerobics!

When: Every evening, 5-6pm

Where: Chao Anouvong Park, Mekong River, Vientiane

Carabao in concert

Enjoy a concert featuring popular Thai singer Carabao.

Where: Lao-ITECC, Vientiane.

When: June 27, 8pm

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

Free Summer English classes

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

When: June 20-July 15, every Tues and Thurs afternoons. Deadline to apply is June 13. Accepting the first 30 students to apply at: <http://goo.gl/forms/ULStto6bh6xeERS92>

Where: American Centre, That Dam, Vientiane

For more information visit: facebook.com/usembassyvte



Free concert

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

When: June 11, 4pm

Where: National Culture Hall, Vientiane

Rocket Festival

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

When: June 9 - 11

Where: Siengdy village, Nongbok district, Khammuan province



Student Film Festival

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

When: June 17, at 1:30 pm

Where: National Culture Hall

More information contact: 020 22865991.

Lao Home & Living Fair

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

When: July 18-24

Where: Lao-ITECC

Lacquer artwork exhibition

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

When: June 9-19

Where: French Institute, Lane Xang Avenue, Vientiane

More information: info@if-laos.org

Charity walk

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

When: June 18, 6pm

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

Photo exhibition

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

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

Where: Maison de la Culture Ban Naxay, Nongbone Road, Xaysettha district, Vientiane
Call: 020 2983 3468

Ledecky won't get shot at Olympic gold in one of best events

(AP) -- Katie Ledecky has been the world record holder in the 1,500-metre freestyle for almost three years, but the metric mile has never been part of the Olympic programme for women.

The longest event the 19-year-old can tackle at the Summer Games is the 800 free.

"It's not something where I'm disappointed," Ledecky said recently. "Tell me what events are there, and I'll work toward those events. This year, the 800 is the longest thing I have to work toward."

That's quite a shame, especially for the fans in Rio de Janeiro, Italian coach Stefano Morini said.

"They'll miss a great performance, almost surely another world record, and probably a swim that would have put her even closer to the times of the elite men," he said.

Janet Evans, long regarded as the greatest female distance swimmer, held the 1,500 world

are other criteria. Hopefully for Tokyo they'll consider our requests differently."

Morini, who coaches Italian distance swimmers Gregorio Paltrinieri and Gabriele Detti, said the Olympic races are a holdover from a long-disproved belief that women weren't capable of swimming a grueling event such as the 1,500.

"Obviously, that's ridiculous," said American Connor Jaeger, who took silver in the men's 1,500 at last year's world championships.

Even more so when considering that men and women have both competed in a 10-kilometre open water event since the 2008 Beijing Games.

"I find it strange that the only races at the Olympics where men and women don't compete at the same distance are the 800 and the 1,500," Morini said. "It's a bit antiquated."

Women didn't even compete in swimming at the



Ledecky is poised to be one of the biggest stars at the Rio Olympics. (File photo AP)

record for almost two decades, until it was taken down by Kate Ziegler in 2007. That mark stood until Ledecky went even faster at the 2013 world championships in Barcelona, Spain.

Since then, Ledecky has eclipsed her own 1,500 record four more times, most recently with a time of 15 minutes, 25.48 seconds at last year's worlds in Kazan, Russia, where she broke the mark she set in the preliminaries by more than 2 seconds and romped to victory in the final by nearly 27 seconds over runner-up Lotte Friis.

FINA, the sport's governing body, has pushed to add the women's 1,500 to the Olympic programme (along with the 800 free for men), which would match the program at the biennial world championships. The International Olympic Committee has rejected those proposals, not wanting to add more events to an already crowded schedule.

With the list of races already set for Rio, the next chance to make a change will be at Tokyo in 2020.

"We believe the world championship program is excellent," said Cornel Marculescu, executive director of FINA. "We believe it's also good for Olympics. But there

first four Olympics, joining the program with two events at the 1912 Stockholm Games. There remained a disparity between the number of events for men and women until the 1996 Atlanta Games, when swimming equality was finally achieved with 16 events for both men and women - a pool programme that has remained in place ever since.

But men and women have never competed in the same swimming events at the Olympics. While the men's 1,500 free has been around since 1908, the longest individual event for females was 400 metres until the 1968 Mexico City Games. That's when the 800 free was added, and it remains their longest pool event at the Olympics.

The world championships, on the other hand, have grown to include the same events for both men and women, including 50-metre races in all four of the strokes (as opposed to the Olympics, which have only the 50 free).

Ledecky's coach, Bruce Gemmell, believes there is a better chance of the IOC approving 50-metre events for the backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly than adding the women's 1,500 free.

Colombia advances at Copa America with 2-1 win over Paraguay

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) -- James Rodriguez scored a goal and set up another in the first 30 minutes, and Colombia clinched a berth in the Copa America quarterfinals with a 2-1 victory over Paraguay on Tuesday night.

Colombia became the first team to secure advancement to the knockout stage of the tournament with stellar goaltending from David Ospina and another dynamic performance from Rodriguez, who shook off a shoulder injury that made his availability a game-time decision at the Rose Bowl.

The Real Madrid midfielder propelled Colombia to its second win in two matches, following a 2-0 victory over the United States last week.

Victor Ayala scored Paraguay's first goal of the Copa America in the 71st minute on a long shot past Ospina, who made a handful of jaw-dropping saves to keep Colombia ahead.

Despite a few defensive struggles, the world's third-ranked team has lived up to its billing so far stateside with a fluid, attacking game built around Rodriguez, who played despite hurting his shoulder last week.

Carlos Bacca scored on a header from Rodriguez's corner kick in the 12th minute. Rodriguez then scored with an exceptional shot after a long scramble in the box in the 30th minute. Colombia missed on several chances to score in a



Colombia's Carlos Bacca (7) heads the ball to score against Paraguay during the first half of a Copa America Centenario Group A match at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif. --Photo AP

back-and-forth second half, while Ospina stopped everything except Ayala's exceptional long strike.

Los Cafeteros wrap up group play against Costa Rica in Houston on Saturday, while Paraguay travels to Philadelphia

to face the Americans. Paraguay must beat the home team to stay in contention for advancement.

Paraguay tested Colombia's defense throughout an entertaining game, but La Albirroja don't have a player with the skills of Rodriguez -

or the goaltending reflexes of James' brother-in-law, Ospina.

After Bacca put Colombia ahead with another goal in his strong run of recent play, Rodriguez showed off his skill with his team-leading 16th goal for Los Cafeteros. Surrounded by defenders, Edwin Cardona tipped the ball outside to the charging star, and Rodriguez slotted a pinpoint shot into the far corner of the net.

Ospina, the Arsenal backup, made a fingertip save in first-half injury time to deflect Dario Lezcano's short free kick off the crossbar. He was even better in the second half with a flying, one-handed deflection of a header in traffic.

But Ospina could do nothing against Ayala, who trimmed Colombia's lead and made the final minutes uncomfortable.

Paraguay's task became tougher when Oscar Romero was sent off in the 81st minute, getting his second yellow card in three minutes after a defensive sequence in which he pulled roughly on Rodriguez's jersey and wrapped both arms around Guillermo Celis.

The Rose Bowl crowd of 42,766 was dominated by yellow-clad fans from Los Angeles' vibrant Colombian community and beyond. They gathered in Arroyo Seco several hours before kickoff for food, music and a celebration of a serious championship-contending team.

World road race champ Sagan to mountain bike at Rio Olympics

(AP) -- The Slovak Olympic Committee announced on Tuesday that Peter Sagan, one of the most popular and successful cyclists in the world, was awarded its lone starting spot in the mountain biking event at the Summer Games.

Sagan tested the difficult road course in Rio de Janeiro in January and decided it was too hilly for him to contend. So he turned his attention to mountain biking, where he is a former junior world champion.

Peter Privara of the Slovak Cycling Association said Sagan gave up his road spot for the mountain biking spot. Martin Haring and Patrik Tybor will start the road race instead, with Michal Lami the mountain bike alternate.

Sagan rode a pair of mountain bike races in April, crashing during a race in Austria before finishing fourth in a race in the Czech Republic. That performance earned him enough ranking points to compete in Rio.

Sagan is scheduled to ride the Tour de France for Team Tinkoff in July, targeting stage wins and the green points jersey that he's won the past four years. Then he'll turn his attention to the mountain bike, with a four-week training block that he hopes will prepare him to compete for gold in the cross-country race on August 21.

"He will not go to Rio just to take part but to aim for a

good position," Privara said. Sagan won the world road race championship with an inspired ride last fall in Richmond, Virginia. He is also coming off a strong performance at the Tour of California that included a pair of stage victories, then remained in the US to put in an altitude training block in Utah - both on the road and his mountain bike.

Sagan competed in the road race at the London Olympics in 2012. He was among the prerace favorites but missed the crucial break and finished in a large group nearly a minute back of winner Alexander Vinokourov.

Slovakia has competed as an independent nation at the Olympics since the 1994 Winter Games, but it has yet to win a cycling medal. Anton Tkac won gold in track cycling at the 1976 Montreal Olympics for



World road race champion Peter Sagan will seek Olympic gold in Rio on his mountain bike. (File photo AP)

Czechoslovakia.

"The aim is to give Slovakia the best possible result," John Zilova, the head of Slovakia's mountain bike team, said in a statement. "Peter Sagan in the

past managed to win the world title in mountain biking, so his chances of a good outcome are realistic. At the moment, I can confirm support for the plan from all of the nominees."

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Sports

Lao Toyota seeking to defend premiership

Sangkhomsay Bubphanouvong

League 2015 Champions Lao Toyota FC are seeking to maintain their top ranking in the Lao Premier Lao 2016 after enjoying a two week break.

Many players from Lao Toyota FC joined the national team, which competed at the Asian Cup 2019 Playoffs in Vientiane on June 2 and in India on June 7.

Lao Toyota FC will only compete in five matches from June to July before concluding the first leg of the competition. Currently, Lao Toyota FC is still the strongest team and is seeking to successfully defend their premiership.

If Toyota FC wins all five matches it will enter the 13 matches of the second leg in prime position.

In League 2016 fixtures on Saturday, Lao Army FC will face Lao Toyota FC at Army FC's stadium at 4pm. Lao Toyota FC will have their full complement of players and are

aiming to take away three points from the encounter.

Currently, Lao Toyota FC is in second place with 21 points from seven wins and one draw, while Army FC is in fifth place with 15 points from four wins, three draws and two losses.

CSC Champa FC is top ranked with 22 points from seven wins, one draw and two losses, while Lanexang United is in third place with 19 points from six wins, one draw and one loss.

In the programme on Saturday: Eastern Star FC will face Savan United at the national stadium at Km16 at 4:00pm and Young Elephants FC will face VSV United at Km16 at 6:30pm.

In the other Saturday match, EDL FC will see Xaythany City FC at Lanexang United's stadium at 6pm.

For the programme on Sunday: Ezra FC will face NUOL FC at Lanexang United's stadium at 4pm. Lanexang United will face IDSEA Champassak United at 6:30pm, and CSC Champa FC will meet Lao Police FC.



Lao Toyota FC's player (centre) tries to evade NUOL FC's defenders in their match last month.

Malaysian athletics sees positive upside after Asian meet



Proud medal winners upon arriving in Kuala Lumpur from Vietnam on Tuesday. --Photo The Star

PETALING JAYA (The Star, ANN) -- The future of Malaysian athletics is looking bright again after ending the Asian Junior Championships in Ho Chi Minh City with three golds, three silvers and one bronze.

It was Malaysia's best-ever performance in the biennial meet since its inception in 1986.

What's more pleasing is that the juniors won medals by achieving their personal bests.

National chief coach Zainal Abas has credited the junior athletes' success to the proper implementation of their development programme.

"Our development programme has shown encouraging results and I'm proud that our athletes have also proven that they can perform well against top contenders from Asia to win gold medals.

"We have three -- Khairul (Hafiz Jantan), R. Kirthana and (Mohd) Rizzua (Haizad) -- who

are the best junior athletes in Asia. They should continue to strive for better results in higher-level competitions."

Khairul won the 100m in 10.36. The 18-year-old from Malacca also bagged a silver in the 200m in 21.15 and was a member of the 4x100m quartet who took silver in 39.91. The other members of the relay team were Badrul Hisyam Abdul Manap, Asnawi Hashim and Muhd Haiqal Hanafi.

Kirthana leapt 13.20m to win gold in the girls' triple jump event. The 19-year-old from Perak improved on her personal best by seven centimetres.

Rizzua won gold in the boys' 110m hurdles gold in 14.00. He had earlier achieved a personal best of 13.87 in the semi-finals.

Khairul, Kirthana, Rizzua and Badrul have qualified for the Under-20 IAAF World Junior Championships in Bydgoszcz,

Poland from July 19-24.

Some athletes are said to be more interested in competing in Sukma (Malaysia Games), which will be held from July 22-31, as they stand to gain financially if they won gold medals for their states.

"I want them to compete in the World Junior meet to test their performance against the world's best," said Zainal.

"I hope the states will release these athletes for the World Junior meet. This is the only chance they have to compete in the World Junior meet. They can compete in the next Sukma in 2018."

In the Asian Junior Championships, Japan emerged overall champions with a 13-10-4 medal haul, followed by China 11-7-4.

India were third with 7-4-6, followed by Malaysia (3-3-1), Thailand (2-3-4) and Vietnam (2-3-2).

Savannakhet athletes to train for student games' medals

Sangkhomsay Bubphanouvong

Savannakhet province's best young athletes will start attending a training camp in August in the expectation of winning medals at the National Student Games being hosted by Borikhamxay province next February.

The talented athletes will begin preparations at the camp to compete in football, volleyball, petanque, track and field and other events at the games in Borikhamxay province next year.

Savannakhet provincial Education and Sports Department official Mr Souphy Kheubamavong said each district of Savannakhet province was assisting by selecting their finest secondary school athletes who would begin training and staying

at the camp accommodation from August until travelling to the student games.

"Our goal is to hopefully win gold medals in volleyball, taekwondo, plus track and field events at the student games in Borikhamxay province," Mr Souphy said.

Currently, some of Savannakhet province's most talented runners are training informally at the main stadium but they also plan to move to the camp accommodation in August.

Each year Savannakhet is able to assist its districts to hold annual secondary school level student games around the province.

"We are expecting to see the emergence of many new young athletes from school competitions training ahead of the student

games," Mr Souphy added.

At the National Student Games in Champassak province in 2014, Savannakhet province was placed second with 12 gold, eight silver and nine bronze medals. Highlights at the games included the men's volleyball team taking out the gold medal and the women's volleyball team winning silver.

It is expected that Savannakhet province's more experienced athletes will also have an opportunity to progress to the 11th National Games in Xieng Khuang province next year.

At the 10th National Games in Oudomxay province in December 2014, Savannakhet province finished in eighth place with 14 gold, 33 silver and 44 bronze medals.

Defender not available for Olympic football

SEOUL (The Korea Herald, ANN) -- Veteran defender Hong Jeong-ho will not be made available by his German club for South Korea at this year's Summer Olympics, an official from the national football federation said on Wednesday.

The official said that FC Augsburg recently sent a letter to the Korea Football Association that they will not release Hong, 26, for the Rio de Janeiro Games in August. South Korea have been paired with Germany, Fiji and Mexico in Group C at the quadrennial event.

"In late May, Augsburg sent a letter that they will not allow Hong to play at the Rio Games," the KFA official said in condition of anonymity. "Head coach Shin Tae-yong is now trying to come up with an alternative plan."

The men's Olympic football tournament of 16 nations is open to players under the age of 23, but teams can also field up to three players who are over the

age limit, known as wild cards. Since Olympic football is not organised by FIFA, professional clubs are not mandated to release players over 23 for the Olympics, and those who want to participate in the quadrennial event need permission from their clubs.

Shin previously said he would use all three wild cards for the Olympics. Tottenham Hotspur forward Son Heung-min and Guangzhou R&F defender Jang Hyun-soo were already tapped as two of the wild card candidates, but the KFA and the clubs have not reached an agreement on when to release these players.

Hong, who joined Augsburg in 2013, has said he wants to compete at his first Olympics in Rio. For the 2012 London Games, where South Korea won the bronze medal, he was dropped from the final squad because of a knee injury.

South Korean male athletes can get an exemption from mandatory military service if

they win an Olympic medal, but Hong has already received his exemption after rupturing his posterior cruciate ligament in 2012.

Shin recently said he is frustrated that the wild card situation is not going as well as he'd hoped. After completing a four-nation U-23 football tournament, where South Korea finished second to Denmark, Shin on Monday hinted that he can change his wild card selection plans.

The coach previously said that he would use two of the three wild cards on defenders. The speculation now is that Shin may take two older attackers to Rio.

FC Porto striker Suk Hyun-jun, who turns 25 later this month, has been mentioned as a possible candidate. Suk has never played at the Olympics, and he recently expressed his desire to compete at the Rio Games, saying he will persuade his club to release him.