

Ministry puts brakes on new graduate courses, state universities

Souksakhone Vaenkeo

The Ministry of Education and Sports has announced it will not allow any more government or private colleges or vocational institutes to run new courses at the bachelor degree level or higher.

Instead, it is suggested that educational institutions focus on improving their existing courses, a senior government official has said.

However, new courses at a level lower than bachelor degree may continue to be introduced, Deputy Minister of Education and Sports Dr Kongsy Sengmany told local media last week.

The ban will take effect from now until the end of the education reform programme in 2015. The government has formulated a two-phased education reform strategy, with the first phase running from 2006-2011 and the second from 2011-2015.

The government will not create any more universities, but suggests the ministry and relevant sectors improve the quality of the five existing state-run universities, Dr Kongsy said, citing guidance given by Party Politburo members.

"During the reform period, there will no be expansion of state-run universities," he told the media, citing the guidance provided.

"The guidance instructs us to place a focus on improving standards at the National University of Laos, Champassak University, Souphanouvong University, Savannakhet University and the University of Health Sciences.

However, these universities will be permitted to run new graduate courses up to doctorate level if the facilities available are considered to be adequate.

Even though no more state-run universities will be created for the time being, privately operated universities will be considered.

In a further bid to improve the quality of education in Laos, especially during this second phase of reform that

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Phongsavanh Group staff and Lao and Russian officials and pilots pose in front of the Sukhoi Superjet 100 at Vientiane's Wattay International Airport.

Lao Central Airlines takes delivery of new plane

Times Reporters

Lao Central Airlines Public Company (LCA)'s first Sukhoi Superjet 100 touched down at Wattay International Airport on Friday evening, the first of nine to join the airline's fleet.

The plane was flown from Russia where it was manufactured.

LCA and the Sukhoi Civil Aircrafts Corporation of Russia signed a memorandum of understanding for the purchase of the 98-seater jets in May 2010.

"We have ordered nine new Sukhoi Superjet 100 aircraft from Russia. The first three will arrive in Laos this year," Phongsavanh Group Chairman

Prof. Dr Od Phongsavanh said at the welcoming ceremony at the airport.

LCA, which is part of the Phongsavanh Group, was established in May 2010 with registered capital of 80 billion kip (US\$10 million) to operate commercial air services, both domestically and internationally.

"The first aircraft landed on Friday, the second is expected in May and the third one will arrive in August," Prof. Dr Od said. "The remaining six jets are expected to arrive in Vientiane next year."

LCA will hold an opening ceremony for its new jet before it takes to the skies on scheduled flights, according to a handout from the airline.

LCA also has two Boeing 737-400 aircraft, one with 168 seats and the other with 152 seats, which went into service in May last year on the Vientiane-Bangkok and Vientiane-Luang Prabang routes.

The company began operating charter flights between Luang Prabang province and Thailand's Khon Kaen province in December.

The airline plans to add more jet aircraft to its fleet between now and 2015 with a view to operating new routes in Asia and to other continents.

The new planes will play an important role in transporting the growing number of tourists.

The airline is also planning to buy larger aircraft for use on

inter-continental flights.

Speaking at a Lao-Thai business discussion meeting recently Prof. Dr Od said "Our new large aircraft will be Boeing 777s that can fly to Paris, the USA, Beijing and Japan. They will arrive in Laos soon."

The group plans to use the large aircraft for both passenger and cargo flights, and hopes to transport local produce to distant destinations in the future.

The handout noted that the airline is expanding its fleet because Laos is now a member of the World Trade Organisation and the Asean Economic Community will come into effect in 2015 to boost regional integration.

Measures needed to sustain maize, rubber cultivation

Times Reporters

Laos needs concrete measures to prevent soil degradation if the country wants to promote commercial maize and rubber plantations, according to a case study by the Lao National Economic Research Institute.

The UNDP funded study shows that evidence-based research of four land use types in northern Laos demonstrates that commercial maize and rubber plantations have the capacity to

help farmers generate income and alleviate poverty in the short run.

However, it expresses concerns that without the necessary environmental safeguards in place, commercial agriculture plantations expose land resources to serious environmental risks and the loss of a balanced ecosystem, which can render land use in Laos unsustainable.

Measures to mitigate the potential environmental impacts

of commercial agriculture plantations must be integrated into land use and farming practices, the study suggests.

With plenty of fertile land at its disposal, the government intends to promote commercial crops and industrial tree plantations to boost economic growth and reduce poverty in rural areas of the country.

According to the study, over the last decade, the availability of abundant forest and land resources and cheap labour has

attracted substantial foreign investment, particularly in the agriculture sector. Two of the more important commercial crops are maize and rubber.

The total planted area of maize has expanded substantially since 2006 and exceeded 210,000 hectares in 2010. Maize production increased from about 403,000 tonnes to over 850,000 tonnes in the same time period, with an average yield of about 4.8 tonnes

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Fax: (+856-21) 221 662

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Home news



The connection between a road section repaired under the World Bank grant (bottom) and a section repaired using government funds (top) at Senxoom village in Phonhong district, Vientiane province.

Road management unit clarifies repairs to Road 13 North

Times Reporters

Repairs to sections of Road No. 13 North in Vientiane province using the government's Road Maintenance Fund are continuing while the work financed by the World Bank has been completed.

The Head of Vientiane province's road management unit, Mr Somsanouk Phouthavong, clarified details of the work carried out to the *Vientiane Times* when newspaper staff visited the worksite on Saturday.

"The repair work financed by the World Bank was completed in December, but now we are continuing road repairs under finance from the Road Maintenance Fund," he said.

Road No. 13 runs through Vientiane province for a distance of 202km, from the km44 to km246 markers.

After the road became degraded in a number of places, the World Bank came up with the original grant financing of about 27 billion kip for the urgent repair of the sections that were the most seriously damaged.

The repairs began in March last year and were completed in December. There were four contracts involved covering 272 sections of road over a total length of 27km.

Four contractors carried out the repairs, namely Panyathilath Road-Bridge Co., Ltd. Bounhome, Thavixok, and Vongsayfa.

The first contract involved the stretch of road from km44 to km86 which included the repair of 65 sections over a total length of 5.97km. The second, from km86 to km126, involved 81 sections amounting to 8.3km. The third, from km126 to km154, required 85 sections of 7.4km in length to be repaired. The fourth contract covered repairs from km154 to km171 and included 41 sections over a total length of 5.46km.

The government is providing 31.4 billion kip for the current road repairs, 8.6 billion kip of which was used in the last wet season. The work involved repairs to 81 sections of road with a combined length of 10.8km.

Road repairs using the remaining 22.7 billion kip from the government's budget are



Mr Somsanouk Phouthavong talks about the road repairs.

now being carried out by three of these contractors. The exception is Panyathilath Road-Bridge Co., Ltd.

They are repairing the other 231 sections still to be done on the 202km stretch of road running through Vientiane province.

This repair work is also divided into four contracts with Bounhome Company being responsible for two of them. The contracts cover a distance of about 19km. According to Mr Somsanouk, the work is now 60 percent complete, and is set to be finished by the end of next month.

Laos needs measures... FROM PAGE 1



A maize plantation in Xayaboury province.

per hectare in 2010. Rubber plantations have expanded dramatically from under 6,000 hectares in 2003 to nearly 30,000 ha in 2007, and to almost 250,000 ha in 2010. This was a continuing upward trend until the government's recent revision of the rubber plantation policy. The study highlights that to achieve poverty reduction and sustainable development goals,

land use decisions will require the careful consideration of both financial and environmental consequences.

It also suggests that lifting rural farm households in vulnerable upland areas above poverty through the use of commercial agriculture plantations may have implications for the sustainability and resilience of natural resource-based livelihoods in these areas.

The government is aware of the environmental impacts of land use and has suspended land concessions for rubber plantations and some industrial tree species until 2015.

The government is now reviewing its land concession policy and boosting the capacity of authorities to monitor the environmental impacts of land concessions.

Japanese investor mulls cattle farm in Laos

Times Reporters

A Japanese business operator may set up a cattle breeding operation and pasture improvement project in Laos at the end of this year, if the government approves a land concession.

The project proposal is being considered by the Ministry of Planning and Investment after the Livestock and Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry agreed to the proposal, the department's Director General, Dr Bounkhouang Khambounheuang, told *Vientiane Times* last week.

The project will focus on farmlands in Huaphan and Xieng Khuang provinces, because these areas are suitable for livestock breeding and pasture improvement, he said.

Despite the fact that the government, in particular the Livestock and Fisheries Department, has encouraged farmers around the country to raise more animals, there is still an insufficient supply to satisfy market demand, Dr Bounkhouang said.

One reason for this is that a large number of livestock,

mostly cattle and buffaloes, die in disease outbreaks because most farmers raise cattle using traditional methods and do not administer vaccines.

Cattle are still imported from neighbouring countries to supply the domestic market, while some farmers breed them for sale and export as they fetch higher prices in other countries than they do on the domestic market.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the number of cattle and buffaloes in some areas is increasing, while in other areas herds are decreasing as farmers sell stock to cover their expenses and purchase necessities.

There are currently 316 cattle and buffalo farms in Laos, which is an increase of 72 compared to the year before, according to a Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry report tabled at its annual meeting in Khammuan province last week.

Most of the farms are owned by farming groups and family businesses, and many farming families still raise their animals using traditional methods.

Dr Bounkhouang believes that the proposed project will supply meat to the domestic

market, while some will be exported overseas as well.

Meanwhile a Vietnamese investor is planning to raise dairy cattle in Vientiane, a project which is expected to be underway by next year.

The project documents are in the process of being approved and a land transfer from the formal concession holder has yet to take place, Dr Bounkhouang said.

A business operator in China is also asking about livestock breeding in Laos but nothing concrete has come of it so far, he added.

Dr Bounkhouang said few overseas companies are interested in investing in cattle and buffalo farms, with foreign investors more attracted to other sectors.

However, investment in pig and chicken farms is growing rapidly due to the high demand for meat and the smaller amount of land required.

One Vientiane livestock trader advised that if farmers have enough land to provide good quality pasture and raise cattle or buffalo they will do well in the longer term, due to the rising demand for beef.

ADB provides technical assistance for state auditing body

Times Reporters

The Asian Development Bank is supporting a technical assistance project worth US\$750,000, aiming to strengthen the capacity of the State Audit Organisation (SAO).

The project, which began in May 2012, is set for completion in October this year, according to the Country Director of the Asian Development Bank to Laos, Mr Chong Chi Nai.

Last week, the ADB presented electronic equipment worth more than US\$43,700 to the State Audit Organisation.

Speaking at the handover ceremony in Vientiane, Mr Chong Chi Nai said "Even though ADB's technical assistance resources are becoming scarce, the bank reaffirms its support for the State Audit Organisation as

we believe that this body has a vital role in strengthening public sector governance in Laos."

The assistance project aims to strengthen procurement audit capacity and improve skills in the area of procurement audit within the State Audit Organisation.

Mr Chong Chi Nai said assistance will be realised through strengthening the knowledge and skills of audit staff regarding procurement processes; (ii) help auditors to identify risks relating to procurement processes and activities; and (iii) assist auditors in achieving a high level of quality and consistency when auditing public procurement of consulting services, goods and civil works.

The ADB has been supporting the State Audit Organisation since its establishment. The bank has funded several

technical assistance projects to strengthen the capacity of the SAO.

The State Audit Organisation was established in 1998 through a Prime Ministerial decree. In July 2006, the National Assembly passed the Audit Law, which plays an important role in enhancing the effectiveness and independence of the organisation.

Under this law, the State Audit Organisation has developed into an independent institution whose mandate is to report the results of audits to the Lao president, National Assembly and prime minister.

Since it was established as an independent body in 2006, the SAO has been highly successful in monitoring the use of the state budget for national development.

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Tel: (856-21)216364, Fax: (856-21)216365
tai.vttwebmaster@gmail.com

Supervisor:
Savankhone Razmouny

Editor-in-Chief:
Thongsavath Chansombath
Deputy Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor:
Thonglor Duangsavanh
Tel: 021 216364
lorlor55599@yahoo.com

Deputy Editor-in-Chief and News Editor:
Phonekeo Vorakhoun
Mobile: 55599207
phonekeo@hotmail.com

News Deputy Editor:
Sisay Vilaysack
Mobile: 55615716
vilaysacksisay@hotmail.com

Features Editor:
Phon Thikeyo
Mobile: 55624351
phonethikeyo28@yahoo.com

Business Editor:
Ekaphone Phouthonesy
Tel: 217593, 020 55689209

Graphic Designer/IT:
Malaythong Phayanoung
Tel: 217593, 020 55729209

Copy Sub-editor:
Elizabeth Winch
Tel: 217593

Finance Manager:
Oudom Souvannasinh
Tel: 252630

Marketing Manager:
Phouthasack Inthakoummane
Mobile: 020 55599209
sale.adv@gmail.com

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Banking in Laos a thriving business

Times Reporters

The number of banks setting up in Laos has been increasing recently, reflecting the growth in the banking business here as the country's economy expands.

The growth rate of Banque Franco-Lao Ltd (BFL), a joint venture between the BRED Group and Banque pour le Commerce Extérieur Lao Public (BCEL), reportedly doubled between 2011 and 2012 and now expects to grow by 50 percent in 2013.

CEO of BRED Group, which is also called Banque Populaire, Mr Olivier Klein and his team visited Vientiane last week to look for more business opportunities.

BFL now has 113 employees and 13 branches in Vientiane, Pakxe, Luang Prabang and Savannakhet and will extend its network this year to 25 branches throughout the country.

"We are happy that we are doing very good business here," said Mr Klein. "This is my first visit here and we want to see what more we can do in Laos in the future."

BRED developed its activities in Laos in 2010 through the creation of BFL with BCEL.

"We had a good partner here and were confident in the economy, so we decided to set up the bank. We chose this country as we feel comfortable with it and are doing well," he added.

"The Lao government's policy on investment is also encouraging and we have good support from the people here."

"We are here for long term growth, so we wish to create trust by doing our best," Mr Klein added.

"When we have established a successful profile here we might look at extending our business into



Mr Olivier Klein (centre) and his team explain BFL's business plans during their visit to Vientiane.

neighbouring countries like Thailand and Vietnam."

Mr Klein said the bank aims to attract customers by stressing the importance of good service. "Banking products and technology are similar amongst most banks, but better service can make us different."

BFL managing director Mr Guillaume Perdon said the bank is not only focused on French nationals and Europeans, it takes good care of all its clients of which about 80 percent are Lao.

"We also try to help Lao SMEs. We review their business plans in order to provide loans instead of demanding a property deposit."

BRED Banque Populaire deputy chief executive officer, Mr Yves Jacquot, said that even though there are more banks in Laos, the competition is less strong compared to neighbouring countries. The Lao economy also

keeps growing, so there are more opportunities for us to grow."

BFL is developing a retail bank based on the experience of the leading Lao bank, BCEL, as well as the dynamism of Laos, which is located in the heart of an economic growth area and is now a member of the World Trade Organisation. BRED Group also develops specific services for the Lao community in France.

Confident in the Lao economy and BCEL management, BRED deepened its partnership in 2011 through the purchase of a 10 percent stake in BCEL, which ensures active cooperation between the two institutions, especially in training and IT.

BRED, the first regional bank with BPCE, France's second-largest banking group, is a cooperative bank founded 94 years ago, with the aim of financing the local economy.

Factory worker claims overtime pay is denied

Times Reporters

A woman working at a garment factory in Xaythany district, Vientiane, has alleged that her employer forces staff to work more than the official eight hours a day without any overtime payment.

She said their employer sets production targets that workers are required to meet each day. Those who fail to do so have to work beyond official working hours without being paid at the overtime rate. The woman claimed that the targets set were unreasonable and were beyond the reach of many workers within the eight hour work day.

In this situation, the employer benefits through increased output while minimising costs, making the business more lucrative.

Director General of the Worker Protection Department under the Federation of Trade Union, Mr Ounkham Bounyaseng, said he was unable to comment on whether this case breached the regulations. He said it depended on the individual agreement reached between the employer and an individual employee and the terms they

had agreed upon.

But he said such a case should not happen if a collective labour agreement has been drawn up. This is a general agreement between the employer and all employees, in which a union representative is also involved.

The absence of such an agreement provides loopholes for employers. It enables them to take advantage of workers, especially those with limited knowledge who are unable to contribute to negotiations on individual agreements.

Mr Ounkham said most of the disputes that arose between employers and workers were due to the absence of collective labour agreements.

Many businesses have refused to appoint trade union representatives in their workplaces and have also refused to draw up a collective labour agreement, as they are reluctant to be bound by additional obligations.

But these refusals contravene the Labour Law, which stipulates that businesses must appoint trade union representatives in workplaces as well as negotiate collective labour agreements.

"Employers are afraid that union representatives will encourage workers to go on strike or protest, as happens in other countries," Mr Ounkham said.

The trade union federation says that unless its representatives are present in a workplace, a collective labour agreement cannot be formulated because there is no one to represent all of the employees in negotiations.

Officials say that many businesses mistakenly believe that the agreement will stipulate only conditions that employers are required to meet to uphold the rights and interests of employees. But the agreement also lays down conditions that employees are required to fulfil under their job description, which benefits employers.

Trade union representatives will ensure that workers fulfil their job descriptions as well as ensuring that the rights and interests of workers are met, all of which will result in a healthier working environment.

So far, only 252 out of more than 18,000 businesses in Laos have drawn up collective labour agreements with their employees. The union aims to increase this number to 500 by 2015.

ministry will be asked to improve their operations. But if they fail to do so they will not be allowed to open next academic year.

The ministry will also assess every course run by each institution. Those that fail to meet the set criteria will be asked to improve and if they are assessed to be inadequate a second time the course will be cancelled. Only those that fulfil the criteria will be allowed to continue.

Officials in charge have distributed the assessment forms to all the schools involved. The form identifies certain criteria that institutions must meet, such as the standard of facilities (buildings) and the number of regular and invited teachers and their background, as well as criteria related to other conditions.

There are more than 100 state-run and private colleges across the country.

Statement of the spokesman of the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs on DPRK nuclear test

The Lao People's Democratic Republic has closely followed the recent underground nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), which was conducted on February 12, 2013. The Lao PDR is deeply concerned over that event and profoundly shares the concern of the world community that it may further increase tension in the Korean peninsula. In such a distraught situation, the Lao PDR calls upon all concerned parties to make efforts and to refrain and jointly solve the issue by peaceful means. The Lao PDR reaffirms its consistent position on building the Korean peninsula as a nuclear weapons free zone and on resuming the six-party talks as early as possible, as well as preserving peace, security and stability in the Korean peninsula.

Tougher measures curb poppy growing in Luang Namtha

Times Reporters

The introduction of stricter measures has reduced opium poppy cultivation in Luang Namtha but the provincial authorities are battling to stop cultivation in Long district, where it is still thriving.

Luang Namtha Drug Control and Supervision Office Head, Mr Sisouphanh Chantapaseuth, outlined their achievements to *Vientiane Times* on Friday.

"We seem to be having more success than other provinces through the use of stricter measures to combat poppy cultivation and drug trafficking, so these activities have diminished," he said.

Luang Namtha is one of the northern provinces that has been at the forefront of poppy cultivation.

However, the crop has dramatically decreased since 2011 after the local authorities clamped down on planting.

Mr Sisouphanh said the authorities no longer just gave verbal warnings and accepted verbal undertakings from local people that they would stop growing poppies. They now required them to enter into an agreement to do so which was endorsed with a fingerprint.

"We have accepted the agreement with their fingerprint as evidence for future reference. They can be detained for education on the matter if they violate the agreement," he added.

Laos was officially declared to be opium free in 2006, but the clandestine cultivation of poppies continues in the north and is increasing by 20 to 30 percent every year.

Poppies are now grown on about 5,000 hectares, of which 1,500 hectares are in Phongsaly, 1,000 hectares in

Huaphan, 750 hectares in Xieng Khuang, 700 hectares in Oudomxay, 500 hectares Luang Prabang, and 150 hectares in Bokeo province.

According to Mr Sisouphanh, an on-site survey found 145 hectares of opium poppy plantations in Luang Namtha province, but satellite photography showed there to be 383 hectares under cultivation.

He said Sing district grew the most in 2011, but the tougher measures combined with the involvement of officials from all related sectors, including prosecutors, had led to a marked decrease.

The authorities can bring these stricter measures to bear against offenders because they have made everyone fully aware of the regulations and raised awareness of the issue in all communities in the province, Mr Sisouphanh stressed.

He mentioned transparency in the use of these measures, saying the authorities ensure people's safety during their period of education and release, and said this process can only occur if authorised by a prosecutor.

Luang Namtha has confirmed the use of tougher measures against poppy cultivation. Many other provinces have not, claiming that the dissemination of regulations and awareness building on the dangers of narcotics has not yet reached all the target communities.

"The time has now passed when people can say they don't know about the prohibition," Mr Sisouphanh said.

Luang Namtha authorities are about to implement the measures in Long district, which has the largest opium poppy cultivation area among all districts in the province.

Weather forecast

Xieng Khouang				
Date	Temperature in (C)		Weather	
	Min	Max		
18/02/2013	13	20		Windy
19/02/2013	14	20		Morning fog
20/02/2013	15	20		Light rain
Luang Namtha				
Date	Temperature in (C)		Weather	
	Min	Max		
18/02/2013	17	21		Morning mist
19/02/2013	18	22		Morning mist
20/02/2013	19	23		Light rain
Luang Prabang				
Date	Temperature in (C)		Weather	
	Min	Max		
18/02/2013	20	25		Morning mist
19/02/2013	21	25		Morning mist
20/02/2013	22	26		Light rain
Vientiane				
Date	Temperature in (C)		Weather	
	Min	Max		
18/02/2013	22	25		Morning mist
19/02/2013	22	24		Partly cloudy
20/02/2013	23	26		Light rain
Savannakhet				
Date	Temperature in (C)		Weather	
	Min	Max		
18/02/2013	19	24		Morning mist
19/02/2013	20	24		Morning mist
20/02/2013	20	26		Partly cloudy
Pakxe				
Date	Temperature in (C)		Weather	
	Min	Max		
18/02/2013	23	27		Morning mist
19/02/2013	24	27		Morning mist
20/02/2013	25	27		Morning mist

Ministry puts... FROM PAGE 1

focuses on vocational and higher education institutions, the ministry is also undertaking assessments of state and private colleges and vocational institutions.

Dr Kongsy said the assessment scheme is being piloted in Vientiane before being extended to the provinces.

Officials hope to finish the assessment of colleges in Vientiane by April. Those institutions that fail to meet the criteria set by the

Lao Brewery Company launches blood donation scheme

Bounfaeng Phaymanivong

The Lao Brewery Company Limited (LBC) in partnership with the National Blood Transfusion Centre is hoping to provide more than 875,000cc of donated blood this year, which is expected to come from 50 percent of the company's 5,800 employees.

"We'll try our best to achieve the target of 50 percent, or 3,500 of our company personnel and their family members across the country as part of our corporate social responsibility activities," LBC Managing Director Mr Kissana Vongsay revealed at a press conference on Friday.

The announcement comes as the company marks its 40th anniversary (1973-2013). The blood donation drive shows the dedication of LBC staff to help those in need and save lives, without any expectation of reward.

"The LBC family includes our company personnel, workers and business partners. It is hoped that the families of our staff will also take part in this project so let's hope we can produce significant achievements together until the end of this year," Mr Kissana said.

On the same occasion, Mr Kissana highlighted the company's previous achievements as well as its work relating to corporate



Company staff donate blood at LBC's head office in Vientiane on Friday.

social responsibility to support the development of the country.

"Over the past year, we have helped the government with the promotion of education and health, sport events, environmental activities and road safety projects," he said.

Vice President of the Lao Red Cross and Director of the National Blood Transfusion Centre, Dr Te Thammavong, said the initiative was a significant collaboration between the company and the blood transfusion centre.

"I am delighted to partner

with the company. We have different areas of responsibility but we can work together to provide much-needed blood for hospital patients," he said.

Dr Te said they had previously teamed up for blood donation activities but this had been sporadic. However, the company still supports the centre by providing essential items for use in blood donation.

"This is a good opportunity; we're very happy to be working with LBC again to fulfil the need for blood in hospitals," he added.

News in Brief

Attapeu province to hold first aid course

People in several districts of Attapeu province will be better prepared to deal with injuries and illnesses after attending a first aid training course this month.

The trainees will attend lectures given by staff from local hospitals.

The course will be organised by the provincial Red Cross branch, to provide attendees with the skills and knowledge necessary to treat people in a variety of situations.

The course is specifically designed to provide preventative health services to all segments of the population.

Attapeu is one of many southern provinces to have been affected by flooding in recent years.

Xieng Khuang to improve tourism sites

The Xieng Khuang provincial authority is continuing to develop its infrastructure in a bid to boost socio-economic growth and attract tourists.

The province's Tourism Department said planned projects include improving roads leading to the Plain of Jars and other tourist attractions, providing more information services, extending the electricity supply, and ensuring clean water supplies.

The department also plans to expand into the ecotourism market to promote the many areas of natural beauty in the province.

The developments will also include the preservation of important tourism sites which, it is hoped, will attract even more visitors to the province.

Improving security and promoting the traditional culture of all communities is also part of the plan, the department reported.

Tourism infrastructure has increasingly been developed over the past two years, during which time Xieng Khuang has become renowned as one of the top tourist destinations in Laos.

Xekong folk get boost from development project

Rural communities in three districts of Xekong province are expected to become self-sufficient by the end of this year after benefiting from a project providing clean water, health care, food, farm animals and crop seeds.

The project, supported by development partners and NGOs, aimed to help families in target areas access basic infrastructure and improve their quality of life.

Hundreds of people, especially children, in the three target districts of Kaleum, Lamam and Dakcheung now have access to better health care and education.

The project also focused on empowering women and men by providing access to meaningful work through small business training, loans and farming programmes. It also provided education on new techniques for growing crops and raising animals.

Under the initiative, latrines have been built in many villages and birth attendants trained to help women during delivery.



Mekong River Commission

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

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

Messenger cum Receptionist (Post level: M-03)

Division/Section : Administration Unit, Finance & Administration Section (FAS)
Work location : Vientiane, Lao PDR
Contract type/Duration : Fixed-term appointment / One-year contract renewable

Responsibilities:

- Ensures timely collection, distribution and delivery of documents within and outside the Secretariat; Registers these documents and maintains records of delivery log book;
- Posts letters or parcels and collects correspondence from the Post Office and other external agencies and registers these items as appropriate;
- Provides administrative/clerical support to FAS such as photocopying, sorting and collating documents, sending out fax communication and assisting in filing
- Attends to/screens official visitors, guests and other external clients; issues building passes, as appropriate;
- Assists staff in placing international calls and keeps records of those calls and prepare monthly report and telephone billing statements of official/personal calls for appropriate charging;

Qualifications/Requirements:

- Two-year College or vocational school diploma or equivalent combination of education, training and experience is required. Bachelor degree or further training is an advantage.
- At least one year experience in a clerical or administrative post, or related work.
- Good knowledge of office procedures, including computer skills and use of office equipment.
- Demonstrated good service minded and communication skills.
- Good command of English, especially spoken English, is required.
- Working knowledge of more than one riparian language is desirable

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

Application procedures:

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

The application should be sent to:

Mekong River Commission
Office of the Secretariat in Vientiane (OSV)
P.O. Box 6101, 184 Fa Ngoum Road
Vientiane 01000, Lao PDR
Email: mrcs@mrcmekong.org

Closing date for applications: 13 March 2013

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Group Managing Director of Chevrolet-Lao Co., Ltd. Mr Phuvares Kongwatthanasupa holds up the coupon of the first prize winner in a lucky draw, coupon number 614 belonging to a Mr Chanpaseut, who has yet to collect his prize. Mr Chanpaseut is now the lucky owner of a Chevrolet Spark. Also awarded during the ceremony held at the Chevrolet showroom in Vientiane recently were five cameras, four LCD TVs, three Ipad 4s, and one motorbike. Chevrolet Lao opened in August last year and in the first four months sold 600 cars. The company now aims to sell around 100 cars per month. --Photo Sisouphan



This young elephant is one of the star attractions at this year's Elephant Festival in Xayaboury province and visitors are more than eager to have their photo with him.

Wathana Montessori Pre-School staff and children pose for a group photo last Thursday with Vieng Keo Pre-School children and teachers after they donated boxes of educational materials to Xaythany district school, as part of the "helping hands" project. Children from Wathana Montessori visited Vieng Keo Pre-School and spent the morning playing games, singing songs and making new friends.



A truck unloads materials to be used in the building of a bridge over the Mekong River in Paklay district, Xayaboury province.

Vientiane Times Reader Survey

'Now is the winter of our discontent...'

Please help us make a 'glorious summer' by letting us have your comments and suggestions. The Vientiane Times is your newspaper so here is your chance to improve it. We would like to know what you like and/or don't like about the newspaper. So we need your response to the following:

1. Do you read the newspaper for its international news, Lao news or for another reason, and if so what?
2. Apart from the headlines on the front page, what do you read first?
3. Which sections would you like to see expanded or reduced?
4. Are there any new sections you would like to see?
5. Are you satisfied with our existing page size or would you prefer a larger broadsheet format?
6. Please tell us if our use of English is to your liking, acceptable or unsatisfactory.
7. What are you most interested in with respect to world news, entertainment and sports?
8. Have you any comments on the following services: Website and online news; cell phone SMS news; newspaper delivery; advertising; subscriptions.

The Editorial Committee is grateful for your support. To thank you for helping us by responding to this survey we will give you a Vientiane Times bag and calendar.

Please send your comments to our office at the corner of Pangkham and Sethathirath Roads, or by post to Vientiane Times, P.O. Box 5723, Vientiane. Or call us on **021-216364** or fax **021-216365**. Or email: lorlor55599@yahoo.com. This questionnaire is also available on our website www.vientianetimes.la.

SELECTION OF CONSULTANTS BY THE WORLD BANK REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Lao PDR

Consumer Research to Inform Rural Sanitation Behaviour Change and Marketing Communications for Lao PDR

CONSULTING SERVICES

TRUST FUND #: TF 095254

The World Bank [through the Water and Sanitation Program] intends to finance the Assignment described below under a trust fund (TF095254).

The objective of this assignment is to conduct an in-depth consumer research study in Lao PDR to better understand the behavior determinants for sanitation and hygiene behaviors, as well as improve programmatic efforts to scale coverage. The specific objectives are to:

1. Establish baseline sanitation and hygiene practices among rural populations;
2. Identify the key factors that influence these practices, by exploring emotional, psychological, cognitive, social (gender included), environmental, cultural and economic factors that influence latrine construction, purchase and usage;
3. Define the different target audiences and determine their characteristics (segmentation);
4. Assess the main benefits sought from sanitation facilities for the different target audiences;
5. Gauge households' ability and willingness to build or purchase sanitation facilities, as well as to use support services, such as micro-finance and installation;
6. Describe media habits and identify the main channels of communication being used to reach the target audiences.

Combined with results from the supply chain analysis (to be undertaken and procured separately), insights from the consumer research will assist the Lao PDR Government and its partners in developing an evidence-based sanitation marketing and behavior change communications aimed at improving sanitation and hygiene practices at large scale.

The study will have national representation for its rural population of around 4.3 million people. The sampling plan should include the following six provinces, namely Bokeo, Luang NamTha, Borikhamxay, Savanakheth, Saravan and Sekong.

The Deliverable will have specified a completion date within the implementation period as defined in the Terms of Reference. Payment will be made on completion of the Deliverable within the Assignment. A Lump-sum based contract will be used.

The Water and Sanitation Program at the World Bank Office Vientiane now invites eligible Consulting Firms to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested Consulting Firms must provide information on core business and years in business, and information indicating that they are qualified in the field of assignment (brochures, experience of similar assignments, demonstration of technical and managerial capabilities of firm, availability of relevant skills and experience of key staff.). Consultants may associate to enhance their candidacy.

To this end, the firm is asked to use SaniFOAM as an overall analytical framework: SaniFOAM: A Framework to Analyze Sanitation Behaviors to Design Effective Sanitation Programs; see www.wsp.org

Interested applicants will need to already have or be able to qualify for a World Bank Vendor Number (issued from World Bank Washington HQ) to be able to undertake this Assignment. This Vendor Number should be quoted on the Expression of Interest (EOI) if already received. The Consulting Firm will need to fulfill all necessary technical, legal, financial and administrative aspects applicable to the contract; possess the commercial and financial capability to perform the contract; and the firm being recommended for award will have their WB Vendor Registration verified prior to the signing of the contract.

Interested Consulting Firms should submit a brief **Expression of Interest (EOI)** maximum 10 pages, and including the following information for the processing of a Consulting Firm's contracts:

Consulting Firm's Name:
World Bank Vendor Number:
Consulting Firm's manager's name and CV:
Consulting Firm's staff names and CVs:
Address:
Tel:
Fax:
Email:

- Consultants' names (if any):
- Company background (including relevant experience of the firm related to the assignment e.g. work of a similar nature).
- Statement of the Consulting Firm's ability to fulfill all necessary technical, legal, financial and administrative aspects applicable to the contract, including statement of whether the contract will be undertaken a) solely by the Consulting Firm, b) as a Joint Venture or c) as a Sub-Consultancy Agreement.
- Statement of the Consulting Firm's commercial and financial capability to perform the contract (including number and quality of facilities, office equipment etc and present financial health of the firm.)

Please note this is not a request for technical or cost proposals. Consultants will be selected in accordance with the Selection and Use of Consultants by the World Bank Group for Operational Purposes (AMS 15.01).

Interested Firms may obtain further information at the address below. All submissions will be managed through the World Bank Group eConsultant2.

Expressions of Interest must be uploaded to the World Bank's on-line through <https://wbgeconsult2.worldbank.org/wbgec/index.html> no later than 16:00pm on 26 February 2013.

Office
Water and Sanitation Program
World Bank Office Vientiane
PO Box 345, Pathou Xay,
Vientiane, Lao PDR
Tel: ++856 21 266280 ext. 6285
fax: ++856 21 266297

Phommachanh Sosourivong, Team Assistant: psosourivong@worldbank.org

Region

In brief from Asia
News Network

Social media poised to be game changer in poll campaigns

BANGKOK (The Nation) -- The upcoming Bangkok governor election will mark a historic change in election campaigning in Thailand, with the increasing role of social media, e-commerce and e-marketing, expert Pawoot Pongvitayapanu said. Pawoot praised independent candidate Suharit Siamwalla, who said he had spent "hundreds of thousands of baht" so far on the election campaign although the legal limit is 49 million baht (US\$1.63 million), and said he was among leading candidates in surveys.

Spring Festival holiday sees 440m trips

BEIJING (China Daily) -- Chinese made 440 million trips during the Spring Festival holiday, which lasted from February 9 to 15, transportation authorities said Saturday. Railways handled 34.68 million trips with a year-on-year increase of 3 million trips, according to the Ministry of Railways (MOR). Highway and water-based transport saw 399 million trips, up over 50 million trips compared with 2012, while the number of air-based trips rose 18 percent year-on-year to 6.42 million, the Ministry of Transport said.

63 killed, 180 injured in sectarian attack in SW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Xinhua) -- At least 63 people were killed and over 180 others injured in sectarian attack, targeting the minority Shia Muslims in Pakistan's southwest city of Quetta on Saturday evening.

Mir Zubair Mehmood, the City Central Police Officer of Quetta said that a powerful bomb, targeting Hazara Community of Shia Muslims ripped through a market area located at Karani road of Quetta, the capital city of the country's southwest Balochistan province, at about 5:30 pm (local time).

He said that the explosion killed 63 people including women and kids and injured over 180 others who were shifted to Military hospital of Quetta for medical treatment.

Over 20 injured people are in a critical condition who would be airlifted to the country's southern port city of Karachi by an army plane on Sunday morning for better medical services, said the CCPO.

Revealing the results of initial investigations by the Bomb Disposal Squad, he said that the bomb was detonated by a remote controlled device and the explosive materials were fixed in water tank parked inside the market.

The CCPO said that a two-storey building comprising of over 40 shops was leveled to the ground following the blast



Fire rages from destroyed houses at the blast site in southwest Pakistan's Quetta on Saturday. Photo Xinhua

and several people were feared buried under the debris.

The spokesperson of Balochistan government announced an official mourning across the province over the mass-killings of Hazara community on Sunday, saying that the national flag would fly at half-mast at all state-owned buildings in Balochistan on the day of mourning.

Wazir Khan, Deputy Inspector General of Quetta Police said that an estimated 800kg to 1000 kg of explosive materials were used in the blast. He said that the explosion happened in a town where a vast population of Hazara

community of Shia Muslims are settled.

The explosion left a 6 feet wide and 12 feet deep crater at the ground. Several houses, shops and vehicles were also destroyed in the blast.

Following the blast, angry Shia protestors cordoned off the area, keeping police, rescue teams and media away from the blast site.

The protestors said that Hazara community was targeted dozens of times in Quetta over the last two years in which hundreds of innocent Shia Muslims lost their lives, but the government failed to provide adequate security to them.

Majlis-e-Wahdat-e-Muslimeen and Hazara Democratic Party, the groups of Shia Muslims in the city announced a three-day-mourning over the incident and gave a strike call in Quetta on Sunday.

Shia clerics and scholars in other parts of the country including southern cities of Karachi and Hyderabad staged sit-in at the roads to express solidarity with the victims of Quetta blast.

The protestors demanded government to arrest those responsible behind the incident and provide foolproof security to Hazara Community.

Smog disrupts Beijing traffic, flights

BEIJING (Xinhua) -- Fresh smog shrouded Beijing and some other provinces in China early on Sunday, disrupting highway traffic and flights.

Readings for PM2.5, hazardous particles measuring 2.5 microns in diameter or less, exceeded 200 micrograms per cubic meter at 9 am in some areas, said the Beijing Environmental Protection Monitoring Center.

Moderate or serious air pollution was reported in many parts of Beijing, with a visibility of no more than 500 meters in the early morning, the center added.

The visibility at Beijing Capital International Airport at one point fell to 5 to 10 meters, delaying some flights.

Beijing stretches of expressways linking to other cities including Kaifeng, Harbin, Shanghai and Tianjin were temporarily closed, Beijing municipal traffic administration authorities said.

The provinces of Tianjin, Hebei and Henan were also affected by heavy smog on Sunday.

The air quality index reached 500, or extreme pollution, in five monitoring sites at 8 am in Shijiazhuang, the provincial capital of Hebei.



Welthungerhilfe / German Agro Action (WHH/GAA), a German-based non-profit, non-partisan and non-denominational aid organization, working in more than 50 countries worldwide, is seeking qualified staff for its project offices in Houaysay and Paktha, Bokeo Province. Since its inception in 1962, WHH/GAA has been working to reduce food insecurity and to improve the living condition of the rural poor in developing countries.

VACANCY FOR LAO NATIONALS

The WHH/GAA office in Laos invites applications for the following positions:

- 1 Project Manager
- 4 technical field staff in the field of sustainable food and nutrition security, farmers associations and land-use planning
- 1 Finance Officer
- 1 Cashier/Secretary
- 1 Driver
- Guards and Cleaner

ToRs will be provided upon request after applications are submitted.

Women are especially encouraged to apply.

Applications should include: CV, references and expected salary and be addressed to:

Welthungerhilfe/GAA
P.O. BOX 9817

Vientiane

or by mail to:

Mr Souphasit Bounyavong, E-Mail: gaalao.sps@etlao.com

Deadline for Applications is **21.02.2013**

Only selected candidates will be called for interviews.



Position: Business Development Manager (Assistant Manager)

Job Description

The Business Development Manager will be responsible for account coordination and relation of NTT clients and partners in Lao PDR (including marketing, selling, delivery, and support).

Role / Responsibility

- Act as market and business intelligence by performing detailed analysis and explanation of account management, sales report, market trend and situation, and budgeting.
- Support sales activity i.e. vendor sourcing, recommending, and justifying the solutions and pricing.
- Monitor the execution of customer order and service delivery.
- Manage long term relationship with our clients and partners
- Execute the activities directed by NTT H/Q
- Be responsible to make over 100 % revenue contribution of the Company's target.

Qualifications

- Male/Female with Lao nationality
- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Marketing, or Engineering.
- 5-7 Year experience in field of sales, marketing, business development, and engineering. Background experiences in IT, system integrator, and telecom industry will be advantage.
- Good command and communications in Japanese, English and Thai.
- Strong analytical skills and strategic planning.
- Strong and well discipline, initiative, self-motivated, high responsibility, and can work under minimum supervision and independent.

Contact

- Company name: NTT Communications (Thailand) Co., Ltd [Vientiane Representative Office]
- Office address: 4 th Floor, Alounmai Tower, 23 Singha Road, Nongborn Village,

Saysettha District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR

- Telephone: (856)21-455-082 (Vientiane office) , (66)22-36-7227

Mail : vte-all@ntt.co.th

How to apply: send resume by email (vte-all@ntt.co.th)

Percentage of US gays highest in Washington, DC

WASHINGTON (Xinhua) -- The percentage of US adults who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) is highest in the nation's capital, according to a Gallup poll released.

Ten percent of Washington DC residents identified themselves as LGBT -- more than twice the national average of 3.5 percent -- in the survey conducted from June-December 2012 that represents the "largest single study of the distribution of the LGBT population in the US on record."

The results are based on responses to the question, "Do you, personally, identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender?" included in 206,186 Gallup Daily tracking interviews conducted between June 1 and Dec. 30, 2012.

Hawaii ranks the second highest at 5.1 percent, followed by Vermont and Oregon at 4.9

percent, Maine at 4.8 percent and Rhode Island at 4.5 percent. North Dakota is the lowest at 1.7 percent, with Montana, Tennessee and Mississippi coming in just above that state at 2.6 percent. Overall, the results from the analysis of LGBT identity by state may run counter to some stereotypes that portray the LGBT community as heavily grouped in certain areas, Gallup said.

Indeed, large metropolitan areas such as San Francisco and New York City are typically associated with having large LGBT populations and are home to thriving LGBT communities.

But in sharp contrast to those perceptions, the study tags New York State at No. 14, with a 3.8-percent LGBT population, behind Arizona and Kentucky. California stands at No. 10 on the list, with a 4-percent rate of LGBT, behind Nevada at No. 9 and South Dakota at No. 8.

Meteorite-hit Russia proposes common space defence system

MOSCOW (Xinhua) -- Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin Saturday proposed establishing a common defence system to counter space threats, one day after a meteorite explosion injured some 1,200 people in the Chelyabinsk region in Russia's Urals region.

"Humankind must create a system to identify and neutralise objects that pose a danger to the Earth," the official wrote on his Twitter account.

Rogozin said he would present Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev Monday with proposals on how to tackle similar incidents in the future.

Local experts also advocated for the building of a common space threat monitoring and warning system.

Vitaly Davydov, deputy head of Russia's federal space agency Roscosmos, told local

media that strategic planetary defense should be a "priority" for Russia. He called for a special federal programme on neutralising space threats.

The damage caused by the meteorite strike in the Urals region is estimated to exceed 1 billion rubles (about US\$30 million), Governor Mikhail Yurevich told reporters, adding the number may increase.

According to NASA data, the diameter of "space comer" was about 15 meters and it came across the atmosphere at a speed of 64,000 km per hour. The energy shockwave was equal to about 300 kilotons of TNT.

Last October, Russian rocket and space corporation Energia vowed to build a space rocket capable of destroying asteroids threatening the Earth.

The largest-ever meteorite impact with the Earth in written



In this frame grab made from a video done with a dashboard camera, on a highway from Kostanai, Kazakhstan, to Chelyabinsk region, Russia, provided by Nasha Gazeta newspaper on Friday a meteorite contrail is seen. --Photo AP

history occurred in 1908 in Russia's Siberia over Tunguska River, when a forest area was

flattened by a slightly smaller asteroid, which exploded about five miles above ground.

Third family member in Britain infected with new coronavirus

GENEVA (Xinhua) -- Britain reported to the World Health Organisation (WHO) on Saturday that a third member of one British family has been confirmed as novel coronavirus infection, said the WHO.

WHO said in a statement that the latest confirmed case didn't have recent travel history

outside the country.

It said this new case offered further indications of person-to-person transmission, however, "no sustained person-to-person transmission has been identified."

The case is recovering from mild respiratory illness and is currently well and the

British Health Protection Agency (HPA) is following up on all close contacts who may have been exposed to the recently confirmed cases, WHO said.

Britain reported a confirmed case of the new coronavirus infection to WHO on Monday, who had recently travelled to

the Middle East and Pakistan.

Two days later, his relative, who didn't travel to other countries recently, was confirmed for infection.

As of Saturday, WHO has been informed of a total of 12 confirmed cases of human infection with NCoV, including five deaths.



Improving the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector in Lao PDR to Climate Change Impacts IRAS - NAPA Follow-Up Project Job Announcement

Climate change is a subject that impacts the way we live and work. It is having a significant impact on many economic sectors including agriculture. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been active in fighting against climate change since 1990. With funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and technical support from UNDP, the Lao PDR completed the National Adaptation Programme of Action to Climate Change (NAPA).

UNDP and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), executed through the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI) have completed the formulation of the project "Improving the Resilience of the Agriculture Sector in Lao PDR to Climate Change Impacts" as part of the NAPA follow-up.

The following long-term positions are immediately available in the project:

1 Senior Finance and Administrative Officer, Vientiane Capital (3 months)

The project aims to have 50% of the positions occupied by female staff. Women are strongly encouraged to apply.

For detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) please contact: Ms Dalavanh Sisoutham Tel: 021 771594 or 020 28225315, email address: dalavanh_s@yahoo.com or download Terms of Reference or for electronic applications on NAFRI website at: www.nafri.org.la

Please send your written application for a specified position, consisting of cover letter and comprehensive CV, to Ms Dalavanh Sisoutham; NAFRI/MAF. Tel: 021 771594 or 28225315; email address: dalavanh_s@yahoo.com

Deadline for applications: **28th February 2013**



VACANCY Announcement

Project Manager

Based in Attapeu Province

Health Poverty Action Background:

Health Poverty Action (HPA) is an international NGO, which has worked in Laos since 1994. Our mission is to support poor people in their efforts to achieve better health and well being. HPA has recently received funding from the EC and DFID for a project which aims to reduce the prevalence of malnutrition amongst children under-five years. We are now looking for motivated Lao national project manager base in Attapeu Province.

Summary of Duties:

The post holder will be responsible for project planning, budgeting, implementation, data collection, analysis and report writing. As the Key national representative in the province, the post holder will take overall responsibility for all HPA activities in the province.

Person specification (essential):

- Medical Doctor or Masters level degree in public health
- At three years of health-related project management experience
- Ability to develop people and teams
- Understanding of current development issues including health, agriculture, poverty and gender
- Ability to plan, monitor and report on project activities.
- Representational skills, diplomacy and the ability to communicate and negotiate at all levels
- Good written and spoken English
- Computer literacy in Word and Excel or similar packages
- Financial management skills including budgeting and accounting
- Willingness to live and work in remote areas

For a full Job Description and an Application Form, please e-mail: hpa@hpa.org or hpaosjobs@gmail.com or visit the HPA Laos office: 381 Ban Phonthan Neua, Saysetha District, Vientiane, phone: 021-264960/265272 or fax: 021 264961.

Women are encouraged to apply
The closing date for applications is **28 Feb 2013**
Only short-listed candidates will be notified.



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

UNIVERSAL
PACIFIC
LIMITED
UPL Lao Co., Ltd

UPL Lao Co., Ltd. in cooperation with the Lao Government is the developer of Dongphosy Specific Economic Zone in Dongphosy Village, Hadksafong District, Vientiane Capital.

Our development project is an expanding and long-term project. Therefore, we are looking for well-qualified and experienced candidates for the following positions:

1. IT Specialist

• Deal with Systems / Network / Server / Web Implementation, and Software and Hardware Maintenance

► Qualifications:

- ✓ Diploma or Higher Degree in Information Technology
- ✓ Minimum 3 years work experience in IT Environment
- ✓ Good oral and written skills in English language
- ✓ Knowledge of LAN/WLAN Network technologies

2. Personal Assistant to the Managing Director (French Speaking)

• Provide efficient administrative and organizational support to the Managing Director

► Qualifications:

- ✓ Diploma in Business Administration or related field
- ✓ Computer skills and knowledge of Microsoft office
- ✓ Good oral and written skills in French language
- ✓ Willing to travel to provinces and overseas
- ✓ Efficient, self-motivated, organized and good interpersonal skills

3. Administrative Officer

• Handle administrative and office support activities for the department and/or managers and supervisors

► Qualifications:

- ✓ Diploma or higher degree in administration
- ✓ Good command of written and spoken English. Ability to translate between Lao and English would be an advantage
- ✓ Computer skills and knowledge of Microsoft office and relevant software
- ✓ Knowledge of clerical and administrative procedures and systems

4. Marketing

- Source and establish new contacts with potential and existing customers
- Assist in formulating marketing strategies in capturing marketing awareness
- Handle customer's enquiries to ensure customer satisfaction
- Negotiate the terms of an agreement and close sales

► Qualifications:

- ✓ Diploma or higher degree in marketing, communications, business management or related field
- ✓ Minimum 2 years experience in marketing or related field
- ✓ Computer skills and knowledge of Microsoft office
- ✓ Good oral and written skills in English or another foreign language
- ✓ Good influencing and negotiation skills
- ✓ Creative, flexible and ability to work under pressure

Interested applicants are requested to submit a free format application letter, curriculum vitae and supporting documents to our office, Unit F11-F16 ASEAN MALL, Khampheng Meuang Road, Phonthan Village, Vientiane Capital or send by email to uplcherry@gmail.com. For inquiries please contact us at Tel: **021 419 032**



ວັນທີ: 11/02/2013

ເຂດການປະມຸນວຽກທີ່: CARITAS/LOOS/BOKEO

ປະກາດປະມຸນ

ອົງການ ແຄລິຕີສ ຊຸກຍູ້ບວກ ແມ່ນ ອົງການຈັດຕັ້ງສາກົນ ທີ່ບໍ່ສັງກັດຜັດຖະບານ ທີ່ເຮັດວຽກກ່ຽວກັບ ສິດທິມະນຸດຂັ້ນຕາມສອງຄູກຄົນ ວິນຍາກັນໃນການ ເຂົ້າເຖິງອາຫານ, ນໍ້າດື່ມ, ນໍ້າໃຊ້, ສາທາລະນະສຸກ, ການສຶກສາ, ການຈ້າງງານ ແລະ ລາຍຮັບບຸນໃບສົວໂລກ.

ອົງການ ແຄລິຕີສ ຊຸກຍູ້ບວກມີຄວາມເປັນທີ່ ສົນໃຈບັນດາ ບໍລິສັດທີ່ມີໃບອະນຸຍາດປະກອບຄຸນກິດສິດກ່ຽວກັບປະມຸນ ການກໍ່ສ້າງ ສິດທິ ສໍາລັບຊີວິດ 1 ແຫ່ງ ບ້ານ ທີ່ບຸນ ເມືອງ ຫໍາໂຫມ ແຂວງ ຊຽງຂວາງ.

ເງື່ອນໄຂ ແລະ ຄຸນສົມບັດຂອງຜູ້ເຂົ້າປະມຸນ:

1. ເຂດການ ແລະ ລາຍຮັບກ່ຽວກັບການປະມຸນສາມາດຮັບເອົາໄດ້ທີ່ ອົງການ ອົງການ ແຄລິຕີສ ຊຸກຍູ້ບວກ : ວຽງຈັນ, ທີ່ ເລືອມ ເລກທີ 083/01 ບ້ານ ຫາຍໂສກ, ເມືອງ ຈັນທະບູລີ, ນະຄອນຫຼວງ ວຽງຈັນ ຕັ້ງແຕ່ເວລາ 8:30 ເຊົ້າ ເຖິງ 16:00 ແລງ, ວັນຈັນ ເຖິງ ວັນສຸກ. ຜູ້ຮັບບັດຊອບ ສາມ ນາງ ແກ້ວສູງ ສິນທະວິໄສ. ໂທ: 021 254 451 Fax : 021 254 451 ຜູ້ ທີ່ ອົງການ ອົງການ ແຄລິຕີສ ຊຸກຍູ້ບວກ ປະຈໍາເມືອງ ຫໍາໂຫມ, ບ້ານສີບຸນເຮືອງ ເມືອງຫໍາໂຫມ ແຂວງຊຽງຂວາງ, ແຕ່ 08:30 ເຊົ້າ ເຖິງ 16:00 ແລງ, ວັນຈັນເຖິງ ວັນສຸກ, ຜູ້ຮັບບັດຊອບ ທ້າວ ສຸມິສິກ ສິນທະພອນ, ໂທ: 010 5171226
2. ຊ່ວຍປະມຸນຕ້ອງປິດແອັບບັດດາວເລັດສິ່ງໃຫ້ ເຖິງ ອົງການ ແຄລິຕີສ ຊຸກຍູ້ບວກ ທີ່ ເມືອງ ຫໍາໂຫມບໍ່ເກີນວັນທີ 25/02/2013 ເວລາ 14 ໂມງ 00 ແລະ ຕ້ອງລະດູໃຫ້ ແຈ້ງ ວ່າ " ສໍາລັບປະມຸນ - ສໍາເນົາເປີດສອນ ວັນທີ 25/02/2013 ເວລາ 14 ໂມງ 30"
3. ການເປີດສອນປະມຸນຈະມີຂຶ້ນໃນ ວັນທີ 25/02/2013 ເວລາ 14ໂມງ 30 ທີ່ອົງການ ອົງການ ແຄລິຕີສ ຊຸກຍູ້ ບວກ ທີ່ ອົງການ ບ້ານ ສີບຸນເຮືອງ, ເມືອງ ຫໍາໂຫມ ແຂວງຊຽງຂວາງ ໂດຍຮ່ວມກັນກັບການປະມຸນ ແລະ ຜູ້ເຂົ້າຮ່ວມການປະມຸນ ຜູ້ ຜູ້ຕາງ ຫາກທີ່ມີຄວາມ ສົນໃຈຢາກເຂົ້າຮ່ວມເປັນສັກສີ ສະບາຍໃນສະບວນການເປີດສອນປະມຸນ.
4. ລາຄາການປະມຸນຕ້ອງມີອາດູບັດໃນ ອາຍໃນ 30 ວັນປັບຕັ້ງແຕ່ມີໃບອະນຸຍາດປະມຸນ.
5. ຕ້ອງມີສິດທິປະກັນຈາກທະນາຄານ ເຖິງເທົ່າກັບ 10,000,000 ກີບ ແລະ ມີອິນບໍາໃຊ້ໄດ້ 60 ວັນ ປັບແຕ່ມີເປີດສອນປະມຸນ, ເຂດການປະມຸນຈະບໍ່ໄດ້ຮັບການສໍາລະເນາ ຖ້າຜູ້ເຂົ້າປະມຸນທີ່ບໍ່ມີສິດທິປະກັນຈາກທະນາຄານ, ສິດທິທິດປະກັນຈະໄດ້ສິ່ງກົນໄດ້ ຜູ້ທີ່ບໍ່ຮຽນການປະມຸນ ຮາຍໃນ 15 ວັນ (ມີເຮັດວຽກກ່ຽວກັນ) ແຕ່ສໍາລັບຜູ້ຮຽນການປະມຸນຈະຕ້ອງມີສິດທິປະກັນ ຈາກທະນາຄານເພື່ອເປັນການປະກັນ ການປະຕິບັດສິນຍາເທົ່າ ກັບ 10% ຂອງ ມູນຄ່າການປະມຸນແລະ ມີອິນບໍາໃຊ້ໄດ້ 60 ວັນ ປັບແຕ່ມີເປີດສອນປະມຸນ ແລະ ຈະສິ່ງກົນໄດ້ສໍາ ເຮັດການກໍ່ສ້າງ 100%.
6. ລາຄາສິນຍາເສີມມາດຕະຖານບໍ່ເປັນມາດຕະຖານທີ່ຈະໄດ້ຮັບການສໍາລະເນາທຸກຊ່າງດຽວ: ຄຸນສົມບັດ ແລະ ປະສົບການທີ່ຜ່ານມາຕໍ່ຈະໄດ້ຮັບການສໍາລະເນາເຊັ່ນກັນ.
7. ຄຸນສົມບັດການປະມຸນສະໜອງບັນທຶກສິດທິທິດເຮັດວຽກເຂດການປະມຸນໂດຍບໍ່ແຈ້ງເຫດຜົນ.

Plan International in Laos



Plan International is growing! We are looking for enthusiastic, dedicated Lao National development professionals interested in long term careers with a major international children's NGO.

Plan, one of the world's largest children's INGOs, works with children and poor communities in 48 developing countries. In Laos, Plan works in 3 districts in Bokeo Province, in basic education, early childhood development, health and nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, and promotion of children's rights. In 2013, Plan will expand to **Oudomxay Province** in 2 Districts: Hun and Pak Beng.

Plan has no religious or political aims or affiliations. Visit www.plan-international.org for more information.

Plan is an equal opportunity employer. **We strongly encourage applications from women, members of ethnic groups and people with disabilities.** Plan offers competitive salaries and long-term employment opportunities for all posts.

Community Development Facilitator (1 position) at Udomxay Province:

Duties and responsibilities:

- Conduct initial Introduction and Orientation in all new villages using drama and other appropriate medium to introduce Plan
- Train and support Interns and Volunteers in selection and enrolment of Sponsored Children
- Support Interns and Volunteers in producing sponsorship communication items.
- Organize and/or support activities which increase understanding and commitment children and adults to the Rights of the Child.
- Support District Coordinators in selection and training of Village authority and Volunteers in all the villages
- Mentor, guide and teach Intern Community Development Workers
- Adopts appropriate tools and methodologies to facilitate ethnic children, families and communities

Requirements:

- Communications skills in presentation and demonstration
- Experiences in working with community
- Demonstrated training skills or media tools and techniques to facilitate children, counterpart staff and communities
- Fluent written and spoken Lao (fluency in ethnic minority language(s) an additional advantage)
- Basic computer program (MS Word, Power Point and Excel)

Physical Environment and Demands:

- Travel at least 75% of the time, including to villages/remote

Provincial Sponsorship Coordinator (1 position) at Udomxay Province:

Duties and responsibilities

- Operate and manage data entry in Child Data
- Provide age analysis to District Sponsorship Communication Assistants every quarter for tracking and submission of the due cancellations;
- Prepare and submit Monthly and Quarterly Production Reports to Plan Laos Sponsorship Manager;
- Together with the team to conduct orientation on sponsorship to Plan staff and district government;
- Involve in prepare work plan and budget plan for sponsorship operation in Province
- Provide sponsorship system training to sponsorship staff and district team leaders
- Gather data and draft Program Unit Green sheets and submit to Sponsorship Manager and to determine cancellation of sponsor child;

Requirements:

- Fluency in oral and written English
- Computer proficiency is essential (MS Word, Power Point and Excel)
- Organisational and Communications skills
- Interpersonal skill.

Physical Environment and Demands:

At least 50% of the time, including to villages/remote areas in the province

FOR ALL PLAN POSITIONS:

- Strong commitment to the equal rights and participation of girls and women is essential
- Strong commitment to the Rights of the Child is essential
- **Plan does not tolerate child abuse. All Plan staff are selected and employed in line with the conditions of Plan's Child Protection Policy. These include appropriate reference and background checks.**
- Applications will not be acknowledged. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. No correspondence or telephone calls will be entered into.
- Short listed candidates will be required to attend panel interviews and other selection procedures.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: **8 March 2013**

TO APPLY FOR POSTS Send resume/CV, with cover letter and **names and contact details of three referees including salary expectations for each position, to Plan International Laos, PO Box 6026, Vientiane, Lao PDR, or to PlanLaos.JobVacancies@plan-international.org.**

Please state in cover letter how you learned about the job – through emails, Vientiane Times, INGO Directory, Job to day website, or friends.



Established in 1996, EQHO Communications is a premier provider of multilingual and multicultural communications solutions. For over 15 years, EQHO has been successfully enabling corporations worldwide to transcend cultural and linguistic barriers by providing a comprehensive range of high-quality, cost-effective localization solutions. We have helped deliver thousands of complex localization projects in various disciplines across multiple languages to corporate clients in key vertical markets located in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, South America and the US.

Now, EQHO is seeking for talents to join our team in Vientiane.

- Work Location: Aloyamat Building, Vientiane's Landmark Office Building, located in the heart of Vientiane
- Starting date: As soon as possible

Business Development Manager DTP Operator/Graphic Designer

Key Responsibilities:

- Cold calling, emailing to prospective clients, and lead generation
- Managing and maintaining strong relationships of a portfolio of existing worldwide clients
- Client visits
- Project contract negotiations
- Making presentations via web or in person
- Attending weekly sales meetings
- Attending functions and exhibitions locally and internationally
- Providing regular reports and updates to management team
- Other duties and internal projects as required.

Qualifications:

- Fluent English language skills, spoken and written
- Writing and able to travel internationally
- Able to have high level business conversations with our clients, on the phone, in person and by email.
- Capable to communicate effectively with clients from diverse cultures
- Proven record in sales and / or account management
- Good computer skills and familiarity with Outlook, Word and Excel
- Confident and personable
- Team player
- Willing to communicate regularly and openly with remote management team
- Positive attitude, with a willingness to learn and a desire to succeed

Key Responsibilities:

- Produce high quality localized documentation and graphics to meet required deadlines
- Perform all jobs according to work order requirements
- Making backups on a regular basis and organizing files for safety and easy retrieval
- Produce DTP working time estimations
- Solve technical problems and other issues regarding production procedures
- Have knowledge of DTP among the team to make sure that client objectives are met
- Willing to learn new skills and apply them within a short period of time
- Adapt to changes in technology in order to improve DTP production

Qualifications:

- Moderate level of written and spoken English
- Experience in desktop publishing and/or graphic design
- Strong willingness to learn and share knowledge
- High level of personal responsibility
- Ability to work in a team and under pressure
- Computer skills: MS Office and Adobe family
- On-the-job training and support
- Creative design ability is a plus

Proofreader/QA Inspector

Key Responsibilities:

- Checking localized files against source files regarding layout and format, proofreading if required
- Daily report/updates result and progress of assigned job

Qualifications:

- Computer skills: MS Office, Acrobat and/or Adobe family
- Highly detail-oriented
- Strong willingness to learn and share knowledge
- High level of personal responsibility
- Ability to work in a team and under pressure
- On-the-job training and support
- Good command of English will be an advantage

To apply, email to recruitment@eqho.la or deliver your CV and a statement explain how your qualifications and experience match with the position to the address below:
EQHO Communications Lao Ltd.
 Room 404, 4th Floor, Kolas-Tower II (Aloyamat Tower),
 21 Siagha Road, P.O. Box 8156
 Nongboun Village, Saysettha District, Vientiane, Lao PDR
 Tel: +856 (0)21 454 529 Mob: +856 (0)20 5504 6755
 Visit our website at www.eqho.com and www.eqho.la
 Interviews will be held in Vientiane

Translators

Key Responsibilities:

- Translate, proofread, and do other linguistic tasks from English into Lao language and vice versa
- Implement changes to the translation and files as required
- Provide the feedback to when any questionable issues are found during translation process
- Provide assistance and language specific advice to internal teams

Qualifications:

- Having experience in translating from English into Lao and vice versa
- Computer literate (MS Office)
- Willingness to learn with new applications
- Excellent English communication skills, both in writing and in speaking

**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
 PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY**

Ministry of Energy and Mines
 Electricité du Laos



NEEDL
 Vientiane Capital, Date: 05.FEB.2013

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
 FOR AN INDIVIDUAL INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANT
 FOR**

A DIAGNOSTIC STUDY FOR IMPROVING EDL'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Rural Electrification Phase II
 Individual Consultant for MIS Project

The Government of Lao PDR has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Rural Electrification Phase II (REP II) Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds to engage an Individual International Consultant Services. The services include conduct of implementation of Management Information System (MIS), Assisting EdL in Review status of existing MIS and IT System, review company's Capacity capabilities and needs and review management Structures.

The Electricité du Laos now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004, Revised October 2006*.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours, i.e. 8.30am to 4.30pm, Monday through Friday.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below on or before February 22, 2013, (before 14:00 hrs)

Electricité du Laos

Att: Khamphou Phouasavath (Mrs), Deputy Director of Business Division,
 3rd Floor, Electricité du Laos Headquarter Building, Mitsaphan Lao-Thai Road, Ban Thongkang,
 Sattanak District, P.O. Box 309, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR

Tel: (856) 021 316132, 316094 –nd. 1319, (856) 029 22211489; Fax: (856) 021 316118, 021 263794

E-mail: khamphou2@hotmail.com

Managing Director's



Sisavath THIRAVONG
 Managing Director

Mitsaphan Lao-Thai Rd, Ban Selpakhang, Sattanak District, P.O. BOX 309, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR.
 Tel: (856-21) 451519; Fax: (856-21) 416381; 263794. E-mail: edl@edl.la; Website: www.edl.la



PROJECT LAO/017
 Lao-Luxembourg Health Sector Support Programme



NOTICE OF INVITATION TO TENDER N°: LAO/017 – 12 756

TITLE: Construction of health facilities in Vientiane, Bolikhamxay and Khammouane provinces (Works)

In the framework of Project LAO/017 receiving financial support from the Governments of the Lao PDR and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

This Notice of Invitation to Tender is launched by the Ministry of Health on behalf of Project LAO/017'Health Sector Support Programme' receiving financial support from the Governments of the Lao PDR and of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Qualified works contractors are invited to submit bids for the construction of Health Centers in Vientiane, Bolikhamxay and Khammouane Provinces in Lao PDR. The construction of these Health Centers is constituted of galvanized steel structure, which is built independently from the ground slab and nonload bearing masonry partition walls which they cover. The average size of covered area per unit is two hundred and fifty square meters (250 sqm).

1) Identification of the contract

- a) Type of contract: **Fixed price Lump Sum Contract**
- b) Object: **Construction of Rural and Urban Health Centres in three (3) Provinces**
- c) Number of lots: **five (5)**
 - **Lot1:** Two (2) Rural Health Centres in Vientiane Province (Muen and Phabong);
 - **Lot2:** Three (3) Rural Health Centres in Bolikhamxay Province (Nakhom, Nateuy and Pakkading);
 - **Lot3:** Three (3) Rural Health Centres in Khammouane Province (Kayou, Naphao and Phonemeuang).
 - **Lot4:** One (1) Urban Health Centre in Bolikhamxay Province (Hongxai);
 - **Lot5:** One (1) Urban Health Centre in Khammouane Province (Namdone);
- d) Grouping of lots: **allowed, subject to the conditions described in the Tender Dossier**

2) Eligibility and evaluation criteria

- a) Origin: **No restriction on origin**
- b) Eligibility: **Open internationally to companies satisfying the criteria included in the Statement of Good Standing and in the Ethics clauses of the General Regulations**
- c) Evaluation: **The lowest administratively and technically compliant tender will be granted the contract**
- d) Variants: **Variants will be considered, subject to the conditions described in the Tender Dossier**

3) Sites and deadlines

- a) Location of the project: **Vientiane**
- b) Place of performance: **Vientiane, Bolikhamxay and Khammouane Provinces**
- c) Performance period: **seven (7) months** including a mobilisation period of one (1) month
- d) Validity period of tenders: **90 days from the deadline for receipt of tenders**

4) Tender dossier

- a) Type: **Category "A" Works Tender, open internationally**
- b) How to obtain the dossier: the dossier may be obtained against payment of a non refundable amount of three hundred thousand Lao Kip (300,000 LAK) or equivalent in USD at:
**Project LAO/017
 Lao-Luxembourg Health Sector Support Program
 Ministry of Health, Ban Simeuang, Sisattanak district
 Vientiane, Lao PDR
 Email : lao017@luxdev.la tel: +856 21 252 083**

For any request to send the tender by speed post, an additional non refundable amount of one million Lao Kip (1,000,000 LAK) or equivalent in USD shall be paid prior to sending.

- c) Consultation of the dossier: the Tender Dossier may be consulted free of charge at the same address as mentioned above
- d) Written notifications and communications must be sent to the following address: same address as mentioned above

5) Language, currency, receipt and opening of tenders

- a) Language: **English**
- b) Currency: **US Dollar (USD)**
- c) Address for receipt and opening: one (1) original and two (2) copies to: same address as mentioned above
- d) Deadline (date and time) for submission: **18 March 2013 at 15h00 PM**
- e) Date and time of the public opening session: **19 March 2013 at 09h00 AM**

6) Guarantees

- a) Tender guarantee: **Five thousand US dollars (5,000 USD) per tender submission (irrespective of number of lots)**
- b) Other Guarantees: **See tender dossier and Model Documents**

7) Payments

- a) This being a fixed price lump sum Contract, payments will be made according to the breakdown of the overall lump sum price specified in the Payment Schedule of the Tender Dossier and Contract.
- b) All payments will be made in US Dollars (USD) in a Bank Account specified in the Contract, which must be in the name of the Contractor.
- c) All eligible payments which are part of this contract will be processed by Lux-Development on behalf of Project LAO/017

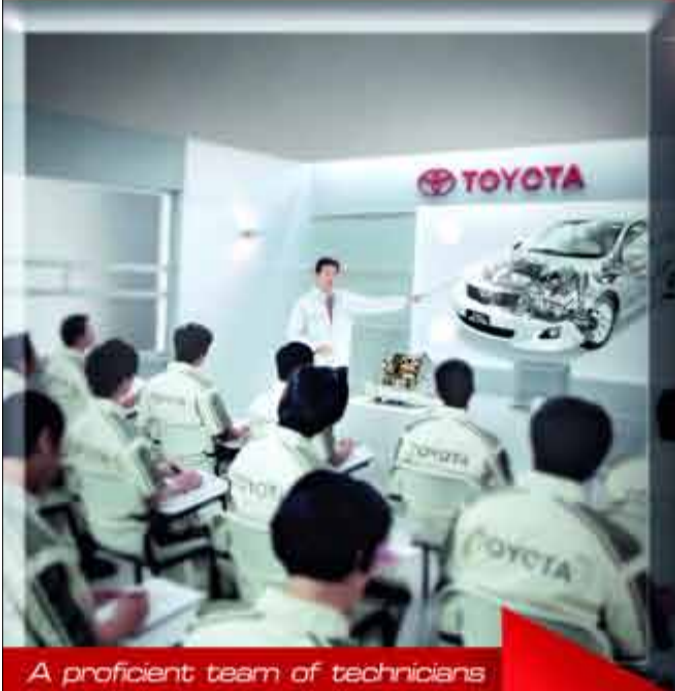
8) Information meeting

There will be an optional (recommended) Tenderer's Information meeting, open to candidates who have purchased a Tender dossier, on **26 February 2013 at 10:00 A.M.** at the address where the Tender Dossiers were withdrawn.



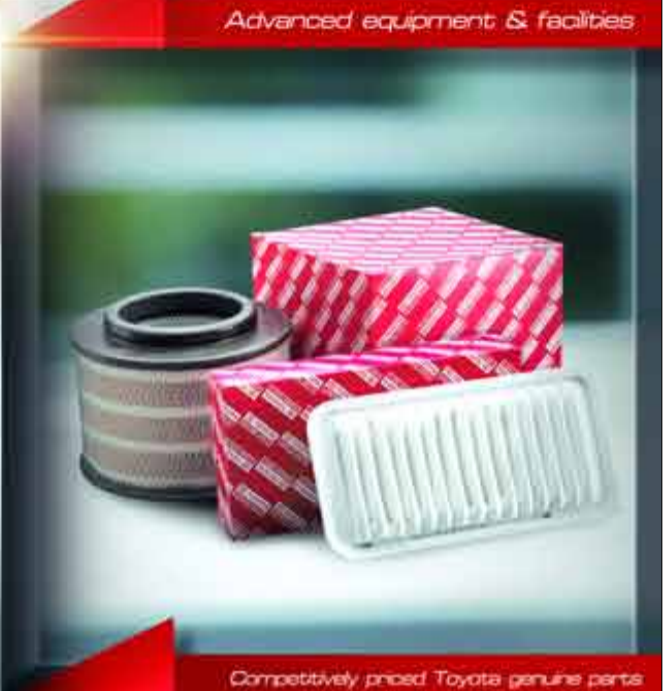
TOP-notch services with TOP-class value

Advanced equipment & facilities



A proficient team of technicians

TOYOTA
TOP
SERVICE



Competitively priced Toyota genuine parts



Unsurpassed quality assured



Welcoming, dedicated service



Repair centers of highest standard



Nationwide service centers

Toyota TOP SERVICE showrooms and service centers promise you total peace of mind and the utmost satisfaction. Our TOP-standard range of before & after sales services ensures that your car always stays on top of any challenge.



TOP-level Product & Service Warranty

Drive with the sheer confidence of a 3-year or 100,000 km car warranty, plus a 1-year or 20,000 km repair warranty (whichever comes first).



TOP-standard Quality Service

Experience excellent repair services in a professional atmosphere at any Toyota center. Service is the same high standard throughout the country.



TOP-grade Genuine Parts

Only Toyota genuine parts are used in every car servicing process to ensure the maximum efficiency and durability you and your car deserve.



TOP-rated Express Maintenance

Quick one-hour mileage check. A dynamic pair of two highly skilled technicians and one quality-control supervisor are engaged in servicing each vehicle.



TOP-class Body & Paint services

Be assured that your vehicle is best cared for with our cutting-edge technologies and durable water-based paints featuring the same standard as used by the Toyota manufacturing plant. Such services will be accurately estimated and controlled by our specialists, and given a one-year warranty.



TOP-flight Nationwide Showrooms

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Toyota Authorized Dealers Lao

- Toyota Lao Thani Co., Ltd (Head Office) : 021 - 453 801 - 2
- Lao Toyota Service Co., Ltd (Vientiane Head Office) : (Call Center 1400)
- Toyota Lao Savan Co., Ltd (Savannakhet Head Office) : 041-260 882-4
- Toyota Lao Thani Co., Ltd (Nakornluang Branch) : 021 - 453 777
- Lao Toyota Service Co., Ltd (Sikhottabong Branch) : (Call Center 1400)
- Toyota Champa Co., Ltd (Pakse Head Office) : 031-218 888



Embassy of Switzerland
Cooperation Office for the Mekong Region
Vientiane, Laos

Vacancy Announcement

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) partners with Lao citizens and local and international organizations to reduce poverty, to promote gender and ethnic equality, and to foster good governance. We value accountability, transparency, an active civil society, and democracy.

We are a team of highly motivated professionals working in the Swiss Cooperation Office in Vientiane. We are looking for a dynamic collaborator to fill the position of:

RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY

This position will be responsible for:

- Receive visitors and answer the phone
- Assist to write letters, texts and reports
- Manage incoming and outgoing mail
- Flight booking for expat and local staff
- Organise the daily schedule for the drivers
- Daily record of incoming and outgoing document
- Arrange logistic and accommodation for staff and visitors
- Others as per instructions from the management

Requirements

- Degree in English or Commerce or equivalent qualifications
- Minimum of three years experiences
- Excellent written and spoken English
- Good spoken Lao
- Good organizational skills and strategies and attention to details
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Computer literate, especially in Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint
- Dynamic and outgoing
- Other foreign language is considered to be an asset

SDC has a multi-cultural working environment and we place a high value on inclusive team work. This position will communicate with all levels of Government and non-governmental agencies and international and local institution. The duty station is Vientiane Office.

SDC is a value based equal opportunities employer, appointing on merits by open competition. We highly encourage women and persons from diverse background to apply. Please send CV (incl. references, certificates and expected salary) and a one page application letter explaining why we should consider you to be the ideal candidate for the position to:

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
Cooperation Office for the Mekong Region – Laos
House 192 / 1 Sibourheuang Road
Chanthabouly District, Vientiane
P.O Box 5666

You can send a copy electronically to:
venengmy.thavongxav@sdc.ch

For more information about SDC and our programmes please visit:
<http://www.swiss-cooperation.admin.ch/mekong/>

Closing date for applications: 25th February 2013.
Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interview. SDC does not return application files.



MEDECINS DU MONDE Vacancy Announcement

Médecins du Monde (MdM) is a non-profit association registered in France since 1980 as a humanitarian association officially recognized to serve public purposes. For 30 years Médecins du Monde has been involved in: (1) treating the most vulnerable populations, (2) bearing witness to obstacles encountered to health care access and (3) obtaining sustainable improvements to health policies and medical practices so as to attain equal access to health care for all.

MdM is currently running a Pilot safe motherhood and childhood program in Champassak province, Lao PDR. The overall objective of the program is to contribute in reducing maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality in the targeted districts in Champassak province.

For that purpose, MdM is looking for a Medical coordinator assistant to assist the medical coordinator with overall management of the project in Pakse and to establish good communication with local authorities and Development Partners.

Major duties are:

- To manage the medical team in collaboration with the medical coordinator;
- To assist the medical coordinator with establishing and maintaining contacts and good working relations with all relevant authorities and with other agencies;
- To support the medical coordinator and the midwife to implement the medical activities, (training, supervision...);
- To collect and analyze data
- To write report in English and Lao;
- To provide day to day translation and interpretation support to the medical coordinator.

Qualifications required are:

- Preferable medical background (doctor, skilled birth attendant, professional nurse);
- Prior experience working with an NGO/International Organizations
- Demonstrated high level of written English language skills, including the ability to provide translation support; French is an asset
- Excellent problem solving skills
- Human qualities and respect for patients, beneficiaries and MDM team members;
- Personal skills: excellent interpersonal skills, ability to listen; diplomacy, anticipation, adaptability; organisational skills; good writing and communication skills, team spirit;
- Computer literacy (at least office package) in Lao and English
- Readiness to live in Pakse with frequent travels to the field;
- Understanding and adherence to MDM principles

Detailed job description is available upon request to:
medco.laos@medecinsdumonde.net.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit their application sending a cover letter and comprehensive CV in English, including contact details of 3 professional referees. Please send your application to: medco.laos@medecinsdumonde.net by Friday 20 of February 2013. Only short-listed candidates for interviews will be notified.



ບໍລິສັດ ປີໂຕຣາຊັງມເທຣດດຶງລາວ ຈຳກັດ
PETROLEUM TRADING LAO CO., LTD

Background

This is an exciting time to join Petroleum Trading Lao Co., Ltd. Our Petro Trade has been continued on business five years of sale oils and Petroleum Trading Lao Co., Ltd is private enterprise of petroleum firm that was import and distribute to 96 gas station in Laos Country or. Rapid expansion and successful growth we are continuously seeking qualified and experience staff to contain. Petro Trade has been success and certified as meeting the requirements of SGS ISO 9001: Quality Management System, ISO 14001: Environmental Management System and OHSAS 18001: Occupational Health and Safety Management System. We are providing to recruit highly motivated, enthusiasm and Teamwork as below:

Lubricant - Int.Oil Sale - Supervisor 2 Position base in Vientiane Office

Reporting to the Sales Project Manager

- Promoting of marketing/distribution strategies and product performance/optimizations
- Determining ways to reduce costs and expand gross profit
- Developing optimum distribution networks for current and new business
- Maintaining and developing relationships with customers' management and engineering representatives to include solving their problems
- Developing and negotiating contracts with distributors, suppliers, and customers and resolves disputes in order to reach long term agreements
- Higher or Bachelor in Marketing and Business Administration relate field
- Minimum 3 years experience as a lubricating oil sales and/or industry specific background
- Previous working experience in Marketing or Sale
- Excellent verbal and written skills in English and Lao
- Proficient MS Office Suite and Drive License ABC

Sale - Admin 1 Position base in Vientiane Office

Reporting to the Sales Marketing Supervisor

- Coordinate communication of all customer-related issues to sales manager
- Provides special and assistance to internal sales personnel and our customers by other sales related activities that will support sales associates in achieving their targets
- Receiving order from customer and Track customer sales by division
- Prepare statements and special billing to fulfill customer requests
- Perform other related duties as required or requested
- Minimum 2 years previous in Purchasing and Procurement
- Higher or Bachelor in Marketing and Business Administration relate field
- Basic verbal and written English and Lao skills
- General Knowledge of sale and ability to work well in team
- Computer Skills in Word and Excel

Purchasing Assistant 1 Position base in Vientiane Office

Reporting to the Purchasing Supervisor

- Maintain records of purchase requisitions and orders
- Control system maintenance to provide quality service to all operational departments
- Support and liaise with other operational department that they are requirements
- Day to day procurement activities to ensure that all items are received in stock
- Good attendant to work and good remember
- Control system maintenance to provide quality service to all operational departments
- Degree qualifications in Business Administration or a related field
- Good Computer Suite, Word, Excel and Power Point
- Attendant to work and good remember
- 1 year up experience in Purchasing and Procurement

- Good English Skills

Finance and Accounting Assistant 2 Position base in Vientiane Office

Reporting to Accounting Manager

- Assisting in financial reporting and accounting processes
- Preparation and analysis of management reports
- Assist in gathering information for audits, internal reports, and other activities
- Reviewing and reconciling accounting records
- Prepare daily and weekly report and bank re- turn
- Controlling incoming supplies by checking brand, quality and quantity of goods
- Higher or Bachelor Finance and/or Accounting to relate field
- Minimum 2 years previous in accounting system
- Basic verbal and written English and Lao skills
- Ability to work well in team
- Computer Skills in Word and Excel

Sale - Project Officer 1 Position base in Vientiane Office

Reporting to the Deputy of Director

- Present and sell company products and services to current and potential clients.
- Prepare action plans and schedules to identify specific targets
- Prepare presentations, proposals and sales contracts and identify and resolve client concerns
- Develop and maintain sales materials and current product knowledge
- Establish and maintain current client and potential client relationships
- Prepare paperwork to activate and maintain contract services
- Manage account services through quality checks and other follow-up
- Prepare a variety of status reports, including activity, closings, follow-up, and adherence to goals
- Coordinate company staff to accomplish the work required to close sales
- Develop and implement special sales activities to reduce stock
- Good verbal and written English and Lao skills
- Can be translate Chinese into Lao will be consider
- Ability to work well in team and can be driving car to travel to outside
- Computer Skills in Word and Excel and Drive License ABC

Engineering Officer 1 Position base in Vientiane Office

Reporting to the Engineering Manager

- Prepare construction work packages
- Develop construction specifications, scope of work, estimates
- Follow up to checking percentage work with Construction Company (Contractor)
- Work experience in gas station will be consider
- Follow up regulation in each gas station or be building

- Prepare presentations make presentation to management/clients
- Write daily and weekly construction reports
- Higher or Bachelor's engineering of construction
- Good computer skills, Word and Excel, AutoCAD, 2D/3D Max/Design
- Can be work in team and attention to work as you assigned
- Basic English - writing and speaking
- 2 - 3 years up experience graduate or general construction

Human Resource Officer 1 Position base in Vientiane Office

Reporting to the Human Resource Manager

- Recruiting staff which includes creating and developing job descriptions, providing support in preparing advertisements, screening applications forms, short listing the candidates, interviewing and selecting them.
- Developing HR policies on issues like working conditions, equal opportunities, performance, management, absence management, and disciplinary procedures.
- Advising on pay including employee benefits and pensions and other issues on remuneration.
- Undertaking annual salary reviews, negotiating on issues regarding pay and conditions with staff and representatives.
- Planning and delivering training occasionally including induction programs for new hires and preparing advertisement and notices for vacant positions in the organization
- Degree/Diploma in human resources management, business administration
- At least 2 - 3 years' relevant experience
- Good Computer Suite, Word, Excel and Power Point
- Good organizational, communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to understanding HR Management & comprehensive information

An operation admin Officer 1 Position base in Vientiane Office

Reporting to the Deputy of Operation

- An operations administration is responsible for the processing and all information data
- Will have to do the document related work as have to document the archived paper works
- An operations administration also has to take care about the inventory of the product so has to assist the production of team regarding the inventory of the products.
- He or she will have to provide support to the managers and supervisors therefore have to give the quality information for the preparation of the monthly and annual reporting.
- An operation administrator will have to study about the departments of the company and so has to research the policies and procedures of the different departments in their company
- Operation to all depot and follow up in each branch
- 2-3 years up has experience in administration with profession company
- Higher or Bachelor in Business - Administration

If you are interested in applying for the position, please complete an application form available from the intranet or HR Department. Please note that if you are an existing employee and should you be shortlisted for the position, HR will be required to discuss your application with your existing supervisor. Applicants interested in any of these rewarding opportunities should send their CV to the address below.

E-mail: humanresources@petrotradelao.com chanthavong.lao@petrotradelao.com siamphay.sob@petrotradelao.com

Tel: 021 264834/020 5555 1439-56997471 | Closing date 20th of February 2013

Sibourheuang Rd, Sibourheuang Village, Chanthabouly District, Vientiane Capital, Lao P.D.R. | Tel: (856 21) 264834-5 | Fax: (856 21) 264836/Plus Card Center Tel: 856 21 261742
Website: www.petrotradelao.com | Facebook: www.facebook.com/petrotradelao | Email: phucard@petrotradelao.com

DISCOVER YOUR POTENTIAL. DEVELOP YOUR FUTURE. GROW WITH PHU BIA MINING.



This is an exciting time to join Phu Bia Mining in a dynamic industry. Our Phu Kham Copper-Gold Operation is in its fifth year of production, our new Ban Houaxayai Gold-Silver Operation has just commenced production and we have a pipeline of exploration projects in Laos.

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

We offer many different career opportunities at our mine and exploration sites and in our Vientiane office; and as an employer who values diversity, we encourage women to apply for all available positions. Our modern mine camps provide great Lao, Asian and Western food, sport and recreational facilities and housekeeping services. Site-based employees work a roster of 20 days on, 8 days off or 14 days on, 7 days off for shift work, while Vientiane – based employees work 5 days per week with 2 days off.

We are seeking enthusiastic and motivated Lao nationals for the following positions:

COMMUNITY OFFICER

Location: Phu Kham Copper - Gold Operation

Roster: 20 days on, 8 days off

Reporting to the Senior Community Supervisor, you will be part of the community relations team that is responsible for liaison with district and local officials, local communities and individual stakeholders. You will assist to maintain positive relations between the company and the local community to prevent, minimize and mitigate health safety, social and environmental impacts related to company activities. This position is offered on a 6 months fixed term contract.

Your key responsibilities will include:

- Maintaining open and transparent lines of communication with the local communities
- Assisting in community relation issues including all related grievances investigations and resolutions
- Representing the company at community meetings
- Participating in the presentation of donations from Phu Bia Mining to local communities

To be successful in this role, you will require:

- A degree level qualification in Social Work & Development or related discipline
- Minimum 3 years work experience in community relations issues with a focus on dealing in grievances and compensation resolution
- Previous work experience in community development or working with an NGO will be highly regarded
- Sound knowledge of community development principles
- Excellent verbal and written English and Lao skills, and strong speaking Hmong language will be considered favourably
- Computer literacy in Microsoft Office

HOUSEKEEPING OFFICER

Location: Ban Houaxayai Gold - Silver Operation

Roster: 20 days on, 8 days off

Reporting to the Camp Services Team Leader, you will be responsible for monitoring and checking housekeeping standards to ensure rooms, laundry and camp facilities are cleaned and maintained to a high quality.

Your key responsibilities will include:

- Monitoring that camp rooms are cleaned and the daily laundry service is delivered to rooms
- Make sure staff carry out their duties in an efficient and safe manner
- Ensuring all washing machines and other laundry equipment are in good working condition
- Assisting in controlling and inspection of the goods that housekeeping receive
- Reporting of any accidents to the Camp Services Team Leader

To be successful in this role, you will require:

- Diploma in Administration or Hotel and Tourism
- Minimum 1 year housekeeping experience in a hotel or related service industry
- Good verbal communication skills in English and Lao
- Computer skills in Microsoft Office Suite

SENIOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT OFFICER

Location: Phu Kham Copper - Gold Operation

Roster: 20 days on, 8 days off

Reporting to the Analytical Laboratory Superintendent, you will be responsible for providing technical and administrative support to the team of laboratory analysts, managing the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) and materials through the development of standardised analytical procedures.

Your key responsibilities will include:

- Ensuring the maintenance of quality assurance in analytical procedures
- Ensuring the sampling management in analytical procedures register
- Preparing submission sheet work in all samples for testing including sorting, racking, drying, splitting, pulverising and loggings
- Coordinating laboratory staff and resources
- Reporting of analytical results on a timely manner
- Ensuring that all standard operating procedures (SOP) for sampling and analysis are up to date

To be successful in this role, you will require:

- Degree in chemistry or related field is highly desirable
- Minimum 3 years technical experience in a laboratory environment
- Strong administration skills
- Good verbal and written language - English and Lao
- Competent in Microsoft offices suite

SENIOR SAFETY OFFICER

Location: Phonsavan Exploration

Roster: 20 days on, 8 days off

Reporting to the Exploration Geology Superintendent, you will be responsible for providing effective leadership in safety management through the consistent implementation and communication of all training and safety strategies.

Your key responsibilities will include:

- Taking a lead role in safety management by demonstrating and promoting safe work practices
- Conducting regular safety inductions for new staff, audits, incident and accident investigations and reporting
- Following up on all report incidents and out-standing action items
- Participating in any emergency response activities and training
- Developing safety training themes and assisting supervisors with their implementation
- Carrying out frequent daily site inspections to ensure the company safety requirements are implemented

To be successful in this role, you will require:

- Relevant degree or diploma level qualification
- Minimum 2 years experience in a safety role within heavy industry is highly desirable
- Good knowledge and understanding of safety principles
- Good written and verbal communication in English and Lao
- Strong skills in Microsoft Office suite
- Current drivers licence

GEOLOGICAL TECHNICIAN

Location: Ban Houaxayai Gold - Silver Operation

Roster: 14 days on, 7 days off

This is a senior technical role reporting to the Geology Team Leader. You will be responsible for monitoring the sample collection in the pit and assisting the Geologists with mapping and logging.

Your key responsibilities will include:

- Spotting out ore/waste, ensuring the excavator is digging the correct ore block
- Assisting in the dispatch of rock samples to the nominated assay laboratory
- Coordinating with field survey team in the pit for ore mark up after blasting
- Assisting in making geological maps and logging
- Monitoring stock levels of geological equipment and tools as required

To be successful in this role, you will require:

- Diploma of Mine Geology and Prospecting or related field
- Minimum two years experience in mine geology
- Good written and verbal communication skills in English and Lao language
- Basic Microsoft Office software skills

CHEF

Location: Phu Kham Copper - Gold Operation

Roster: 14 days on, 7 days off

As a Chef, you will work in our very busy and dynamic kitchen that operates 24hrs per day, 7 days per week to provide healthy and delicious meals for our site-based employees, contractors and visitors from many different countries. This is a great opportunity for an experienced Chef from a large hotel or restaurant to work on a rotating shift and enjoy 7 days off every roster rotation.

Your key responsibilities will include:

- Preparing meals for expatriate and Lao employees
- Assisting in daily menu planning
- Preparing daily produce orders
- Controlling the food quality, presentation and service as per required standards
- Ensuring all food is prepared hygienically and safely

To be successful in this role, you will require:

- Minimum 2 years experience as a chef in a large hotel kitchen and/or catering operation
- Previous experience preparing Western, Thai and Lao cuisine
- Good knowledge and experience in food preparation and hygiene standards
- Proven skills in people management
- Strong communication skills in both Lao and English

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




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NEW POSSIBILITIES.
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More Information:

Head Office: Kolao T2, Oupmoung Village, Sikhottabong District, Vientiane Capital
MOBILE: 020 5556 6600, 020 5552 9557, 020 5559 9840, TEL: 021 520 241 FAX: 021 520 243.

Pakse (TCR) 031 213 350

ປະກາດຫາຄົນຫາຍ



ເປັນເວລາເກືອບ 2 ເດືອນແລ້ວ, ທາງຄອບຄົວຂອງພວກຂ້າພະເຈົ້າ ຍັງບໍ່ໄດ້ຮັບຂ່າວຄາວໃດໆຈາກລູກ. ສະນັ້ນ, ຂໍວົງວອນມາຍັງບັນດາ ທ່ານ ຊ່ວຍພວກຂ້າພະເຈົ້າຕາມຫາ **ລູກ ສົມບັດ ສົມພອນ**, ອາຍຸ 60 ປີ, ຜູ້ກໍ່ຕັ້ງ ສູນອົບຮົມຮ່ວມພັດທະນາ (ທີ່ມີຊື່ຫຍໍ້ວ່າ PADETC) ແລະອາດິດຜູ້ອຳນວຍການ ສູນອົບຮົມຮ່ວມພັດທະນາ, ຊຶ່ງໄດ້ຮັບລາງວັນຮາມອນແມັກໄຊໄຊ ປະຈຳປີ 2005 “ສາຂາຜູ້ນຳ ຊຸມຊົນ ແລະການພັດທະນາແບບຍືນຍົງ”. ຕະຫຼອດໄລຍະ 30 ປີ, ລູກ ສົມບັດ ສົມພອນ ໄດ້ມີຜົນງານດີເດັ່ນໃນການພັດທະນາ ແລະ ສ້າງຄຸນປະໂຫຍດຢ່າງຫຼວງຫຼາຍ ໃຫ້ແກ່ສັງຄົມເພື່ອການພັດທະນາ ແບບຍືນຍົງ.

ລູກ ສົມບັດ ສົມພອນ ໄດ້ຫາຍຕົວໄປ ພ້ອມກັບ ລົດຈີບ ເລກ ທະບຽນ ກກ 2624, ສີຂຽວເຂັ້ມ ໃນວັນເສົາ ທີ 15 ທັນວາ 2012, ເວລາປະມານ 18.00 ທີ່ບໍລິເວນເສັ້ນທາງຫຼັກ 3 ທາງໄປ ຫ່າເດືອ. ຈົນເຖິງປັດຈຸບັນ ຄອບຄົວ ແລະອຳນາດການປົກຄອງ ຍັງ ບໍ່ໄດ້ຮັບຂ່າວໃດໆເລີຍ. ຖ້າທ່ານຮູ້, ພົບເຫັນ ຫຼື ມີຂໍ້ມູນໃດໆກ່ຽວ ກັບຜູ້ກ່ຽວ ຂໍຄວາມກະລຸນາຕິດຕໍ່ເຖິງພວກຂ້າ ພະເຈົ້າດ້ວຍ
ໂທ: 020 2241 9900, 020 2302 2091, 020 5566 8074.

Mr. Sombath SOMPHONE, 60 years old, has been missing for more than two month. He is the founder and former director of the Participatory Development Training Centre (PADETC) and received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership, one of Asia's top civil honors, in 2005. On 15 December 2012 Mr Sombath SOMPHONE disappeared in his dark green Jeep (license number ກກ 2624). He was last seen on Thadeua road at km3 (in front of the Lao-German Technical School) at 18:00. Currently his family and the authorities do not have any more leads or sources of information about his whereabouts. If you know or hear any information about him, please contact one of the numbers below: 020 2241 9900, 020 2302 2091, 020 5566 8074. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.



Seeking Expressions of Interest for Mid-Term Evaluation and Baseline Data Update

Foundation Caritas Luxembourg (Caritas) is an international non-government organization, working for the fundamental rights of all people to secure access to food, water, health, education, employment and income around the world. In Lao PDR Caritas supports 10 poor villages in Thathom District, Xiangkhouang Province, especially women, to build sustainable livelihoods, and to reduce their vulnerability to natural disaster under project namely "from Vulnerability to Resilience (V2R) Project".

The overall purpose is to implement a mid-term evaluation of V2R project and update baseline data. The review is expected to be participatory in nature and will highlight the successes and challenges of the V2R to date, examining the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, progress toward impact, potential sustainability and participation and ownership. The review will recommend potential action for changes necessary for remaining project period. The baseline data update includes assessing 1) food security (access to cultivatable land, rice production, livestock management practice and NTFP management practice); 2) household income; 3) food consumption and preparation practices; 4) Markets and Potential for income generation; and 5) Current health and education status.

For a copy of the Term of Reference, please contact: Mrs. Keophouvieng Phanthalangsy: keo@carlux.lao

Expressions of Interest must be submitted either electronically or in hard copy, by 17:00 PM of 26 February 2013 to the office of Caritas Luxembourg in Lao PDR in Vientiane Capital.

Required Qualification, Experience and Personalities

- University qualification in development studies, social sciences or relevant field.
- At least 5 year experience working with INGOs on development projects.
- Previous experience conducting project evaluation focusing on livelihood security sector.
- Previous experience in conducting field surveys and needs assessments for INGOs.
- Excellent knowledge of participatory survey approach.
- Previous experience and interaction with Lao PDR government bodies and other relevant organisations.
- Experience of engaging in community where different ethnic groups are persist.
- Fluency in Lao and English, with Khamu and Hmong languages is an advantage.

Eoi must include:

1. copy of at least one previous evaluation report conducted;
2. proposed methodology;
3. team composition
4. budget
5. time frame and start date

Please submit Expressions of Interest to:

Administration Manager at: keo@carlux.lao or sending your applications to: Ban Haisok village, House No: 083, Unit 01 Chanthabouly District, Vientiane Capital P.O Box: 2079; Tel/Fax: (+856)-21-254 451

Expressions of Interest will not be accepted after 17:00 PM of 26 February 2013

All applications will be treated in confidence. Under no circumstances can Caritas staff receive gratuities of any kind from applicants or successful job candidates. Caritas Luxembourg is an equal opportunities employer.

All documents submitted will not be returned so make sure not to submit the original copy. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



Lanith Offers "Go for Gold!" Food Production Trainees

Are you looking for a career in Laos' growing tourism industry? Lanith's award-winning Passport to Success is offering a three-month, fulltime course for Lao nationals seeking to acquire skills in Western cooking to meet Laos' high demand for professional food production staff.

Those who successfully complete the programme will receive a Lao National Institute of Tourism and Hospitality certificate and Passport to Success Food Production Gold Pin, its highest award and widely recognized by top Lao restaurants and hotels.

The training, held in Vientiane, covers 15 subjects including:

- Customer care, health & safety, hygiene, and industry knowledge
- Basic techniques in commercial cookery
- Preparing stocks, soups, and sauces
- Preparing appetizers, salads, and sandwiches
- Preparing vegetables, eggs, and flour/starch dishes
- Preparing meat dishes and accompaniments
- Preparing cakes and pastry items

Hands-on training accounts for 70 percent of the course, and will be held at the Lao Korea Training Centre's Lanith Kitchen Training Unit. Theoretical subjects will be taught at Pakpasak Vocational School.

The course runs from 22 April to 5 July 2013, Monday through Friday from 09:00 to 16:30, and is being taught by a 5-star Western chef and internationally educated Lao trainers.

The course is open to Lao nationals, who have basic English skills and a strong desire to work in food production. The "Go for Gold!" course is free, though participants must pay 1.1 million kip for ingredients and other items used in the practical training

Participants will be assessed for each of the 15 subjects, and those who pass will receive a Statement of Attainment for each subject in their Passport to Success. Trainees who pass all 15 subjects will receive a certificate and the Lanith Passport to Success Food Production Gold Pin.

Interested applicants should email gold@lanith.com, or visit Lanith's office at Vientiane's Pakpasak Vocational College. For more information on the Passport to Success programme, visit: www.Lanith.com.



Population Services International (PSI) Laos
14 Road, Unit 16, Donkoi Village, Sountanank District
Vientiane, Lao PDR, P. O. Box 8733
Telephone: (+856-21) 238429-32
Fax number: (+856-21) 238428
www.psi.org

JOB OPENING

TITLE: Receptionist
DATE: February 2013

PSI is a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C. that harnesses the vitality of the private sector to address the health problems of low-income and vulnerable populations in more than 60 developing countries. With programs in malaria, reproductive health, child survival and HIV, PSI promotes products, services and healthy behavior that enable low-income and vulnerable people to lead healthier lives.

PSI Laos is searching for a Lao national to fill the position of **Receptionist**, based in Vientiane Capital.

DUTIES include but are not limited to:

- Receive all visitors
- Perform regular secretarial duties
- Answer phone calls and take messages
- Record incoming and outgoing letters/faxes
- Arrange daily vehicle and petrol use
- Supervise drivers performance
- Maintain the stationery and kitchen supplies
- Organize payment of utilities: telephone, electricity and etc.

Minimum Requirement:

- College graduate in Business Administration or related field
- Able to converse in English
- Experience in secretarial or receptionist work preferred
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

The successful candidate will have a high level of honesty and integrity, be results oriented, have excellent communication and writing skills and a strong work ethic, proven ability to work independently with minimal supervision, be a positive team player, and possess strong analytical and problem-solving skills.

Applicants should submit a **letter of interest** and curriculum vitae to Pinkham Phalakhone, PSI/Laos Human Resource Coordinator, by **February 22nd, 2013**. Submit by email (pinkham@psi.laos.org) or deliver a hard copy to PSI/Laos (Donkoi Village, Unit 16, Sountanank District, Vientiane Capital). Only short listed candidates will be notified.



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Parkeo Tel: 031 260340
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United Nations Development Programme



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**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR LAO NATIONALS
Information and Communication Technology Associate
Fixed Term Appointment at ICS-6 Level
Contract 12 months (renewable)**

UNDP is seeking an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Associate who will work in the ICT Support Unit. S/he will assist the ICT Analyst to implement ICT strategies in the UNDP Country Office (CO), to promote collaborative, client-oriented approaches to ICT services while advising UNDP management on ICT strategies to enhance CO productivity.

Duties and responsibilities

- Ensure the effective functioning of the ICT system and use of management tools
- Provide effective desktop, ICT and LAN support to CO
- Ensure effective functioning of the CO hardware and software packages
- Provide effective network administration and maintenance of LAN/WAN systems
- Maintain network and overall ICT security
- Support to Microsoft Exchange email support
- Maintenance of SharePoint Server and Administration
- Provide web management services
- Support to IP PBX Telephone system.
- Support multimedia tools and applications
- Facilitate knowledge building and knowledge sharing

Qualifications and experience

- Certification or university degree in Computer Science is desirable
- Cisco Certified Network Administrator (CCNA)
Microsoft Certified System Administrator (MCSA) Certification on Windows Server and support required.
- Minimum 3 years of relevant experience in network administration
- Practical knowledge of hardware/software, telecommunication facilities, database

This UNDP fixed-term appointment is based in the UNDP Country Office in Vientiane.

Detailed job description available in the Human Resources Office and online from http://www.la.undp.org/content/laos_pdr/en/home/operations/jobs/

The applicants are required to **Apply Online** via the website above by **28th of February 2013**
Telephone: (856-21) 267 781 or Fax: (856-21) 267 799

Female candidates are encouraged to apply
Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interview



UNEP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help build a better life.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Location: LAO PDR, Vientiane Capital
Application deadline: 05 March 2013
Languages Required: Lao & English
Starting Date: 17 April 2013
Duration of the Contract: December 2013 (with possibility of extension)

Background

Through the joint UNDP-LINEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI), UNDP is supporting the Government of Lao PDR to implement PEI framework which aims to contribute to poverty reduction and improved well-being of poor and vulnerable groups through mainstreaming the environment into national development processes. PEI is implemented by the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) – Department of Planning, Investment Promotion Department, and the National Economic Research Institute, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) – Department of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment; and provincial authorities in a targeted province with support from the UNDP CO Lao PDR. The PEI program wishes to recruit full-time project staff in many positions of Investment Promotion Department to provide support to the implementation of the PEI country programme.

1. NATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR ENVIRONMENT & INVESTMENT

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Coordinate PEI's support to the Investment Promotion Department in MPI and the provincial authorities on the investment component of PEI under the guidance of the Project Manager and the international senior technical advisor based at MPI:
 - Assist consultations with national and provincial stakeholders and delivery of training sessions at national and sub-national levels over a range of topics including: drafting and implementing investment strategies, promoting and attracting investments that minimize environmental and social impacts, facilitating the use of tools such as the agriculture concession contracts, investment database and quality investment screening criteria
 - Facilitate the development of capacity in and sustainable financing for investment monitoring, and manage/coordinate and participate in joint DESA-IPD monitoring activities
 - Assist the organization of workshops and logistics
 - Coordinate IPD activities with other PEI outputs, working closely with the broader PEI project team
 - Support the development of regular reports (e.g. annual report, quarterly reports)
2. Support the day-to-day operation of the PEI's component of the investment support project in the Investment Promotion Department and the Provincial authorities
3. Support MPI to carry out assessments of investments, and apply existing research on the environmental and social costs and benefits of investment choices to develop a strategic approach to investment decision-making at the national level:
 - Provide research inputs to the development of technical papers and investment assessments, to support international technical advice based within MPI
 - Support MPI to apply existing analysis and research on the environmental and social costs and benefits of investment choices to develop a strategic approach to investment at the national level
 - Organize, manage and participate in assessments of investments, with focus on social (disaggregating between poor women, men and vulnerable groups), economic and environmental impacts of investment projects and their contribution to climate resilience
 - Facilitate demand for and organize analytical and policy research on fiscal incentives for quality investment and issues relating to macroeconomic growth, investment trends and sustainable development
4. Promote increased awareness in the Lao PDR on the importance of poverty-environment linkages and produce communications materials such as short articles, policy briefs or review papers
5. Provide comprehensive support including technical services (analysis and presentation of background information and drafting of PEI documents), logistical assistance, and basic translation to implementation of the PEI in Lao PDR.

Qualifications and experience

- Post graduate qualification required, with specialization in business, economics, development related field and/or planning with sound knowledge of socio-economic aspects of sustainable development and investments in Lao PDR.
- At least seven years of project experience is required at the national level or with private sector, with experience in investment management, corporate social responsibility (CSR), rural development, poverty reduction and / or environmental management is preferred.

Other Skills/ Competences

- Strong interpersonal skills with ability to establish and maintain effective work relationships with people of different national and cultural backgrounds;
- Excellent coordination skills, with ability to work under pressure and handle multiple activities and projects concurrently;
- Ability to work independently and to participate effectively in a team based information sharing environment;
- Knowledge of UNDP, UNDP and the UN country programming process an advantage;
- Strong communication skills with ability to express ideas clearly, both orally and in writing;
- Fluency in spoken and written Lao and English is essential;
- Full computer literacy.

Duty Station: Investment Promotion Department, MPI, Vientiane Capital

Interested applicants should submit an application letter, CV and copies of relevant certificates by 05 March 2013 to PEI programme component 2, Division of Investment Promotion, Department of Investment Promotion, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Souphanouvong Avenue, Vientiane; or E-mail to Dr.Nathan.Lieber@undp.org Tel/Fax: + 856 21 254035.
Female candidates are encouraged to apply. Applicants will be contacted only if under serious consideration.

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The U.S. Embassy is pleased to announce



SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES

The Ministry of Education and Sports, and the Embassy of the United States of America are pleased to announce that the Government of the United States of America is offering the following scholarships for study in the United States:

FULBRIGHT Fulbright Scholarships

Fulbright Scholarships will be awarded under the J. William Fulbright Program for study in a two-year Master's Degree program during the 2014 – 2016 academic years (July 2014 – June 2016). Individuals from both the public and the private sectors may apply. Women, minorities and candidates from outside Vientiane are encouraged to apply.

The Fulbright Program was established by the U.S. Congress in 1946 to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries through the exchange of persons, knowledge, and skills. Fulbright grants will be awarded for graduate study at the master's degree level in all fields of study except medicine. (Note: Applications will be accepted in the field of public health.)



Humphrey Fellowships

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program is a Fulbright program that provides mid-level professionals from developing countries an opportunity to enhance their professional capabilities through participation in specialized, 10-month, non-degree programs at selected American universities. Fellowships will be granted for the 2014-2015 academic year (August 2014 – June 2015). Ideal candidates have a proven track record of leadership, a public service commitment, and the capacity to take full advantage of a self-defined program of independent study at a leading U.S. university. The program awards a certificate from the U.S. Government; it is not designed to deliver an advanced degree. Professionals from both the public and the private sectors are eligible to apply. Female, minority and candidates from outside Vientiane are encouraged to apply.

* The closing date for submitting registration forms, essays, CV, and test scores is Tuesday, March 29, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. The complete application must be submitted in person to the Public Diplomacy Office, U.S. Embassy, Rue Bartholome, (That Dam), Vientiane capital.

For more information on all these scholarships, please visit the U.S. Embassy's website at <http://aos.usembassy.gov/scholarships2.html> Or Email Vientiane_Fulbright-Humphrey@State.gov



The Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines invites applicants for the following positions:

1) Research Assistant/Translator/Interpreter

- male or female
- college graduate
- must have a good command of spoken and written English
- able to undertake research and analysis of political and economic developments
- referral letter from previous employer

All interested applicants may submit their Curriculum Vitae with a photograph at the Philippine Embassy, Ban Sapanthong-kang, Sissatanak District, Vientiane Capital from 8:a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Ministry of Energy and Mines
Technical Assistance for Capacity Building for the Hydropower and Mining Sectors**

**National Legal Consultant
for**

Assistance to the National Assembly in Development of Guidelines for Hydro Power Concession Approval

The Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) is implementing a TA project (Technical Assistance for Capacity Building in the Hydropower and Mining Sectors – HMTA), which is financed by Government of Lao PDR (GOL), the International Development Association (IDA) and the Australian Government (AusAID), in support of capacity building of the hydropower and mining sectors. The project is in response to the dramatic surge in Lao PDR in development and operations of both sectors.

The HMTA Project includes the following components/sub-components:

- Component 1: Joint Hydropower and Mining Learning Program
 - Subcomponent a: Continuing Learning Program for Sector Professionals.
 - Subcomponent b: Education Sector Support.
 - Subcomponent c: Outreach and Information Sharing for Stakeholders.
- Component 2: Hydropower Sector Development
 - Subcomponent a: Water Resource Management and Hydropower Planning.
 - Subcomponent b: Hydropower Concession Management.
 - Subcomponent c: Hydropower Management and implementation of the NPSH.
- Component 3: Mining Sector Development
 - Subcomponent a: Improvement of Sector Governance and the Enabling Environment.
 - Subcomponent b: Strengthening of Government Oversight Capacity.
 - Subcomponent c: Program to Promote Minerals Development.

Component 4: Project Administration and Management

This National Legal Consultant assignment relates to Subcomponent 2b.

OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The objective of this assignment is to provide technical assistance to the National Assembly (NA) in developing a set of guidelines that may be used as a tool in the ultimate high level review and approval process for Hydro Power Concessions that is the mandate of the National Assembly.

TASKS

- (i) Work with the NA and MEM, as may be required, while the proposal is discussed among the stakeholders. Provide such advice and support as may be requested.
- (ii) Coordinate with the international consultant firms (who are currently providing technical assistance on fiscal issues and concession management issues related to hydro power projects awarded to IPPs) to obtain an understanding of the key factors, parameters and thresholds on benefit sharing and environmental/social issues (like rehabilitation and resettlement and community development etc.) and then incorporate these, as appropriate, in the NA guidelines to be prepared.
- (iii) The foregoing advice will include an evaluation of Lao PDR law as it relates to the NA's responsibilities and how it may exercise them. It will also include an assessment of the role of National Assemblies (or Parliaments) in a select group of other countries, so as to determine if there may be useful lessons to learn regarding the NA's process in Laos.
- (iv) Once the proposal is finalized, prepare draft guidelines for purposes of discussion with the NA;
- (v) Provide advice to the NA regarding the resources and expertise that will be necessary for it to successfully implement its role
- (vi) Finalize the guidelines as directed by the NA;
- (vii) Work with the NA, as may be required, to implement its oversight process (review and summarize documents, train staff, etc.);
- (viii) Provide such other advice and assistance as may be requested by the NA.

DELIVERABLES

- (i) Synopsis of Lao PDR law that may be relevant to the scope of the NA's responsibilities and how the responsibilities may be carried out.
- (ii) Review, in a select group of countries, of the role of National Assemblies (Parliaments) in the resource development and concession process.
- (iii) National Assembly Guidelines
- (iv) Other deliverables (such as, proposed changes in legislation, staff training, etc.) will be identified as the foregoing tasks are carried out.
- (v) It is foreseen that the consultant needs to conduct at least 2 Seminars/Workshops over the contract period as part of the capacity building and information dissemination initiative.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND TIME FRAME

The Consultant will work in close cooperation with the National Assembly and other key stakeholders including technical assistance initiatives that are currently underway for enhancing the capacity of the Gol, and the related ministries in respect of managing the process of selection and award of hydro power concessions to Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

For administrative purposes, the consultant will report directly to the Head of the HMTA Project Secretariat and Project Manager at Department of Energy Business at the MEM.

The contract period for this assignment is for approximately six (6) calendar months with the expectation to commence in March/April 2013.

EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

- (i) Recognized Academic Qualifications/Degree in Law;
- (ii) Professional experience in law or related legal fields for a minimum of 10 years;
- (iii) Demonstrable knowledge of the Lao PDR National Assembly and its procedures;
- (iv) Demonstrable knowledge of the Hydropower Concession Management process in Lao PDR;
- (v) Familiarity with international legislation and practice concerning hydropower and other natural resource concession development and implementation;
- (vi) Fluency in Lao and English, including both oral and written skills.

A copy of the detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the assignment may be requested from the address below.

Interested consultant must provide information indicating that s/he is qualified to perform the services. A cover letter and detailed C.V with past experience should be submitted to:

Ministry of Energy and Mines
Mr. Charonelethavy, Head of HMTA Project Secretariat Office,
Nongbone Road, Saysettha District, Vientiane, Lao PDR
Tel/Fax: +856 (0)21 263-431
E-mail address: charonelethavy@aboo.com with copy to deh.hmta_laos@aboo.com; kngant99@aboo.com and mem.hmta@aboo.com

Applications must be delivered to the above address at the latest on **28 February 2013**.

Electronic submissions through e-mail are acceptable.

Opinion

Climate change added to US government “high risk” list

Carey L. Biron, IPS

WASHINGTON -- For the first time, a US government auditor has added climate change to a list of issues that pose the greatest financial risk to the government and country. It is also warning that Washington is markedly unprepared to deal with the scope of the problem.

The admonitions, coming amidst a newly strengthened public discussion here on climate change, could offer an opportunity for some conservative lawmakers to re-engage with what has been one of the most fractious political issues of recent years.

“(T)he impacts and costliness of weather disasters will increase in significance as what are considered ‘rare’ events become more common and intense due to climate change,” a new report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) warns. “However, the federal government is not well positioned to address this fiscal exposure.”

According to the GAO, the federal government’s primary financial watchdog, its “high risk” list currently includes 30 issues, covering concerns of efficiency, effectiveness or fraud, with a particular focus on defence and health systems. However, this year’s inclusion of the financial risk to the government posed by the effects of climate change has the possibility to outweigh much of the rest of the list combined.



Agriculture Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agriculture Service Michael Scuse (left) speaks to farmers about the drought conditions being felt across the country. --Credit: USDA photo by Jacob Maxwell.

“This is of great significance, and follows trends already taking place in the private sector and local government,” Keith Gaby, communications director for climate change with the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), an advocacy group, told IPS. “As usual, this issue has bubbled up from the local level, and now the federal government has put its imprimatur on it.”

In part, the federal government’s financial exposure is so great because Washington directly oversees such a massive swath of land – some 650 million acres, nearly 30 percent

of the entire country. That’s a huge amount of infrastructure – including that meant to safeguard human communities – that could be endangered by unforeseen or dramatic changes to weather systems.

In addition, the government operates two huge insurance schemes that could be particularly stretched, covering flood damage and crops. The GAO warns that these remain based on decades-old conditions and approaches.

The issue that will most readily catch the eye of legislators is how the government’s aid

responsibilities following major disasters have been increasingly called upon in recent years. This is a particular concern given that the federal government’s annual budgets do not include specific allocations for such aid.

The GAO reports that disaster declarations have steadily increased to a record 98 in 2011, compared with 65 in 2004, requiring a total 80 billion dollars during that period. Further, this figure was nearly equalled by the single request, late last year, for more than 60 billion dollars in response to Superstorm Sandy,

the hurricane that ravaged much of the country’s northeast.

That storm, coupled with a severe drought last summer and strong mention of climate issues in recent weeks by President Barack Obama, has led to a sudden strengthening of the public discussion here.

“Climate is clearly back on the political agenda in major way,” Jamie Henn, communications director for 350.org, an environment advocacy group organising a major Washington rally on Sunday, told IPS.

“This report strongly underlines key points that we’ve been making about the risks of climate change and the country’s continued reliance on fossil fuels. The White House has made it clear it doesn’t yet have a full agenda, so it’s still open for input – and that’s what we’ll be providing on Sunday.”

Non-partisan issue

While Washington has engaged in nascent adaptation activities regarding the effects of climate change, the GAO auditors warn these efforts remain merely “ad hoc”. That is almost surely a result of the politicisation of climate change here, which has led to almost complete legislative paralysis on the issue.

In this case, the GAO refuses to weigh in on the politics – or human causes – of global warming.

Yet it is clear that the auditors feel that “adaptation” requirements should include

policy actions for cutting greenhouse gas emissions and other causes of global warming. For instance, they prominently reference findings by two other US government offices that “the nation’s vulnerability can be reduced by limiting the magnitude of climate change through actions to limit greenhouse gas emissions.”

The decision to focus on the effects – and economics – rather than the causes of climate change could now offer ideological cover for some conservatives to engage constructively on the climate discussion.

“This clearly opens up the conversation between people who are worried about expenditures and future deficits and those working directly on climate change, as well as those focused on energy issues and local politicians across the country,” EDF’s Gaby says.

“Particularly due to the money spent on Sandy, the deficit hawks are waking up and saying we have to deal with this. They’re not changing their base position on climate change, but they are engaging with the issue in a way that could bring the conversation forward.”

This approach has already reaped some political rewards. Appearing at the new report’s launch on Thursday, the Republican head of the House of Representatives’ primary investigative committee offered strong support for the GAO findings.

Vientiane Times Subscription 2013

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	312 issues (1 year)	5,481,000k	+100,000k <input type="checkbox"/>	5,581,000k <input type="checkbox"/>
Europe (Including Russia)	156 issues (6 months)	3,045,000k	+100,000k <input type="checkbox"/>	3,145,000k <input type="checkbox"/>
	312 issues (1 year)	6,046,500k	+100,000k <input type="checkbox"/>	6,146,500k <input type="checkbox"/>
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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(Announcement No. 13/02)

OPEN TO: All interested candidates
 POSITION: Voucher Examiner/Travel Assistant (FSN-7)
 OPENING DATE: February 7, 2013
 CLOSING DATE: February 22, 2013
 WORK HOURS: Full-time; 40 hours/week
 SALARY: Actual grade and salary will be based on the qualifications of the applicant.

NOTE: THIS IS A LOCAL POSITION. THE SELECTED CANDIDATE WILL COME UNDER LOCAL LABOR LAW, AND BE PAID ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY'S LOCAL COMPENSATION PLAN. ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST BE RESIDING IN LAOS AND 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 Voucher Examiner/Travel Assistant in the Financial Management Office, Management Section.

BASIC FUNCTION OF POSITION

The incumbent serves as the primary Voucher Examiner for Embassy and as primary backup to the Class B Cashier (FSN-E) and to Financial Analyst (FSN-7). He/she examines and processes all vouchers for air tickets, utilities and purchase cards. Responsible for maintenance of all financial files.

He/she also serves as Travel Assistant and assists travelers in all aspects of use of the E2 travel system. This includes providing formal training to E2 system users and advising travelers on how to initiate travel orders and how to close out travel vouchers. Advises travelers about U.S. Government travel policies and regulations. Liaison with outside travel vendors to make reservations and initiate travel ticketing.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

NOTE: All applicants must address each selection criterion detailed below with specific and comprehensive information supporting each item.

- Education:** Completion of at least two years university level courses (e.g. junior college) in business management, accounting, finance or related field is required.
- Prior Work Experience:** At least two years of experience required in travel management and/or financial/accounting field.
- Language Proficiency:** Fluent written and spoken Lao (level IV) and good working knowledge (level III) of English is required.
- Knowledge:** Must have a thorough knowledge of statutory and regulatory requirements and restrictions concerning USG travel policies and management of the US government funds. Must be familiar with State Department automated Financial Management Systems and E2 travel system.
- Skills and Abilities:** Must be able to type well, with speed and accuracy. Must be able to use computer software, including accounting packages and Microsoft Office Suites. Must be able to prepare Excel spreadsheets to track accounting data.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested applicants for this position must submit the following for the application to be considered:

- Universal Application for Employment (Form DS-174). Download the form at: http://iain.usembassy.gov/job_opportunities.html
- Candidates who claim U.S. Veterans preference must provide a copy of their Form DD-214 with their application.
- Any other documentation (e.g., essays, certificates, awards, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualification requirements of the position as listed above.

SUBMIT APPLICATION TO

Human Resources Office
 American Embassy
 Rue Bartholomee, That Dam
 PO Box 114, Vientiane, Laos
 (Hardcopy or e-mail attachments are accepted)

POINT OF CONTACT

Telephone: 856-21-267176
 Fax: 856-21-267140
 E-mail: VientianeHR@state.gov

Interested persons should contact Embassy Human Resources Office for more information. Blank application forms may be picked up from the cabinet inside the Embassy entrance. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

CLOSING DATE FOR THIS POSITION: February 22, 2013
 An Equal Opportunity Employer

Brazilian ethanol in the slow lane to global market

Mario Osava, IPS

RIO DE JANEIRO -- Following a promising start, Brazil's dream of positioning ethanol in the global market on an equal standing with petroleum-based fuels is hindered by new and old challenges.

Brazil's goal of expanding ethanol sales across the world will only be attained when there are "more countries in a position to buy and supply," noted Eduardo Leão de Sousa, director of the Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Union (UNICA), an organisation that represents the country's top sugar and ethanol producers.

Brazil and the United States produce close to 85 percent of the world's ethanol, according to information from the International Energy Agency. Since it is produced almost exclusively for domestic consumption, international sales are still marginal.

De Sousa told IPS that the critical level of demand necessary to stimulate ethanol production is not something that emerges spontaneously and must be driven by public policies, such as regulations that require a certain volume of renewable fuel to be blended into petroleum-based transport fuels.

Growing demand is led by the United States, spurred by the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) programme that set increasing annual quotas for ethanol production through 2022, and the European Union (EU), which aims to bring the percentage of renewable fuels



Sugarcane harvesters have become a fixture in the Brazilian landscape. --Credit: Mario Osava /IPS

in transport vehicle engines up to 10 percent by 2020.

The RFS programme, created under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and further expanded in 2007, with the aim of cutting greenhouse gas emissions and reducing US dependence on foreign oil, established a limit of 56.78 billion litres for annual consumption of conventional ethanol fuels, which are those produced from food crops such as corn.

As US consumption is nearing that limit, the bulk of the increase towards the 2022 target of 132.5 billion will

have to come from cellulosic ethanol – a biofuel from wood, grasses or the inedible parts of plants, which is new and still too costly to produce – and from "advanced" biofuels.

"Advanced" or "second generation" biofuels are those produced by sustainable feedstock, which are defined by availability of the feedstock, greenhouse gas (GHG) emission levels and biodiversity and land use impact.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency designated sugarcane ethanol as an advanced biofuel

because it lowers GHG emissions by more than 50 percent as compared to gasoline, taking into account the full lifecycle of production and consumption, including the use of land to grow the crop.

This development will boost demand for ethanol produced by Brazil and other sugarcane growing countries, bringing it up to 15.14 million litres by 2022.

As for the EU, based on a directive to promote the use of energy from renewable sources (Directive 2009/28/EC) that requires that 10 percent of the energy used in transport be sourced from renewable fuels by 2020, ethanol consumption for that year is projected at 15 to 16 billion litres, half of which could be supplied from outside the bloc, according to de Sousa.

EU and US imports combined, then, will equal Brazil's current domestic market, developed over the

course of almost four decades, de Sousa estimated.

But that demand is not a sure thing. The EU's executive body, the European Commission, is considering revising its transport fuel target to impose a limit on crop-based biofuels in an effort to prevent negative impacts on food supply, while in the United States the powerful oil and corn lobbies are pressuring against the RFS, the UNICA director said.

Out to conquer emerging markets

Another huge potential market is China, but only if it adopts an ambitious programme once "a supply of diverse and permanent sources is guaranteed," de Sousa forecasted.

Many countries introduced the use of ethanol as a fuel additive in the 1990s. But there are numerous cases in which national programmes for the adoption of this biofuel were postponed or implemented on a trial basis. For example, after establishing a voluntary three percent biofuel blend in 2003, Japan is still reluctant to make it mandatory.

On the supply side, efforts are also "timid," although sugarcane ethanol is being produced in other South American countries and in Central America and Africa, as well as in Southeast Asia, where UNICA sees "great potential."

Mexico has extensive agricultural land but fragmented into tiny private plots that hinder large-scale production. Something similar occurs in India, which already has a large cane production to supply sugar for its 1.2 billion people, de Sousa said. In Africa, the lack of infrastructure and labour trained for ethanol production are an obstacle to this activity.

In Angola and Mozambique, where Brazilian companies are implementing sugar projects, landholding is also an issue, but

for a different reason. As all land is state-owned, producers cannot purchase land and must depend on government concessions.

This eliminates land purchase costs but drives away investors who see property as a guarantee.

"The key is having clear rules and streamlining implementation," said Felipe Cruz, investment director at Angola's Capanda Agroindustrial Pole, an initiative of the Brazilian company Odebrecht, which is building the Angolan Bioenergy Company (Biocom) set to begin production this year.

"The focus is on sugar," António Carlos de Carvalho, Biocom manager and financial director, said. Angola, which was self-sufficient in that food crop prior to independence in 1975, lost its entire sugarcane industry during its 27-year-long civil war. Now it is trying to rebuild it with projects across the country.

In addition to 260,000 tons of sugar, Biocom plans to produce 30 million litres of ethanol, which will be used to replace petroleum-based additives.

Blazing a winding trail

As a pioneer in the use of ethanol fuel and a major sugarcane producer, Brazil has developed technology and companies in the field that have made it possible for the country to pursue ethanol projects in every continent.

This strategy was launched as a response to rising international oil prices in the mid 1970s, when Brazil imported 80 percent of the fuel it consumed.

A decade later, almost all new vehicles manufactured in Brazil were running exclusively on ethanol, while the rest of the country's vehicle fleet had switched to gasoline blended with an increasing percentage of biofuel. Today, vehicles run on a blend that ranges from 18 to 25 percent.



croix-rouge française

Job Description: TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRET – VIENTIANE CAPITALE

The French Red Cross delegation in Lao PDR is seeking 1 competent Lao national to fulfil the position of "Translator-Interpreter".

Position: Translator/ Interpreter
Place of assignment: Vientiane Capitale with field trips
Language required: Lao and English
Qualification: University degree in related fields
Starting date: 18th of March 2013
Duration: 3 months
How to apply: Send a CV plus motivation letter to French Red Cross
Application deadline: As soon as appropriate candidate identified

The French Red Cross (FRC) is a non-profit and humanitarian organization. In partnership with the Lao Red Cross (LRC), the FRC is implementing several projects in Lao DPR: Food Security in Sayaboury Province, Disaster Risk Reduction in Khammouane Province and Road Safety awareness in Vientiane Capitale.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Translate operational documents (leaflets, reports, manuals, visibility...)
- Translate accountancy documentations upon administrative team request
- Translate mails, e-mails and fax upon request
- Accompany external/ internal visitors on field trips (this requires availability on week-ends)
- Assure the translation
- Must guarantee a honest and complete translation of both parts

REQUIREMENTS

- Fluency in both Lao and English languages
- Good proven writing skills in both languages
- Good computer skills (Word, Excel, Email & internet)
- A former experience as translator and interpret is an asset
- Ability to learn fast and to work in a team and with different partners
- Ability to work in communities and excellent relational skills
- Knowledge and experience in field/rural work
- Knowledge and experience in Disaster Risk Reduction is an asset
- Knowledge and experience in data processing is an asset
- Good organisational and communication skills (Written, verbal and interpersonal)
- Knowledge of the Red Cross Movement and NGO is an asset
- Hard worker, efficient, creative, independent and realistic.

CONDITIONS

Salary: between 3,700,000 and 4,150,000 KIP following experience and competencies
Specific Bonus: insurance, allowance for accommodation, 13th month bonus

Interested applicants should send their CV and cover letter until the 28th of February 2013 to acc1-lao.fr@croix-rouge.fr under the reference: "Translator/ Interpreter".
 Only short listed candidates will be contacted within 10 days after the closing date.
 FRC is an equal opportunity employer. Women and ethnic minority candidates are thus strongly encouraged to apply



JOB OPPORTUNITY

China Gezhouba Group Corporation (hereinafter referred to as "CGGC") affiliated to the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council was founded in 1970. Forty years' development has seen it grow into a colossal SOE. Its business scope includes infrastructure construction, investment, hydroelectrical works and highways as well as real estate.

CGGC Laos seeks to hire experienced workers to join our team. The workers will assist the office administrator in assuring that the daily work is in the normal development. The position will be based in Vientiane with possible travel to province

DUTIES include:
 Construction marketing development;
 Civil Engineering Management (Civil Engineer);
 Contract Management;
 Report writing;
 Translation of document;
 Make meeting record;
 Candidate with one of the above conditions can apply for the job.

Qualifications:
 University degree or relevant equivalent experience;
 At least 3 years experience in office work or in construction enterprise;
 Must be proficient in MS Office 2003/2007, spreadsheet, internet and email;
 Must have good organizational skills, good driving skills (The female is not restricted);
 Ability to hear, speak, read and write in Chinese and Lao required;
 Good communication, moderation and inter-personal skills;
 Must be a Lao nationalities.

The successful candidate will have a high level of honesty and integrity, be results oriented, have a strong work ethic, be a positive team player, and possess strong analytical and problem-solving skills.

Application should submit a **letter of interest and curriculum vitae** by email (hxmccggc@gmail.com).
 Office location: Ban NONGSANOKHAM, Unit11, SIKHOTABONG district, VIENTIANE capital.
 Office telephone: 021 550520 Mobile: 020 96252363.

Feature

The world is craving for crickets

Lukas Messmer

Most westerners shake their heads in disbelief: "Eating insects? How atrocious!" But insects have been eaten since the beginning of mankind and only with the evolution of the modern world have certain religions and cultures started to discourage eating them. If creepy crawlies find their way into one's stomach in the west, it's because they are used as a test of courage on reality-TV shows or amongst students daring each other for a bet.

Things are totally different in Laos. One of the best snacks you can find to accompany a few Beerlao are deep-fried crickets, surprisingly. They come in piles on your plate, infused with the flavour of deep-fried lemongrass leaves and some chillies sprinkled in between.

Maybe it's this discrepancy between the different roles of insects in Asian and Western society that is luring a number of European visitors here to cover this topic. Recently, there has been huge interest from overseas about eating insects in Laos. Television teams from France, Germany and Denmark have visited the country and produced features on the subject. Students from European universities also come here to study how insects are farmed and consumed. It's an unusual amount of attention for a small, little known landlocked country.

Michael Wiedemann, environment editor for the



Entomologist Soupaphone Rattanasary at the edible insects research facility at the Faculty of Agriculture of the National University of Laos.

public-service German television broadcaster ZDF, has just finished cutting a 30 minute documentary about this topic, in which Laos plays a crucial role. He visited insect farms, insect farmers and research facilities at the National University of Laos.

"Laos has an old tradition of insect eating and is still fighting malnutrition, to which insect eating could be a possible solution," he explains whilst outlining his fascination with the topic.

He thinks the depiction of insects as disgusting in major German TV shows like "Dschungelcamp", where prominent actors have to eat insects as tests of courage, generates interest in edible insects among European TV viewers – but more as a freak show than as a daily food. But

despite the western distaste, 80 percent of the world's population regularly snacks on over 1,000 different species of insect. And not too long ago, the Germans ate insects themselves.

"Until the 19th century, people in Europe also ate insects. Recipes like "cockchafer soup" were widespread in contemporary cookbooks," says Mr Wiedemann. He is convinced that eating insects is a question of cultural learning. "Insects as food play a crucial role in terms of food security in the future," he says with conviction.

Scientists agree. The global population is growing and more arable land is needed on which to grow food. Due to climate change, it is also essential to retain forests. The production of biofuel and breeding of livestock devours huge areas

of land. Eating insects could be a solution to all of it. Although some people may be surprised, insects are highly nutritious: 100g of grasshopper contains 61g of protein, while beef contains only 22g. Because they are cold-blooded, the farming of insects requires very little in terms of natural resources. And one cricket produces thousands of offspring – compare that to a cow, which has only one calf a year.

As a recent paper from Pondicherry University in India puts it: "It would be irrational not to eat them. That western culture depicts eating insects as uncouth and unhealthy has more to do with ignorance and arrogance than culture and sophistication. It is not wise to ignore the potential of insects as human food any longer."

Insects are also a valuable part of the Lao diet. Rice is eaten everywhere and is the staple food. But rice alone is not enough for good nutrition. Malnourishment in Laos is a huge problem, and people sometimes don't have enough proteins or vitamins in their diet, and in this regard insects are a valuable supplement.

This is why the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) started a two-year project promoting edible insects in Laos in 2010, costing US\$500,000, to train 120 farmers in insect production. It's still running and focuses on strengthening the existing role of insects as complementary food in the Lao diet and on insect farming. In April, the experiences and results will be published.

FAO Representative in Laos, Purushottam Mudbhary, also sees huge potential in edible insects. "In 2050 we are nine billion people. We need 70 percent more production until

then. Trees are being cut down. There are not many possibilities for expansion," he says. While research on edible insects has expanded in other countries, it's still new in Laos. "The market here is still untouched," says Mr Mudbhary.

One part of the project is a research facility to study the farming of insects at the NUOL's Faculty of Agriculture campus in Ban Nabong. On site, entomologist Soupaphone Rattanasary explains the equipment and tools required. Crickets are chirping in the background. The species is called *Acheta domesticus* and it's the only one that is farmed successfully around Vientiane.

"Some farmers like to hear them sing songs," says Mr Soupaphone and smiles. He seems a bit disillusioned. Only two people still work here. After a fulminant start, the project seems to have slowed down a bit of late. The students grow and sell farmed crickets and share the profits with the faculty. The farming of palm weevils and meal worms has nearly stopped completely. What sounds good in theory seems to be difficult to realise in the real world. The Lao government has decided to set its priorities somewhere else.

"Edible insects are not a priority for the Ministry of Health or for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Keeping the knowledge and the tradition are important, but there are no plans for taking over the project," the health ministry's Department of Hygiene and Prevention Deputy Director General Somchit Akkhavon, who is also director of the edible insects project, told the IRIN news service last year.

But 40-year-old student Mr Khonesavanh from Luang Namtha province is still working with enthusiasm. He's been

studying here for three years and is finishing his final report about the different materials needed to farm crickets. "Crickets are easy to farm and don't need much space; you can keep them under your house. They taste good," he says. He wants to bring his knowledge back to Luang Namtha.

Farming crickets can also be lucrative. At the research facility, about 20 round concrete ponds are used to raise the crickets. One pond hatches more than one kilo of crickets every two months. They can be sold for about 50,000 kip. A farm this size turns over about 6 million kip worth of business annually.

So why is cricket farming not practised on a larger scale in Laos? "There is still a lack of information. It works economically. It works technically. But some people don't know about it or they think it's hard work," says entomologist Mr Soupaphone. And Laos is still a limited market. Because they are cheaper in Thailand, exporting them is not profitable.

However, Mr Soupaphone already has ideas for the future: "Maybe we can farm them organically in the future and export them in cans. We should also try to promote crickets through various activities, shows and festivals."

Could the interest of western media in cricket farming in Laos convince insect-despising cultures to change their eating habits? The world would be thankful. It really seems irrational to not eat insects. You cannot produce the world's protein requirements with cattle alone. It just won't work. And to be honest: is a shrimp – which is one of the world's most popular delicacies – really more unappetising than a grasshopper?

With this article, Swiss journalist Lukas Messmer is ending his three month internship at the Vientiane Times.

Nam Ngiep 1 Hydropower Project

(Kansai Electric Power Co., Inc)

Career Opportunity Announcement

Nam Ngiep 1 Hydropower Project – NNP1 – is a project that develops, finances, constructs owns and operates the Nam Ngiep 1 hydro-electric power generation facility located on the Nam Ngiep river in Bolikhamxay Province. NNP1 is currently seeking suitable candidates for 2 full time positions in our Pakxan office.

(Job title)

1. Civil Engineer
2. Secretarial /Administrative staff

(Main Duties)

1. Civil Engineer

- ✓ To supervise construction works including contractor's management on safety, quality, construction schedule and work volume in accordance with requirements under a contract document and to check work volume and/or calculate the amount from drawings and other documents.
- ✓ To arrange and coordinate meetings with related authorities and the government including provincial and district office for construction works (drafting documents such as official letters to the government or related authorities, as case maybe, to translate related documents b/w English and Lao) and to attend the meetings (including making explanations and drafting minutes of meetings).

2. Secretarial /Administrative staff

- ✓ Secretarial matters such as schedule management, communication, liaison and coordination with related Government organizations, preparation of a meeting, and arrangement of transportation etc and Overall administrative matters such as reception, office arrangement, document preparation /control, interpretation from Lao to English/English to Lao.
- ✓ Accounting and cash control procurement of office supplies of the Pakxan Office.

(Professional Background and Qualifications)

- Bachelor degree or more and 2 year or more work experience with private enterprises would be desirable.
- Good computer skills especially Microsoft Excel, Word, and Power point.
- Good interpersonal and organization skills and fluent in English and Thai (spoken and written) and driving license.

Qualified candidates should submit an application form (available at NNP1 Vientiane office), CV and letter of motivation addressing the above elements to:

Nam Ngiep 1 Hydropower Project (Kansai Electric Power Co., Inc)
Ban Sibounheuang,
Unit 25 Chanthabouly Dist,
Vientiane Cap., Lao PDR.
e-mail: namngiep1.nnp1@yahoo.com
Tel: (021) 265-185 Fax: (021) 265-186

Note that only short listed candidates will be contacted for interview

Closing date for this advertising is 22nd February 2013



BORDA Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association

BORDA Laos Project Office
Saphangmor Village | Saysettha District
P.O. Box 2579 | Vientiane Capital
030 2007754 | vientiane@borda-sea.org
www.borda-sea.org

Job Opening

Finance & Administration Officer (Lao National)

The Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association (BORDA) opened a project office in Lao P.D.R. within its Basic Needs Service (BNS) Network, which reaches 14 countries in Africa, Asia and South-East Asia. The BORDA Laos Project Office is looking for a suitable candidate to fulfill the position of a "Finance & Administration Officer". Job starting date is 1st of April, 2013.

Key Responsibilities

- Under supervision the Finance & Admin Officer will have the following responsibilities:
- Responsible for Financial Management for Projects (consolidate fund request, documentation and reporting, ...)
 - Responsible for project account (Bank reconciliation, cash management, payment, internal account system etc.)
 - Responsible for Human Resources Management (recruitment process and contract)
 - Responsible for Administrative Management (functioning office, purchase of office equipment, material, visa arrangements, traveling arrangement, filling system, logistic matter and etc.)

Key Qualifications

- Degree qualification in Finance/Accounting, Business Administration, and/or English
- Knowledge of financial systems & accounting practices
- Relevant work experience, are welcome, but not required
- Good communication skills in English and Lao, both spoken and written
- Good organizational skills, ability to work both independently & as team member
- Ability to use Microsoft Office and others basic soft ware

How to Apply

Interested applicants should send electronically their letter of motivation, CV, degree certificate, and salary requirements until 8th of March 2012 to t.moeller@borda-sea.org under the reference "Finance/Admin BORDA Laos". Only short listed candidates will be contacted within 5 days after the closing date.

BORDA is an equal opportunity employer. Women and ethnic minority candidates are thus strongly encouraged to apply.

The alchemy of love

Avigail Olarte, Asia News Network

French director brings a touch of slapstick to 'Happiness Never Comes Alone'

If Woody Allen sees life divided into the horrible and the miserable, French director James Huth views it as hilarious and impossible.

His latest film, *Happiness Never Comes Alone* (*Un bonheur n'arrive jamais seul*), captures the hilarity of a girl-meets-boy scenario but adds plenty of impossible twists and turns, not to mention stunts, along the way.

The movie, which is part of the Clap! French Film Festival and is scheduled for general release in April, is a funny and slapstick portrayal of love's alchemy. It's a feel-good movie with a heart-warming, Capraesque narrative set in Paris.

When two people - who couldn't be greater opposites - fall in love and get caught up in passionate sex, there's bound to be trouble. And in the best tradition of romantic comedy, they survive it and fall captive to the inevitable course of amour, French style.

The story revolves around Sacha (Gad Elmaleh), a free-spirited jazz pianist who enjoys chasing young women and Charlotte (Sophie Marceau), a divorcee and mother of three. They meet on the street one rainy

afternoon, and within minutes, make love. For Sacha, meeting the woman of his dreams, despite the differences, is "the eye-opener of the century". Trouble follows when he meets the kids and the uber rich and jealous ex-husband. Just as things seem to be going downhill, Sacha realises he can't survive, can't make music without her - and her kids - and the lovers get back together.

"It's a very optimistic film about love," says Huth, who has been through a very similar experience himself - he met his wife under the same circumstances. Sonja, who co-wrote the film with Huth, had three kids when they met. The couple had two more after they got married.

"If you had told me 15 minutes before I met her that I would go for a woman with one child, I would have laughed for an hour and 15 minutes. It was just impossible. But the minute I met her it was evident that I was going to spend the rest of my life with this woman and the kids were a part of her," he says.

The young director says the idea for the script came up a while back and they worked on it together but he simply wasn't prepared to direct kids - something he's assiduously avoided in his previous five comedies. Even now, after the fact, he says it was the most challenging part and much more difficult than working with Elmaleh and Marceau.

In fact, the two actors had such natural chemistry on and off the screen that Huth didn't have to adapt the script. "It was perfect casting," he says of Elmaleh, one of the most popular stand-up comedians in France and of the multi-awarded Marceau.

"Romantic comedies have something more than other films - they have grace, grace between the two characters. You remember these films because there is something between, say, Julia Roberts and Richard Gere ('Pretty Woman'), or Spencer Tracy and Katherine Hepburn. There is an alchemy between them," he says. "Not only does it have to happen between the actors, you have to capture it on screen. And I hope I succeeded in doing that."

It's the element of surprise, of doing something magical yet funny, that is key to Huth's work. Tender moments are suddenly interrupted with stunts, such as Charlotte almost breaking her neck when she falls down the stairs after their first lovemaking, or when she is clobbered by a faulty sink, throwing her on the floor with her skirt up to her waist.

"Gad was so surprised at the first take that his reaction was to panic with the water and everything. That was the shot I kept. We did not expect Sophie's panties to be shown quite like that," Huth laughs. But it's those sort of stunts that lend a burlesque charm to the scenes, all



French actors Gad Elmaleh (right) and Sophie Marceau (left) in the movie 'Happiness Never Comes Alone'. --Photo provided to The Nation

mixed in with homespun, ribald humour.

The sink, which Sacha tries to fix throughout the movie, is symbolic of his dilemma, very much like in most French comedy films where things always seem to go wrong, again and again.

"Comedy is a genre that sells anywhere. People need to laugh," he says. "Comedy is not as respected as a kind of art film in France but it's very difficult to do. Everyone is pushing me to stay in comedy."

When Huth started on his career path in the '80s, it was as an oral surgeon, not a film director. His first shot at changing his life came at the age of 25 when he won a photography contest that earned him a trip

to Thailand. One thing led to another, and he started to explore filmmaking.

"I never once thought I could be a director because I didn't

have the confidence in myself to believe that one day I could direct a movie. But suddenly - and it's an incredible feeling - I knew I was exactly where I should be."

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United Nations Development Programme



Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR LAO NATIONAL Security Guard Supervisor at SC-4 level (SC), Re-advertised Contract 12 months - renewable (Monthly Salary: US\$570-700)

UNDP is seeking an experienced Lao National Guard Force Supervisor at the SC-4 level to supervise a team of security personnel in providing security and safety protection for United Nations premises, property and personnel. Under the guidance and direct supervision of UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), the Guard Supervisor oversees Security operations at the premises including all related activities to ensure compliance with security and safety procedures of the United Nations.

Duties and responsibilities

- Supervise a team of security personnel in providing security and safety protection for United Nations premises, property and personnel. Conduct daily line-up inspections and brief shift personnel, including possible security threats and related operational plans. Advise, counsel and coach security personnel, examine routine reports and certify their accuracy
- Monitor non-UN staff movements and work on the premises outside of regular office hours. Assume control of specific areas during periods of heightened security
- Oversee Security operations at the premises including all related activities to ensure compliance with security and safety procedures
- Submit reports of all alarms or malfunctions. Collect, review and submit all safety incident and building inspection reports. Prepare monthly statistical reports pertaining to safety observations
- Advise the UNDSS and/or the Operations Officer and contractual staff and workers outside of regular office hours on any technical or safety related problem requiring immediate corrective action
- Monitor surveillance cameras, motion detectors and other related workstations located within the UN Building
- Undertake other duties as assigned

Competencies

- Professionalism - sound judgment and leadership skills
- Strong communication skills (written, verbal, and interpersonal)
- Teamwork
- Planning and organization
- Ability to manage and work well in multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural teams
- Ability to work in an organized and systematic manner

Qualifications and experience

- High school diploma or equivalent supplemented by military, police, fire or occupational building safety training
- A minimum of 4 to 6 years supervisory experience as a civilian or military law enforcement officer, or similar experience acquired working in a specialized commercial/private security firm/installation; having work experience in UN or International Organization is an advantage
- Proficiency in written and spoken English is required, knowledge of other UN languages would be an advantage
- Must be physically and mentally fit

Detailed job description available at the UNDP Human Resources Unit and on-line from <http://www.la.undp.org/content/laopdr/en/home/operations/jobs/>

The applicants are required to apply on-line via the website above by 28 February 2013

Inquiry - telephone: (856-21) 267 780 or Fax: (856-21) 267 799

Female candidates are encouraged to apply
Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interview

United Nations Development Programme



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UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help build a better life.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR LAO NATIONAL Administrative/Travel Analyst at NO-A Level Contract 12 months (renewable)

UNDP is seeking an Administrative/Travel Analyst to be a team member of the Procurement Logistics Unit in the UNDP Lao PDR Office. The Administrative/Travel Analyst will provide the overall administration and execution of varied and inter-related operational and logistical activities in UNDP CO, ensuring high quality and accuracy of work. The Administrative/Travel Analyst will be working in close collaboration with the Operations, Programme and Projects staff and other UN agencies to exchange information and ensure consistent and high quality of services.

Duties and responsibilities

Implementation of operational strategies:

- Full compliance of administrative activities with UN/UNDP rules, regulations, policies and strategies
- Provision of effective and efficient administrative support services
- Coordination and supervision of support staff engaged in the fields of visa, travel and logistics
- Coordination and supervision of shipment and customs clearance, travel, events management, administrative surveys, procurement of supplies
- Support with protocol matters, registration of staff, coordination with local authorities, on visa and other administrative matters

Travel management processes for CO, MEX/DIX projects and at the request of other UN Agencies:

- a) Management of travel section:**
 - Managing travel section and act as focal point for the office. Oversees the overall travel function in the office, implements and provides advice on the UN/UNDP travel rules and regulations, manages the travel-related staff in the office.
 - Provision of information to the staff on travel including entitlements, travel route and hotel arrangement
 - Processing travel authorization and travel claims in line with travel entitlements for staff, consultants, UN and visitors, ensuring that the travel arrangement follow the UN rules of most direct route and most competitive prices.
- b) Management of visa and documents section:**
 - Processing requests for visas for all UN travelers, as well as requests for Resident Permit and Diplomatic Identification Card for international staff.

Support to knowledge building and knowledge sharing.

Competencies

- Initiative, creativity, enthusiasm, maturity, tact and high sense of responsibility
- Strong interpersonal and networking skills are essential for internal communications, media management and working with partners
- Ability to work to deadlines with accuracy and attention to detail
- Ability to learn new tasks and skills quickly
- Excellent organization skills and an ability to manage and organize events
- Appreciation of quality and professionalism

Qualifications and experience

- Academic requirements: Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, Finance, Economics or other related fields
- Minimum two years' work experience with Master's degree and five years with Bachelor's degree in administration, travel, procurement or programme support services
- Good skills in using computer and office software packages (MS Word, Excel, etc.)
- Experience in handling of web-based management systems
- Fluent in English and Lao languages

This UNDP fixed-term appointment is based in the UNDP Country Office in Vientiane.

Detailed job description available in the Human Resources Office and online from <http://www.la.undp.org/content/laopdr/en/home/operations/jobs/>

The applicants are required to Apply Online via the website above by 21st of February 2013

Telephone: (856-21) 267 777 or Fax: (856-21) 267 799

Female candidates are encouraged to apply

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interview

Art & Entertainment

Record sales double for Grammy performers

Asia News Network, China Daily

Grammy performers did not go home with just trophies last weekend. Winning bands like indie-pop trio fun. and British folk band Mumford & Sons saw sales of their singles and albums more than double after appearing on the music industry honors show.

Sales figures released on Friday by Nielsen showed a 182 percent increase in sales of fun.'s hit single "We Are Young" following their Song of the Year and Best New Artist Grammy victories on Sunday.

Album of the Year winner's Mumford & Sons saw sales of its "I Will Wait" single shoot up 116 percent, while Australian artist Gotye's "Making Mirrors" album from 2011 increased 124 percent from the week before the annual music telecast.

Rising R&B star Frank Ocean, who took home two Grammys, saw sales of his album "Channel Orange" climb 140 percent.



Members of the band Fun pose with their awards for Song of the Year "We Are Young" and Best New Artist, at the 55th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California on February 10.

--Photo Agencies

The numbers mostly reflect a single night of sales increases from the prior week, predominantly digital downloads, immediately following the Grammy Awards show in Los Angeles on February 10.

Sales figures for the full week will be released as usual by Nielsen SoundScan on Wednesday and will include both digital and physical album sales.

Grammy winners were not the only ones to benefit from the

annual music industry showcase.

Veteran rockers The Band saw its greatest hits package climb 203 percent after a multi-artist tribute at the show to late drummer Levon Helm.

Sales of "Take Five," the distinctive 1959 tune by jazz pianist Dave Brubeck who died in December, shot up 248 percent after a tribute by fellow jazz musicians Chick Corea, Stanley Clarke and Kenny Garrett, according to Nielsen.

The Grammys also proved a boost for the blossoming career of 26 year-old southern California artist Miguel. After performing his single "Adorn" on the show, sales rose 229 percent compared with the week prior.

Mumford & Sons, Frank Ocean, Gotye and The Band record on labels owned by Universal Music Group; the music of Miguel and the late Dave Brubeck is released by units of Sony Music, and FUN. is signed to record label Fueled by Ramen, a unit of privately-held Warner Music.

'Romeo and Juliet' opens season for Korea National Ballet

Claire Lee, Asia News Network, Korea Herald

The Korea National Ballet is opening this year's season with Sergei Prokofiev's "Romeo and Juliet," featuring its star principals Kim Ji-young, Lee Dong-hun, and Spain's Compania Nacional de Danza's principal ballerina Kim Seh-yun in the lead.

The troupe is presenting a version created by French choreographer Jean-Christophe Maillot of Monte Carlo Ballet Theater. The local troupe first premiered Maillot's "Romeo and Juliet" in 2000, and had two separate runs in 2002 and 2011, respectively. The troupe's 2011 run was specially accompanied by Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, led by conductor Chung Myung-whun.

The upcoming show is very much different from the Kenneth MacMillan version showcased by the Universal Ballet Company last year. Maillot's "Romeo and Juliet" is noted for its contemporary choreography which deals with dualities of adolescence — rather

than the conflicts between the two feuding families. Its stage setting, created by French designer Ernest Pignon-Ernest, is also known for its black and white, minimal design.

This year, KNB's principal Kim Ji-young is starring as Juliet, with Lee Dong-hun as Romeo. Korean ballerina Kim Seh-yun, who is currently working as the principal dancer at Compania Nacional de Danza in Madrid, is playing Lady Capulet, Juliet's mother.

In Maillot's version, Juliet's father, Capulet, never appears in the show. Maillot's Lady Capulet, on the other hand, is much stronger willed than the one in the original. She is also having a secret affair with Tybalt, her husband's nephew, who later gets killed by his rival Romeo. Maillot also recreated Friar Laurence, who hopes to reconcile the two families through their children's reunion in the original play. In Maillot's version, he is portrayed as someone who is facing much confusion, anguish and doubt.

Ballerina Kim Seh-yun, formerly the principal dancer



A scene from Korea National Ballet's "Romeo and Juliet" (KNB).

of Korea's Universal Ballet Company in the early 2000s, moved to Boston Ballet in the US in 2004. She also danced for Switzerland's Ballet Zurich, and the Dutch National Ballet, before settling down in Madrid as one of the principals for Spain's Compania Nacional de Danza in September last year. She flew to Monaco from Spain to attend an audition for the role of Lady Capulet for the upcoming show. According to the Korea National

Ballet, Maillot made his decision on the spot in Monaco, after watching her dance for about 30 minutes.

This year, Korean Symphony Orchestra is playing Prokofiev's classic score, led by Italian conductor Marzio Conti, along with the ballet.

"Romeo and Juliet" opens on Valentine's Day and runs until Feb. 17 at Seoul Arts Center's Opera Theater in Seocho-dong, southern Seoul.

Cage channels caveman in 'The Croods'

Asia News Network, China Daily

DreamWorks Animation's new 3D adventure "The Croods" brings the prehistoric age to the 21st century in the form of a dysfunctional family of cave dwellers forced to flee the comforts of home and search out a new life in the unknown.

"Never not be afraid" and "Fear keeps us alive" are the mantras for Grug, the ape-like father voiced by Nicolas Cage and whose first instinct is always to find a cave, block

up the entrance and stay there as long as possible.

But while he seeks to protect his brood from giant, hyena-like predators lurking in the shadows, his teenaged daughter Eep (Emma Stone) is desperate to spread her wings, and it is her curiosity that leads the Croods to the other main character Guy.

Guy introduces the Croods to fire and to a new way of thinking, and when the world literally falls apart around them they flee the collapsing deserts and canyons to find a lush,

tropical world full of exotic yet dangerous creatures.

Flying pink piranha birds devour walking whales in seconds, while tiny monkeys with giant fists use Grug as a punch bag.

Much play is made of the first modern family coming up with the first pair of sunglasses (out of stone), the first pet, and the first photograph - made by smashing a flat rock against the Croods' faces and leaving indentation marks.

For Cage, the appeal of "The Croods", which hits theatres

in March and has its premiere at the Berlin film festival on Friday, was that the themes were recognizable today.

"The first thing I thought was 'Gee, I really hope I don't look like that,'" he told reporters, referring to Grug's less-than-flattering features.

"But what I really like about the relationship that Emma and I have in the movie is that it's a relationship that I think many families can relate to - the over-protective father, the teenaged daughter who wants to have some adventure."

What's On

Vientiane

- **The Thai-Lao Classic Charity Concert** will take place on March 2 at 7pm at the National Culture Hall in Vientiane.
- **Elephant Festival will take place** from Feb 17-19 in Xayaboury district, Xayaboury province.
- **Vat Phou Festival takes place in Champassak province** on February 20-25, 2013.
- **Action with Lao Children Library:** Open Mon to Fri 9am to 6pm and Sat 9am to 3pm. Come in and read and borrow Lao, Japanese, Thai and English books. Located in Ban Saphangmor, Xaysettha district.
- **Permanent UXO exhibition** and the provision of artificial limbs for victims. COPE Visitor Centre, Khouvieng Road, opposite Green Park Hotel. Every day: 9am-6pm.
- **Drama Club at 7:30 pm every Friday** includes role playing, miming, storytelling, improvisation and stage performances at the gymnasium of the French Hoffet School. Call Yves on 23273481.
- **Chess Club meets** at 1pm every Sunday at City Inn on Pangkham Road, Vientiane. Contact: Gabriel_smit@hotmail.com
- **Women's International Group.** For activities and times email wiglaosmembership@gmail.com
- **Toastmasters Club meets every Sun.** from 4-6pm at Khop Chai Deu restaurant (3F). Everyone is welcome.
- **Meditation at Vat Sokpaluang** every Saturday, 4-5.30pm.
- **English Language Church Service** every Sunday 10 am at the Language Centre on Lane 3- next to PV Oil (near the Mercure Hotel). Call (021) 261441, or visit <http://www.the-chs.org> for more details.

Luang Prabang

Big Brother Mouse helps young people practise their English at free drop-in sessions, 9-11am and 5-7pm, open every day. Just come to our office at 9am or 5pm in Ban Vat Nong, around the corner from 3 Nagas Hotel. www.bigbrothermouse.com.

Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre. Open 9am-6pm, Tues-Sun. www.taeclaos.org

Ock Pop Tok Living Crafts Centre open daily for free guided tour. Natural dyes, weaving and batik drawing classes daily. 9am-5pm. Free transfer from Ock Pop Tok shops in town to the weaving centre on the Mekong. Call 071 212597

Royal Palace National Museum. Open 8.30-11.30am and 1.30-4.30pm from Wednesday to Monday.

UXO Visitor Centre. Open Mon-Fri 8.30am-12 and 2-5pm. Right turn just before President's Monument on the Northern Rd.

Museums

Lao National Museum on Samsenthai Road opposite National Culture Hall. Open Mon-Fri during office hours and on weekends from 9am to 4pm.

Horphakeo Museum on Setthathirat Road opposite Vat Sisaket. Open Mon-Sun during office hours.

Sports

Lao Elephants Australian Rules Football Club -Meet at 6.30 pm on Thursdays for training, please contact the LE President at president_laoelephants@laopdr.com for details and other meeting areas.

Buffalos Rugby. Females of all ages welcome. Free. For either, contact Steve (020 5953 2304), Frazer (020 2209 7323) and Gilles (020 5551 8250) for more information.

Lions Women's Rugby training: Vientiane Lions Women's Rugby Club welcomes beginners and veterans to all trainings: 19:00 on Tuesdays, 19:00 on Thursdays and 15:00 on Saturdays. Call Maggie (78110019) or Megan (77574272) for location details.

Wild Hogs Rugby training: 20:30 on Tuesday and 20:30 on Thursday at Thatluang, 16:00 on Saturday and 16:00 on Sunday. Call Pisa (77424223) or Serk (29945970) for location details for Saturday and Sunday.

Lao Mahout Netball team trains every Tues. at 6pm at Vientiane International School. For more information contact Saeng on 020 77442689.

Body Language at Vientiane Accueil, Khouvieng Rd. Class includes stretching and respiratory exercises with an oriental touch. Tues. and Thurs. from 5.30-6.30pm. Contact 020 5612107.

Aerobics at Sokpalouang swimming pool, Sisattanak district. Open every day from 6am-8pm.

Vientiane Hash House Harriers Meet at Nam Phu Fountain every **Saturday** for travel to out-of-town runs. Mixed Hash, register at 3.45pm and depart 4pm. **Monday**, VH3, family Hash. 3 runs - short, medium and long. Meet at 5pm at advertised venue. Phones: 223867, 217493, mobile 020 5511293, 5514669.

Nadal reaches 2nd straight final since return

SAO PAULO (AP) -- Rafael Nadal was pushed to beat 111th-ranked Martin Alund 6-3, 6-7 (2), 6-1 at the Brazil Open on Saturday to reach his second straight final after a long layoff to treat his left knee.

Nadal will play doubles partner David Nalbandian, the former world No. 3 who defeated Simone Bolelli of Italy 6-3, 7-5 to make it to his first final since being disqualified for injuring a line judge at Queen's Club last year.

Still looking to gain rhythm and not yet in his best shape, Nadal broke Alund's service late in the first set but then struggled in the following tiebreaker, losing six straight points to go to a third set with the Argentine, who made it into the main draw as a lucky loser from qualifying after compatriot Leonardo Mayer withdrew injured.

Nadal was able to take control from the start of the third to close out the match in 1 hour, 56 minutes.

Nadal will be trying to win his 51st singles title on Sunday, and first since winning the French Open for the seventh time last June.

The Spaniard said he struggled with his sore knee throughout Saturday's match at

the indoor clay-court tournament.

"I didn't feel well today, it was the worst day for my knee, and if the knee is not well it makes it very difficult to play," Nadal said. "But I am happy with the result. After seven months without playing it's good to reach the final again, even if I'm not at my best."

Nadal is recovering from a torn and inflamed tendon in his left knee. He returned to action in Chile last week, losing the singles and doubles finals.

The Brazil Open champion in 2005, Nadal had already struggled in his quarterfinal on Friday, escaping with a three-set victory.

He dismisses being the favourite to win Sunday's final.

"It will be very hard," Nadal said. "I didn't feel well today but I hope that I'll be better tomorrow. I'm not the favourite but I'll try my best. (Nalbandian) has been playing very well. Let's see how it goes."

In the first semifinal, Nalbandian broke Bolelli just two games into the match and easily took the first set, then rallied from 3-1 down in the second at the Ibirapuera arena.

The 93rd-ranked Argentine converted all of his five break points.

"I started playing well, very solid," Nalbandian said. "I lost a bit of focus and it became another difficult match, but fortunately I was able to come through with the victory."

Seeking his 12th career title and first since 2010, Nalbandian hadn't made it to an ATP final since his disqualification for kicking an advertisement board and injuring a line judge during the grass-court tournament in London last June.

He vehemently complained of a call that went against him early in the second set on Saturday, getting the tournament official involved in the discussion before eventually settling down.

Nalbandian is making his season debut in singles at the Brazil Open. He was out of action for several months last season because of an abdominal injury and withdrew from the doubles in Brazil because Nadal, his partner, decided to rest his injured knee.

"I'm glad to be back playing at a top level again and it's good to make it to another final," Nalbandian said.

He eliminated two-time defending Brazil Open champion Nicolas Almagro of Spain in the quarterfinals.



Spain's Rafael Nadal returns the ball to Argentina's Martin Alund during a Brazil Open ATP tournament semifinal tennis match in Sao Paulo, Brazil on Saturday. --Photo AP



Arsenal's Theo Walcott (left) competes for the ball with Blackburn Rovers' goalkeeper Jake Kean during their English FA Cup fifth round soccer match at the Emirates stadium in London on Saturday. --Photo AP

Arsenal beaten by Blackburn in FA Cup

LONDON (AP) -- Arsenal's miserable season reached a new low on Saturday when the team was beaten 1-0 by second-tier Blackburn in the fifth round of the FA Cup, leaving manager Arsene Wenger facing an eighth straight season without silverware.

Humiliated by fourth-tier Bradford in the League Cup quarterfinals in December, Arsenal left to jeers from its own despairing supporters after Colin Kazim-Richards stabbed home a 72nd-minute winner at Emirates Stadium to create the latest big surprise in the FA Cup.

Wenger had never previously lost to a lower-division team in the famous old competition in his 17 years at the London club.

"It's painful and disappointing to lose a game like that," said Wenger, whose gamble in resting many of his top players ahead of Tuesday's Champions League last-16 first leg against Bayern Munich completely backfired. "It's very difficult to accept."

The Champions League is the only trophy Wenger's men have left to play for — and they are big underdogs in that competition, too, especially after this lackluster display. The club's last trophy was the FA Cup in 2005.

The shocks didn't end there, with third-tier Oldham grabbing an equalizer deep into stoppage time to draw 2-2 with Everton. That earned the team a lucrative replay at Goodison Park and continued an impressive run that has already seen it eliminate Liverpool.

Luton failed in its bid to become the first non-league team to reach the FA Cup quarterfinals in 99 years by losing 3-0 at home to Millwall, and Barnsley beat MK Dons 3-1 in another match between lower-league clubs.

After four of eight matches in the fifth round, there are still no topflight teams assured of a place in the quarterfinals.

Liverpool, Tottenham and Newcastle are among the Premier League teams to have been upset by lower-tier opponents this season, which is proving to be one for the underdogs with top teams seemingly focusing on the league and their European campaigns. Bradford plays Swansea in a surprise lineup for the League Cup final at Wembley Stadium next weekend.

Wenger cut a forlorn figure as he faced the press more than an hour after the final whistle, saying the Bayern match offered his team a chance at redemption.

"The season is not over," Wenger said. "For you, (but) not me."

Ironically, Kazim-Richards — a boyhood Arsenal fan and former youth-team player — stabbed home the scrappy winning goal off the post less than 60 seconds after Jack Wilshere, Santi Cazorla and Theo Walcott had been thrown on from the bench in a desperate attempt to avoid a replay.

Gervinho, playing for the first time since returning from African Nations Cup duty with the Ivory Coast, slipped a one-on-one chance wide in the first half and Tomas Rosicky smashed a fierce shot against the bar after the break in Arsenal's best chances.

But the hosts were undone on a counterattack when Blackburn winger Martin Olsson brought a save out of goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny, only for the ball to rebound out to Kazim-Richards, who prodded down and up into the corner.

A late flurry of attacks petered out lamely for Wenger's side, which produced one of its weakest performances of a gloomy season in which the team lies fifth in the Premier League — 21 points off leader Manchester United.

Haas shoots 64 to take lead at Riviera

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Bill Haas had another bogey-free round at Riviera while shooting a 7-under 64 — the best round of the day by three shots — on Saturday to take a three-stroke lead into the final day of the Northern Trust Open.

US Open champion Webb Simpson and former Masters champion Charl Schwartzel each had a 68 to be the nearest chasers, along with John Merrick, who bogeyed the last to finish with a 70.

The key for Haas was a seven-hole span in the middle of his round that he played in 6-under par, including a chip-in for eagle on the par-4 10th. He was at 12-under 201 and will try to become the eighth back-to-back winner in the 76-year history of this tournament.

"It's very difficult in this game to just pull away from the rest of the field," Haas said. "You've only seen a few guys ever really do that, and those are guys like Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson. I've

just got to stay in the moment, don't let my emotions get the best of me."

A year ago, Haas was two shots behind going into the final round and wound up winning in a playoff over Mickelson and Keegan Bradley. This time, he has a comfortable margin over US Open champion Webb Simpson and former Masters champion Charl Schwartzel, who each thought they did well for a 68.

Luke Donald overcame a sloppy start — three bogeys in a six-hole stretch — with four birdies on the back nine to salvage a 70 that put him four shots behind, along with second-round leader Fredrik Jacobson (72). Mickelson was hopeful of making a move and instead went the other direction. He missed three par putts of about 6 feet on the front nine and had a 72, putting him nine shots behind. Ernie Els, playing with Mickelson, also dropped shots early and dropped out of the hunt with a 73.

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Mr Sounthone Sirisack (centre) and Mr Sayasone Panyathip (third left) speak at the press conference in Vientiane.

Lao golfers to test their skills at Golf Challenge 2013

Sangkhomsay Bubphanouvong

More than 100 Lao golfers and senior officials will have an opportunity to display their skills at the Lao Golf Challenge 2013 to be held at the Lao Country Club at km14 in Vientiane on March 2.

The tournament is being organised by Target Magazine and the Lao Golf Federation and supported by Ford, Land Rover, Mercedes-Benz and other companies.

Target and the golf federation held a press conference in Vientiane on Friday to announce the tournament. The event was attended by the Deputy Managing Director of Lao Brewery Company and Lao Golf Federation President, Mr Sounthone Sirisack, Managing Director of Target, Mr Sayasone Panyathip, and senior officials from several companies.

Mr Sayasone said "We're holding this event to develop the sport of golf in Laos."

Sponsors will provide prizes

in various categories of the tournament. These include a Land Rover Defender and a Ford Fiesta for scoring a hole in one on two of the par three holes and other prizes for the winners of the A, B and C groups and for senior officials.

This is the first time Target and the golf federation have teamed up to hold a competition of this size in Laos and they hope to make it an annual event.

Mr Sayasone said "Many young people are interested in playing golf, which is on the rise in Laos. Challenge 2013 will help to improve the skills of Lao golfers and raise them to the level of international competition."

"This year, we are holding the tournament in Vientiane and next year, hopefully, we will switch to Luang Prabang and then other provinces."

Golf was included in the National Games in 2011 and also in the 25th SEA Games held in Vientiane in 2009.

Through these and other golf tournaments the federation has been able to establish a ranking for Lao golfers at both

national and Asean levels and Challenge 2013 will offer an opportunity for them to improve on it.

Currently, there are more than 2,000 Lao golfers at senior and junior levels and there are more and more opportunities for them to play due to the growing number of golf courses opening up in the country. Each golf club has a professional trainer who can give lessons to aspiring golfers.

The federation plans to hold training courses for golfers at many clubs in the future.

Mr Sounthone said they supported the participation of younger golfers at the Challenge 2013 and would select the best players to join the national team.

"The federation will prepare and support the Lao golf team to compete in the 27th SEA Games in Myanmar in December."

The federation is communicating with international golfers and hopes that in the future they can hold a regional tournament and invite golfers from neighbouring countries to take part.

JICA pitches in to develop junior football in Laos

Sangkhomsay Bubphanouvong

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is running the 2013 Lao Football Federation Grassroots Project with the aim of bolstering the skills of young footballers in Vientiane and the provinces.

The project is initially taking place in Vientiane and the provinces of Luang Prabang, Khammuan, Savannakhet and Champassak, and marks the 40th anniversary of Asean-Japan Friendship and Cooperation. The second phase of the project will involve Phongsaly, Oudomxay, Luang Namtha, Attapeu, Borikhamxay and Xayaboury provinces.

The project's goal is "youth football development for everybody" and will penetrate 11 provinces in the two phases of the scheme.

JICA and the Japanese government are providing 300 million kip for the first phase of the project, which is taking place in football clubs in Vientiane and the four provinces.

On Saturday, 200 schoolchildren aged 6-12

gathered with 50 football trainers at a training session run by the federation teach youngsters the basics of football. The trainers were involved so they would learn how to coach the children.

On the same day the federation held a press conference at the National Stadium to highlight the planned development for junior level football so that children learn the sport at a young age.

Present at the event were Deputy Minister of Education and Sports Mr Boualane Siripanya, Japanese Ambassador to Laos Ms Junko Yokota, JICA Director Dr Masato Togawa, Lao Football Federation President Mr Vipheth Sihachakr, and Board Member and Official Supporter of JICA Mr Tsuyoshi Kitazawa.

Dr Masato said "Next year, JICA will support and expand the project to many other provinces. It's not an easy task if only JICA is supporting the development of football in Laos but there are many companies out there that can get involved in support for football at the grassroots level."

JICA has already brought Japanese volunteers to help train

volleyball players and track and field teams in Laos.

Japan also financed the Lao-Japan Budo Centre in Vientiane which was built in 2009, and Laos included judo and karatedo events at the 25th SEA Games held in Vientiane in 2009.

Now, young players are training in judo, karatedo and aikido at the Budo Centre.

After the press conference, Ambassador Yokota and JICA gave footballs, training manuals and equipment to the football federation. It is envisaged that the project will further develop the friendship and good cooperation between Laos and Japan.

In 2012 and 2013, Japanese volunteer Mr Kei Honma, a football coach, is working with the junior level Lao national team. This year, the training of juniors is starting in earnest and the federation hopes to work with FIFA, AFC and the AFF to develop football in Laos.

Football is extremely popular and can play an important role in encouraging good health and discipline among younger players, so they can build on their talent and potentially join the national team.



Mr Boualane Siripanya, Ms Junko Yokota, Dr Masato Togawa, Mr Vipheth Sihachakr and children pose at the National Stadium after the presentation of footballs.



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Monday February 18, 2013

New Isuzu DMax set to deliver in the pick-up market

Advertorial Desk

An all new pick-up was unveiled to the motoring public last week, with the Isuzu Dmax set to make an impression amongst vehicle buyers in Laos, designed to blend workhorse performance with modern comfort and style.

The Isuzu Dmax was engineered to address various shortcomings among existing pick-up models, including their rear instability when not carrying a load, as well as excessive road noise and somewhat basic interiors.

With its superior features, the new model will include oil saving technology, good road holding characteristics, effective sound dampening and a modern interior design which has style and sophistication.

The ceremony to unveil the new Isuzu DMax pick-up took place at the showroom of Isuzu Lao Services Sole Co.,



Mr Virasaykham Philaphandeth.

Ltd, located at KM 8, Luang Prabang Road, Nalao village, Sikhottabong district, Vientiane.

The Company Director Mr Virasaykham Philaphandeth told *Vientiane Times* recently that he was confident that the new model will quickly gain popularity among Lao people and take a larger share of Lao market in the

near future.

The company now has a 5 percent share of the pick-up market in Laos. With the superior features of the new model, Mr Virasaykham believes that they will be able to boost their market share up to between 10 and 20 percent.

"I estimate that about 10,000



The new Isuzu DMax pick-up.

pick-up trucks will be sold in 2013 and our vehicles should be able to secure a share between 10 and 20 percent of this figure," he said confidently.

The most important thing

is that customers don't have to wait for months for their vehicles to arrive when buying Isuzu DMax pick-ups from the Isuzu Lao Services Sole Co., Ltd, Mr Virasaykham said.

Another important thing is that the company also has a focus on after-sales service, with qualified technicians who have undergone training from their parent company in Japan, he added.

The company has the capacity to deliver after-sales service to between 300 and 400 vehicles per month, Mr Virasaykham revealed.

Laos is a least developed country in Asia with an annual income per capita of US\$1,355, but with consistent economic growth of eight percent, the country is developing rapidly and many more people have disposable incomes commensurate with driving cars.

More and more people are showing interest in luxury vehicles these days, and the all new Isuzu DMax pick-up trucks will be no exception, possessing both performance capability and the touch of luxury.

Previously Lao people looked upon cars and pick-ups as the playthings of people living luxury lives, but increasingly, they are becoming considered by a growing number of people as an everyday necessity.

Perceptions have changed as more people turn to buying cars and pick-up trucks to transport them around during their daily lives. There is a strong and growing demand for vehicles in Laos, which are seen as symbols of status and considered safer and more comfortable than motorbikes.

In Thailand, many people prefer to own Isuzu DMax pick-up trucks due to their strength, reliability and good fuel economy, so if the trends are anything to go by, they should prove popular in Laos as well.

Despite the fact his product will start with a small market share in Laos, Mr Virasaykham is confident that more Lao people will turn to the Isuzu DMax pick-up truck once they see more people driving them and the word about their performance spreads.

Mr Virasaykham plans to organise many activities in the future to advocate the product, advertising at vehicle shows and promotions as well as getting Isuzu DMax drivers to disseminate information about their performance and reliability.

Isuzu Lao Services Sole Co., Ltd. now has 15 branches, 10 of which are located in the capital Vientiane, and the company has pledged to deliver high quality services in accordance with the expectations of their customers.



Potential purchasers admire the all new Isuzu DMax pick-up.

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Exchange rates as of February 15, 2013

Banque pour le Commerce Extérieur Lao

Foreign Currencies	Buying	Selling
US Dollar 50-100	7,891	7,930
Thai Baht	263.74	265.07
Euro 50-500	10,528	10,580

Business Vientiane Times
Stock market report
 stockmarket@y7mail.com Dr Darrell Walker

February: Best month ever for Lao LSX stock market

Vientiane: The Lao LSX stock exchange is in excellent shape and currently remains one of Asia's top regional performing indexes.

Indicators both Technical and Fundamental as well as brokers reports are very bullish for the longer term, despite the stock prices and the index remaining in a very tight trading band just on year to date highs.

Last week's close was positively on the back of huge EDL-Gen weekly volumes.

Lao Stock Market Column

The Lao LSX stock Exchange is up a very vigorous 18 percent for the year to date

LSX	26 Dec. close	15-Feb. Close	YTD Gain	YTD PCT	YTD Stocks	YTD Turnover	DOLLARS	2013 Daily
Index	1,433.43	1,433.43	118.00	8.24%	1,400,000	2,312,500,000	\$1,112,356	\$148,274
BCEL	7,900	7,900	0	0.00%	280,000	2,312,500,000	\$1,112,356	\$60,824
EDL-Gen	1,700	1,700	1,700	100.00%	1,120,000	2,312,500,000	\$1,112,356	\$78,054

Charts Dr. Darrell Walker
 Subscribe On-Line
 vientianetimes.org.la

Key Indicators for LSX: 2011 was undoubtedly regarded by many observers as "the best year" since the exchange opened as the world's newest and smallest stock exchange at 1,000 points on 11-Jan 2011.

Turnover in that year topped 40 million shares for US\$37 1/2 million.

However closer analysis offers some surprises. This year's 2013 performance sees 2013 daily volumes at 123,652 or up 15.36pct compared to 2011 and up 102.85pct when compared to 2012.

February versus January daily volumes are already up 92,512 stocks per day or an impressive 210.27pct.

Daily turnover for February is up US\$11,438 compared to 2011.

This year to last year sees a growth rate of US\$98,888 compared to 2012.

2013 alone sees monthly gains of US\$109,150 or +215.88pct when comparing Feb-2013 to Jan-2013.

STOCK MARKET: VTimes LAO-LSX Performance 2011 -2013
 Charts Dr. Darrell Walker subscribe on-line vientianetimes.org.la

DATE	VTimes LSX 2013	Aggregate Days	Date	Closing Index	Trading Volume	Daily Volumes	Trading Value Kip	Trading Value US\$	Daily
2011	Close	253	27-Dec-11	899.46	40,016,392	158,168	301,494,733,350	\$37,513,353	\$148,274
2012	Close	256	26-Dec-12	1,214.77	23,026,325	89,947	123,788,299,950	\$15,570,855	\$60,824
2013	JANUARY	22	31-Jan-13	1,433.43	1,293,754	58,807	4,843,230,450	\$1,112,356	\$50,562
2013	MTD	11	15-Feb	1,433.43	2,007,048	182,459	11,964,803,000	\$1,756,831	\$159,712

This week's VTimes outlook:

EDL-Gen continues to outperform in volumes but has to break through the stubborn 6,950 kip barrier.

It's only a matter of time before the stock reaches the next level and heads towards 8,000 kip.

However past growth performance indicators say this will most likely be in gradual 50 kip increments.

BCEL volumes suggest the stock is also ready to rise but resistance remains at 8,000 kip.

LSX
 Lao Stock Exchange
 Vientiane Times
 Lao Stock Market Column

LSX	15-Feb-13	14-Feb-13	13-Feb-13	5 Day Chart
Index	1,433.43	1,433.43	1,433.43	
BCEL	7,900	7,900	7,900	
EDL-Gen	6,950	6,950	6,950	

Vientiane Times
 Lao Stock Market Column
 Charts Dr. Darrell Walker
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Airbus to drop lithium-ion batteries in A350

NEW YORK (AP) -- Airbus said on Thursday it is dropping lithium-ion batteries from its new A350 airplane because of uncertainty surrounding the technology that has led to the grounding of Boeing's 787.

The European planemaker said it has decided to revert to conventional nickel-cadmium batteries for the A350. The plane is a wide-body long-range jet rival to the 787 and is expected to make its first flight around the middle of the year.

Airbus says it does not expect the battery switch to lead to a

setback in the A350's schedule.

"Airbus considers this to be the most appropriate way forward in the interest of programme execution and A350 XWB reliability," spokeswoman Mary Anne Greczyn said.

Federal officials grounded the 787 last month because of problems with its lithium-ion batteries that caused one fire and forced another plane to make an emergency landing.

Airbus noted the A350 uses batteries in a different setup than the 787, making it unlikely that it would face the same problems.

Its A350 flight-test program would still go forward with lithium-ion batteries.

But because the causes of the problems with the 787 batteries remain unclear, Airbus decided to make the switch "to optimise programme certainty," Greczyn said. Airbus is a unit of Netherlands-based EADS NV.

The Wall Street Journal first reported on Airbus' decision to drop the lithium-ion batteries, noting the incidents with the 787 have led to industry uncertainty about future safety standards for the technology.



Kwon Hee-won (fourth from right), president of the home entertainment business at LG Electronics, and other executives introduce the new 2013 TV lineup with members of Girls' Generation at a ceremony in southern Seoul.

LG vows to top next-generation TVs

Cho Ji-hyun, Asia News Network, The Korea Herald

LG also plans to ship its 55-inch and 65-inch Ultra High Definition TVs in the third quarter with pricing around 6 million won to 7 million won, according to Lee In-kyu, recently appointed head of TV business unit at LG.

"On top of the fact that LG is launching a 55-inch OLED and has released the 84-inch UHD TVs for the first time in the world, Korea is rising as a test bed for next-generation TVs," said Kwon Hee-won, president of LG's home entertainment business.

"Strengthened by our partner LG Display's competitiveness, we will work to expand our industry-leading

role."

The new lineup of Cinema 3-D Smart TVs, which were released here Thursday, will offer signature features like the redesigned Magic Remote with added functions such as voice recognition and Voice Mate, a voice-operated search feature.

Now On, an advanced service that recommends video-on-demand and broadcast programs, is also in place, on top of its narrower bezel design, according to its officials.

Kwon did not provide a rosy outlook for the 2013 global TV market, but said the industry would be little impacted by volatile exchange rates.

"Since we have our production bases in many

locations around the world, we are less impacted by the currency rate, but more influenced by how we localize the products," he said. "We must be able to lead the market by knowing the needs of different customers and also come up with ways to embed the premium functions in the lineup of lower-cost TVs."

Kwon also said that its Chinese rivals were more of a threat than Japanese TV makers because the China-based firms had the technology to develop modules.

"They have caught up a great deal in user interface and design, but there's a 3-4 year gap in terms of technology," he said. "It's a matter of how fast the Korean firms continue to advance."

Chinese retailers ring up record US\$86b

Li Jiabao, Asia News Network, China Daily

China's retail sales surged to record highs over the week-long Spring Festival, as tourist attractions also reported strong visitor numbers.

According to the latest data from the Ministry of Commerce, total retail sales were 14.7 percent ahead of last year, hitting 539 billion yuan (US\$86 billion) from last Saturday to Friday.

On Monday alone, duty-free purchases in Sanya, the popular tourist destination in the southern province of Hainan, were worth 20.73 million yuan, the figures showed.

Sellers on the island extended opening hours and expanded store sizes, reporting that sales of cosmetics and watches priced between 5,000 yuan and 8,000 yuan were especially brisk.

"Spending during the break remained robust this year, despite the government's recent edict curbing bureaucratic spending on luxury," said Ding Ningning, a researcher at the State Council's Development Research Centre.

"Other government moves, including an emphasis on higher incomes, greater social security payments and efforts aimed

at bringing migrant workers' salaries level with others, have added to consumer confidence."

Data released on Friday by the commerce department in the central province of Henan showed that retail sales there rose 17.9 percent year-on-year to 29.7 billion yuan.

Jewelry sales rose 31.9 percent, boosted by Valentine's Day promotions, but catering businesses reported only a 5.3 percent rise in business, a reflection of more frugal spending on dining.

Bloomberg said in a poll of nine economists that China's retail sales were likely to grow 15.4 percent during January and February, the fastest pace in 13 months, boosted by promotional events and the improving economic outlook.

Meanwhile, some other robust numbers also suggested growing consumer confidence since the start of 2013.

Data from the China National Tourism Administration released on Friday show that 76 million tourists visited 39 key tourism cities during the Spring Festival holiday, up 15 percent from a year earlier.

Beijing alone pocketed 3.88 billion yuan in tourism revenue,

up 15 percent year-on-year, local officials said, as 8.68 million tourists visited the capital, an increase of 7.5 percent year-on-year. Toll-free expressways during the holiday also boosted numbers from other cities by 18.3 percent against last year.

The national tourism administration said 4 million Chinese travelled overseas on holiday during the break, 90 percent of them headed to Asian destinations, the most popular being Thailand, South Korea and Hong Kong.

According to local travel agents, their international counterparts have been making huge efforts this year to attract more high-spending Chinese tourists, hiring interpreters, for instance, and printing bilingual brochures.

South Korea had expected 630,000 Chinese tourists during the holiday, while United States officials had said that Chinese tourists now represented the fastest-growing group with numbers expected to double in the next three years.

"The robust overseas shopping, mostly seen among the middle class, reflects China's fast economic growth and opening up in the past decades," Ding added.

IN BRIEF

French group PPR 2012 sales rise 20.8 percent

PARIS (AP) -- Strong luxury sales outside Europe raised French retail and luxury group PPR's 2012 revenue and profits, after the company behind Gucci and Yves Saint Laurent jettisoned two of its weaker brands and pressed hard into emerging markets. PPR reported that net income rose 6.3 percent to 1.4 billion euros as sales rose 20 percent to 9.7 billion euros. Sales in Asia, excluding Japan, accounted for a quarter of PPR's total — a slight increase over 2011.

Commerzbank loses €716 million in Q4

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Germany's Commerzbank says it's making progress in reshaping its business but still has a long way to go as higher shipping loan losses and low interest rates continue to squeeze profits. The bank provided detail on Friday on its fourth-quarter earnings announced February 4. It lost €716 million largely due to one-time losses of €185 million on its sale of Bank Forum in Ukraine and €560 million in tax accounting charges. The bank says it made progress in winding down businesses that it's getting rid of, in commercial real estate and shipping finance. Its non-core assets division shrank by €9 billion to €151 billion during the quarter.

Oil nearly unchanged as Europe economy slumps

BANGKOK (AP) -- Oil prices were little changed on Friday, a day after data from Europe showed both big and small economies in the region mired in an economic slowdown. Benchmark oil for March delivery was up 3 cents to US\$97.34 per barrel at midday Bangkok time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 30 cents to finish at US\$97.31 per barrel on the Nymex on Thursday.

Asia stocks fall on slumping German economy

BANGKOK (AP) -- Disappointing news about Germany's economy sent Asian stock markets down on Friday. Europe's biggest economy contracted a worse-than-expected 0.6 percent in the last quarter of 2012 as recession deepened across the 17 European Union countries that use the euro. It was Germany's worst performance since early 2009, amid a global recession.

Japan's GDP falls annualised 0.4 percent in October-December

Asia News Network, The Daily Yomiuri Online

The Yomiuri Shimbun -- The nation's real gross domestic product in the period from October to December shrank 0.4 percent on an annualized basis from the previous quarter, the Cabinet Office said on Thursday.

The real GDP, which is the seasonally adjusted figure minus the effects of price fluctuations, dropped 0.1 percent on a quarterly basis compared to the July-September period, according to initial estimates issued by the office.

Exports dropped 3.7 percent due to the global economic slowdown, marking the second consecutive quarter of decline, which also affected GDP.

The nation's economy shrank for three consecutive quarters for the first time since April-June 2011, when GDP fell starting from the October-December period after the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011.

The rate of decline, however, significantly weakened from the 1 percent, or annualized 3.8 percent, seen in the July-September period.

Consumer spending, which accounts for about 60 percent of

GDP, rose 0.4 percent, the first increase in two quarters, due to recent low temperatures. Robust private consumption reduced the GDP's negative rate of growth. In addition to good sales of winter clothing, seasonal items such as ingredients for nabe hot pot dishes and kerosene also were in high demand.

Thanks to recent low interest rates, private residential investment grew 3.5 percent, posting an increase for the third straight quarter. Public investment also rose 1.5 percent, partly owing to demand created by reconstruction projects from the March 2011 disaster, up for the fourth consecutive quarter.

Meanwhile, exports, which account for about 15 percent of GDP but have a significant impact on business activities, showed negative growth for the second straight quarter. Due to the decline in exports, corporate capital spending dropped 2.6 percent, down for the fourth straight quarter.

Nominal GDP, a more accurate measure of household sentiment that includes changes in commodity prices, shrank 0.4 percent, or an annualized 1.8 percent, in the October-December period.

Indonesia raises Rp 9.95t from debt offering

Asia News Network, The Jakarta Post

The government says it has raised Rp 9.95 trillion (US\$1.03 billion) from a debt paper auction on Thursday, exceeding its initial target of Rp 7 trillion.

It was the largest offer to date this year.

Finance Ministry debt management chief Robert Pakpahan told The Jakarta Post that the government raised only Rp 9 trillion during a debt auction on Jan. 16, while bids at Thursday's auction reached Rp 29.3 trillion.

Higher inflation expectations among bond investors increased the weighted average yields for long term debt paper.

According to the ministry, yields for 10-year and 15-year debt papers surged by 0.04 percent and 0.03 percent, respectively, higher than those sold at auction on January 29.

"Investors are seeking

higher yields, as they are afraid of inflationary pressures in upcoming months caused by possible increases in gas, and even subsidized fuel, prices," BCA Sekuritas's debt capital market s chief Herdi Ranu Wibowo said.

"There are also fears among investors that the recent trend of rupiah depreciation might cause 'import inflation'," he added.

Government data shows that that yields declined by 0.91 percent for three-month treasury bills (T-bills) and by 0.08 percent for the one-year T-bills, lower than those sold on January 15.

"The buyers of the T-bills were mainly banks that usually have excessive liquidity in the beginning of the year. That's why the government could sell the T-bills with lower yields," Herdi said.

The government plans to raise Rp 180.4 trillion this year through securities to tackle the budget deficit.

IOC to invest Rs 11,000 crore in FY'14

Asia News Network, Press trust of India, The Statesman

KOLKATA-- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) today said it will invest Rs 10,000-11,000 crore during the 2013-14 fiscal.

"We are expanding our network and we will spend around Rs 10,000-11,000 crore," IOC chairman RS Butola said. IOC would spend Rs 56,000 crore over the next five years on constant price basis in the 12th Plan period, he added.

Mr Butola said additionally IOC would spend Rs 3,500-Rs

4,000 crore a year on non-Plan areas such as changing pumps. Asked whether unrest in the Arab region was hurting production, he said IOC has some blocks in Libya but these are small and there is no production, only exploration.

"So, production has not been affected. Exploration activity is also at a very preliminary level," Mr Butola said.

The company also indicated that it would wait till a clear picture emerged on Haldia Petrochemicals matter before it decides on its further interest in the joint venture company.



Workers fit a motor into a machine at the Southern Agricultural Machinery Co Ltd (Vikyno).

Vietnam's trade surplus with Malaysia reaches over US\$1 billion

Asia News Network, HANOI, VNS

Official statistics from Vietnam Trade Office in Malaysia show that two-way trade turnover reached more than US\$7.9 billion in 2012, up 17 percent from the previous year.

Encouragingly, the nation's exports to Malaysia stood at nearly US\$4.5 billion while US\$3.4 billion was spent on imports, representing a trade surplus of more than US\$1 billion.

This is the first time Vietnam achieved a trade

surplus with its brother country in Southeast Asia since 1992.

Among the key export items, crude oil topped export revenues with more than US\$1 billion, followed by computers and components (US\$855 million), rubber (US\$564 million), rice (US\$403 million) and mobile handsets (US\$384 million).

Meanwhile, the main imports included electronics and appliances (US\$662 million), oils and fats (US\$508 million), unprocessed plastics (US\$276 million), as well as

machinery and equipment (US\$228 million).

According to Vietnamese trade counselor Vu Van Canh, the momentum is likely to continue with bilateral trade turnover expected to hit US\$8 billion this year.

Meanwhile, Vietnam's exports to Malaysia are forecast to climb to nearly US\$5 billion, a year-on-year rise of 11 percent.

Vietnam is currently both the fourth biggest importer and exporter with Malaysia among the ten ASEAN member countries, after Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia.

A unique French language magazine

Le Rénovateur is a weekly magazine of general information written in French and discussing current events in Laos. Readers will find it different from other newspapers and can enjoy news about culture, consult their horoscope and find out about radio and TV programmes, as well as check on current movies at the French Language Centre. There are also cookery items as well as personal profiles. The magazine costs only 10,000 kip per issue, and is published every Monday. You can buy it at kiosks or directly from our office on Namphu Square at the Lao Press in Foreign Languages on Pangkham Street in Vientiane. You can also read it on our website: Lerenovateur.org.la

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ສູງ/Height: ອາຄານ 5 ຊັ້ນ/Five story building

ຂະໜາດ/Size : 45m x 18m

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Nam Theun 2 Power Company Limited
NTPC is the developer and operator of the Nam Theun 2 Multi-Purpose Project, a public-private partnership designed to generate electricity for export and for domestic use in Laos. Nam Theun 2 is structured as an industrial and a development Project, placing great emphasis on protection of the environment and sustainable social programmes to improve the livelihoods of people in the Project area, in Khammouane, Bolikhamxay and Savannakhet provinces.

URGENTLY REQUIRED

POSITION: ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEER (LAO NATIONALITY ONLY)
DIVISION: OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE – MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT
DUTY STATION: GNOMMALATH DISTRICT, KHAMMOUANE PROVINCE

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Carry out the troubleshooting and repair after fault or any operation requirement.
- Assess the unavailability duration of Francis units after fault according to "EGAT" Power Purchase Agreement;
- Issue a technical report about each fault and follows up the solution of the problem.
- Work in close relationship with the Shift Charge Engineer after faults or incidents;
- Ensure the facility safeguard, staff safety and environment respect, in close relationship with the Shift Charge Engineer;
- Apply the instruction and ensure the compliance with safety rules.
- Involved in maintenance activities all over the facility, including Nakai dam, Substation and Regulating Dam and Water Intake;
- Propose the improvements for reliability of generation.
- Update the operation and maintenance manual.
- Ability to use CMMS software to prepare work, to request the spare parts and to report the activities.
- In charge of blocking maneuvers of the whole facility from Nakai dam to Regulating dam
- Ability to supervise the team during outage

QUALIFICATIONS

- Master of Science, Engineering or Bachelor Degree in Mechanical, Electrical, Control System, and Telecommunication are desirable.
- Experience in the Hydro Power Sector is a plus. Candidates with experience in other industrial sectors are also encouraged to apply;
- Non experienced candidates with high education and potential are also encouraged to apply;
- Strong team spirit, result oriented, creative minded;
- Proficiency in written and spoken English and knowledge of French is a bonus.
- Strong computer skills is required;
- Willingness to work in a remote site and to learn new skills and techniques.

Qualified candidates are requested to submit an application containing updated resume, full details of qualifications, references, education certificates, expected salary, and recent photo to:

Human Resources Manager
Nam Theun 2 Power Company Limited
Unit 09, That Luang Road, P.O. Box 5862, Vientiane, Lao PDR
E-mail: ntpcvte@namtheun2.com
- Only short-listed candidates will be notified for interviews
- Documents submitted will not be returned.
- Application closing date is March 08, 2013

(Qualified women are encouraged to apply) NT2 Project Website: www.namtheun2.com



Nam Theun 2 Power Company Limited
NTPC is the developer and operator of the Nam Theun 2 Multi-Purpose Project, a public-private partnership designed to generate electricity for export and for domestic use in Laos. Nam Theun 2 is structured as an industrial and a development Project, placing great emphasis on protection of the environment and sustainable social programmes to improve the livelihoods of people in the Project area, in Khammouane, Bolikhamxay and Savannakhet provinces.

URGENTLY REQUIRED

POSITION: ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN (LAO NATIONALITY ONLY)
DIVISION: OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE – MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT
DUTY STATION: GNOMMALATH DISTRICT, KHAMMOUANE PROVINCE

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Maintenance of the facilities in compliance with the company procedures and safety instructions, mainly on electrical field;
- Contribute to the correct maintenance of the electromechanical equipment on the whole scheme through inspections, surveys, works and report;
- Follow up outsourced maintenance according to a definite scope of checking about work quality and safety scopes;
- Implement dismantling and reassembly on electromechanical equipment for cleaning, repairing;
- Carry out inspections or works, mostly on shut down equipment, in electrical fields;
- Keep comprehensive records of all inspections, checking in compliance with the O&M procedures and instructions;
- Ensure the fire protection on call one on four weeks.
- Be able to work on civil or mechanical fields according to the skill, if required by the Head of Section.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor Degree in Mechanical, Electrical, Control System, and Telecommunication are desirable.
- Experience in the Hydro Power Sector is a plus. Candidates with experience in other industrial sectors are also encouraged to apply;
- Non experienced candidates with high education and potential are also encouraged to apply;
- Strong team spirit, result oriented, creative minded;
- Basic in English (Reading, Speaking and Writing);
- Computer skills are required (Microsoft office);
- Willingness to work in a remote site and to learn new skills and techniques.

Qualified candidates are requested to submit an application containing updated resume, full details of qualifications, references, education certificates, expected salary, and recent photo to:

Human Resources Manager
Nam Theun 2 Power Company Limited
Unit 09, That Luang Road, P.O. Box 5862, Vientiane, Lao PDR
E-mail: ntpcvte@namtheun2.com
- Only short-listed candidates will be notified for interviews
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Qualifications

- At least 2 years experience in office work as a administrator, secretary or receptionist.
- University degree
- Good communication skills, both written and spoken English.
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Application

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- Good at spoken and written English, known France would be an advantage
- Skilled at Auto CAD, Microsoft Project
- At least 3 years of experience

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- Telephone: 020 22220770 (Ms. Khankao, a secretary) or 020 22222000 (Mr. Khana, a director)

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Lao Red Cross Youth Competition!

Win a term of free English lessons by playing the Lao Red Cross Youth Competition. From all correct entries, one winner will be drawn month. This month's winner will receive a notebook and a T-shirt promoting HIV/AIDS awareness. From all monthly winners, one lucky winner will receive one full term of English lessons donated for free by Vientiane College.

This month we have another word game for you. Just unscramble the following 5 words and place them in the boxes provide. For the right answers we will give you in the next month .

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CO I D A T **ATEREDSINOC**

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Cut out this entry form and send it to HIV/AIDS Project, Lao Red Cross, PO Box 2948 or take it to the Lao Red Cross office behind Vat Xienghune. Closing date for the competition on Thursday, 28 February 2013 at 9.00am.

Name: _____ ID Card No: _____ Address & Phone Number: _____

Last month's winner: Phongsavang BOUNSAVATH, ID Card No: 04-0004598.

Last month's answer: Archeologist, Conscience, Destiny, Heritage and Inspector.

Please contact to Ms. Phouthalnom for further more information at Tel: 241632.



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 - Ability to read and interpret English technical terms and construction drawings

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DEPARTMENT: MAINTENANCE PMO, SEPON OPERATIONS

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- Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering or equivalent qualification with ideally more than two-year experience in engineering design or civil construction.
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- To be successful for this role, you will possess:**
- Degree in Geology or other relevant fields with a high level of English competency.
 - Minimum 3 years mining professional experience with a track record of success in metaliferous mining
 - knowledge of acid rock characterization and management, grade control modelling and mineral estimation practices with an intermediate level of computer skills including mining industry software.
 - High level of geological skills in mining and resource development.
 - Solid understanding of safety implementation, environment and community systems.

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Online application at www.mmg.com is strongly encouraged. Please click Lao National Job Search; click Search; select the job/s you are interested in; click View Selected Jobs; then click Apply. **Applications may also be sent to:**

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Project Coordinator: REDD+ & Climate Change



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Based in: Vientiane, Lao PDR (with frequent travel to the field)
 Duration: One year (with possibility of extension)

WCS helps the Lao government manage and protect several large, biodiversity rich landscapes. To help sustainably finance these activities, WCS is exploring opportunities provided by the emerging, international mechanism to reward developing countries for reducing their greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD+). To this end, WCS seeks a Project Coordinator to support the implementation of its REDD+ activities. The position will primarily support WCS's collaboration with the Lao - German Climate Protection through Avoided Deforestation (CIPAD) program to develop a jurisdictional REDD+ demonstration project in Houaphan province.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Collaborate with partners to design and implement REDD+ awareness raising and capacity building campaigns for local communities and government staff
- Work with provincial line agencies to assess drivers of forest loss and elaborate a provincial REDD+ strategy
- Support the design and data collection necessary to implement biodiversity safeguards
- Represent WCS at district, provincial and national workshops and meetings
- Support the integration and alignment of the CIPAD program with the ongoing activities of the Nam Et Phou Louey National Protected Area
- Provide backstopping and coordination support to WCS's Regional Advisor on REDD+ and Climate Change

The successful candidate will be required to assist with other activities as needed; such as:

- Translating documents and meeting proceedings from Lao to English and vice versa
- Other related activities as determined by the Country Director

PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Lao national with a strong understanding and prior experience working on forestry, conservation and/or rural development. Candidates with prior experience with REDD+ are preferred
- University degree. Candidates with a master's degree are preferred
- Strong grasp of the English language, both spoken and written
- Ability to comfortably liaise and interact with government staff
- Ability to organize meetings/workshops and facilitate communication with stakeholders
- Data collection and analysis skills
- Ability to write technical review and progress reports
- Well organized, with attention to detail
- Cooperative attitude; reliable, capable of working independently without constant supervision
- Computer literacy with MS Word, Excel, and Power Point

Applicants should send an application letter that includes an expression of interest and salary expectations, CV and two letters of reference to Ms. Soudalath Phasavath (sphasavath@wcs.org). **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 24th FEBRUARY 2013.** Only short listed candidates will be contacted for an interview.



ICRC

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflicts and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in situations of conflict. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

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- Capacity to work independently
- Team leadership skills
- Rigorous, service-minded and honest person
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The closing date for the post will be: Tuesday 20 February 2013

Preferable starting date for position: As soon as possible

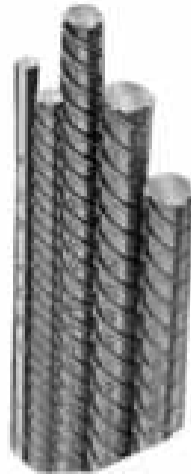
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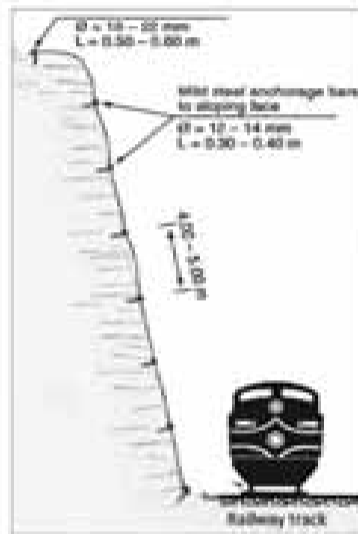
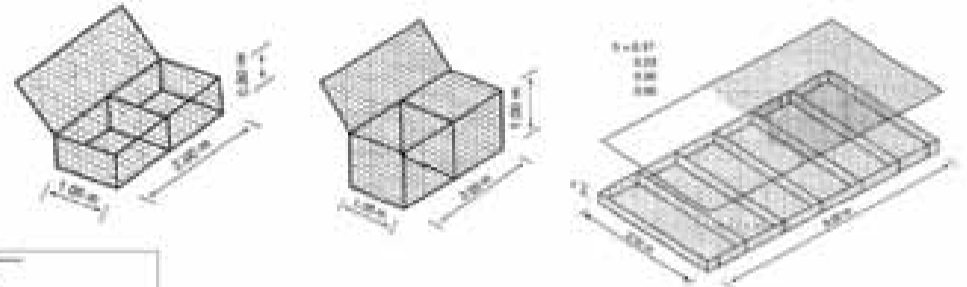
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130.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 3 ວັນ)	195.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 3 ວັນ)	300.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 3 ວັນ)
140.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 5 ວັນ)	210.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 5 ວັນ)	325.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 5 ວັນ)
150.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 7 ວັນ)	220.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 7 ວັນ)	350.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 7 ວັນ)

ADSL Gold

Package ສຸດດີ

256Kbps	512Kbps	768Kbps	1 Mbps	1.5 Mbps
320.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 1 ວັນ)	550.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 1 ວັນ)	750.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 1 ວັນ)	950.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 1 ວັນ)	1.000.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 1 ວັນ)
330.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 3 ວັນ)	570.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 3 ວັນ)	770.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 3 ວັນ)	970.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 3 ວັນ)	1.100.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 3 ວັນ)
340.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 5 ວັນ)	590.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 5 ວັນ)	790.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 5 ວັນ)	990.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 5 ວັນ)	1.200.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 5 ວັນ)
350.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 7 ວັນ)	600.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 7 ວັນ)	800.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 7 ວັນ)	1.000.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 7 ວັນ)	1.300.000 ກີບ (ໝາຍເຫັນ 7 ວັນ)

www.etlao.com ສາມາດເປີດ 500,000 ກີບ ສະບຽນໂຮງຄູໂທ 135 ຊື່ 021.260076