



Local visitors enjoy making sand stupas to bring good luck at the riverside, one of the activities during *Pi Mai Lao* festivities in Luang Prabang province. (File photo tourismluangprabang.org)

SEZ management decree under scrutiny, aiming to draw more investors

Times Reporters

The government is creating new decrees to ensure the sustainable development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in ways that yield strong benefits.

Special Economic Zones are economic development areas set up to attract large-scale investors, both Lao and foreign, to spur economic growth and create job opportunities for local people.

Government officials from central and provincial agencies yesterday gathered in Vientiane to discuss a draft decree on the promotion and management of SEZs.

Also up for discussion was a draft decision on the work of SEZ Management Committees that would ensure the directives contained in the Investment Promotion Law were effectively carried out.

These decrees are aimed



Dr Khamlien Pholsena.

at simplifying procedures for investors, making them faster, more transparent and fair, and ensuring that investors have confidence in the system and are not taken advantage of by the authorities, Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment Dr Khamlien Pholsena said.

The decrees would also help the management committees in each area to better promote and develop

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Solid growth expected for Laos this year and 2018: ADB

Times Reporters

Laos' economic growth is picking up in 2017 and 2018, supported by the expansion of production and sale of electricity, buoyant services sector growth, and construction of the cross-border railway, according to a new report from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for Laos is forecasted to reach 6.9 percent in 2017 and 7.0 percent in 2018, a slight increase from the 6.8 percent growth recorded in 2016, according to the ADB's flagship annual economic publication, Asian Development Outlook 2017, which was released in

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Luang Prabang arranges special Lao New Year activities

Keoviangkhone Bounviseth

Luang Prabang province has added more activities to Lao New Year (*Pi Mai Lao*) festivities this year

as it focuses on promoting Visit Laos Year 2018 and attracting more domestic and foreign visitors.

For this year's *Pi Mai Lao* in Luang Prabang province

the organising committee has designed large tourism promotion banners to join the Miss Lao New Year procession on 15 April, which will highlight various outstanding tourist sites in each of Laos' provinces.

The organising committee has also arranged several tourism promotion booths to let visitors know more about tourist sites in Luang Prabang province.

Deputy Director of the Luang Prabang provincial Information, Culture and Tourism Department, Ms Soudaphone Khomthavong

spoke to *Vientiane Times* via telephone on Wednesday.

She said activities for *Pi Mai Lao* festivities would begin with a fair on 10 April at the That Luang Ground, which included traditional dancing and performances by popular local artists.

The Miss Lao New Year 2017 beauty contest is scheduled for April 11-12 with various food and drink stalls operating.

On 13 April, the elephant procession will set off from Vat Mai to Vat Xiengthong,

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Asean peoples need more understanding of social-cultural pillar



Mr Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee speaks to Lao media.
—Photo Somxay

Times Reporters

Asean countries should teach their citizens more about the significance of the Asean Social-Cultural Community (ASCC) as an important pillar in driving cooperation with the bloc's other pillars in the push for prosperity.

The ASCC tends to be ignored by the region's citizens even though they benefit from various forms of cooperation.

Deputy Secretary General of Asean for the Asean Social-Cultural Community, Mr Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee, highlighted the matter when talking to the Lao press on Wednesday on the sidelines of a meeting on Asean cooperation on natural disaster response.

"Most people are very familiar with the AEC, the

Asean Economic Community, but we need to emphasise the ASCC, the Asean Social-Cultural Community, as it is all about the people, the people of Asean," Mr Vongthep said.

He pointed to the ASCC as the people's pillar, which he said stressed the importance of human development.

"The economic community will certainly enhance our region ..., but it must be emphasised that this whole effort has to be powered and propelled by the people," Mr Vongthep said.

He pointed to the importance of youth development and the workforce for economic integration, which he said were all about the people of Asean in various aspects.

Mr Vongthep added that Laos and other Asean member countries were placing importance on cooperation under this pillar, pointing to the adoption of several documents by Asean leaders concerning cooperation under the ASCC.

Some of the documents signed by the Asean leaders are: the Asean Declaration on One Asean, One Response; Asean Responding to Disaster as One in the Region and Outside the Region; the Vientiane Declaration on Transition from Informal Employment to formal Employment towards Decent Work Promotion in Asean;

Vientiane Declaration on Reinforcing Cultural Heritage Cooperation; and the Asean Declaration on Strengthening Education for Out-of-School Children and Youth.

Pertaining to the adoption by Asean leaders of the Vientiane Declaration on Reinforcing Cultural Heritage Cooperation, Mr Vongthep said this would not only promote the idea of the preservation of both tangible and intangible cultural heritages, but it was also about how Asean as a community addressed issues such as the illicit trafficking of cultural and intellectual property.

Asean was formally declared an Economic Community in December 2015 and the AEC is familiar to most people in the region, including in Laos. Citizens know about the freer transboundary flow of goods and labour, and easier border crossing within the region.

The Asean Secretariat official spoke about Laos' chairmanship of Asean, saying Laos wanted to make the transition from an informal economy to a formal economy.

This would promote the concept of decent work for labourers, who will have security through social protection schemes, and their human rights will be upheld in line with the standards identified by the International Labour Organisation.



Mr Khamping Sengtannalat shakes hands with Ms Tomiko Yashiro after signing a Memorandum of Understanding in Vientiane yesterday.

Japanese grant helps provide job opportunities for disabled people

Times Reporters

Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Asian Development with Disabled Persons (ADDP) have provided more than US\$286,000 (2.3 billion kip) for the development of work opportunities for disabled people in Huaphan province.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the project was signed yesterday by a representative of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Mr Khamping Sengtannalat, and President of Asian Development with Disabled Persons, Ms Tomiko Yashiro.

The project aims to improve the skills of the trainers of disabled people and teach them the basics of small and medium enterprise management.

Besides that, the project

will teach various occupational skills to disabled people so they are better equipped to run a small business.

The project will be run in Viengxay district, starting now and continuing until September 30, 2018.

Ms Yashiro said ADDP had received suggestions from authorities in Huaphan province about possible activities for people with disabilities including making biscuits, gardening, making handicrafts, and caring for Sakura Park. The project will focus on women with disabilities in order to help them earn an income.

Workshops will be held on the provision of jobs for disabled people and there will be inspections of the progress of individually run businesses by people with disabilities.

There will be meetings to encourage sponsors to step

forward and get involved in providing jobs for disabled people and the project will continue to provide training for trainers on suitable occupational skills.

The project will attempt to provide disabled people with jobs and lighten the burden on their families. The number of people in Laos who had been disabled for more than five years amounted to 2.8 percent of the population in 2015, Mr Khamping said.

Huaphan is in the north of Laos and is home to many disabled people, some of whom have been maimed in accidents caused by unexploded ordnance.

The ADDP has been operating in Laos for about 20 years. It is an international non government organisation which seeks to help disabled people find work by acquiring useful skills.

Solid growth expected... FROM PAGE 1

Vientiane yesterday.

"Despite fiscal constraints and weaker global demand for minerals in recent years, the Lao economy remains one of strong performers in the region with an average growth above 7.0 percent for the last decade," said ADB Country Director Mr Yasushi Negishi.

According to the ADB Outlook, the services sector posted strong growth at 9.0 percent, supported by the expansion of wholesale and

retail trading, hotels and restaurants, financial services and telecommunications.

The industry sector also maintained sturdy growth at 8.0 percent, though mining output declined slightly. This sector was boosted by higher electricity generation, notably at the Hongsa Lignite Power Plant, and the development of residential and commercial buildings.

Growth in agriculture edged up from 2.0 percent in

2015 to 2.5 percent in 2016 due to improved weather in the latter part of the year.

The current account deficit slightly improved from 16.8 percent of GDP in 2015 to 14.1 percent in 2016 but is projected to widen to 19 percent this year and to 20 percent next year, due to expected large imports of construction materials and machinery for the Laos-China railway.

Meanwhile foreign exchange reserves are unlikely to see much improvement soon. Better commodity

prices, an expanding services sector, construction workers on the Laos-China railway, power plants, commerce and real estate will help strengthen growth in 2017 and 2018.

Expected stronger domestic economic activities and higher oil prices resulting in rising inflation will put pressure on the trade balance. The inflation rate is likely to rise gradually, from 1.6 percent in 2016 to 2.5 percent in 2017 and 3.0 percent in 2018. A development challenge for Laos is how to make growth more inclusive and poverty reduction keep pace with the rate of economic growth. ADB's Public Management Specialist Mr Rattanatay Luanglathbandith said the rate of economic growth and the rate of poverty reduction



Asian Development Bank Country Director Mr Yasushi Negishi (second right) speaks about the growth of the Lao economy in Vientiane yesterday.

were inconsistent.

"To stimulate and boost the rate of poverty reduction, the government should encourage employment at industrial production bases or value-added chains," he said.

ADB's economists also stressed that diversifying the sources of growth toward more labour-intensive manufacturing and services is key to making growth more inclusive.

Correction

Vientiane Times wishes to correct a mistake in the fifth paragraph of the article titled "Massive land area awaiting UXO clearance" on page 1 of issue No. 80 published on April 5. The second sentence should read: "One third or about 87,000 square kilometres of the country's territory is contaminated with bombs."

Lao Press in Foreign Languages

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Laos marks World Health Day, focusing on depression prevention

Times Reporters

The Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation to Laos are marking World Health Day, which is observed annually on April 7.

The day provides a unique opportunity to mobilise action around a specific health topic of concern to people all over the world. The theme for the 2017 World Health Day is depression: #LetsTalk.

"Depression can affect anyone, people of all ages, from all walks of life, in all countries," said Minister of Health Associate Prof. Dr Bounkong Syhavong, speaking at an event to mark World Health Day.

According to new estimates released by the World Health Organisation, the number of people living with depression has increased by more than 18 percent between 2005 and 2015.

Depression is an illness characterised by persistent sadness and a loss of interest in activities that you normally enjoy, accompanied by an inability to carry out daily activities for at least two weeks.

People with depression normally have several of the following symptoms: a loss of energy; a change in appetite; sleeping more or less; anxiety; reduced concentration; indecisiveness; restlessness; feelings of worthlessness, guilt, or hopelessness; and thoughts of self-harm or suicide.

Suicide is a serious public health problem. Close to 800,000 people die due to suicide every year, an estimate of 500 suicides per day. It is the second leading cause of death among young people aged 15-29. However, older people are also at a higher risk of suicide.

Depression in older people is often overlooked and left untreated. It may be associated with physical conditions, such as heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes or chronic pain;



Associate Prof. Dr Bounkong Syhavong (right) and Dr Juliet Fleischl address the World Health Day event this week.

difficult life events, such as losing a partner; and a reduced ability to do things due to injury, or financial difficulties that can lead to depression.

The United Nations General Assembly on September 25, 2015 adopted the promotion of mental health and well-being to the Sustainable Development Goal Agenda, within the health goals. This is in line with the WHO definition of health "where physical, mental and social well-being is assured".

SDG 3.4 requests that countries "By 2030, reduce by one-third premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being."

Dr Juliet Fleischl, WHO Representative to Laos, said depression can be prevented and treated. "Overcoming the stigma associated with depression and suicide can lead to more people getting help. Talking with people you trust can be a first step towards recovery from depression," she added.

To date, only a few countries have included suicide prevention among their health priorities and only 28 countries reported having a national suicide prevention strategy. Raising community awareness and breaking down the taboo is important for countries to make progress in preventing

suicide.

Health workers need to understand depression, how it can be prevented and treated. If you are living with someone with depression, make it clear that you want to help, listen without judgement, and offer support. You should encourage them to seek professional help when available by offering to accompany them to appointments. When medication is prescribed, remind them to take it as prescribed. Be patient; it usually takes a few weeks to feel better.

The support of family, friends and caregivers will facilitate recovery from depression. You can help those suffering from depression simply by talking or listening to them. Stay connected with your friends and family, keep up with activities that you have always enjoyed and exercise regularly if you can, even if it is just a short walk.

There is a lot that can be done to prevent and treat depression, with talking therapies and antidepressant medication or a combination of both. Seek advice from your health-care provider.

On World Health Day, the theme of Depression #LetsTalk reminds us that individuals, communities and societies play a critical role in suicide prevention. We need to change our attitudes and break down taboos, through depression, #LetsTalk.

President extends deepest sympathy to Russia

President of the Lao PDR Bounnhang Vorachit on April 5 extended deepest condolences and sympathy to his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin over the Metro blast that occurred in St. Petersburg.

The message reads: "I have learned with profound sadness of the Metro blast that occurred in St. Petersburg on April 3, perpetrated by a terrorist act which caused numerous deaths and injuries to innocent people."

"On behalf of the Lao people and on my own behalf, allow me to extend my deepest condolences and sympathy to Your Excellency and the people of the Russian Federation as well as to the bereaved families of the victims affected by this barbaric act of violence."

"The Lao PDR strongly condemns this terror attack and stands side by side in solidarity with the Russian Federation to cooperate with the international community in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations."

Attracting more tourists the key to aviation growth

Somsack Pongkhao

The lack of tourists is among the main reasons for the closure of Attapeu International Airport in recent months, according to senior officials.

Infrastructure and tourism development serve as the foundations for developing the main draw-cards in Attapeu if authorities want to attract more tourists to the province.

Director of the provincial Department of Information, Culture and Tourism, Ms Bounnan Bounnaseng, said on Thursday that Attapeu has huge untapped tourism potential, but lacks the funding to develop it.

"We have a lot of exciting historical, cultural and natural tourist attractions, but people are reluctant to visit them due to a lack of infrastructure, notably road access," she said.

Among these rarely visited attractions are the Chao Xaysettha stupa, the Ho Chi Minh trail, Nong Fa Sky Lake, and dozens of waterfalls.

"We face a lot of challenges in attracting companies to develop tourist

attractions.

Some developers say they are interested but in fact they just want to hang on to them so they can sell the project to another business," Ms Bounnan said.

Nong Fa Sky Lake is about 170 kilometres from the provincial capital, but one section of road about 70km long is difficult to negotiate in the wet season because it is unpaved.

Ms Bounnan said the provincial authorities need to learn from Champassak and Luang Prabang provinces how to develop and promote tourism as these two provinces have successfully built up a flourishing tourism industry.

Every day, dozens of flights from foreign countries arrive in Luang Prabang, Laos' first World Heritage Site, and in Champassak province, drawn by their special charms.

In May last year, Lao Airlines began flights from Vientiane via Pakxe International Airport in Champassak province to Attapeu International Airport twice weekly and increased that to three times a week

in July.

Months later, Lao Airlines decided to cut the route from its schedule due to a decline in passenger numbers.

Experts say that attracting more tourists to Attapeu is critical for the development of aviation. It's also important to stage regional events to draw government officials, business leaders and tourists to the province.

Ms Bounnan said road access is the key for tourism development and that Attapeu should be promoted as a transit route for tourists visiting the region.

The province is working with Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia to explore tourism routes in order to link visitor attractions and package tours.

Attapeu is a relatively poor area located in the far south of Laos.

Only about 100,000 tourists visit the province annually despite the fact that it has several places of interest to explore.

The number of Westerners visiting the province is small and the majority of tourists are Lao, Thai and Vietnamese.

SEZ management decree... FROM PAGE 1

the areas under their responsibility. It was learnt that they had struggled in the past due to misunderstanding on the part of various sectors.

The draft decree on the promotion and management of SEZs comprises 13 chapters and 62 articles.

The decree has three parts: establishing and investing in Special Economic Zones, investment promotion policy for developers and investors, and organisational structure at the macro and micro levels.

Decisions concerning the allocation of specific areas to investors are also the responsibility of SEZ Management Committees.

SEZs were first established in Laos in 2002, starting with the Savan Seno Special Economic Zone (Savan Seno SEZ) which was the testing ground for this form of economic development, Dr Khamlien said.

Since then the number of SEZs in Laos has grown steadily, he added.

Laos currently has 12 SEZs covering

more than 19,600 hectares. The value of investment has reached US\$1.6 billion, of which US\$24 million is invested by the government, US\$1.27 billion by developers, and US\$349 million by retail investors.

The total number of domestic and foreign companies is now 318 companies and businesses. Of these, 57 companies are privately owned Lao concerns, 239 companies are foreign owned, and 22 are joint ventures between Lao and foreign companies.

The service sector accounts for 40 percent of SEZ operations, 32 percent are industrial and 28 percent are commercial. Jobs have been created for about 15,544 people, of whom 7,180 are Lao nationals and 8,364 are foreign.

SEZs have yielded US\$16 million for the national budget and it is expected this figure will more than double in the future as many factories have been built and some are now starting production.

Luang Prabang arranges... FROM PAGE 1

and visitors can join the local food and textile exhibition at That Luang Ground.

On 14 April, a fair featuring a traditional textile show, plus local and provincial products will be set up on the main street between the old stadium and Royal Palace.

Visitors can enjoy a traditional sports competition; join in the watering of Buddha images for blessings at every temple in Luang Prabang province

and go to the river beach to make sand stupas to bring good luck along with a *Basi* ceremony.

On 15 April, a textile exhibition at Phanom village, a tradition of the Tailue ethnic group, will be followed by a *Basi* ceremony for international and local guests.

Then, the *Hae Vor* (Buddha images and monks parade) will be followed by the Miss Lao New Year procession along the main

street from Thatnoy temple to Xiengthong temple.

On 16 April, an alms giving ceremony will be held at Sene Soukkharam temple and climbing of Phou Si Mountain to pay respects.

Ms Soudaphone noted visitor numbers during *Pi Mai Lao* festivities increased from about 26,870 people in 2013 to 30,583 in 2014, and to 34,692 in 2015, with most visitors coming from nearby provinces as well as Vientiane.

Ministry, WWF agree to strengthen wildlife law enforcement

Times Reporters

The Department of Forest Inspection and the World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) yesterday signed a Memorandum of Agreement initiating the implementation of a new project aimed at supporting efforts to strengthen wildlife law enforcement and cross-border cooperation.

The agreement was signed by Director General of the Department of Forest Inspection of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Mr Khamphout Phandanouvong, and Country Director of WWF-Laos, Mr Somphone Bouasavanh.

Recently, Laos has received increased international attention with regard to the issue of illegal wildlife trading. Laos has been identified by many observers as a transit country for the illegal trade of wildlife products coming from Africa, ultimately destined for China and Vietnam, according to a press release from WWF-Laos.

Recent reports have also identified that Laos has seen an increased domestic demand for items such as ivory, rhinoceros horns, and tiger products, which are predominantly purchased by tourists coming from neighbouring Thailand, China, and Vietnam.

The new project, which began on March 14, 2017, is scheduled



Mr Khamphout Phandanouvong (left) shakes hands with Mr Somphone Bouasavanh (right) at a signing ceremony in Vientiane on Thursday.

to run until June 30, 2018. With a budget of US\$85,500 (over 701 million kip), funded by WWF-Switzerland and WWF-Singapore, the project will support the Lao government, in particular the LAO-Wildlife Enforcement Network (LAO-WEN), in combating wildlife trafficking.

In particular, the initiative will focus on prioritised species within Laos as identified in the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) agreement, to which Laos became a party in 2014.

The project will provide support in the capacity building of Lao government authorities with respect to law enforcement and

bilateral cooperation, to address wildlife trafficking issues in Laos and the Greater Mekong Region.

WWF is one of the world's largest and most respected independent conservation organisations, with over 5 million supporters and a global network active in over 100 countries.

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

News in Brief

Young woman handed 16 year jail term for arranging killing

The Vientiane court on Monday sentenced a 23-year-old woman to 16 years in prison after she was found guilty of hiring a man to kill a relative she disliked. She was also fined 5 million kip, the *Khuamsangob* newspaper reported. The woman was identified as Ms Anisa, of Nongbouathong village, Sikhottabong district. The woman's accomplice, Mr Somphong, 27, of Phonsavard Neua village in Sikhottabong district was sentenced to 10 years in prison and fined 2 million kip. The victim was named as Mr Keo Oudom, 31, of Sibounheuang village, Chanthabouly district. Ms Anisa told police she hired Mr Somphong to arrange to have Mr Keo killed because she was angry that he had insisted she stop gambling. Police said Ms Anisa paid Mr Somphong 82 million kip (US\$10,000) to carry out the deed. He in turn hired two Thai nationals to dispatch Mr Keo, who was shot and killed.

Hot weather forecast through the weekend

The Meteorology and Hydrology Department is forecasting a rise in temperatures from today until at least April 9, the *Laophatthana* newspaper reported. Temperatures in the northeast are forecast to rise 1-2C and will range from 14-27C, while temperatures in the northwest are forecast to rise 1-3C and will range from 19-33C. In Vientiane and the central provinces, temperatures will range from 20-33C.

Tanmixay-Sikeuth road 15 percent complete

Construction of a 9-km road linking the traffic lights in Tanmixay village, Xaythany district, to the junction in Sikeuth village, Naxaithong district, is now 15 percent complete, the *Khuamsangob* newspaper reported. Construction of the road began in November last year at a cost of more than 368 billion kip and is expected to be complete next year, the newspaper reported, citing the Vientiane Public Works and Transport Department

LaoVietBank donates to Vangvieng school

The LaoVietBank last week handed over supplies and construction materials to a school in Nakhuang village, Vangvieng district, Vientiane province. The items including clothing and drinking water, and 5,000 bricks and 5 tonnes of cement to build new classrooms complete with educational equipment, the *Socio-Economic* newspaper reported yesterday.

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Marketing Manager of Lao Press in Foreign Languages, Mr Phouthasack Inthakoummane (*second right*), yesterday presents a basket of flowers to the Fleet Sales Manager of Lao Ford City, Mr Vilaysack Borliboun (*right*), as a gift for *Pi Mai Lao*.



A representative of Lao Press in Foreign Languages' marketing team, Mrs Latdavong Yommallath (*second right*), yesterday presents a basket of flowers to Mrs Somchan Phengxay on behalf of the TISSOT marketing and sales team, to mark *Pi Mai Lao*.



Students in Xaythany district, Vientiane, gather with donors at a ceremony on Wednesday to donate eyeglasses for distribution by a mobile clinic to students in rural areas of Vientiane. The initiative is a joint venture between the Lao Red Cross, Thai Red Cross Society and the Twin Pine Group. The project aims to help about 30,000 students in 141 primary and secondary schools in Xaythany, Pakngum and Sangthong districts.

--Photo Lao Red Cross



Members of the Foundation for Assisting Poor People of the Lao PDR Rescue 1623's Champassak province branch attend a training course in Vientiane to learn how to improve their teamwork.

--Photo Vientiane Rescue 1623



Nam Theun 2 Power Company Limited

NTPC is the developer and operator of the Nam Theun 2 Hydroelectric Project, a public-private partnership designed to generate electricity for export to Thailand and for domestic use in Laos under a 25-year concession period. NTPC is dedicated to running a world class hydropower facility and to improving the livelihoods of people in the Project area in three provinces: Khammouane, Bolikhamxay and Savannakhet. NTPC has offices located in Vientiane capital, Nakai and Gnommalath districts in Khammouane.

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QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor Degree in Business Administration, Accounting or related field
- Candidates with the experiences of Budgeting or Accounting in other industrial sector are also encouraged to apply;
- Good in English (Reading, Speaking and Writing);
- Good Computer literacy in Microsoft offices (especially Excel)
- Good organization and communication skills,
- Good team working and relationship building.
- Willingness and ability to work under pressure and strict deadline
- Ability to travel to site from time to time

Should you think that you are qualified to this position, you are requested to submit your updated resume which should describe full detail of qualifications, including references, education certificates, expected salary and your recent photo to NTPC via online or hard copies to:

Nam Theun 2 Power Company Limited
Unit 09, That Luang Road, P.O. Box 5862, Vientiane, Lao PDR
E-mail: recruitment@namtheun2.com
Website: www.namtheun2.com

Only short-listed candidates will be notified for interviews and your submitted document will not be returned

Qualified women are encouraged to apply



Nam Theun 2 Power Company Limited

NTPC is the developer and operator of the Nam Theun 2 Hydroelectric Project, a public-private partnership designed to generate electricity for export to Thailand and for domestic use in Laos under a 25-year concession period. NTPC is dedicated to running a world class hydropower facility and to improving the livelihoods of people in the Project area in three provinces: Khammouane, Bolikhamxay and Savannakhet. NTPC has offices located in Vientiane capital, Nakai and Gnommalath districts in Khammouane.

We are currently looking for motivated and qualified candidates interested in the following position:

POSITION: SENIOR ACCOUNTING OFFICER (LAO NATIONAL ONLY)

DIVISION: FINANCIAL BRANCH-ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT

DUTY STATION: VIENTIANE HEAD OFFICE

APPLICATION CLOSED: 30 APRIL 2017

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

❖ Account payables (AP)

- Obtain incoming files/invoices from registered by NTPC Document Control (DCC)
- Book AP from: Purchase Orders (POs), Advance payment to suppliers from POs, Contracts, retention payments from contracts, and Non PO (Fund reservation for both activities, expenses and expense reimbursement) including asset all process;
- Obtain authorization for invoice vouchers;
- Advance clearing for employees' cash advance for activities;
- Control and file processed invoice vouchers according to department filing system;

❖ Reports

- Report on aging cash advance to employee (activities);
- List follow up existing NTPC contract;
- Create reports on outstanding commitments from current NTPC's contracts;
- Create and maintain NTPC's contract master list;
- Assist and facilitate annual and quarterly audits by internal, external auditors, and shareholder audit (if any);
- Perform reconciliations required by departments for controlling and audit purposes;
- To prepare Financial Statement (Balance Sheet & P&L);
- To prepare Financial Note;

❖ Other department related work

- Participate in annual fixed asset count at sites in RNT and Nakai
- Participate in annual inventory count at RNT Warehouse in Gnommalath
- Corporate with other departments and divisions related to purchasing documents, receiving documents and other documents to clear pending invoices
- Assist in assets registering by gathering relevant vouchers
- Any other tasks assigned by manager and director

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor Degree in Accounting
- Experience 3 years in accounting work
- Good in English (Reading, Speaking and Writing);
- Good Computer literacy in Microsoft offices (especially Excel – advance level);
- Good organization and communication skills;
- Good team working and relationship building;
- Willingness and ability to work under pressure and strict deadline;
- Ability to travel to site from time to time;

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Region

In brief from Asia News Network

Decree imposes fines on minerals, water resources violations

HANOI (Vietnam News) -- The Government has issued a decree on punishments for administrative violations in the minerals and water resources sectors, imposing fines ranging from VNĐ250 million (US\$11,125) to VNĐ2 billion (\$89,000). Administrative violations in the water resources sector involve violations in the inspection, planning, surveying, exploitation and use of water resources; violations in reservoirs and reservoir operations; and violations in water resources protection, among others.

Boy dies saving sister in South Jakarta landslide

JAKARTA (The Jakarta Post) -- A 12-year-old boy called Hilman has died after saving his 4-year-old sister Rani from the debris of their house following a landslide in South Jakarta. Hilman, Rani, their father Budi, 44, and mother Eni, 34, were in the house when the incident happened in Jagakarsa at around 4 p.m. on Monday, Kompas.com reported on Wednesday. Jagakarsa district secretary Mundari said the land from right behind Budi's house hit the building during heavy rain, causing the house's walls to collapse onto the family.

Third EPG meeting: Clause-wise discussion on 1950 treaty begins

NEPAL (The Kathmandu Post) -- Apr 6, 2017- The third meeting of the Eminent Persons Group on Nepal-India Relations (EPG-NIR) on Wednesday started clause-wise discussions on the 1950 Peace and Friendship Treaty. The Nepali side had recommended either an update or revision to the treaty during the second meeting held in October in New Delhi. The first meeting was held in Kathmandu in July.

Four of top-five young universities in Asia

THAILAND (The Nation) -- Four of the top-five young universities are in Asia, according to the Times Higher Education (THE) latest rankings.

The THE Top 200 Young University Rankings 2017 were released on Wednesday.

While the Switzerland-based Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne remained No 1 on the list of best young higher-educational institutes, the next four are from Asia.

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in Hong Kong was named second-best young university, followed by Nanyang Technological University of Singapore, Pohang University of Science and Technology of South Korea, and Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology of South Korea.

The 2017 Young University Rankings used the same 13 rigorous and demanding performance indicators as the overall World University Rankings but only well-performing universities that are 50 years old or younger can join the list, THE said.

"While the US dominates the World University



The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in Hong Kong was named second-best young university.

--Photo UF Study Abroad Advisor via the Nation

Rankings, it claims less than 3 per cent of places in this young top 200 list. Even the most-represented nation in the table, the UK, only takes 13.5 per cent of positions. The result is that universities from 48 countries across Europe, Australasia, Asia, North America and Latin America make the table. This means the list represents

a wider range of countries than any other THE ranking, except the flagship world rankings," THE rankings editor Phil Baty said.

The UK is the most represented nation in the ranking with 27 universities, closely followed by Australia with 23. France, Spain, Germany and Italy come

next with 16, 15, 11 and 10 institutions respectively.

Asia has also been doing well. Half of the top-10 places are led by Asian universities – the best result for the continent since the rankings began in 2012. Overall, more than a quarter (55) of the top 200 places are filled by universities from

across 18 Asian countries including Thailand.

"It is no easy task to appear in the 2017 Young University Rankings... Institutions must demonstrate high standards of performance across teaching, research, international outlook and knowledge transfer," Baty added.

US reaffirmed commitment to Asia-Pacific region and bilateral defence ties with Singapore: Ng Eng Hen

SINGAPORE (The Straits Times) -- United States Defence Secretary James Mattis has reaffirmed the US commitment to the Asia-Pacific region and expressed a desire to deepen bilateral defence ties with Singapore, said Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen.

He also revealed in a Facebook posting on Thursday (April 6) morning that Mr Mattis will be attending the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, an annual security dialogue that is usually held in late May and often features top brass military and defence personnel.

Dr Ng, who is making a working visit to the US, met Mr Mattis at the Pentagon on Wednesday (US time), and described their meeting as "warm and productive".

"We discussed common security challenges including the threat of terrorism and ways to deal with them. I look forward to returning the warm hospitality when Secretary Mattis attends the Shangri-La Dialogue in June this year," wrote Dr Ng.

According to a transcript of an interview with Channel NewsAsia in Washington DC, Dr Ng described Mr Mattis, a former Marine Corps general, as someone who has strategies

and plans, and vast experience in the US military.

"He gave a reassuring calm, and in his words, he's now become the 'Secretary of Reassurance'. So I was very happy with the outcome of that," said Dr Ng.

"I think it bodes well from the security point, America's commitment to the region, and not only commitment to the region, but commitment towards Asia-Pacific's stability... There is much reassurance and confidence that Secretary Mattis is there."

Dr Ng added that both countries remain committed to the enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreement, signed in 2015, which will further collaboration in new areas such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, cyber defence, biosecurity and public communications.

Singapore also remains committed to facilitating the use of Changi Naval Base and its air bases by American forces, said Dr Ng.

He said the purpose of his trip from Sunday to Wednesday (April 2 to 5) was to get a better feel of how to engage the US as there have been "several levels of uncertainty, unpredictability, new administration" under

President Donald Trump since Mr Trump took office on Jan 20.

"We thought the best way to do that is to meet the individuals, the ambassadors, and we lined up a significant number of calls with old friends of Singapore who understand the politics, who understand the history of Singapore and relations with the US, and understand our region," said Dr Ng.

He said it has been a very useful trip, calling it not only a voyage of discovery, but also one of reassurance and reaffirmation by many strong friends and supporters of Singapore in Washington, "who have given us very good guide posts and who also gave us strong assurance that you can call on them if need be".

Asked about the upcoming Mar-a-Lago Summit meeting between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping in the US, Dr Ng said it is a "good development" that both leaders are meeting, as it is better for both countries to be cooperating than to be in an antagonistic relationship.

He said Singapore believes it would be healthy for the US and China to agree to avoid trade wars and to help both sides grow economically.

ADB sees solid growth in developing Asia this year

MANILA (Xinhua) -- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said Thursday that developing Asia will continue to perform well this year even as recovery in the major industrial economies remained weak, predicting the region's economy to expand by 5.7 percent in 2017 and 2018.

Asian Development Outlook 2017, the ADB's annual economic publication, said continued expansion helps developing Asia deliver more than 60 percent of global growth.

"Gross domestic product for the region as a whole is expected to grow by 5.7 percent in 2017 and 2018, a tick down from the 2016 outcome of 5.8 percent as the controlled moderation of growth in China is balanced by expected healthy growth elsewhere," said the report released on Thursday.

Excluding the high-income newly industrialised economies like South Korea and Singapore, the report said regional growth is expected to reach 6.3 percent in 2017 and 6.2 percent in 2018.

"Growth is picking up in

30 of the 45 economies in developing Asia, supported by higher external demand and rebounding global commodity prices," the report said.

Indeed ADB chief economist Yasuyuki Sawada said the region "faces risks from uncertain policy direction in the advanced economies, including the pace of interest rate normalisation in the United States."

"While short-term risks seem manageable, regional policy makers should remain vigilant to respond to possible spillover through capital flows and exchange rate movements," Sawada said.

China's economy will continue "to rebalance, depending more on consumption to drive growth."

"A further shift of economic activity from industry to services shows rebalancing progressing as planned. Growth in China now relies more on internal demand and less on exports," the report said, adding that China's economy will experience "moderate deceleration" growing 6.5 percent in 2017 and further to 6.2 percent in 2018.

About 6 pct of Brazilian children out of school: study

RIO DE JANEIRO (Xinhua) -- Brazil has over 2.48 million minors aged between four and 17 without access to school, according to a study published Wednesday.

The figure represents 6 percent of the total number of children and teenagers in that age bracket in Brazil, said the study, which was carried out by nongovernmental organization All for Education.

Priscila Cruz, chief executive of All for Education, considered the situation worrying, saying those who cannot afford schooling are the most vulnerable social groups, such as children from poor families, children with disabilities and those who live in remote areas.

The study shows that over 1.54 million of school dropouts are aged from 15 to 17.

Reasons for this alarming situation ranges from teenage pregnancy, financial difficulties, violence, to other difficulties faced by the teen's family.

Cruz believes that the reform of high school system, which was signed into law earlier this year, may help address these concerns and reduce school dropouts, but it depends on how the new system will work out.

Australia, New Zealand warn of possible attack in Turkey

SYDNEY (AP) -- Australia and New Zealand warned on Thursday that extremists may be planning an attack on the commemoration of a World War I campaign that is being held in Turkey this month.

Australian Veterans Affairs Minister Dan Tehan urged the nearly 500 Australians and New Zealanders registered to travel to Gallipoli, Turkey, to mark ANZAC Day on April 25 to exercise a high degree of caution amid the warning, but offered no specifics about the alleged threat. ANZAC Day is an annual holiday commemorating the April 25, 1915, landings in Gallipoli — the first major military action fought by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps during World War I.

Australian Federal Police deputy commissioner Mike Phelan declined to release details of what prompted the warning, saying only that the government had received information that extremists may attack the services being held on the Gallipoli peninsula. Phelan said there was no specific plot linked to the alert.

"It is just that terrorists may indeed try to carry out a terrorist attack during the celebrations," Phelan told reporters in the nation's capital, Canberra. "That is all we have got at this stage."

Tehan said Australia and New Zealand were working closely with Turkish authorities on security arrangements and



Australian Veteran Affairs Minister Dan Tehan, left, and Australian Federal Police deputy commissioner Mike Phelan speak during a news conference in Canberra on Thursday.

—Photo Parliament TV via AP

the commemoration was scheduled to continue as planned. For the past two years, Australian police have said they thwarted planned attacks on ANZAC Day celebrations in Australia. In 2015, police in Melbourne arrested five teenagers on suspicion of plotting an Islamic State group-inspired attack intended to coincide with the city's ANZAC service. In 2016, police arrested a 16-year-old and charged him with planning an attack on an ANZAC ceremony in Sydney.

New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully said he could not be more specific about the nature of the threat or where the information had come from. He said he'd been getting advice about

it over the last day or two. McCully urged travelers to Gallipoli to regularly check the government travel website for updates. He said he had confidence in how Turkish authorities were handling security, and apologized for not being able to offer more information.

"It's not an area in which they encourage ministers to let their imaginations wander," he said. "We very carefully have to follow the steps and script of the officials who give advice in this area."

Many New Zealanders feel a strong bond with Gallipoli, McCully said.

"The fact that so many New Zealanders go to Gallipoli at this time of year speaks volumes about the significance it holds," he said.

Greek PM calls for emergency summit if Eurogroup bailout review not sealed

ATHENS (Xinhua) -- Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras on Wednesday called for an emergency euro zone summit in April if the Eurogroup meeting on Friday does not conclude a bailout review.

The remarks were made during joint statements here with visiting European Council President Donald Tusk.

According to a press release issued by the Greek prime minister's office, Tsipras blamed creditors for the delay in the closure of the assessment.

According to the initial timetable agreed in 2015, the second review should have concluded in February 2016.

The Greek prime minister said Athens expects an agreement during the Eurogroup meeting in Malta this Friday, otherwise it will seek initiatives at a higher level to resolve the issue.

"We must have a positive development before Easter,

in any case in April, even if we need to convene a euro zone summit," he stressed.

Tusk also expressed the hope that deal could be reached on Friday.

"I hope that we will be able to reach a deal this Friday at Eurogroup. I would like to underline that all sides participating in this process are sharing the responsibility to reach this agreement," said the European Council president.

During talks with Greek President Prokypis Pavlopoulos earlier, Tusk appeared cautiously optimistic about the conclusion of the review soon.

"I really feel that we are very close to the conclusion of this phase of the procedure. I believe that this grand finale will come thanks to the determination of Greek people and their sacrifices," Tusk said.

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Invitation for Bids.

Scaling Up Participatory Sustainable Forest Management Project. (SUPSFM)
Grant No.: H852-LA/TF 015286.
Contract Title: Construction of NPMO Office Building
Reference No.: W01/NCB/2017

1. The Lao People's Democratic Republic has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Scaling Up Participatory Sustainable Forest Management Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Construction of NPMO Building.

2. The Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Construction of NPMO Building with two floors, 26 m. long and 16 m. wide, includes electrical system, water system by borehole and submersible pump, access road, gate and fence and land filling layer up as required on site.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers*, dated January 2011 ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the SUPSFM Project, at Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Chao Anou Road, Thadam Block, Sisaket Village, Chanthabouly District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR Telephone: (+856 21 215002 Facsimile: (+856 21) 215723, E-mail address: bounpone.sth@gmail.com (cc. chittanon.bsl@gmail.com), and inspect the bidding documents during office hours: 0900 to 1600 hours (Standard Lao PDR time) at the address given above.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English including hard copy and a CD containing technical specifications, drawing and bill of quantities may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Lao Kip 1,000,000 or equivalent to USD 120. The method of payment will be cash or cashier's check drawn on a bank operated in Lao PDR or telegraphic or on-line transfer payable to the SUPSFM Project, Department of Forestry. The document can be secured from the address above or will be sent by electronically (by e-mail) or by courier if so requested upon confirmation of payment.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address in paragraph 8 below on or before 10.00 a.m. (Standard Lao PDR time) on April 26, 2017. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address in paragraph 8 below at 10.00 a.m. on April 26, 2017

7. All bids must be accompanied by a "Bid-Securing Declaration."

8. The address referred to above is:

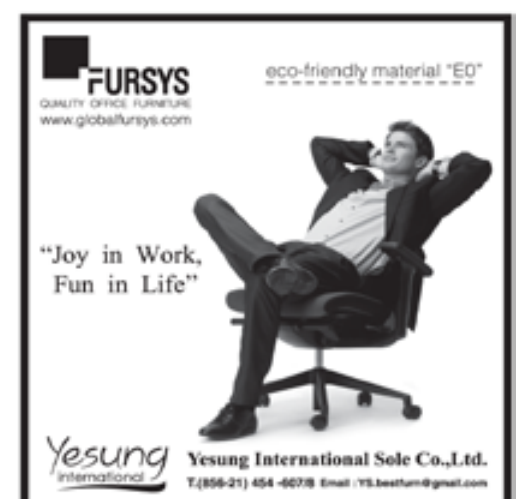
Attn. Mr. Bounpone SENGTHONG
Deputy Director General, Department of Forestry,
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry,
Chao Anou Road, Thadam Block, Sisaket Village,
Chanthabouly District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR

Telephone: (+856 21 215002
Facimile: (+856 21) 215723,
E-mail address: bounpone.sth@gmail.com (cc. chittanon.bsl@gmail.com),

Vientiane Capital, dated: 23/3/2017
Department of Forestry.

[Signature]
Bounpone SENGTHONG

Deputy Director General Department of Forestry.
SUPSFM – National Project Coordinator.



New education projects to boost human resource development, feed growing skilled labour demand



Dr Mithong Souvanvixay shakes hands with Ms Keoamphone Souvannaphoum at the MoU signing ceremony in Vientiane recently.

Recently, the Australian Government, European Union (EU) and ChildFund Australia agreed to support Basic Education Quality and Access (BEQUAL) Projects in Houaphan Province.

Dr Mithong Souvanvixay from the Ministry of Education and Sports, and Ms Keoamphone Souvannaphoum, Country Director from ChildFund Laos signed on 28th March 2017 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of the BEQUAL NGO Consortium Project in Houaphan Province.

Basic Education Quality and Access in the Lao PDR (BEQUAL) is a ten-year program led by the Government of Lao PDR and Australia, with additional support from the European Union, to support educationally disadvantaged children to complete quality basic education. As part of the overall BEQUAL program, the BEQUAL NGO Consortium (comprising of Plan International, Save the Children, World Vision and ChildFund Laos) is responsible for implementing activities that support increased access to and participation in primary school. The BEQUAL NGO Consortium project aims to ensure that all children, particularly non-Lao speakers, girls and children with disabilities, in 171 disadvantaged schools, enroll in and complete a quality primary education, supported by their parents and communities.

Under the MoU signed recently, ChildFund Laos will start to deliver activities in Huameuang and Xamneua Districts, Houaphan Province. The project is supported by the Australian Government, the



Dr Mithong Souvanvixay and Ms Keoamphone Souvannaphoum sign agreement documents for Basic Education Quality and Access in the Lao PDR Project at the MoU signing ceremony in Vientiane recently.

European Union and ChildFund Australia with a budget of US\$ 1,312,505 and will run until the end of the project in September 2018. A total of 57 primary schools have been selected to promote education access and participation in the 2 districts. The project will be carried out in close partnership with schools, the District Education and Sports Bureau in each district and the Provincial Education and Sport Service in Houaphan to plan, implement and monitor the different activities.

The main objectives of this project are to address the quality of teaching of early reading and Lao language acquisition in schools, and to enable community engagement in supportive learning environments. As part of the BEQUAL NGO Consortium,

ChildFund Laos will implement specific activities to improve Lao language acquisition and children's reading habits such as training for teachers of Grade 1 to better support non-Lao speaking students upon school entry, provision of reading books to schools, and reading promotion activities with schools and communities. Increased enrolment and participation in school by all children will be promoted through training for Village Education Development Committees and teachers on inclusive education, and activities for students to increase their awareness of key issues affecting participation. Sanitation and hygiene improvements at primary schools will be addressed through the installation of hand-washing facilities, plus training for teachers and school-

level hygiene promotion activities.

This project will enable an improvement in quality of the education delivered as well as gradually reduce the education gap between urban and rural areas.

"ChildFund attaches great importance to collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Sports. Synergies with the BEQUAL NGO Consortium also substantially expand the prospects of our increased information sharing and effective engagement for countrywide inclusive and quality education", Ms Keoamphone said.

For more information on the ChildFund BNC Project or activities please contact Oulath Saengouthay, oulaths@childfund.org.la, 021-412966, 020 54424204

IMF paints positive picture for global economic growth

Somsack Pongkhao

Economic activity is projected to pick up its pace in 2017 and 2018, especially in emerging markets and developing economies, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s recent World Economic Outlook Update.

The report also predicts improved economic growth amongst Laos' major trading partners, Asean and China.

The economic growth of the Asean 5 (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) is projected to expand from 4.8 percent in 2016 to 4.9 percent in 2017 and 5.2 percent in 2018.

The economic improvement in Asean and China could also create greater momentum for stronger economic growth in Laos this year and next, helping to drive regional integration.

Among advanced economies, activity rebounded strongly in the

United States after a weak first half of 2016, and the economy is approaching full employment, according to the IMF.

The outlook for advanced economies has improved for 2017-18, reflecting somewhat stronger activity in the second half of 2016 as well as a projected fiscal stimulus in the United States.

Growth prospects have slightly worsened for emerging markets and developing economies, where financial conditions have typically tightened. Near-term growth prospects were revised up for China due to expected policy stimulus but were then revised down for a number of other large economies - most notably India and Brazil.

The growth rate in China was a bit stronger than expected, supported by continued policy stimulus but activity was weaker than expected in some Latin American countries currently in recession.



The Lao economy is projected to grow by 7 percent this year.

Oil prices have increased in recent weeks, reflecting an agreement among major producers to trim supply. With strong infrastructure and real estate investment in China as well as expectations of fiscal easing

in the United States, prices for base metals have also strengthened.

Growth projections for 2017 have also been revised upward for Germany, Japan, Spain, and the United Kingdom, mostly on account

of a stronger-than-expected performance during the latter part of 2016.

Last year, the Lao economy grew at a rate of 6.9 percent while Lao economists say the country's economy will continue to grow at about 7 percent this year as many new mega-projects that have been delayed in past years have now commenced.

The IMF said that emerging markets and developing economies also face diverse cyclical positions and structural challenges.

The IMF recommended that enhancing financial resilience can reduce the vulnerability to a tightening of global financial conditions, sharp currency

movements, and the risk of capital flow reversals.

Economies with large and rising nonfinancial debt, un-hedged foreign liabilities, or heavy reliance on short-term borrowing to fund longer-term investments must adopt stronger risk management practices and contain balance sheet mismatches.

In low-income countries that have seen their fiscal buffers decrease over the last few years, the priority is to restore those buffers while continuing to spend efficiently on critical capital needs and social outlays, strengthen debt management, improve domestic revenue mobilisation, and implement structural reforms.

ADB sees solid growth in developing Asia this year

MANILA (China Daily, ANN) -- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said on Thursday that developing Asia will continue to perform well this year even as recovery in the major industrial economies remained weak, predicting the region's economy to expand by 5.7 percent in 2017 and 2018.

Asian Development Outlook 2017, the ADB's annual economic publication, said continued expansion helps developing Asia deliver more than 60 percent of global growth.

"Gross domestic product for the region as a whole is expected to grow by 5.7 percent in 2017 and 2018, a tick down from the 2016 outcome of 5.8 percent as the controlled moderation of growth in China is balanced by expected healthy growth elsewhere," said the report released on Thursday.

Excluding the high-income newly industrialised economies like South Korea and Singapore, the report said regional growth is expected to reach 6.3 percent in 2017 and 6.2 percent in 2018.

"Growth is picking up in 30 of the 45 economies in developing Asia, supported by higher external demand and rebounding global



Construction workers take a break outside a construction site in Beijing, China.

--AP PhotoNg Han Guan

commodity prices," the report said.

Indeed ADB chief economist Yasuyuki Sawada said the region "faces risks from uncertain policy direction in the advanced economies, including the pace of interest rate normalisation in the United States."

"While short-term risks seem manageable, regional policy makers should remain vigilant to respond to possible spillover through capital flows and exchange

rate movements," Sawada said.

China's economy will continue "to rebalance, depending more on consumption to drive growth."

"A further shift of economic activity from industry to services shows rebalancing progressing as planned. Growth in China now relies more on internal demand and less on exports," the report said, adding that China's economy will experience

"moderate deceleration" growing 6.5 percent in 2017 and further to 6.2 percent in 2018.

After slowing down in the first half of 2016, the report said the United States, the euro area and Japan are forecast to grow collectively by 1.9 percent in both 2017 and 2018.

The report predicted Japan's economy to continue to recover "but may lose some steam unless export growth maintains its new momentum."

Exchange rates as of April 6, 2017

Banque pour le Commerce Extérieur Lao Public

Foreign Currencies	Buying	Selling
US Dollar 50-100	8,189	8,229
Thai Baht	237.99	239.77
Euro 50-500	8,732	8,776

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IN BRIEF

Sharp to boost workforce at key plant in July

OSAKA (Kyodo News) -- Sharp Corp. is set to boost the number of employees at its mainstay Kameyama factory in the central Japan prefecture of Mie to reinforce the production of profitable camera parts for smartphones, a senior company official said on Thursday.

Sharp, restructuring under the wing of Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., will raise the number of its workforce to around 4,000 in July from the current 2,300 at the plant. The Osaka-based electronics maker previously reduced its workforce at the key plant amid a sluggish performance in its liquid crystal display panel business but the company has again begun expanding its business since coming under the ownership of the Taiwanese firm known by its trade name Foxconn.

Cabinet nod for French technical cooperation in civil aviation

NEW DELHI (The Statesman, ANN) -- The Union cabinet on Wednesday approved an agreement for technical cooperation between the civil aviation authorities of India and France, according to an official statement.

"The Union cabinet has given its approval to the memorandum of understanding between the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Civil Aviation Authority (DGAC) of France, to implement Technical Cooperation Programme in the civil aviation sector," a Civil Aviation Ministry statement said here.



PROJECT LAO/027
LAO-LUXEMBOURG
HEALTH SECTOR SUPPORT PROGRAMME PHASE II
LL-HSSP II

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT****Regional Senior Midwife Trainer-Advisor**

for provincial obstetrical care development support in Khammouane, Laos

Expected starting date: 1 June 2017

The Luxembourg Development Cooperation Agency (Lux-Dev) assists the Ministry of Health of Laos through the Lao-Luxembourg Health Sector Support Programme phase II (LL-HSSP II), to strengthen the health system and health service delivery in Lao PDR, in particular for neonatal, maternal and child care in the provinces of Bolikhamxay, Khammouane and Vientiane.

Among other support activities, the LL-HSSP II provides a comprehensive package of training and coaching to improve the quality of nursing and midwifery practices and management in provincial and district hospitals.

The PSO is currently seeking a highly qualified **Regional Senior Midwife Trainer-Advisor (SMTA)**, with posting in Thakhek, Khammouane province.

The main function of the SMTA will be to assist, guide and coach the Provincial Hospital Management and the Provincial Health Department in the planning, implementation and monitoring of a strengthened Basic and Comprehensive Emergency Obstetrical and Neonatal Care (BEmONC and CEmONC) Package.

The main areas of responsibility are:

- To provide advice and coaching to the Hospital Management and physicians to assess and improve the standards of the obstetrical, midwifery and neo-natal care practices, as well as patient and ward management, in according to international levels;
- To act as in situ trainer to provide context-based teaching in obstetrical/midwifery procedures and practice;
- To act as a change manager for progressive introduction of continuous quality improvement procedures for BEmONC and CEmONC in the provincial and district hospitals;
- To monitor hospital and staff performance, based upon agreed BEmONC and CEmONC indicators, and provide feed-back on progress to provincial and national authorities;
- To perform as a team member to the provincial LL-HSSP II support mechanism.

Required candidate profile:

- Registered Midwife or Nurse-Midwife Practitioner (minimum Bachelor Degree) with additionally a Master diploma in midwifery and/or at least 10 years of hospital midwifery experience, in maternity wards / labour room, including 5 years at management positions (Head Nurse-midwife level);
- Additional qualifications and experience in teaching midwifery / obstetrical theory and practice, either on site or at training institutions, preferably in the Southeast Asia Region;
- Professional body registration and a valid license to practice in home country;
- Experience with Health Services Accreditation schemes is an advantage;
- Proven experience in nurse-midwifery training or coaching midwifery improvement programs in Southeast Asia;
- Able to be a pro-active member of a multi-cultural team and have excellent interpersonal communication skills to guide and motivate collaborators;
- Previous experience in working with international organizations and/or NGOs, and/or Lao Health Services is an asset;
- Fluency in both Lao/Thai and English (written, spoken);
- Good computer skills required (MS Office, other productivity tools).

The post will be based at the provincial health directorate of Khammouane province (Thakhek, Khammouane Province) in Laos. Fieldwork will take place in provincial, district hospitals and in selected health centers of the province of Khammouane.

Salary: Competitive salary and benefit package based on qualifications and experience.

Duration of contract: Initial one-year contract, renewable.

Expected starting date: 1 June 2017.

Applications in English consisting of Curriculum Vitae, copies of relevant educational qualifications and professional experience, as well as a covering motivation letter must be forwarded by email or by post specifying in the subject line "Application for LAO/027 Regional Senior Midwife Trainer-Advisor" to:

LAO/027 Programme Support Office
Ministry of Health
(SMTA)
PO BOX 7084
Ban Simeuang, Sisattanak district, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
Tel: (021) 252 083; fax: (021) 252 084
E-mail: lao027@luxdev.la

Deadline for submitting applications: 12 April 2017

Prudential opens new branch in Luang Prabang

Times Reporters

Prudential Life Assurance (Lao) Company Limited (Prudential Laos) recently launched a new sales unit branch at the ACLEDA Bank branch in Luang Prabang province, aiming to offer products that better suit customers' needs.

The opening of the new branch is in line with Prudential's credo of "Always Listening, Always Understanding", which is available throughout the country at ACLEDA Bank Lao Ltd.

The event was attended by representatives from the company and provincial authorities along with other invited guests.

Prudential opened its representative office in Vientiane in March 2015 and has since received a licence from the Ministry of Finance to begin business operations.

Prudential has established a strategic and exclusive "bancassurance" partnership in Laos with ACLEDA Bank Lao, a reputable commercial bank with more than 40 branches across the country.

Prudential Laos is now distributing its products to customers of ACLEDA Bank Lao through the branch network, starting in Vientiane before expanding nationwide in the near



Lao and foreign business operators gather at the opening ceremony of the sales unit branch in Luang Prabang province.

future.

Prudential Corporation Asia, part of the UK-based Prudential plc, has now started its life insurance business in Laos.

Operating here as Prudential Life Assurance (Lao) Company Limited ("Prudential Laos"), Prudential offers life insurance products that meet the protection and savings needs of the Lao people.

Prudential has been operating in Asia since 1923 and owns a pan-regional distribution platform that serves the diverse financial needs of Asian families in 13 markets.

Prudential Corporation Asia is a business unit of Prudential plc (United

Kingdom), comprising its life insurance operations in Asia, and its asset management business, Eastspring Investments. It is headquartered in Hong Kong.

Prudential is a leading life insurer that spans 13 markets in Asia, covering Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

Prudential has a robust multi-channel distribution platform providing a comprehensive range of savings, investment and protection products to meet the diverse needs of the Asian people.

Boost for airlines, REITs as more tourists head for Malaysia



More tourists, especially from China, heading to Malaysia.

KUALA LUMPUR (The Star, ANN) -- Total tourist arrivals to Malaysia this year could jump by over 4percent on-year after airline bookings from China to Malaysia surged 72percent on-year from March 16 to August 31, 2017.

This was after China discouraged its citizens from visiting South Korea, Maybank Investment Bank Research said on Thursday.

"If we assume that Chinese tourist arrivals for the whole of 2017 grow by a narrower 50percent on-year, we estimate that this will lift total tourist arrivals by 4percent on-year.

"This figure could be conservative as it has not accounted for recent promotional efforts by the government.

"This development reinforces our positive view on the tourism industry," the research house said in a note.

It said the direct beneficiaries to the positive growth in tourist arrivals which it had existing BUY call on were MAHB, AirAsia, Genting Bhd, Al-Salam REIT, Sunway REIT and IGB REIT.

The China National Tourism Administration recently discouraged Chinese tours to South

Korea in retaliation for the latter deploying the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence missile system.

Business intelligence group ForwardKeys reported that China to Malaysia airline bookings from March 16, 2017 to August 31, 2017 surged 72percent, and ranked Malaysia as the prime Asian beneficiary from the move by CNTA.

The research house said beneficiaries from higher tourist arrivals were the aviation (airlines, airport), hospitality (hotels, theme parks, casino) and consumer (retail, F&B) sectors.



Lao stock market report

BCEL-KT



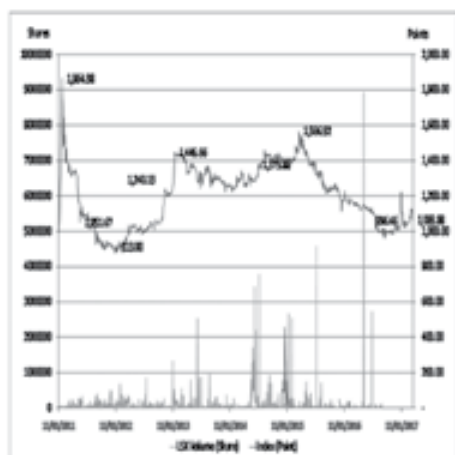
Asean Economic Community

Trading Summary

LSX's index was up 12.17 points or 1.13 percent to 1,089.88 points with 3,800 shares traded, worth around 18 million kip from the increase of EDL-Gen and BCEL, which rose 50 kip and 300 kip respectively. EDL-Gen edged up 50 kip to close at 5,450 kip with small trading volume of 300 shares only, while BCEL added 300 kip to close at 5,200 kip with 3,100 shares. In the meantime, PTL and SVN were stable at 2,000 kip, 3,000 kip with 300 shares, 100 shares traded respectively. LWPC stayed unchanged at 9,100 kip with no trading.

Trade Summary

06.04.2017	Buy	Sell	Net purchase
General Corporations	-	-	-
Individuals	1	18	- 17
Foreigners	18	-	18
Securities Companies	-	1	- 1
Others	-	-	-



Last 7 days Trading Information

Date	LSX			EDL-Gen		BCEL		LWPC		PTL		SVN	
	Current Index (Point)	Change (%)	Trading Value (Kip)	Closing Price (Kip)	Change	Closing Price (Kip)	Change	Closing Price (Kip)	Change	Closing Price (Kip)	Change	Closing Price (Kip)	Change
6/04/17	1,089.88	1.13%	18,045,000	5,450	50	5,200	300	9,100	0	2,000	0	3,000	0
5/04/17	1,077.71	-0.58%	413,590,000	5,400	0	4,900	-300	9,100	0	2,000	-100	3,000	0
4/04/17	1,083.99	2.03%	3,799,975,000	5,400	150	5,200	-100	9,100	0	2,100	0	3,000	-100
3/04/17	1,062.39	-2.44%	58,810,000	5,250	-150	5,300	-150	9,100	0	2,100	0	3,100	0
31/03/17	1,088.93	3.03%	540,000	5,400	200	5,450	-50	9,100	0	2,100	0	3,100	0
30/03/17	1,056.87	-4.50%	727,220,000	5,200	-300	5,500	-50	9,100	0	2,100	0	3,100	0
29/03/17	1,106.62	3.84%	653,025,000	5,500	250	5,550	0	9,100	0	2,100	0	3,100	0

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



People wait for trains at Manggarai Station in South Jakarta.

Indonesia, Australia discuss transportation cooperation enhancement

JAKARTA (The Jakarta Post, ANN) -- Indonesia and Australia are discussing ways to enhance their cooperation in the transportation sector in a meeting in Nusa Dua, Bali, from April 5 to 7.

Representatives of the two countries will discuss issues such as priorities in the transportation sector, infrastructure investment, security and safety and regional maritime pollution preparedness and response.

The two countries will explore a cooperation arrangement in the transportation sector,

according to a press release issued prior to the start of the meeting on Thursday.

"One of the important issues that will be discussed is the finalisation of the new MoU in the transportation sector which aims to accommodate the interests of the two countries," the statement says.

The result of the meeting in Nusa Dua is considered important for when the agreement between Indonesia and Australia under the scheme of the Indonesia Transportation Safety Assistance Package ends.

The new funding scheme for cooperation projects between two countries will be implemented through consultation between the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the National Development Planning Board (Bappenas) and the Indonesian Coordinating Economic Ministry. The discussions will be jointly led by Indonesian Transportation Ministry secretary-general Sugihardjo and Australian deputy secretary of infrastructure and regional development, Shane Carmody.

United Nations Development Programme



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Notice of Sale

The office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Lao PDR on behalf of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) invites you to submit your sealed bids for a power generator which the detail are show below:

Item	Qty	Purchase Year	Location
Power Generator, Huto, YMG30TL, silenced, 21KVA / 65Hz / 100-500V / 3 phases, Including auto power transfer switch	1 Set	2005	UNFPA Vientiane

The equipment is sold in its current condition. Items can be inspected at the UNFPA building from the hours of 8:00 am to 16:00 pm starting 7 April 2017 to 19 April 2017. For additional information and inspection, please contact Mr. Souksavanh Saiyabouth, Tel: 021 315547, Ext. 102

More information for the sale notice and forms are available on UNDP Lao PDR web-site at the following link:

<http://www.la.undp.org/content/laopdr/en/home/operations/procurement/>

UNDP is not bound to accept any proposal and reserves the right to cancel the bidding process at any time without thereby incurring any liability to the bidders



REQUEST FOR SHORT TERM CONSULTANT Agriculture Advisor Consultant (Lao National)

BACKGROUND:

CRS is looking for an agriculture expert to assist its Laos country program in developing key development strategies for its agriculture program as well as to raise the visibility of CRS within the agriculture sector in Laos.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK:

- Agriculture Stakeholder mapping;
- Coordinating Relationship Building Meetings;
- Strategic participation in agriculture and trade meetings
- Implementation of agriculture sector events co-sponsored with government
- Assist CRS Regional Agricultural Technical Advisor on conducting agricultural assessments/study in VTE and CPK Provinces

Qualifications:

- Advanced degree in Agriculture, Agronomy or other equivalent degree.
- Minimum 10-15 years of experience in agriculture programing in Lao PDR, preferably with extensive INGO experience.
- Excellent understanding of the Agriculture Sector in Lao PDR specifically about Vientiane and Champasak Provinces.
- Good connections with high level Agriculture ministry government officials.
- Willingness to travel and spend a minimum of 25% of time in the field.
- Able to produce reports and summaries in English language.
- Excellent fluency in oral and written English.

Expected Length of Consultancy: Six-month consultancy based in Vientiane, Lao PDR
Starting Date: May 1, 2016
Location: Vientiane, Lao PDR

APPLICATION INFORMATION: To apply for this position, please submit an application letter stating your expression of interest along with your most current CV by emails to LA_HR@global.crs.org. Indicate on the subject line of the email: Application for (Position title), (Location), (First and Last Name). Send to CRS VTE office: Unit 01, Phonthanh Neua village, Saysettha district, Vientiane Capital. Full JD you can find at www.108job.la

Closing date for applications: **April 21, 2017** – Candidates are strongly encouraged to apply prior to the dead line as selection will be done on an ongoing basis.

CRS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. WOMEN AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.

Only short listed candidates will be contacted.



ສາທາລະນະລັດ ປະຊາທິປະໄຕ ປະຊາຊົນລາວ
ສັນຕິພາບ ເອກະລາດ ປະຊາທິປະໄຕ ເອກະພາບ ວັດທະນະຖາວອນ

ທະນາຄານແຫ່ງ ສປປ ລາວ

ຫ້ອງການ

ເລກທີ 302 /ຫກ

ນະຄອນຫຼວງວຽງຈັນ, ວັນທີ 30 MAR 2017

ແຈ້ງການ

ເຖິງ: ພໍ່ແມ່ປະຊາຊົນ, ຊາວຄ້າຂາຍ, ພະນັກງານທະຫານ ແລະ ຕ່າງໆ ໃນຂອບເຂດທົ່ວປະເທດ.
ເລື່ອງ: ເພີ່ມທະວີສະຕິລະວັງຕົວ ໃນການນໍາໃຊ້ບໍລິການຝາກເງິນ ແລະ ຮ່ວມລົງທຶນ.

ຫ້ອງການທະນາຄານແຫ່ງ ສປປ ລາວ ຂໍຖືເປັນກຽດແຈ້ງມາຍັງທ່ານຊາບວ່າ ໃນໄລຍະຜ່ານມາ ໄດ້ມີປະກົດການ ບຸກຄົນ, ນິຕິບຸກຄົນຈຳນວນໜຶ່ງ ໄດ້ເຄື່ອນໄຫວລະດົມທຶນຈາກສັງຄົມ ຢ່າງຜິດກົດໝາຍ ເນື່ອງຈາກ ບຸກຄົນ, ນິຕິບຸກຄົນດັ່ງກ່າວ ບໍ່ໄດ້ຮັບອະນຸຍາດລະດົມທຶນຈາກສັງຄົມ ຈາກຂະແໜງການທີ່ມີສິດອຳນາດກ່ຽວຂ້ອງ. ການເຄື່ອນໄຫວລະດົມທຶນດັ່ງກ່າວ ໄດ້ດຳເນີນດ້ວຍຫຼາຍຮູບການ ເປັນຕົ້ນພາຍໃຕ້ຮູບການເງິນຝາກ ຫຼື ຮູບການລົງທຶນດ້ວຍຜົນຕອບແທນທີ່ຈູງໃຈ, ໃຫ້ຜົນຕອບແທນສູງເກີນຄວາມເປັນຈິງ. ຈາກການເຄື່ອນໄຫວດັ່ງກ່າວ ຊຶ່ງອາດພາໃຫ້ເກີດຜົນເສຍຫາຍຕໍ່ຊັບສິນ, ເງິນຄ່າຂອງປະຊາຊົນຜູ້ຖືເຊື່ອ ແລະ ສ້າງຄວາມບໍ່ເປັນລະບຽບຮຽບຮ້ອຍໃນສັງຄົມ. ສະນັ້ນ, ເພື່ອສະກັດກັ້ນການເຄື່ອນໄຫວລະດົມທຶນ ທີ່ບໍ່ຖືກຕ້ອງຕາມລະບຽບກົດໝາຍ ແລະ ຫຼີກລ່ຽງຜົນເສຍຫາຍທີ່ອາດຈະເກີດຂຶ້ນຕໍ່ທ່ານ, ຫ້ອງການ ທະນາຄານແຫ່ງ ສປປ ລາວ ຈຶ່ງຂໍແຈ້ງມາຍັງທ່ານ ໃຫ້ມີສະຕິລະວັງຕົວ ໃນບາງບັນຫາ ດັ່ງນີ້:

1. ໃຫ້ບັນດາທ່ານ ຈົ່ງມີສະຕິຕໍ່ການຝາກເງິນ, ການບໍລິການຊຳລະ, ການຮ່ວມຮຸ້ນ (ລົງທຶນ) ແລະ ອື່ນໆ ໂດຍກວດສອບຄວາມຖືກຕ້ອງວ່າໄດ້ຮັບອະນຸຍາດຈາກຂະແໜງການທີ່ມີສິດອຳນາດກ່ຽວຂ້ອງຢ່າງຖືກຕ້ອງ ແລະ ຄົບຖ້ວນ ຫຼື ບໍ່? ຖ້າພົບເຫັນກໍລະນີສົງໄສ ຫຼື ເຫັນວ່າເປັນການເຄື່ອນໄຫວລະດົມທຶນທີ່ບໍ່ຖືກຕ້ອງຕາມກົດໝາຍ ທ່ານສາມາດໂທສອບຖາມ ຫຼື ແຈ້ງຕໍ່ກົມກ່ຽວຂ້ອງ ຂອງທະນາຄານແຫ່ງ ສປປ ລາວ ຕາມເບີໂທ 021 265 713-715 ຫຼື 021 265 607.
2. ທ່ານສາມາດເຂົ້າເບິ່ງຂໍ້ມູນການອະນຸຍາດສ້າງຕັ້ງທະນາຄານທຸລະກິດ ແລະ ສະຖາບັນການເງິນຈຸລະພາກ ໄດ້ໃນ ເວັບໄຊ້ ຂອງທະນາຄານແຫ່ງ ສປປ ລາວ ລະອຽດຄື:
- ສຳລັບທະນາຄານທຸລະກິດແມ່ນ <http://www.bol.gov.la/Otherbanks/Bank2016.htm>
- ສຳລັບສະຖາບັນການເງິນແມ່ນ <http://www.bol.gov.la/laoweb/microfinancela05.html>
3. ຂໍໃຫ້ອຳນາດການປົກຄອງທ້ອງຖິ່ນ ປະສານສະໜອງຂໍ້ມູນໃຫ້ ທະນາຄານແຫ່ງ ສປປ ລາວ ຊາບ ໃນກໍລະນີ ຫາກພົບເຫັນສະຖາບັນການເງິນ ທີ່ບໍ່ໄດ້ຮັບອະນຸຍາດຈາກ ທະນາຄານແຫ່ງ ສປປ ລາວ ເຄື່ອນໄຫວຢູ່ໃນທ້ອງຖິ່ນທີ່ຕົນເອງຮັບຜິດຊອບ. ພ້ອມນັ້ນ, ກໍໃຫ້ເຜີຍແຜ່, ແນະນຳ ແລະ ເຕືອນສະຕິປະຊາຊົນ ທີ່ຢູ່ໃນຂອບເຂດທ້ອງຖິ່ນຕົນເອງຮັບຜິດຊອບ ໃຫ້ມີສະຕິຕໍ່ການເຄື່ອນໄຫວລະດົມທຶນຢ່າງຜິດກົດໝາຍ ດັ່ງທີ່ກ່າວມາຂ້າງເທິງ ເພື່ອຫຼີກເວັ້ນການສູນເສຍຊັບສິນເງິນຄ່າ, ເພື່ອພ້ອມກັນຕ້ານ ແລະ ສະກັດກັ້ນປາກົດການຫຍໍ້ທໍ້ດັ່ງກ່າວ.

ດັ່ງນັ້ນ, ຈຶ່ງແຈ້ງມາຍັງທ່ານ ຈົ່ງມີສະຕິລະວັງຕົວ, ບໍ່ໃຫ້ຫຼົງເຊື່ອຕໍ່ການໂຄສະນາຊວນເຊື່ອ ແລະ ໃຫ້ຄວາມຮ່ວມມືໃນການຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດຕາມຈິດໃຈຂອງແຈ້ງການສະບັບນີ້ດ້ວຍ.

ຫົວໜ້າຫ້ອງການທະນາຄານແຫ່ງ ສປປ ລາວ



ເພັດສະຖາພອນ ແກ້ວວົງວິຈິດ

ສະບາຍດີປີໃໝ່ລາວ

ພ.ສ 2560 ຄ.ສ 2017

ຂໍ້ອະນຸຍາດ

ມອບທິດແຫນຄວາມສັກ

ປີໃໝ່ເຖິງແລ້ວ

ໂຕແຂງແຮງທົ່ວດ້ວຍ

ແມ່ນວ່າປີເກົ່າແກ່ນ

ປີໃໝ່ເຖິງແລ້ວ

ເດີນຕາມທາງແນວຊີ

ທະນາຄານກາງຂັບຄຸນ

ເປັນພອນສິ່ງກາວິຖານ

ແຕ່ລະຄົນຮູ້ການກາ

ແວວຍະນີໂຕຊິງເຫລືອມ

ຍິນສິນດັ່ງສິລາພູນເປີ...

ຈະຍາກຍິ່ງຫລາຍປະການ

ສິ່ງບໍ່ດີຕິຄົງຄາງ

ສັກປະຊາຊົນເຊິ່ງຊາ

ເປັນພອນໂຊສິນແກ້ວ

ຈິ່ງແວວເຫລືອມດັ່ງພະຈັນ ເຈົ້າເອີຍ...

ເນື່ອງໃນໂອກາດສິ່ງທ້າຍປີເກົ່າ-ຕ້ອນຮັບປີໃໝ່ລາວ ພ.ສ 2560, ຄະນະພັກ-ຄະນະຜູ້ວ່າການພ້ອມດ້ວຍພະນັກງານ ທະນາຄານແຫ່ງ ສປປ ລາວ ຂໍອວຍພອນມາຍັງທ່ານຜູ້ນຳພັກ-ລັດ, ພະນັກງານ, ທະຫານ, ຕ່າງໆ ທຸລະກິດຕະຫລອດຮອດພໍ່ແມ່ປະຊາຊົນລາວ ບັນດາເຜົ່າຈິ່ງ ມີອາຍຸ, ວັນນະ, ສຸຂະ, ພະລະພັນຍືນ ຕະຫລອດກາລະນານ.

ດ້ວຍຄວາມຮູ້ບຸນຄຸນຈາກ: ຄະນະພັກ-ຄະນະຜູ້ວ່າການ ແລະ ພະນັກງານ

ທະນາຄານແຫ່ງ ສປປ ລາວ

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Bank of the Lao PDR
Office

No: 215/office
Vientiane, date: 04 April, 2017

Announcement

To: State and private organisations and people across the country
Title: Ceasing operations of one leasing company and three pawnshops

- Pursuant to Prime Ministerial Decree on leasing No 11/PM, dated 18 February, 1999
- Pursuant to Prime Ministerial Decree on pawnshop No 248/govt, dated 26 July, 2016.

The Office of the Bank of the Lao PDR would like to inform you about the revocation of business operation licenses of one leasing company and three pawnshops, thus ending the operations of these businesses, which are detailed as follows:

1. Phiewvongsan Leasing Company was granted a business operation license from the Bank of the Lao PDR No 30/BoL, dated 29 October, 2013. The company's office is located in Savang village, Chanthabouly district, Vientiane.
2. Vientiane Motor Market Pawnshop was granted a business operation license from the Bank of the Lao PDR No 509, dated 9 October, 2003. The shop is located in Sibounheuangthong village, Sikhottabong district, Vientiane.
3. Bouathip Pawnshop was granted a business operation license from the Bank of the Lao PDR No 210, dated 13 July, 2006. The company is located in Saimoungkhoun village, Naxaithong district, Vientiane.
4. CK Pawnshop., Ltd. was granted a business operation license from the Bank of the Lao PDR No 420, dated 29 August, 2003. The shop is located in Chormmanitai village, Xaysettha district, Vientiane.

Therefore, the Bank of the Lao PDR issues this announcement to inform you about this fact.

Head of Office
Phetsathaphone Keovongvichit

ເພັດສະຖາພອນ ແກ້ວວົງວິຈິດ



**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

JOB VACANCY for National Consultant on Antimicrobial Resistant
Contract duration: 9 months (with possible extension)
Vacancy No. 2017/002

Deadline for Applications: 12 April 2017
Duty station: Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR

Tasks and responsibilities:

Key performance indicators	
Expected Outputs:	Required Completion Date:
Under the overall supervision of the FAO Representative of Lao PDR, the technical supervision of the Chief Veterinary Officer, Animal Health Service (AGAH), in close coordination with the FAO RAP AMR Focal Point and the direct supervision of the Lao PDR ECTAD Team Leader, and operational supervision of the budget holder in FAO's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, the national consultant will perform the following tasks:	31 January 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work closely with the AMR TWG of Lao as well as other national authorities, FAO technical staff, and other agencies responsible for the control of AMR in Lao PDR Work closely with the ECTAD Country Team to keep abreast with the overall livestock health and production status of Lao PDR Assist and oversee activities related to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Antimicrobial Use (AMU) monitoring, surveillance and research studies, capacity building Assist in the development and conduct of training modules on AMU and AMR monitoring, surveillance, and testing; Liaise and coordinate with the DLF, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and other relevant agencies on the finalization and implementation of the National Action Plan Support engagement, coordination and communication with central and provincial agriculture and forestry offices, the central laboratory, private sector partners for smooth implementation of AMU and AMR activities; Coordinate AMR/AMU activities with other AMR project activities in the country; Provide technical inputs on stakeholders' awareness of prudent and appropriate use of antimicrobials and the health risks of AMR; Advocate with relevant stakeholders on adherence to regulations / policies on AMU and AMR; Support coordination and communication with cross-ministerial stakeholders (MOA, MOH, MOEF and MMAF) on AMU and AMR; Monitor progress against the work plan by tracking activities and targets with periodical review and revision; Provide inputs for FAO and donor reports; Participate in and provide inputs to annual FAO project planning activities; Submit an End of Assignment report; Perform other related duties as requested. 	

Candidates should meet the following requirements:

Minimum Requirements

- Graduate of veterinary medicine, animal husbandry or any related course in livestock production
- Experience in managing projects and development of training.
- Experience in study on some researcher

Competencies

- A postgraduate qualification in the subjects mentioned above would be an advantage
- Able to work as a team
- Building Effective Working Relationships with national and international
- Proficiency in both written and spoken English is required

Technical/Functional Skills:

- Minimum of 3 years' experience in the planning and implementation of development projects and/or programmes;
- Relevant working experience in one/or combination of the following studies: Anti microbial use in animal / human,
- Ability to deal with the political, technical, and people management challenges, and work effectively with counterpart staff at all levels and with all groups involved in the project;
- Ability to effectively coordinate a large, multi-stakeholder project with results-based management;
- Ability and willingness to support of project implementation;
- Proven communication skills and fluency in the English language both in written and presentation skills

Selection criteria

Applicants will be contacted directly if selected for an interview.

Additional Information

If applicable, specify your work experience in microorganism related to health impact and food safety.

FAO seeks gender, geographical and linguistic diversity in its staff and international consultants to best serve FAO Members in all regions.

All candidates should adhere to FAO values of Commitment to FAO, Respect for All and Integrity and Transparency.

How to apply

All applications are to be made through FAO's [iRecruitment](#) system. Click on the link below to access [iRecruitment](#), complete your online profile and apply for this Call for Expression of Interest.

<http://www.fao.org/employment/i-recruitment-access/en/>

In order for your application to be properly evaluated, please ensure that all sections of your iRecruitment account are completed. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.

If you need help, or have queries, please contact: iRecruitment@fao.org



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Agency/Project Name: National GPAR Programme: Governance for Inclusive Development Programme
Location: Based in Vientiane Capital, Ministry of Home Affairs
Duration: 1 year (with possibility of extension)
Deadline for submission: 7 April 2017

The Governance for Inclusive Development Programme (GIDP) has been formulated under the framework of the National Governance and Public Administration Reform Programme (NGPAR) of the Government of Lao PDR. The GIDP, led by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), seeks to promote wider governance improvements, strengthen public administration's ability to achieve better service delivery and increase citizens' systematic engagement, especially at the local levels where basic services are coordinated, planned, financed and reported. GIDP has a particular focus on inclusion of less-advantaged people and groups. GIDP will also enhance partnerships at the national level through the Governance Sector Working Group, to promote multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on good governance and gender policies.

The GIDP now seeks qualified candidates to fill in the following positions:

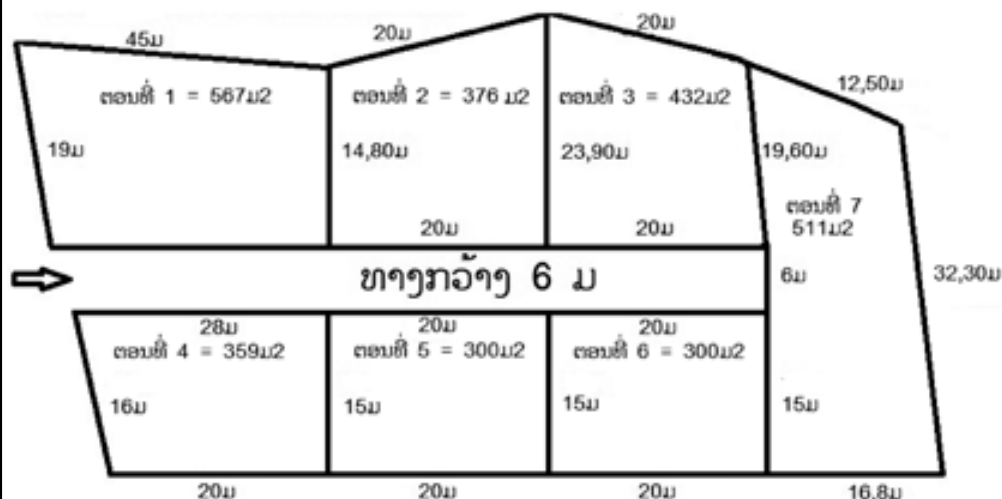
Position	Inclusive Local Service and Development Coordinator (Lao National)
Objective of the assignment	The inclusive local service delivery and development coordinator will be primarily responsible for providing relevant technical support to GIDP and especially the delivery of Output 1: "Targeted local administrations develop and finance the implementation of multi-sector work plans based on community priorities." S/he will provide technical assistance in all aspects of the review, upgrade and roll-out of an upgraded version of the enhanced public financial management (PFM) system at the sub-national level (including villages, kum-bans, districts and provinces), ranging between planning, budgeting, financing and implementing/executing plans and programmes, procurement, financial management, accounting, reporting, monitoring and evaluation. S/he will also be responsible for facilitating and supporting the liaison between MoHA and other relevant ministries (including MoF and MPI), as well as provincial and district administrations, and ensuring compliance and convergence with the agreed guidelines and approaches. S/he will report to the NGPAR Programme Manager/GIDP Programme Manager and work in close collaboration with the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA), UNCDF International Technical Specialist (UNCDF ITS) and UNCDF Programme Specialist. <i>For full ToR please go to the www.moha.gov.la</i>
Position	Partnerships Coordinator / Assistant to Programme Manager (Lao National)
Objective of the assignment	The Partnerships Coordinator / Assistant to Programme Manager has dual roles of providing programme policy and technical support to the GPAR GID programme, and assisting the GPAR GID Programme Manager in the execution of aspects of his/her responsibilities in relation to day to day project implementation. S/he will have a specific technical responsibility for Output 3, with a focus on partnerships and policy dialogue, and a public services innovation facility. S/he will provide inputs to policy advice and technical support to deliver relevant project outputs and achieve overall outcomes. This will include support to the Programme Secretariat and Governance Sector Working Group to enhance reporting and communication with stakeholders and with international donor partners in particular. <i>For full ToR please go to the www.moha.gov.la</i>
Position	Finance Support Coordinator (Lao National)
Objective of the assignment	The National GPAR Programme Finance Support Coordinator will support the Head of the Finance Office of the Ministry of Home Affairs to execute programme finance management, and support the National Programme Manager in preparing annual & quarterly budgets and expenditure reports, required by different development partners supporting the national GPAR Programme. This position will also support needs in relation to capacity development in the Ministry of Home Affairs to take on a growing role in managing external assistance as well as support channelled to other ministries, provinces, districts or other offices by the Ministry of Home Affairs. <i>For full ToR please go to the www.moha.gov.la</i>
Position	Accountant / Administrator (Lao National)
Objective of the assignment	The national GPAR Accountant / Administrator will support the Head of the Finance Office of the Ministry of Home Affairs to perform routine accounting functions, and support the National Programme Manager and National GPAR Programme Finance Support Coordinator in preparing annual & quarterly budgets and expenditure reports, required by different development partners supporting the national GPAR Programme. This position will also support the Finance Office in relation to managing external assistance channelled to other ministries, provinces, districts or other offices by Ministry of Home Affairs. S/he will have specific responsibility to support the finance transactions, reconciliation of accounts and financial reporting on the Public Service Innovation Facility (Output 3). <i>For full ToR please go to the www.moha.gov.la</i>
Position	Project driver (Lao National)
Objective of the assignment	The Senior Driver will support the National GPAR Programme Manager, in organizing and implementing the transportation requirements of the activities of the National GPAR Programme and assist others works assigned by Programme Manager. This position will also support needs in relation to travel organized by the National GPAR Programme Secretariat for the Ministry of Home Affairs, management of vehicles, support for staff, consultants and visitors, organizing and scheduling vehicle maintenance, managing vehicle logs and documentation, and support for procuring official documents from other offices for the project. <i>For full ToR please go to the www.moha.gov.la</i>

Full details are available in the Terms of Reference on: www.moha.gov.la { Projects -> NGPAR -> Job Opportunity}. Candidates should submit a covering letter and CV to NGPAR Programme Manager, Ministry of Home Affairs, Nahaidiao Compound, Vientiane Capital, FAX:(021)217619; or E-mail to: ngpar@moha.gov.la and gpar.gidp@gmail.com

Note: Please note that only short-listed candidates will be notified. Qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. Closing Date 7 April 2017,

ຕ້ອງການໂອນກຳມະສິດທີ່ດິນ

ດິນໂອນນີ້ຕັ້ງຢູ່ດ້ານຫຼັງໜ້າບ້ານສີສາ ຂອງ ມະຫາວິທະຍາໄລ ແຫ່ງຊາດ ທີ່ຕັ້ງໄດ້ນາ
ຂຶ້ນກັບ ບ້ານໜອງວຽງຄຳ, ຮ່ອມ 12, ເມືອງໄຊທະນີ, ນະຄອນຫຼວງວຽງຈັນ.
ເປັນດິນປູກສ້າງ, ມີທາງເຂົ້າກວ້າງ 6ມ, ມີໄຟຟ້າ ແລະ ນໍ້າປະປາ; ເປັນດິນນົມແລ້ວ
ສາມາດປູກສ້າງໄດ້ເລີຍ ລາຄາ 2,000 ບາດ/ມ2. ສົນໃຈຕິດຕໍ່: 020 29224477



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Earth Systems is currently seeking to employ an environmental / social specialist with experience in environmental / social impact assessment. In this role you will be responsible for helping to develop the company's business and deliver projects for a wide range of public and private sector clients across the Mekong Region.

The successful applicants will:

- Possess relevant tertiary qualification(s) in environmental science, environmental engineering, social science or related field (preferably postgraduate level);
- Have experience in the environmental sector, particularly in the areas of ESIA and planning, water resource management, community development or other related fields;
- Be able to identify and develop new opportunities for Earth Systems in the Mekong Region;
- Have exceptional English and Lao language communication skills;
- Be passionate about the environment; and
- Have an interest in / be able to travel domestically and regionally when required.

The position will be based in Vientiane and an attractive salary package will be provided depending on qualifications and experience. Interested applicants should email their resume and a short cover letter to: enviro@earthsystemsasia.com. Please do not apply for this position if you have previously applied for a position with the company in the last 12 months.

Further information about Earth Systems can be found at www.earthsystems.com.au.

HEAD OFFICE: EARTH SYSTEMS, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

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ເນື່ອງໃນໂອກາດປີໃໝ່ລາວໄດ້ມາຮອດນີ້ສະກາຍຊີວິດອາພາດເມັນ ຂອງພວກເຮົາຈຶ່ງໄດ້ຈັດໂປຣໂມຊັນໃຫ້ແກ່ບັນດາລູກຄ້າທຸກທ່ານ ຮັບສ່ວນຫຼຸດເຖິງ 30% ເລີ່ມຕັ້ງແຕ່ວັນທີ 01/04/2017 ນີ້ໄປຈົນເຖິງວັນທີ 30/04/2017 ທ່ານໃດສົນໃຈຕ້ອງການຈັບຈອງຫ້ອງພັກກັບສະກາຍຊີວິດອາພາດເມັນຂອງພວກເຮົາສາມາດຕິດຕໍ່ຫາພວກເຮົາໄດ້ທີ່ຢູ່ຂ້າງລຸ່ມນີ້:

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ມືຖື: +856 20 24289695

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On the occasion of Lao New year 2017 is coming soon , Sky City Apartment has a Promotion for customers for best discount 30% as special priority on the occasion of lao new year from the date 01 April 2017 to 30 April 2017, please note that the promotion room are limited available.

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Email: infoskycityhotel@gmail.com, Poulisa.vp@gmail.com

Add: Kaisone Road, Sibounhueng Village

Chanthabuly District, Vientiane Capital City Lao PDR

Lao Tobacco Limited have an exciting and rewarding career opportunity for one

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Have you got the Leadership qualities, skills and experience, to enhance the quality management?

We are looking for someone with at least 3 years experience in quality management with 2 years supervisory preferred. Ideally you will have experience working in the Manufacturing or similar environment

You will be responsible for leading quality assurance team to supporting, developing, monitoring and ensuring the highest of quality of products are delivered throughout the manufacturing process. Maintaining compliance of all company policies and procedures within the team and drive the continuous improvement agenda delivering on sustainable stakeholder return.

Lao Tobacco Limited is an International Company and for this position you must be fluent in English and Lao (both written and spoken)

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Interested applicants please send your CV and a covering letter by **12th April 2017**. For more information please contact:

Human Resources Department

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Vientiane Capital

Tel: (+856 21) 352 780

Fax: (+856 21) 313 144

E-mail: recruitment@la.imptob.com

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Have you got the influencing, people skills and ready to explore the challenging through selling?

We are looking for someone with at least 2 years sales experience. Ideally you will have experience working in the FMCG (Fast Moving Consumer Goods) industry.

The successful candidate will be ensuring the optimal sales volume and influencing shopper decisions via generating customer and shopper needs-based services to create value.

This position will be field based with at least 90% of your time away from home in the field.

This position is required a basic English, but must be fluent in Lao (both written and spoken)

For the successful candidate Lao Tobacco Limited offers an excellent salary and rewards package.

Interested applicants please send your CV and a covering letter by **12th April 2017**. For more information please contact:

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Working with team and gain experience from task in our business for growth.

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For the successful candidate Lao Tobacco Limited offers an excellent salary and rewards package.

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Vientiane Capital

E-mail: recruitment@la.imptob.com

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Second Trade Development Facility
Project ID No: P130512

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST National Trade Facilitation Specialist

1. Background to the assignment

The Second Trade Development Facility (TDF-2) is a multi-donor program financed by Australia, the European Union, Germany, Ireland and the World Bank focusing on improving trade and private sector development in Lao PDR. The development objective of the TDF-2, which is implemented by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, is to support the implementation of government's trade and integration priorities outlined in the 2012 Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) Roadmap, and in particular to contribute to improved competitiveness and diversification, focusing outside the natural resource sectors. TDF-2 has three main components :

- (a) trade facilitation, trade policy and regulations;
- (b) diversification and competitiveness; and,
- (c) mainstreaming aid for trade.

The appraised value of the project is US\$ 14.0 million, with implementation to take place over a period of four years, starting in April 2013. Technical responsibility for implementation of the Trade Development Facility lies with the National Implementation Unit (NIU), based within the Planning and Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

2. Objective of the assignment

The objective of the assignment for the National Trade Facilitation Analyst is to support the National Trade Facilitation Secretariat of the TDF-2 of the Lao PDR Ministry of Industry and Commerce. The main responsibilities of the consultants include:

- Managing the implementation of the different activities related to the Lao PDR National Trade Facilitation Strategy (NTFS) and Action Plan;
- Helping in coordination between DIMEX, other relevant government agencies/ministries, and relevant donor and development agencies in the design and implementation of the TDF-2 NTFS Action Plan;
- Dissemination of work on NTFS Action Plan to interested parties, including the private sector.

3. Key qualification requirements

- Minimum Bachelor degree in law, economics, business, public policy, political science, international relations, or related discipline.
- Minimum two years working experience in an international/multinational organization or in the government/public sector on an international project or in trade facilitation/related area.
- Knowledge of work with/in government organizations, in particular in connection with the public sector is an asset.
- Knowledge of customs policy and non-customs procedures (e.g. SPS, transport, etc) is an asset.
- Fluency in Lao and English are mandatory (spoken and written). Strong interpersonal skills to facilitate dialogue with various government agencies, engage with senior and technical staff, and the private sector.
- Ability to work in a team and have good communication skills.
- Willing to work alongside and assist national counterparts in a practical and proactive way.
- Sound policy development and research skills are an asset.

This assignment is designed for a full-time engagement over a period of 2 years with annual contract extensions subject to satisfactory performance. There is an initial probation period of three (3) months. The majority of inputs will be delivered in Vientiane, Lao PDR, working alongside government officials. The expected commencement of services is expected as soon as possible. The full text of the ToR can be accessed at the NIU's website: www.t4dlaos.org

The NIU now invites interested eligible consultants to provide information indicating that you are qualified to perform the services (curriculum vitae with expression of interest and references). Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by 21st April 2017, 16:00 o'clock.

Attn: Mr. Phouvieng Phongsa, NIU Director, CC: Mr. Keophouthone Inthivong, Procurement Officer. Ministry of Industry and Commerce, National Implementation Unit (NIU), Ban Phonxay, Xaysettha District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR. Tel: +856 (21) 41 39 16 – 45 39 82; Fax: +856 (21) 41 39 16

E-mail: keophouthone.in@laosoft.org **Note:** Only Short-listed candidates will be contacted.



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Nam Theun 2 Power Company Limited

NTPC is the developer and operator of the Nam Theun 2 Hydroelectric Project, a public-private partnership designed to generate electricity for export to Thailand and for domestic use in Laos under a 25-year concession period. NTPC is dedicated running a world class hydropower facility, improving the livelihoods of people in the Project area in three provinces: Khammouane, Bolikhamxay and Savannakhet. NTPC has offices located in Vientiane capital, Nakai and Gnommalath districts in Khammouane.

We are currently looking for motivated and qualified candidates interested in the following position:

POSITION: DAM AND WATERWAY FOREMAN TRAINEE (LAO NATIONAL ONLY)

BRANCH: TECHNICAL BRANCH – OPERATION DEPARTMENT

DUTY STATION: GNOMMALATH DISTRICT, KHAMMOUANE PROVINCE

APPLICATION CLOSED: 21 APRIL 2017

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- This position of trainee is temporary, and depending on the permanent management assessment can lead to a permanent Dam & Waterway foreman position after 1 year:
The trainee during this period has to learn how to:
- Operate of dams gates and civil maintenance;
- Carry out tasks regarding supervision of civil works, dams, saddle dams and waterways, all operational manoeuvres, as well as part of maintenance;
- Implement monitoring of dams, saddle dams, channels and power house, according to maintenance schedule and operation instructions;
- Make all the manoeuvres necessary for flood management in Nakai dam or regulating dam, according to instructions during on shift periods;
- Perform those manoeuvres in Nakai, in case of communication failure;
- To carry out some trouble shooting according to the skill in Nakai dam, regulating dam, water intake and downstream channel;
- Make systematically a report after work;
- Work with transmission section for transmission inspections when on shift;
- Inform and work closely with civil works engineer regarding to maintenance activities;
- Collect and report to his line manager, Shift Charge Engineer, Civil Works Engineer all the hydro data and technical information regarding to the maintenance;
- Remain on Nakai dam for one whole week out of 4, depending on the roster 24h/24 for on-duty;
- Be on shift on Regulating Dam and Nakai Dam for flood management and On Call for Dams and Waterways;

QUALIFICATIONS:

- University Degree and High Diploma in Civil Engineer or related field;
- Experience in the Hydro Power Sector is a plus. Candidates with experience in other industry sectors are encouraged to apply;
- Strong team spirit required, result oriented, creative minded individuals appreciated;
- Fluent English (reading, writing and speaking) and knowledge of French is a bonus;
- Good computer skills (Microsoft office mandatory);
- Willingness to learn new skills and techniques and to work in a remote site.

Should you think that you are qualified to this position, you are requested to submit your updated resume which should describe full detail of qualifications, including references, education certificates, expected salary and your recent photo to NTPC via online or hard copies to:

Nam Theun 2 Power Company Limited
Unit 09, That Luang Road, P.O. Box 5862, Vientiane, Lao PDR
E-mail: recruitment@namtheun2.com
Website: www.namtheun2.com

Only short-listed candidates will be notified for interviews and your submitted document will not be returned

Qualified women are encouraged to apply



Nam Theun 2 Power Company Limited

NTPC is the developer and operator of the Nam Theun 2 Hydroelectric Project, a public-private partnership designed to generate electricity for export to Thailand and for domestic use in Laos under a 25-year concession period. NTPC is dedicated to running a world class hydropower facility and to improving the livelihoods of people in the Project area in three provinces: Khammouane, Bolikhamxay and Savannakhet. NTPC has offices located in Vientiane capital, Nakai and Gnommalath districts in Khammouane.

We are currently looking for motivated and qualified candidates interested in the following position:

POSITION: SHIFT CHARGE OPERATOR TRAINEE (LAO NATIONALITY ONLY)

DIVISION: TECHNICAL BRANCH – OPERATION DEPARTMENT

DUTY STATION: GNOMMALATH DISTRICT, KHAMMOUANE PROVINCE

APPLICATION CLOSED: 21 APRIL 2017

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- This position of trainee is temporary, and depending on the permanent management assessment can lead to a permanent Shift Charge Engineer position after 1 year:
The trainee during this period has to learn how to:
- Operate the facilities in a staff alternation, on a real time basis, in compliance with the contractual arrangement, company procedures and safety instructions;
- Perform the routine maintenance, inspection and report;
- Be on shift on Regulating Dam and Nakai Dam for flood management.
- Support the Electrical and Mechanical Engineer for troubleshooting;
- Participate in maintenance activities out of shift;
- Prepare for the blocking/unblocking in relation with the Electrical and Mechanical Engineer.

Operator will work in shift with three (3) shifts per day, 5 days a week, 2 days off. Normal working location will be NT2 Power Station. During the wet season, operator will be posted at the dam sites for water/flood releases management.

QUALIFICATIONS:

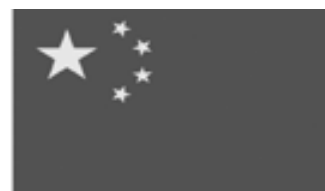
- University Degree and High Diploma in Electrical or Mechanical Engineering;
- Experience in the Hydro Power Sector is a plus. Candidates with experience in other industry sectors are encouraged to apply;
- Non experienced candidates with high education and potential are also encouraged to apply;
- Strong team spirit required, result oriented, creative minded individuals appreciated;
- Fluent in English (reading, writing and speaking) and knowledge of French is a bonus;
- Good computer skills (Microsoft office mandatory);
- Willingness to learn new skills and techniques and to work in a remote site.

Should you think that you are qualified to this position, you are requested to submit your updated resume which should describe full detail of qualifications, including references, education certificates, expected salary and your recent photo to NTPC via online or hard copies to:

Nam Theun 2 Power Company Limited
Unit 09, That Luang Road, P.O. Box 5862, Vientiane, Lao PDR
E-mail: recruitment@namtheun2.com
Website: www.namtheun2.com

Only short-listed candidates will be notified for interviews and your submitted document will not be returned

Qualified women are encouraged to apply



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The Chinese government provides the graduating high-school students in the northern areas (Provinces of Luang Prabang, Oudomsay, Bokeo, Luang Nanta, Phongsaly, and Huapan) of Lao PDR with opportunities of scholarship for degree study in China starting from September 2017. The scholarship includes all the necessary support and funding to complete your study.

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----You will be immersed into the Chinese culture, and it makes you be more aware of cultural differences and similarities during your study in China.

----You will make more friends in China, and make contribution to China-Lao people-to-people friendship.

----You will make an important contribution to the economic and social development of your country on your return home.

Your are welcome to apply for the scholarship!



(The recipients of "The Chinese Consul General Scholarship from the Northern Agriculture and Forestry College of Lao PDR pose for a group photo at the consulate office building entrance.)

Application Documents

1. A brief application letter of your basic information, including name, gender, birth date, graduating school, province, etc.
2. Notarized highest diploma (Documents in language other than Chinese or English must be attached with notarized Chinese or English translation.)
3. Chinese Proficiency Test Certificate (HSK Certificate, if any)
4. Foreigner Physical Examination Form completed in English or Chinese
5. No criminal record certificate
6. A photo copy of passport
7. Letter of recommendation in Chinese or English (if any)
8. A Study Plan or Research Proposal in Chinese or English with a minimum of 200 words.
9. The deadline date for the application is 15 April, 2017.

Contact information:

Tel: 00856-71-252437

Email: consulate_lp@mfa.gov.cn

Add: PhongKham Village, Luang Prabang District, Luang Prabang Province, Lao PDR



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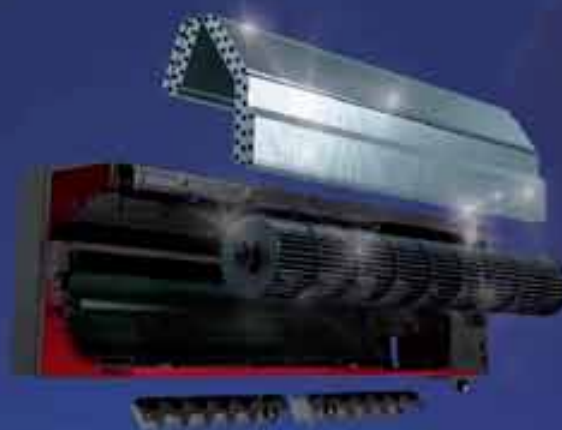
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Project Officer - Laos

- Located in Vientiane, Laos
- World-renowned international development NGO
- Contribute to a growing team to help end avoidable blindness

Join one of Australia's most respected and fastest growing international development organisations – The Fred Hollows Foundation. Working across more than 26 countries, our vision is for a world where no one is needlessly blind. We have an ambitious 5 year strategic plan that aims to take The Foundation even closer to realising our vision of ending avoidable blindness.

We are seeking two highly motivated Project Officers to continue The Foundation's work in Laos. You will work closely with our implementing partners, guiding them on effective planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting of their activities. Your energy for our goal of ending avoidable blindness, along with your coordination and organisational skills will match our need to keep delivering in our current projects and contribute to the development of new ones.

Essential criteria includes:

- Bachelor's Degree in relevant field (Community development/Health)
- Proven ability to influence and work with partners/stakeholders
- Minimum of 3 years working experience with international development or community based organisations on project management including: project design, budget development and monitoring
- Strong written and verbal English ability

How to apply & who to contact

For a detailed Job description and for information on how to apply please visit our website <http://www.hollows.org/au/careers/current-vacancies>

Alternatively, if you would like further information please contact our Recruitment Specialist Lynette Chen or Nicole Cunningham via email at employment@hollows.org

Closing Date for Applications: 14th April 2017

Please note: Due to high levels of applications, only successful candidates will be contacted.

The Fred Hollows Foundation is committed to protecting the rights of children in all areas where we work. Applicants are advised that The Foundation reserves the right to conduct police checks and other screening procedures to ensure we maintain and promote a child safe environment.



Country Manager - Laos

- Located in Vientiane, Laos
- Key role within a world-renowned international development NGO
- Lead a growing team to help end avoidable blindness

Join one of Australia's most respected and fastest growing international development organisations – The Fred Hollows Foundation. Working across more than 26 countries, our vision is for a world where no one is needlessly blind. We have an ambitious 5 year strategic plan that aims to take The Foundation even closer to realising our vision of ending avoidable blindness.

We are seeking a highly skilled and motivated leader to continue The Foundation's work in Laos. You will work closely with our implementing partners and stakeholders in Government to not only ensure that important eye health activities are carried out in communities but that our strategic objectives of strengthening the health system in Laos is achieved. With support from a growing team and the benefit of our experience in Laos, our Country Program has the capacity to go to the next level and deliver greater benefits in the areas we work.

Essential criteria includes:

- Master's Degree in Public Health, International Development or related field
- Extensive experience (minimum of 10 years) managing complex programs in public health or development; ideally with some exposure to eye health programming and new business development.
- Demonstrated capacity for high-level representation and strategic advocacy: able to engage and influence senior levels of government, multi-lateral agencies and other partners
- Experience managing a team and working in a global environment
- Project management and project design experience
- Strong written and verbal English ability

How to apply & who to contact

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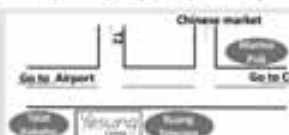


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Finance Officer - Laos

- Located in Vientiane, Laos
- Help end avoidable blindness
- Key Finance role for the team

Join one of Australia's most respected and fastest growing international development organisations – The Fred Hollows Foundation. Working across more than 26 countries, our vision is for a world where no one is needlessly blind. We have an ambitious 5 year strategic plan that aims to take The Foundation even closer to realising our vision of ending avoidable blindness.

We are seeking a motivated Finance Officer to join our team in Laos. You will work closely with our Program Team to coordinate the financial requirements of our projects. With your attention to detail, advanced computer skills and knowledge of accounting software you will contribute to the efficient running of our office in Vientiane.

Essential criteria includes:

- Bachelor in Accounting, Finance or other relevant tertiary study.
- Minimum of 3 years professional work experience, ideally in an NGO environment with exposure to the financial management of programs and projects.
- Knowledge of modern accounting methods, including electronic book keeping.
- Good Accounting and Microsoft Office skills, particularly Word and Excel
- Strong written and verbal English ability

How to apply & who to contact

For a detailed Job description and for information on how to apply please visit our website <http://www.hollows.org/au/careers/current-vacancies>

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Bakers transform Western fare to Lao taste

Times Reporters

For many years, we heard that bread was Western food and not very popular among Lao people. But today one entrepreneur who is now making bread is delighted with the steady income he earns.

Even though his bread is popular among customers in Vientiane and the northern provinces, SBS bread factory owner Mr Somboun Silisouk continues to improve the quality of his products in a bid to expand his customer base.

He always makes new designs and fillings for his bread, hoping to give customers different eating opportunities every year.

Today, the factory produces 40 types of filling, including coconut, screwpine fruit of the genus Pandanus (bayteui), cream, taro, sesame and vanilla.

It costs 700 to 3,000 kip to make a loaf at the bakery, depending on size. But before his bread found favour with customers, Mr Somboun lost money for

several years.

In 2000, he and his wife Ms Saengdao Silisouk started making bread for sale. They started building a brick oven with the aim of making traditional bread using their own two hands.

Ms Saengdao made bread whenever she had time, while her husband earned money by making items from scrap wood.

But he saw that making bread had better earning potential than the furniture he was producing. But with no experience in baking and lacking marketing skills, for a long time their bread was not customers' first choice.

They learnt that the quality must be improved, with customer feedback informing their production methods.

Mr Somboun decided to give up woodwork and began helping his wife to find ways to improve the quality of their bread so that it satisfied their customers. They realised that the raw materials must be the main problem and were causing their bread to be inferior.



A worker readies bread for packing.

--Photo by S. Bouapha

So they went in search of quality ingredients, especially wheat flour. They went to China, Thailand and Vietnam to study baking methods.

They also learned how to determine the quality of the wheat flour produced in these countries.



A woman prepares savoury bread for sale.

They decided to buy bread-making machines from Thailand. And at the same time they learnt the right way to bread from the owner of the machine manufacturer and a producer of wheat flour.

They both underwent training in Bangkok and also at home, learning from expert Thai bakers. Slowly but surely, they progressed along the road to bread making. As the quality of their bread improved, the products they turned out in the SBS bread factory in Vientiane grew in popularity, starting in 2008.

Then people in the northern provinces began ordering bread from the factory so they could sell it.

Bread is associated with foreign food but Mr Somboun has adjusted the taste to suit Lao people and uses only the best

ingredients.

Most of the ingredients have to be imported as Lao farmers don't grow the kind of grain needed to make wheat flour. The cost of raw materials such as the filling ingredients and the wheat flour is high.

To lower costs, Mr Somboun began growing taro and screwpine of the genus Pandanus and other plants in his garden, so he could use them as ingredients in his bread.

But it was some years before these plants bore fruit.

Mr Somboun would like the government to lower the import tax on raw materials so he can compete with similar imported products.

High taxes mean the factory has to keep bread prices high. If the tax on raw materials was lower, the cost of the end product would be

lower and his bread would be able to compete with imported products

Import tax reductions would directly support small businesses, creating more job opportunities for local people.

Today, the SBS factory employs more than 10 permanent workers, who earn a monthly salary. It also employs 10 temporary workers who are students and earn a daily wage. They work at the factory when they are not in school.

Mr Somboun says the factory's products are always in line with customer demand. This means that all the bread sold in markets is always new and fresh. He and his wife continue to come up with new designs and fillings for the bread so that their customers don't get bored with the same old flavour.



TENDER FOR CANDIDATES TO AUDIT A PROJECT RELATED TO THE PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF HISTORICAL HERITAGE

Client: The French Embassy in Laos

Object: Auditing the 'Enhancement of Southern Laos Heritage' project financed by the French Solidarity Priority Fund for the 2014-2017 period.

Profile: Perfectly bilingual English/ French consultant

Contract period: from May 15th to June 23rd, 2017.

Place of work: Vientiane Capital and Champasak Province, LAO PDR

Qualifications and experience:

- Education: Masters or equivalent in the related area, preferably in the domain of social and urban development, cultural project management or political science.
- Minimum 5 years recent professional experience in project evaluation & auditing.
- Relevant professional international experience in the public development aid and/or heritage enhancement domains.

Deadline: Applications must be received by the French Embassy in Laos no later than the 21st of April, 2017 at 5 PM local time.

Application details, terms and required conditions can be downloaded at:

<http://www.vatphou-champassak.com/fr/projets/145- documents-administratifs-fsp-2013-2017>

or

<http://s267349406.onlinehome.fr/index.php/fr/activities/11-currentprojects/38-management-and-administrative-documents-fsp>



CHINA • YUNNAN



OPINION

Globalization a trend that must be sustained

As China's central bank governor Zhou Xiaochuan said during the 2017 Boao Forum for Asia, globalization is a reality for all countries, and is not a matter of choice. Policymakers across the world should keep in mind that although we are not in a perfect global village, globalization has benefited numerous people; and what we should do is cooperate with each other to improve the global trade system.

In the past decades, globalization has benefited both the developed and developing countries. In the developing countries, people's incomes have been raised and many have been lifted out of poverty. In the developed world, companies have taken advantage of the globalization tide to reach beyond their home country to invest and profit in almost all corners of the globe.

However, the sluggish global recovery after the financial crisis has resulted in growing angst among those most affected and a growing backlash against globalization in some countries, most notably in the developed economies.

Regrettably, policymakers in these countries have chosen to point accusing fingers at

developing countries such as China and offer the short-term prescriptions for their economic and social ills.

Instead of accelerating their economic restructuring to better allocate resources and rebalance their domestic wealth distribution, they are threatening to close their doors and resort to anti-free trade measures. What they are doing can only jeopardize global trade and hold back the already bumpy global economic recovery.

The Chinese leaders have been strongly championing globalization in recent months, and in a congratulatory letter to the opening ceremony of the annual forum, President Xi Jinping called on the attendees to jointly push forward a more dynamic, inclusive and sustainable economic globalization process.

This is not just in China's interest, but in the interest of the entire world. The world's major trade players should refrain from any beggar-thy-neighbor practices, cast away their differences, and better communicate with one another to enhance mutual confidence and realign the world economy on the track of shared growth.

(China Daily)

INDUSTRY

Yunnan is a land of abundance



Zhang Tong

Just like messengers of spring, edible leaves and flowers such as toon leaves, cardoon leaves and gorse flowers can be spotted at local markets and on dining tables. These edible leaves and flowers are traditional "mountain treasures" on the dinner

tables of Yunnan.

They come in 600-some varieties. Through intensive pollution-free cultivation on farms, and the rational development and utilization of wild resources, they have promoted forestry efficiency and are bringing in new incomes for farmers.

The photo shows farmers selling cardoon leaves.



Lao students sample Yuxi delicacies

A group of 39 Lao students participated in the 2017 China Yuxi Rice Noodle Cultural Festival recently. They sampled all sorts of Yuxi delicacies, including rice noodles with soybean paste, and fried pork with pickled vegetables. In 2009, Yuxi City of Yunnan Province and Pakxe of Champassak Province became "sister cities." In July 2016, the two parties officially signed a secondary professional talent training cooperation agreement.

Photo by Yu Hong

AMAZING YUNNAN

Yunnan continues improving environmental quality

Hu Xiaorong

Since last year, the Yunnan provincial party committee and Yunnan government have been attaching great importance to environmental protection of the whole province.

Yunnan has further implemented its air pollution control action plan by strengthening control of industrial air pollution, urban dust pollution and motor vehicle emission supervision. The province eliminated 136,000 heavy-polluting cars and old cars, improving air quality. For the 16 cities where with prefectural governments and municipal governments

located, 98.3 percent of days reached good air quality, which is a one percent increase compared with the previous year.

For water pollution control, last year Yunnan Province implemented the Yunnan Provincial Water Pollution Prevention Work Plan. Each prefecture and city worked out its own water pollution prevention implementation plan and signed target responsibilities at each level. Construction of key projects for the nine lakes' prevention has been proceeding, with 5.338 billion yuan invested.

For soil pollution control, last year Yunnan implemented five pilot

projects for soil pollution treatment and restoration. Major heavy metal pollutant emissions decreased significantly. Environmental quality in the areas of heavy metal pollution control is generally stable and improving.

To strictly control pollution emissions last year, relevant departments at each level of provincial government carefully supervised sewage treatment plants and strengthened supervision of key emission reduction projects. Among 609 emission reduction projects at the provincial level, 587 or 96 percent were completed.

NEIGHBOURS

BOC organizes cross-border matchmaking service in Laos

Zhang Jianhua

The Bank of China (BOC) held the "BOC Global SMEs Cross-border Matchmaking Services" roadshow in the Lao capital of Vientiane a few days ago.

According to the Lao Ministry of Industry and Commerce, SMEs accounted for 99 percent of Lao enterprises, which are in urgent need of international promotion. The institutions and customer resource centres at BOC all over the world can help Lao SMEs expand outside of the country.

Chen Keqin, vice president of the BOC Vientiane branch, hopes that cross-border matchmaking services can bring new ideas and opportunities to Lao and Chinese enterprises operating and developing in Laos. He also hopes to promote Laos's import and export trade and investment and economic development.

In recent years, BOC has been helping Chinese SMEs invest in other countries while attracting foreign investment through cross-border matching services. To date, BOC has held 28 cross-border matching service events all over the world, attracting the participation of more than 15,000 Chinese and foreign enterprises. These efforts have helped corporations achieve a series of business cooperations in trade and the introduction of investments and technology.



For more information, please visit our website.

Yunnan Express:
english.yunnan.cn

Editor: Han Chengyuan
E-mail: CNYNYDPG@163.com

ECOLOGICAL PROTECTION

Yunnan breeds first Asian elephant

Dai Zhenhua

Recently, a female elephant named 'Future', living at the China Asian elephant breeding base at the Wild Elephant Valley in Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province, smoothly gave birth to a healthy male calf. The birth marked a breakthrough in Asian elephant breeding technology.

In 2015, in order to explore and master the Asian elephant breeding methods, the Asian Elephant Breeding and Rescue Centre decided to use human intervention to make the male elephant, 'Parent', and the female

elephant, 'Future', fall in love. The Centre provided the two elephants with a comfortable mating place. Eventually, 'Future' became pregnant and smoothly delivered a 106-centimetre-long male calf after 22 months of meticulous care. At present, the calf's vital signs are normal.

Over the past ten years, the female elephants living at the Asian Elephant Breeding and Rescue Centre have given birth to three calves by natural mating. This is the first time in which the Centre has successfully bred a calf through human intervention. The success has filled a gap



in China's Asian elephant breeding technology, which will provide technical support

and practical experience for the breeding of Asian elephants in the future.

Streetwise

What’s your opinion of the work done by the security forces?

Security Forces Day was observed on April 5, with this year being the 56th anniversary of the founding of the protective body (April 5, 1961-April 5, 2017). Organisations nationwide held activities to mark this important occasion and Vientiane Times asked some local residents for their thoughts on the work of the security forces.

Visith Teppalath

Mr Chantha Xayasarn, an employee in Sisattanak district, Vientiane: It is good to hold activities to mark this day because it means we are doing something to honour our security forces. As we all know, security officers, especially the police, are a very important force and protect people from danger and disorder, including theft, terrorism, traffic problems, drug abuse and the like. They also help people to solve many

need them and want them to continue to work in our interest. If we didn’t have a police force, there could be many problems



work slowly and never arrive on time when there’s an incident of some kind and that they can’t catch the thieves after a robbery, and so forth. Many people say that if they could act a bit more quickly the thieves would be arrested and the situation resolved more efficiently. They should also use more modern equipment like the police in other countries do. Having more and better equipment would enable them to better monitor



and our lives would not be so good. So on this important occasion each year all organisations and individuals should acknowledge the security forces and give flowers and other gifts to the police to thank them and spur them on to greater achievements. The public should be aware of this important occasion and do what we can to honour our police force. We should praise them and hope that they become an even greater force for good in the future.

Ms Khamky, an employee in Xaysettha district: I think the police force has improved in all aspects. It is growing well, both in terms of numbers and quality. The police are very important for the public and our country because they help to keep the peace and protect people against various social ills. But they could improve their work a bit and carry out their duties more quickly than they do now. In the past many people have complained that the police

problems and stay in touch with what’s going on; that way they would be able to work more easily and quickly.

Ms Saichay Thavisone, an employee in Xaysettha district: The police are at the forefront of efforts to ensure that society remains peaceful and that we live in safety. They encourage people to follow the rules and laws, keep the peace, and work with the public to solve problems. They also protect people and work hard for them when something untoward happens. They love their country and the people, and the people love them in return. The police force



Police contribute to the celebrations on special occasions.

has become modernised and we can see that they resolve problems daily. But they must work fairly and act in line with the rules and laws. In terms of improvement, I think they

are still lacking in quality and don’t have enough modern equipment because of budget constraints. So all sectors, companies, and businesses are required to support them by

providing money to buy the equipment they need to improve their work. In this way, they might be able to work more quickly and more efficiently in the future.



problems. They work hard for the people all the time and are responsible in carrying out their duties. The police do a better job today than in the past. They should continue to work in the public interest and try to be a bit more productive than they are at present.

Mr Phoumy Bounnathan, an employee in Xaythany district, Vientiane: The police are responsible for law and order, and ensuring peace and solidarity. They have achieved great results in their vision and work in previous years. Of course, the country and people



A traffic policeman keeps vehicles moving at a busy junction.

Vientiane Times Subscription 2017

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The next generation of corporate banking

Ernest Saudjana

JAKARTA (The Jakarta Post, ANN) -- The corporate banking sector is in the throes of profound disruption — and it's happening whether or not banks are fully ready. Banking leaders face an urgent need to radically optimize performance and commit to a continuous digital transformation.

In other words, there is an impending need for the incumbent banks to embrace deep, systemic digitization to stay relevant, open up new paths to sustained

economic profit generation, and overhaul all key levers.

Now is the time for corporate banks to evolve, to reinvent themselves, and to innovate for both survival and growth.

According to the Corporate Banking Performance Benchmarking survey, by Boston Consulting Group (BCG), leading corporate banking divisions excel in four ways — they're dramatically less credit-centric; deliver higher risk-adjusted lending margins; excel in managing operating costs; and have

highly capable sales forces.

However, the players are facing increasing competition, declining interest margins and revenues, surging regulatory costs, spiking loan losses, and rising capital requirements.

These, amid an environment where digitally enabled business models are redefining the movement of data and money, are challenging banks' traditional advantages and the economics of corporate banking. BCG's benchmark data also confirms the



A building of the Development Bank of Singapore (DBS).

—Photo DBS.com

hazards of clinging to traditional credit-centric revenue models and static, inflexible operating practices.

We don't know precisely what corporate banking will look like in 20 years, but we're getting clear indications of where the industry is heading. These indications come from every region of the world and all kinds of players, including aggressive incumbents, fintechs and fast-growing Asian banks that are in many ways leapfrogging brand-name Western corporate banks.

Though there are many possible scenarios, we envision three main ones that have strong potential to emerge, whether individually or collectively.

Industry 4.0: The rise of Industry 4.0 shows how technology changes both the business ecosystems and the financial services used. Industry 4.0 will connect buildings, vehicles, sensors, and machines.

These connections make it possible to gather and analyze data, predict failure, and adapt to changes, enabling faster, flexible and efficient processes that can generate significant increases in productivity.

These capabilities changes relationships among banks, suppliers, producers, and customers, and introduce radical new business models.

Ecosystem Banking: It's no accident that digital leaders in many industries are often also platform leaders; think Amazon, for example. In the future, many parts of the economy will be marked by industry-specific value chain platforms, operated by many suppliers and distributors.

The result would be a powerful ecosystem that allows corporate banking divisions to support a diffused network of companies in a particular

industry-specific value chain.

Advances in digital technologies and the growing readiness and ability of companies of all sizes to participate in such an ecosystem, however, will soon usher in a significant increase in adoption as firms learn about the ability of such platforms to improve the operational performance of each ecosystem participant.

Banking with the Internet of Things: A more ambitious future could be built on the Internet of Things. For instance, the bank will increasingly be seen as a trusted provider and fraud risk manager, generating new service opportunities and revenue streams. In the near term, banks can gain significant improvement by digitizing three areas that our research and client work show to be core revenue drivers.

Apply advanced analytics to increase share of wallet and generate leads. Our casework with corporate banks has shown that RM-centric advanced analytics dramatically accelerates crossselling and improve prospecting.

Digitally enable RMs, to support RMs in increasing share of wallet and acquiring new clients, a bank in Southeast Asia created an analytics engine that scanned hundreds data sources for specific client, market, and industry trends. Digital apps, for instance can improve collaboration in account planning and sales execution between RMs and product specialists; improve the end-to-end credit process, provide alerts to facilitate communication and data sharing.

Adjust pricing to fund the journey. Greater discounting discipline and related pricing improvements deliver significant returns in the near term.

Top players are already using digital approaches

to boost corporate banking value creation and generate the profits needed to support far-reaching digital transformation, including next-generation corporate bank models, such as industry-specific ecosystems.

The trouble, of course, is that such evolution takes significant investment and, right now, banks are straining to keep up with current demands.

Although all corporate banks have taken at least tentative steps on the path to digitization, launching a long-term strategic transformation can be daunting, therefore, rather than focusing on specific projects or products, it is important to identify a transformation-path comprising of five key elements.

Determine the bank's digital aspirations and future strategy; review client journeys and redesign the most important ones; consider which potentially game-changing disruptive businesses to invest in, and at what level; develop a comprehensive plan to fund the journey; and commit to a rigorously executed change-management program.

Corporate banking divisions have emerged from the financial crisis only to be hit by a massive digital disruption. To stay viable, they need to understand the client journeys that matter most, invest in continual client-centric innovation, adopt agile ways of working and create more effective and collaborative cultures.

The example of early movers makes clear that the next-generation bank is around the corner. The only question is, which banks will be among them?

Ernest Saudjana,
Partner and managing
director of The Boston
Consulting Group for the
Jakarta office.



Project LAO/029 – Skills for Tourism Job Announcement

The Luxembourg Development Cooperation Agency (LuxDev) – in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Sports of Lao PDR – is implementing 'Project LAO/029 – Skills for Tourism' which is co-financed by the Governments of Luxembourg and Switzerland with a planned duration of 5 years.

Project LAO/029 – Skills for Tourism contributes to the sustainable and inclusive growth of the tourism and hospitality sector in Lao PDR by supporting the provision of technical vocational education and training (TVET) opportunities, particularly for disadvantaged people, that equip graduates with the skills to find gainful employment in tourism and hospitality.

The project is looking for candidates (Lao nationals only) to fill the following positions:

1. National TVET Inclusive Access Training Fund Officer (IATF Officer)
2. National TVET Governance and Institutional Development Officer (GID Officer)

Duty Station:

Both positions will be based at the LAO/029 Project Office in Vientiane, with regular in-country travel required.

Contract Duration:

Labour contract of 1 year - with 2 months of probation, and annually renewable up to a maximum period of 50 months, ideally starting in May 2017.

Scope of the Work:

The National Officers will work in close cooperation with International Advisers, the Ministry of Education and Sports, and other key stakeholders in Lao PDR, on the achievement of – in particular – the following outcomes of the project:

- Outcome: Disadvantaged groups are included in tourism/hospitality training programmes through transparent and effective support measures. (Position 1: IATF Officer)
- Outcome: An enabling governance, institutional and regulatory framework for tourism/hospitality TVET is in place. (Position 2: GID Officer)

Education and Experience Required:

- Bachelor Degree in an area of relevance to the post;
- Five years relevant professional experience;
- Knowledge of vocational education and skills development system in Lao PDR;
- Fluency in Lao and English languages (speaking, reading and writing).

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS: 4.00 pm on Friday, 28th April 2017.

HOW TO APPLY: Applications in English consisting of:

- (i) Application letter
- (ii) Curriculum Vitae and minimum two referee contacts; and
- (iii) Copies of relevant degrees/certificates

must be forwarded by e-mail to: projectlao029.luxdev@gmail.com specifying in the subject line, "LAO/029 IATF Officer" or "LAO/029 GID Officer".

Detailed job descriptions can be provided upon request to the above email address.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interview.

Project LAO/029 – Skills for Tourism seeks to have balanced representation of women and men, and ethnic diversity in the project implementation team.

Arts & Leisure



Autistic children perform songs at the event.

Fashion event held in support of autism association

Sisouphan
Amphonephong

Models from First Modelinglao joined together on stage for a fashion show last week, to raise money to support the Association for Autism.

First Modelinglao Agency Manager Mr Viengsamone Chittarath said the models were asked to celebrate World Autism Awareness Day as well as to raise money in support of the association, which helps supports children with autism.

He said the agency was proud to be a part of such an event and that they had also provided product booths with souvenirs and T-shirts marking the occasion to sell in support of the association.

Singing and dancing performances by children from the Association for Autism were also featured on the night as well as dancing by the QA Dancers and singing by some of the models present.

Mr Viengsamone said he was not yet able to reveal how much money was raised as the committee had



Ms Phokham Douangdala (left) and Mr Somsanouk Mixay (right) release balloons to open the fashion show, which was held to raise money in support of children with autism.

not yet finished counting the proceeds.

A model from the First Modelinglao team, Mr Alaem Boutdavong, said the fashion show was a lot of fun and that it felt great to be able to contribute to such an event.

Vice President of the Lao Journalists' Association Mr Somsanouk Mixay and Director of the Association for Autism Ms Phokham Douangdalaboth opened the show and welcomed the public and officials in attendance, asking them to enjoy the fashions on display

and the entertainment activities and to help celebrate World Autism Awareness Day.

Ms Phokham thanked the sponsors for their support as well as teachers from the Association for Autism in Vientiane and the dancers from the QA team who helped to train the children that performed during the evening.

The pair also presented congratulations certificates to each sponsor, thanking them for their financial support to the Association and to the night's fashion event.

Zareen starts preparing for Vikram Bhatt's film

MUMBAI (The Statesman, ANN) -- Actress Zareen Khan, who is set to explore the horror genre for the first time with filmmaker Vikram Bhatt's 1921, has been preparing for her role by watching some horror series and films every night.

"I have never done a horror genre so, it's very challenging for me. But I am really looking forward to this one," Zareen said in a statement.

The actress' role in the film has not been disclosed yet.

Zareen, who was last seen on the big screen in director Vishay Pandya's Hate Story 3, would also be attending a few workshops



Zareen Khan.

before she starts shooting.

The film will revolve around students of music and will be set in a university town. It will go on the floors in May and will be extensively shot in London.

1921 will be Bhatt's fifth movie after Raaz, 1920, Haunted and Hate Story under his banner in

collaboration with Reliance Entertainment.

Zareen will also be seen in Aksar 2, a sequel to the 2006 film Aksar. Ananth Mahadevan, who helmed the 2006 thriller Aksar, which starred Emraan Hashmi, Udit Goswami and Dino Morea, will be directing the sequel too.

Entertainers to celebrate Lao New Year with festivals

Sisouphan
Amphonephong

Artists from various fields and entertainment companies will join forces to celebrate *Pi Mai Lao* by performing at a number of water festivals around Laos.

The artists will perform on the main stage of the "Beerlao Music Zone" both in Vientiane and various provinces to ring in the New Year.

Soft Drink Manager of the Lao Brewery Company Ms Saengmany Xayakone says they have created the Beerlao Music Zone to celebrate the New Year where the company will provide booths, a stage and other entertainment.

Lao and foreign artists as well as DJs will entertain festival goers under the theme "Wet and Wild" while Beerlao will advertise this year's safety message, "Drink but Don't Drive. Enjoy Responsibly."

The music zone will feature a main stage where leading local and foreign artists as well as DJs will perform. The stage will be open from April 14 to 16 at Chao Anouvong Park in Vientiane, in the area of Dernthat's in Luang Prabang, at the Savan ITECC in Savannakhet province, and in Salakham near the Chitpasong Bus Terminal in Champassak province.

Events will start at 11:30am each day and the winners of this year's Pepsi Singing Contest will join the show, performing some of the songs and music for the celebrations.

This year's events will be bigger than in previous years



Kob Kiengkai is set to celebrate the New Year at the Wet and Wild Festival in Luang Prabang.



Ms Saengmany Xayakone.

music zone stage in Luang Prabang. He said he would perform a variety of styles as well his own tracks.

Boy band Xtreme, Tot Vilouna and Ms Souliaphak - a newcomer to the music scene - will also join the event in Luang Prabang for three days.

Mr Kob said he hoped the people of Luang Prabang would come out and have fun with the songs and music that he and other artists will be providing.



A poster promoting the upcoming Wet and Wild Festival.

Plan to revitalise traditional crafts

CHINA (China Daily, ANN) -- A new plan aimed at further promoting traditional Chinese crafts, especially those listed as part of the country's intangible cultural heritage, has been issued by the State Council, China's Cabinet.

The Plan on Revitalising China's Traditional Crafts, released on March 24, aims to inject momentum into the protection of Chinese culture and heritage.

It calls for better management of the industry and increased market competitiveness, with substantial improvements to be made by 2020.

According to the document, traditional crafts are set to play a more significant role in creating jobs, with the incomes of practitioners to be increased and industrial structures to

be diversified. The country is also set to establish a national catalog of traditional crafts and increase the number of intangible cultural heritage inheritors.

Migrant workers are being encouraged to return to their hometowns to develop traditional crafts and grow their local cultural industry, with favourable policies being put in place to help them.

More efforts will be made to improve the design, production and quality of traditional products, as higher-quality materials and a modern management system are introduced.

The document also encouraged enterprises and practitioners of traditional crafts to protect their secrets, apply for trademarks and know their intellectual property rights.

In the meantime, further efforts should be made to enhance the promotion and sales of traditional products, the document said, recommending displays and roadshows at popular tourism sites.

The document also called for universities, enterprises and institutions to host seminars and training sessions for inheritors and practitioners of famous traditional crafts.

In addition, the country will support eligible universities to set up majors and courses in traditional crafts and cultivate professional talent. The country will continue to promote intangible cultural heritage education in universities, and in middle and primary schools, in an effort to enhance awareness.

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Interested parties please contact:

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دبي القطار Dubai Cares **Save the Children** **PLAN INTERNATIONAL**

Lao Educational Access, Research and Networking (LEARN) Project
Terms of Reference: Implementation Research Consultancy

The Lao Educational Access, Research and Networking (LEARN) Project is an action research project implemented by Plan International in Laos and Save the Children International in Laos. LEARN is testing three program models: An accelerated school readiness course; a 4-week Lao language transition course at the start of grade 1; and a Lao language teaching and learning course in grades 1 and 2. The project seeks a team of consultants to help design and deliver implementation research while project activities are underway to understand why interventions are or are not working as planned and what can be done to improve the scalability and sustainability of activities within the broader education system to the benefit of more children over time. The research questions focus on the attitudes, perceptions and barriers to changing the behaviors and practices of teachers and what can be done to improve teacher adoption of improved teaching and learning practices; how effective has the project been in strengthening parent engagement in project activities, particularly for mothers and what could be done to strengthen parent engagement going forward; and the factors that could promote or undermine the scalability and sustainability over time of project activities within the broader education system of Lao PDR. The LEARN team proposes to utilize qualitative, participatory approaches to conducting this implementation research including but not limited to observations, interviews and focus group discussions.

Desired Qualifications

- Teams of consultants strongly preferred to ensure that all qualifications listed in this section are met. Laos-based consultants strongly preferred although exceptions may be considered.
- Proven track record in qualitative research, implementation research, and participatory research with children and communities. Proven expertise in qualitative analysis, including the use of software such as NVivo or similar.
- Sectoral knowledge in education, child development, gender, school health and nutrition and related areas. In-depth understanding of the challenges in early grades teaching and learning and community engagement in education in Laos.
- Clear and demonstrable commitment to gender equality and inclusion, child protection and participation, particularly in working with disadvantaged groups.
- Excellent written English as well as fluency in spoken and written Lao language required.
- Team members fluent in other local languages such as Khmu and Hmong would be a plus; or at a minimum the team must propose a feasible approach to data collection among non-Lao speaking ethnic groups, such as use of local interpreters
- Previous knowledge of Plan International and Save the Children approaches and programming and both organizations' work in Laos in particular.

Application Process

To apply, please submit an application package with the following items:

- Covering letter summarizing the applicant's reasons for interest in the work and qualifications to conduct the implementation research.
- Brief description (1-2 pages) of the applicant's proposed approach to conducting the research, including methodology, geographic targeting and sampling, anticipated challenges that may be encountered and potential mitigation strategies. In particular, this document must identify expected challenges related to gender and inclusion and outline specific strategies for meaningful engagement of women, children and marginalized, non-Lao speaking ethnic groups.
- Cost proposal outlining the estimated levels of effort of proposed team members and daily fees as well as other estimated expenses related to completing the scope of work.
- 1 writing sample (in English) of similar research conducted in Laos or other relevant contexts.
- CVs of all proposed team members.

This application package must be submitted electronically by no later than midnight Laos time zone on **Wednesday, 24 April 2017**. Applications should be emailed to PlanLaosJobVacancies@planinternational.org. Please use the subject line "Application for LEARN Implementation Research Consultancy." Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

For a copy of the detailed TOR for this research, which provides more information about the research questions and proposed methodology, please email the LEARN Project Coordinator, Phonasavanh Sivilay, at Phonasavanh.Sivilay@planinternational.org

Good Neighbors International

Advertising for bids

Good Neighbors International (GNI) is an international humanitarian and development NGO in general consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN-ECOSOC). GNI has made great strides in its mission by providing people around the world with a better quality of life.

Good Neighbors Laos (GNL) is implementing the project in Meun district of Vientiane province for improving learning condition of children in the area.

The project is now looking for eligible party for constructing 2 primary school buildings - Nagnao and Phonsivilay in Meun district Vientiane Province. Each building has standard 5 class rooms (7m x 8m) + 1 teacher room (7m x 6m), and 1 toilet building.

The project is here with inviting interested parties **to submit application and related document and get school drawing design at GNL office as the detail below.**
The deadline for application April 28th 2017.

Contact Number:
Sisangvone, Xaysettha District, Vientiane Capital
E-mail: gnlaos@gmail.com
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LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

Mekong Integrated Water Resource Management Project
Natural Resources and Environment Institute (NREI)-Department of Water Resource
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)

Date: 05 April 2017

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CALIBRATION OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUMENTS OF COMPONENT 2.2 OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT LABORATORY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE
Procurement No: C2.2.0-ICS-08

1. The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic towards the cost of the Mekong Integrated Water Resource Management Project (M-IWRMP) funded by the World Bank thru the International Development Association (IDA) intends to apply part of the proceeds to eligible payments under the Contract for which this Request for Expression of Interest is issued by Component 2.2 Management Unit of M-IWRMP under the Natural Resources and Environment Institute (NREI) of the Department of Water Resource (DWR).
2. The Component 2.2 Management Unit of M-IWRMP now invites firms for the Calibration the Laboratory Equipment and Instruments of the National Environment Laboratory.
3. Qualifications and Experience Required. The firm should have minimum of 5 years of experience in laboratory equipment calibration for water quality laboratory analysis; monitoring and evaluation; Experience in providing trainings on laboratory equipment calibration; and Knowledge of laboratory operation, services in technical and management aspects in compliance with international standard and guideline; in particular of ISO/IEC 17025. The Team Leader must have a Master's Degree or Ph.D in Chemistry, Environment Science, Environment Engineering or closer related fields; Ten (10) years experience in laboratory equipment calibration/installation for water quality analysis; monitoring and evaluation; and knowledge of laboratory operation, services in technical and management aspects in compliance with international standard and guideline; in particular of ISO/IEC 17025 and the Assistant to the Team Leader must Master's Degree or Ph.D in Chemistry, Environment Science, Environment Engineering or closer related fields; Five (5) years experience in laboratory equipment calibration/installation for water quality analysis; monitoring and evaluation; and Knowledge of laboratory operation, services in technical and management aspects in compliance with international standard and guideline; in particular of ISO/IEC 17025
4. Interested firms may obtain further information and request for the Terms of Reference from the officer in charge at the address given below from 08:00 to 16:00 hours (Standard Lao PDR time).
5. A firm will be selected under Consultant's Qualifications (CQS) procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits - Selection and Employment of Consultants which can be found at the following website: www.worldbank.org/procure.
6. Expressions of interest must be delivered by postal mail, Fax or e-mail to the address below by **21 April 2017**.

Mr. Ounakone Xayviliya
Project Manager-M-IWRMP
National Project Management Unit
Department of Water Resource
Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment
Mobile no: 020-22239223
Email address: ounakone@gmail.com



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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 Book. 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 .

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> I A C T C </div>	LECDICIAT
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> D A B T E </div>	BSTEEDIA
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> E P R </div>	XTEREP
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> O U E N </div>	NTMMUEON
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> P R R E </div>	OSRPSRGE

Cut out this entry form and send it to HIV/AIDS Project, Lao Red Cross, PO Box 650 or take it to the Lao Red Cross office behind Vat Xienghune. Closing date for the competition on Wednesday, 26 April 2017 at 9.00am.

Name: _____ ID Card No: _____ Address & Phone Number: _____

Last month's winner: Mr. Vanphachanh SENGPHONGPHANH. ID Card No: 01-0297396.

Last month's answer: Inhabitant, Mercy, Stability, Republic and Product.

Please contact to Ms. Phouthalorn for further more information at Tel: 241229.

What's On

Xayaboury rocket festival



Everyone is invited to an annual rocket festival in Xayaboury province. Thousands of rockets made by local people will be launched to honour Nang Samphiew and worship her stupa. Nang Samphiew is recognised as the mother of the district. There will also be other activities starting from April 22 such as donations, almsgiving, a street fair, and entertainment.
Where: Nangsamphiew Stupa in That village, Thongmixay

district, Xayaboury province.

When: The festivities will start on April 22 and the rockets will be launched on April 23.

Football Competition

The Lao Football Federation is calling for young people aged 10-23 to try out for the U15 and U23 football teams preparing for Asia Championship tournament matches in Thailand and Korea.

When: Tryouts April 20-30 from 4pm to 6 pm.

Where: Apply at the Lao Football Federation, Heuy Hong Village, Chanthabouly District, Vientiane. For more information: 020 9970 7053, 020 5444 3133 and 020 5491 8322



Dok Champa in bloom

Champa Mounghoun Garden invites everyone to see the more than 5,000 frangipani trees and 200 species on display from around the world, which are now in full bloom. Entrance free for children under 10.

When: Until June 1. Open from 8 am to 6pm

Where: Champa Mounghoun Garden is near the National Stadium at Km16 in Nakhae village, Xaythany district.

For more information call: 020 5675 4125, 020 5562 0109, 030 935 5603



Master's degree scholarships

The Ministry of Health and Thammasat University of Thailand are offering Master's degree scholarships for graduates with a bachelor degree in medicine. The offer is open to everyone interested in applying.

When: Applications open until April 12

Where: Apply at Ministry of Health, Department of Planning and Cooperation (Opposite Don Chan Palace hotel) Thatkha village, Sisattanak district, Vientiane.

For more information Tel: 021 252 753, 021 242 649; Fax: 021 223 146, 021 240 032; or E-mail: pcu.hsd@gmail.com

Modelling contest for children

The Lao Furniture Association invites children to take part in a modelling contest, with kindergarten and primary school children encouraged to compete in a Pi Mai Lao dress contest and show off their charms.

When: April 7-8

Where: Lao-ITECC



Vientiane Furniture Fair

The Lao Furniture Association is holding the Vientiane Furniture Fair to promote local products and their export. Visitors can buy innovative wood products made by craftsmen to suit market demand.

When: April 1-9

Where: Lao-ITECC

Lao New Year concert

A Lao-Thai concert will take place over Lao New Year, presented by Nakhar Media. On stage will be Lao performer Ms Dokya alongside Thailand's Ms Lamyai, Mr Thunva and the Choe Y Zaa band. There will be free Wi-Fi and more than 2,000 free gifts.

When: April 14-16. Concert from 10am to 8pm

Where: Don Chan beach, Vientiane.



Lao Central Bank

The central bank requests the public to inform the bank if they encounter any suspicious activity or incident concerning illegal fundraising by calling the following numbers: 021 265713-715 or 021 265607.

C-Thru Water Festival

Meet leading international DJs and MCs at the C-Thru Water Festival. Featuring exciting music and fun activities to celebrate Lao New Year. Entrance is free.

When: April 14-16 from noon to midnight.

Where: Vientiane Centre.



Lao Supermodel 2017

Organisers of the Lao Supermodel contest are calling on young men and women, as well as children, to enter their latest contest.

Conditions:

- Males must be aged 18-28, be at least 1.75m tall
- Females must be aged 18-28, be at least 1.65m tall
- Children must be aged 6-10.

When: Applications are open until May 6.

Where: Apply at LT Company in Phonxay village, Xaysettha district, Vientiane

For more information: 020 2247 9479, or 020 9146 2699 www.facebook.com/lao super model

Miss Xekong 2017

Organisers of the Miss Xekong contest are calling on young ladies in Xekong province to enter its annual competition. Some conditions do apply: Contestants must be a woman by birth, aged 18-25 and be at least 1.55m tall.

When: Applications open until April 4. Selection round announced on April 10.

Where: Apply at the Information, Culture and Tourism Department of Xekong, Nonmixay village, Lamam district, Xekong province.

For more information call: 038 211 024, 020 2864 4861.

Volleyball competition

A beach volleyball competition will take place over Lao New Year, while many other forms of entertainment and cultural shows will also be on offer over the holiday.

When: April 13-16

Where: Donchan Island, Mekong riverbank, Vientiane.



SEA Write Award

The Lao Writers' Association is calling for short stories for entry in the SEA Write Award competition. The aim is to promote Lao literature and foster interest among Lao writers.

Where: Send your short story to the SEA Write Award Secretary or Vannasin Magazine on the second floor of the Tourism Building on Lane Xang Avenue.

When: Submit until June 30.

For more information call: 021 219871

Nationwide Water Festival events

People throughout the country are gearing up to celebrate Pi Mai Lao, one of the most important dates in the Lao calendar. As well as being a time of celebration and endless fun, the occasion is synonymous with holidays, the reinforcing of Lao identity and family bonds, and a time to reflect on the year ahead.

Vientiane:

Activities: There will be traditional dances, a wax castle procession, and religious activities. There will also be concerts and other entertainment at Don Chan beach. There will be no Nang Sangkhan parade this year.

Champassak:

Activities: Nang Sangkhan beauty contest, traditional dance shows, wax castle procession, and a fair selling 'One district, One product' goods. There will also be a concert and a singing contest. Vat Phou, a World Heritage Site, will have various religious activities, as well as a market fair selling local products.

Luang Prabang:

Activities: Street fair, traditional performances, popular Lao singers, and a beauty contest to choose Nang Sangkhan. There is also a grand parade featuring the Prabang, one of Laos' most revered Buddha images, which gave Luang Prabang its name in 1512 ('Luang' meaning great or royal). The statue is carried from the former Royal Palace to Vat Mai, followed by hundreds of monks in their bright orange robes.

Savannakhet:

Activities: Champhone, Kaysone Phomvihane and Xayphouthong districts will hold traditional and religious activities. Temple monks will take down Buddha images from their customary shelves so the public can pour water over them. A Nang Sangkhan beauty pageant parade will take place in Kaysone Phomvihane district. There will be a special market fair at the That Inhang stupa and a free concert at Savan ITECC.

Gold decoration ceremony at That Luang

Everyone is invited to a ceremony to place gold on the top of 30 spires (paramy) surrounding the That Luang stupa, which will feature an almsgiving and traditional rituals to pay homage to the stupa.

Participants should dress in white.

When: April 7, gold decoration ceremony at 7.30am. April 8, almsgiving at 6:30am.

Where: That Luang esplanade



Summer Pool Party

A fun Summer Pool Party hosted by Inpeng heralds Lao New Year with songs and music from Lao and foreign performers as well as DJs.

Where: Inpeng Water Park swimming pool on Thadeua Road.

When: Saturday April 8, from 1pm.

For more information contact: 020 5400 0083



Vietnamese scholarships

The government of Vietnam is offering scholarships for the study of doctorate and Master's degrees.

When: Applications open until May 13

Where: Apply at Ministry of Education and Sports, Department of Student Affairs (Chao Anouvong Stadium area), Vientiane.

For more information Tel: 021 255 034; or www.dsa.moe.gov.la

Young Designer Contest 2017

Aspiring creators of fashion are invited to enter Lao Young Designer 2017 with the theme: 'Festival of Lights'. The winner will have a chance to study at the ESMOD International Fashion Institute in Paris, France.

Where: Fashion Design Contest 2017 c/o Lao Fashion Week, Society Corporation, 99/01 Namphou Square, Setthathirath Road, Vientiane.

When: Closing date is April 30

For more information contact: 021 254 808, 021 213 776 or email: info@laofashionweek.com



Football teams from Lao Brewery Co., Ltd and the media pose at Victory sports field in Vientiane on Wednesday before their friendly match to welcome the upcoming Lao New Year. In a high scoring affair Lao Brewery Co., Ltd drew with the media 6-6.

Johnson injures back falling down stairs on eve of Masters

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) -- Masters favorite Dustin Johnson took a serious fall on a staircase Wednesday and injured his lower back, and his manager said it was uncertain whether the world's No. 1 golfer would be able to play the tournament.

It was a stunning development on an otherwise quiet day at Augusta National, where the course was shut down at 1:30 p.m. because of storms.

The real calamity struck a few hours later.

David Winkle, his manager at Hambric Sports, said Johnson fell on the stairs at the home he is renting in Augusta.

"He landed very hard on his lower back and is now resting, although quite uncomfortably," Winkle said in an email. "He has been advised to remain immobile and begin a regimen of anti-inflammatory medication and icing, with the hope of being able to play tomorrow."

What might help Johnson is that he is in the last group for the opening round, scheduled to tee off at 2:03 p.m. with two-time Masters champion Bubba Watson and PGA champion Jimmy Walker.

Johnson had been scheduled to attend the Golf Writers Association of America annual dinner Wednesday night to accept its award as male player of the year. He was coming off a season in which he won the U.S. Open for his first major, was voted PGA Tour player of the year for the first time, won the PGA Tour money title and captured the Vardon Trophy for the lowest adjusted scoring average.

Siegemund outlasts Venus Williams in 3 sets at Volvo Open

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) -- Laura Siegemund of Germany beat Venus Williams 6-4, 6-7 (3), 7-5 on Wednesday to win her second three-set match in three days and move on to the third round at the Volvo Car Open.

Down match point in the second set, Williams broke Siegemund as she served for the match and rallied to easily win the ensuing tie-breaker to set up the decisive third set. Williams was poised to complete the comeback, but Siegemund twice pulled back from a break and saved two match points as Williams served for the victory at 5-4, winning the final three games to reach the round of 16.

"I tried to keep up the pressure and tried to dominate the game as well as I could," Siegemund said. "I think I worked my way well through the match. It was a close match, you know, it can go either way. I just tried to believe in my game, and if I was down, I told myself I was going to get more chances."

Williams could only ponder what might have been.

"I tried my best to think this could be the best match she'll ever play in her life, honestly," Williams said. "I basically won the match but still lost."

Elsewhere, Russian Daria Kasatkina outlasted Puerto Rican Olympic champion Monica Puig 6-0, 6-7 (3), 6-2, and Shelby Rogers upset Madison Keys 4-6, 6-1, 6-1.



Laura Siegemund, of Germany, hits a return to Venus Williams, of the United States, at the Volvo Car Open tennis tournament in Charleston S.C., on Wednesday. --Photo AP

"I mean, she was all over my serve today," Keys said. "I felt like that let me down, and I think she served well. And I feel like I just stopped doing what I should have. I feel like I did a pretty good job to get back in the first set, and I feel like I just stopped doing it. Then it kind of all slipped away from me pretty quick."

Kasatkina, who came close to making the semifinals here last year, hit 19 winners with 18 unforced errors to finally escape after just over 2 hours on court. Puig hit more winners (25) but also had 41 errors, including on match point.

In other matches, Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko defeated Greece's Maria Sakkari in three sets and Hungarian Fanny Stollar stunned No.4 seed Elena Vesnina, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (3). Vesnina, of Russia, twice led a by a break in the opening

set but struggled to convert break points. Stollar hit 13 aces to keep in front for most of the match.

Also: Anastasiya Sevastova of Latvia, defeated Germany's Andrea Petkovic 6-3, 6-4; Ons Jabeur of Tunisia, defeated Magda Linette of Poland 6-4, 6-4; Daria Gavrilova of Australia defeated American Alison Riske 6-3, 6-1; Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands defeated Kateryna Bondarenko of Ukraine 6-2, 7-5; Mirjana Lucic-Baroni of Croatia defeated Mona Barthel of Germany, 6-3, 6-2; Japan's Naomi Osaka defeated Zhang Shuai of China 6-4, 6-4; Anastasia Rodionova of Australia defeated Sara Errani of Italy 6-2, 6-2; Irina-Camelia Begu of Romania, defeated Kristina Kucova of Slovakia 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (6); Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic defeated Bethanie Mattek-Sands of the United States 6-3, 6-3.

Cavs' Thompson injures thumb, ending NBA playing streak

CLEVELAND (AP) -- Tristan Thompson's "Iron Man" streak is over. The Cavaliers' run of bad luck isn't.

Thompson sprained his right thumb Tuesday and was ruled out of Wednesday's first-place showdown at Boston, ending his consecutive games played streak at 447 — a team record and the longest active stretch in the league. Thompson's streak dated to Feb. 10, 2012, his rookie season.

Cavs coach Tyronn Lue is starting Channing Frye in Thompson's place as Cleveland and Boston battle for first place in the Eastern Conference and the No. 1 playoff seed.

A relentless rebounder, Thompson was injured during the third quarter of Tuesday's win over Orlando, and didn't travel with the team. An MRI confirmed the sprain and Thompson

will miss the Celtics game as well as Friday's home fixture against Atlanta.

"He got it bent back going for a rebound," Lue said.

The Cavs said Thompson's status would be "updated as appropriate," leaving the possibility he could miss more time as the regular season enters its final week. Thompson is averaging 8.1 points and 9.3 rebounds.

His injury is another tough blow for the defending champions, who have been forced to shuffle their lineups all season because of key injuries.

J.R. Smith missed nearly three months following thumb surgery; Kevin Love underwent a knee operation; Kyle Korver just returned after missing 11 games with a sore foot; and center Andrew Bogut broke his leg in the first minute of his debut with Cleveland, an

injury that will be felt even more with Thompson out.

"It's unfortunate. But we've been in this position all year long," Lue said. "Guys gotta step up and be ready to play and we know that. And guys understand that. So we just gotta come together until we get Tristan back."

Thompson continued to play after getting his thumb taped and finished with just two points and three rebounds against the Magic.

Cleveland recalled center Larry Sanders from its D-League affiliate in Canton. Sanders was out of the league for two years before the Cavs signed him on March 13, an addition they hope can fill their need for a rim protector.

Sanders has played just four minutes in two games for the Cavs, who have been keeping him in Canton to work on his rhythm and stamina.

ABOUT SNV NETHERLANDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

SNV Laos is an international development organisation that supports initiatives in three key sectors to improve livelihoods and access to basic services. Currently SNV's country programme includes projects in agriculture, renewable energy (including REDD+), and water, sanitation and hygiene.

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Part time Planning and M&E Specialist

The overall objective of the **Part time Planning and M&E Specialist** this assignment is to lead; bi-annual reviews, end line studies and stakeholder mapping; implementation of the convergent planning and monitoring at the village level; design and coordination of the monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment system; and research and scientific publication. The consultant will closely work with the project team in achieving abovementioned objectives. The specific objectives are;

- Lead the design and implementation of the stakeholder mapping, bi-annual review, end line and other studies and provide advice to incorporate the recommendations in project implementation
- Lead the development of appropriate methods for participatory monitoring of the convergent plans at the village level
- Provides scientific and technical oversight to the Provincial Coordinators ensuring coordination of field project teams and government coordinators
- Develop M&E approach and tools and support associated staff capacity building, planning and monitoring activities
- Support the project team in setting up of a database populated with baseline, monitoring and end line data.
- Assemble and format the M&E data and administer the project database
- Carry out data analysis and produce intermediary M&E reports, summaries, and other communication materials
- Provides leadership in the publication and dissemination of project results (through scientific papers, policy briefs, workshops, technical leaflets, etc.)
- Provide ad-hoc training and information on data collection, management and analysis to the project provincial team and local partners
- Perform other tasks as may be requested by the CTA.

PROFILE

- Master Degree in any Social or Natural Science Discipline
- Minimum 3 years' experience in designing and implementing monitoring and evaluation of projects, preferably health, hygiene and/or nutrition sensitive agriculture.
- Proven experience in designing and conducting scientific policy research and writing papers
- Able to work in a multi-disciplinary team
- Self-motivated person and able to work independently
- Excellent computer knowledge with good command in MS office and other statistical and survey programmes (ODK, SPSS etc.)
- Preferred a person already based in Laos and ability to speak Lao language

DUTY STATION and TIME FRAME

Will be based in Vientiane, working maximum **10 days per month**.
S/he will be report to the Chief Technical Advisor, Mr. Ranjan Shrestha

HOW TO APPLY?

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest and CV to vphonsavatdy@snvworld.org before **14 April 2017**. Full job descriptions are available upon request.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Sports



The main football stadium under construction in Xieng Khuang province, hosts for the 11th National Games in 2018. Photo by Socio-Economic newspaper

Govt supporting Xieng Khuang stadium construction

Sangkhomsay Bubphanouvong

The government plans to contribute 215 billion kip towards construction of province's main football stadium which will host the 11th National Games next year from November 7-20.

The 11,000 seat stadium set on 35 hectares with parking for 6,000 cars is 51 percent complete and will stage the opening and closing ceremonies of the 11th National Games.

Construction began in October 2015 and is expected to be complete in 2018 well ahead of the games.

The Daophuan Design-Construction Company is building the stadium and responsible for all aspects of the project including the electrical system, plumbing,

parking lot, plus track and field facilities.

"We have faced some challenges with wet weather and installing the electricity and water supplies for the building, however, we are still looking to have the stadium complete four months before the opening ceremony," Daophuan Design-Construction Company spokesman Mr Khammany Inthavong said.

Meanwhile, other construction of the indoor stadium and sport fields is 50 percent complete, according to officials with the new indoor venue to be utilised for the muaylao, boxing and basketball events.

A ten-pin bowling facility with eight lanes was completed last year while a nine hole golf course is 91 percent finished.

The shooting range for the games is being improved

with additional facilities and 18 existing sport fields are undergoing upgrades.

The province's accommodation is also being enhanced and by November will comprise 18 hotels for 810 officials, 69 guesthouses for 1,768 spectators and 17 schools for 8,580 competitors and trainers.

An additional four more sports have been added since Oudomxay province hosted the 2014 National Games bringing the total to 28 with hockey and rugby to be demonstration events in Xieng Khuang province.

At the 10th National Games in Oudomxay province, Xieng Khuang finished in 10th place with nine gold, 17 silver and 22 bronze medals and will be hoping to improve their ranking on home soil in 2018.

Chelsea back on track for Premier League title

(AP) -- Chelsea re-established its position as hot favorite to win the Premier League trophy on Wednesday, virtually eliminating Manchester City from the title race and leaving Tottenham as the only realistic challenger to the long-time leader.

On a night when the title race could have been thrown open, Chelsea pulled off one of its most significant results of the season by beating City 2-1 at Stamford Bridge to cement its seven-point lead with eight games remaining.

Tottenham is the only team inside 12 points of Chelsea — but only remained in sight of the leaders after a late comeback in a 3-1 win at Swansea. Down 1-0 going into the 88th minute, Spurs turned things around to keep alive their faint hopes of a first Premier League title.

Whether it turns into a two-team race depends on Chelsea holding its nerve, like it did against a City side that made the match tense right through to the

final whistle. But with only one game left against a top-six team — at Manchester United on April 16 — there seems to be little chance of Chelsea throwing away enough points to give Tottenham an opening.

The surprise 2-1 loss to Crystal Palace on Saturday might have been the wake-up call Chelsea needed.

Eden Hazard has spearheaded Chelsea's revival under Antonio Conte and the Belgium winger scored both goals to see off City.

On a night to forget for goalkeepers, Hazard put Chelsea ahead in the 10th minute when his deflected shot somehow evaded the grasp of City keeper Willy Caballero, who appeared to sink to his knees too early.

Chelsea goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois let City back into the game, sending a clearance straight to David Silva. The Spain playmaker ran through and his shot was parried by Courtois straight into the path of Sergio Aguero, who tapped home in the 26th.

In the 35th, Fernandinho brought down Pedro Rodriguez and although Caballero saved Hazard's penalty, the winger slotted in the rebound.

Chelsea completed the double this season over City, which is fourth — four points above both Arsenal and Manchester United having played a game more.

Tottenham has won its last five games to stay in title contention — just about.

Former Spurs player Wayne Routledge put Swansea ahead in the 11th minute and the Welsh team held on until the 88th, when Dele Alli tapped in an equalizer. Son Heung-min and Christian Eriksen added further goals in stoppage time at Liberty Stadium.

Tottenham moved five points ahead of third-place Liverpool and has a game in hand. Swansea dropped into the relegation zone in place of Hull.

Arsenal's challenge for a Champions League qualification place is back on after just a second win in seven leagues games.

Sabaidee Pi Mai - Buffet Dinner

April 14-16, 18:30 - 22:00 hrs.

Celebrate Pi Mai Lao with a wide selection of local and international dishes in a festive Buffet includes Seafood, Smoked Salmon, Australian Sirloin Steak, Sushi & Sashimi, Traditional Lao Food such as Larb, Charcoal Grilled Pork Neck, Green Papaya Salad, Steamed Mekong Fish, Mango Sticky Rice and much more....



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