National Assembly debates new Law on Electronic Transactions

Times Reporters

The National Assembly switched its focus to the approval of new and amended laws on Friday after debating development projects since the ongoing session opened last Tuesday. Members began by discussing the draft of a Law on Electronic Transactions, which is required for Laos’ accession to the World Trade Organisation next year. It will also be necessary when the Asean Economic Community comes into effect in 2015.

Minister of Science and Technology Prof. Dr. Boviengkham Vongdara presented the draft law, highlighting the need to enact the law so that electronic transactions could be properly regulated.

He explained that an electronic transaction is a form of agreement making or the exchange of information through the use of electronic devices.

“In recent years, electronic transactions have been increasingly used in various sectors, especially in banking, trading, taxation, tourism, e-governance and so on. But the management of such transactions remains a challenge because the existing laws and regulations do not cover issues related to consumer protection, the electronic certification of licences, and the recognition of electronic documents.

It has become essential for Laos to enact this law to regulate electronic transactions and ensure that Laos benefits from today’s technological developments. The draft has been developed from the Decree on Electronic Trade and the new content brings it into line with other laws enacted by Laos and other countries. The draft has already been debated in a number of meetings to get input from various sectors so the law will be as comprehensive as possible.”

Prof. Dr. Boviengkham said the law fulfills Party policy and supports the government’s socio-economic development plan and various international conventions that Laos is party to.

The draft law comprises 10 parts and 55 articles.

The first part refers to the purpose of the law and government policy in relation to electronic transactions, and gives explanations of the vocabulary used.

The second part talks about electronic documents and agreements, the third covers electronic licences, the fourth talks about electronic transactions within government organisations, the fifth covers mediation, the sixth relates to prohibitions, the seventh discusses the settlement of disputes relating to electronic transactions, the eighth talks about management and inspection, and the ninth part talks about policies for those who perform well in this field and measures to be taken against violators.

Australia finances agricultural research

Times Reporters

The Australian government, through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), is providing US$3.3 million in funding for a new project that examines how best to deliver payments to farmers for environmental services in Laos.

Speaking at the project inception workshop in Vientiane last week, Australian Ambassador to Laos Ms Lynda Worthaisong reaffirmed the Australian government’s commitment to supporting agricultural research in Laos through ACIAR.

“This project will help develop practical methodologies for payments for environmental services, which is of high priority for the government of Laos as well as internationally,” said Ms Worthaisong.

The new four year project will involve scientists from the University of Western Australia and the National University of Laos, with additional involvement from staff of the Department of Natural Resources Management and the Department of Forestry.

Vice Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business Management, Associate Professor Somchit Soulsavath, welcomed the participants at the inception meeting. He indicated that his Faculty was very pleased to be hosting this new project because it would help build the capacity of Faculty staff to undertake research on payments for environmental services.

ACIAR’s Forestry Research Programme Manager, Mr Tony Barrlett, said this project is one of three forestry research projects funded by ACIAR in Laos.

He considered this to be a flagship project in addressing the important issue of how to provide appropriate payments to farmers for changing their land management practices. Encouraging this change can improve environmental services such as water quality in catchments or protection of habitat for biodiversity.

The project leader, Professor Jeff Bennett from the Australian National University, said that two important features of this project would be the development of case studies and facilitating collaboration across the Mekong Region between scientists working on systems for payments for environmental services.
Midwife trainers better equipped to deliver thanks to new supplies

Sangkhasom Houbphanoung

Midwife trainers are better equipped to provide quality services to women and girls in Laos as they receive new midwifery bags under a joint UNFPA and Ministry of Health Project. The bags are designed to provide in-country training and practical experience to midwives.

In September, UNFPA and the Ministry of Health signed an agreement to support the development of midwifery at the national level. This agreement aims to improve the quality of midwifery services and increase the number of midwives available to support women and girls during childbirth.

Mr. Chaleune, a midwife trainer from Savannakhet, said the issue of violence against women is a major concern in Laos, and that midwives play a vital role in providing support and guidance to women during childbirth.

The fourth place winner received a cheque for 10 million kip, an Anamol Lao silk sash worth 1.5 million kip, a five million kip of Ammalin Lao sash, 5 million kip of insurance from Slim Concept Lao, a one-night stay at the Don Chan Palace hotel, and a six month supply of Nestle Choco Shape. The third place winner received a cheque for 15 million kip, an Anamol Lao silk sash worth 1.5 million kip, a 20 million kip scholarship to study for a master’s degree at Concerter College, 5 million kip of gift vouchers from LD spa, 3 million kip of insurance from AGIL, a three-day stay at Vientiane Plaza Hotel, a one year supply of drinking water from Lao Brewery Company, a sought-after phone number complete with 1.2 million kip of calling credit for one year, 5.5 million kip of vouchers from Slim Concept Lao, a one-night stay at the Don Chan Palace hotel, and a six month supply of Nestle Choco Shape.

The second place winner received a cheque for 20 million kip, an Anamol Lao silk sash worth 1.5 million kip, 5 million kip in gift vouchers from LD spa, 3 million kip of insurance to study for a master’s degree at Concerter College, 1.5 million kip of gift vouchers from Slim Concept Lao, a one-night stay at the Don Chan Palace hotel, and a six month supply of Nestle Choco Shape.

The first place winner received a cheque for 15 million kip, an Ammalin Lao silk sash worth 1.5 million kip, a 20 million kip scholarship to study for a master’s degree at Con Nerter College, 5 million kip of gift vouchers from LD spa, 3 million kip of insurance from AGIL, a three-day stay at Vientiane Plaza Hotel, a one year supply of drinking water from Lao Brewery Company, a sought-after phone number complete with 1.2 million kip of calling credit for one year, 5.5 million kip of vouchers from Slim Concept Lao, a one-night stay at the Don Chan Palace hotel, and a six month supply of Nestle Choco Shape.
Laos, France celebrate restoration project at Vat Phou

Khonesavath Latsaphao

The Fond Solidarite Prioritaire (FSP) on Thursday held a handover ceremony following the restoration of the south palace entrance porch at the Vat Phou Champassak World Heritage Site.

The French organisation began the restoration at the end of 2007, with the project costing 1 million euros.

Speaking at the ceremony in Champassak province, French Ambassador to Laos Mr Yves Carmona said the project not only involved restoration but also enabled Lao staff to be trained in restoration, archeology and museum management by FSP's French experts.

After seeing their accomplishments in restoring the south palace entrance porch at Vat Phou, people were confident that Lao people could independently undertake restoration work in other areas.

On the same occasion, the Vat Phou World Heritage Office and FSP presented certificates to 47 young Lao people after they completed a course on restoration work.

According to the FSP, most of the field work done during the course of the project was carried out by Lao people under the guidance of French experts.

Deputy Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism Mr Savakhone Rasmountry said Vat Phou Champassak was built during the 6th to 12th centuries AD.

In the years since, various sections of the temple collapsed, but the Party and state arranged for surveys and restoration work to be done to preserve this important temple complex.

In 2001, the UN Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) added Vat Phou to its list of World Heritage Sites.

With the support of FSP, Lao and French cooperation has contributed significantly to the preservation and development of this important cultural site, Mr Savakhone said.

Another important aspect of this project has been the training of management and technicians in the field under a Lao-French cooperation project that ran from 2008-2012. This meant that young Lao technicians were able to contribute to the restoration of the south palace entrance porch.

After accepting the restoration project from the FSP, Mr Savakhone, on behalf of the Party and government of Laos presented the project to the Vat Phou World Heritage Office and Champassak authorities for future preservation.

Visitors to the temple ruins increased each year, and so far this year have reached almost 51,000 people. In 2011 and 2012, more than 100,630 people visited the complex.

Regarding the Ministry of Information, the Vat Phou project is in the process of submitting two more sites for UNESCO approval as World Heritage Sites. If accepted, these would be the third and fourth such sites in Laos.

These sites are the Plain of Jars in Xiang Khuang province and Hin Namron (Stone Forest) in Khammuan province.

Both places are registered by the ministry as national heritage sites.

Weather forecast

Temperatures have been quite high during the past week, but are expected to drop a bit over the weekend and into the coming week. There is a slight chance of rain in the coming days, but it is expected to be mild.

Over 7 tonnes of medical supplies from Switzerland arrive in Vientiane

Lukas Messmer

A container from Switzerland packed with more than 7 tonnes of equipment arrived at the newly built Mother and Child Health Hospital in Vientiane on Monday for distribution to provincial hospitals in other areas.

The equipment, which has an original value of 6.8 billion kip, was unpacked at the hospital in Nongphagna village, Xaythany district, after leaving Switzerland for delivery to the hospital.

The shipment included bulky objects like ultrasound scanners, incubators and birthing chairs. A lot of boxes containing smaller items also made their way around the world, containing many different sorts of various sizes and bags full of white coats.

The donated items originally belonged to several hospitals in Zurich, Switzerland's biggest city. "All the equipment has been inspected and works flawlessly," said the head doctor of the neonatal unit at the hospital, Dr Martin Mönkhoff.

She is also vice-president of the Switzerland-Laos Hospital Project, which organised the shipment.

"We collect items to be donated over the course of the year and send them here once a year to reduce costs," Dr Mönkhoff said. Instead of filling any empty spaces with plastic, they are made to fit into the existing infrastructure.

"This is very good for the Lao people. Some of these items are very expensive and are rarely available here," she said. Doctors will now be able to learn certain skills on equipment that’s hard to find in Laos and which some of them have never seen before. Dr Mönkhoff is also grateful for the clothes, which are especially useful at the moment with the onset of the cold season.

The Swiss-Laos Hospital Project has been active in Laos since 1999. "They are always asking what we need and want, which is a good thing. We feel that we are not alone. This is a good example of how to run a project," Dr Phommad said.

Latest survey shows smoking is still a problem in Laos

Mr Phongsavath Boupha delivers a lecture.

A recent survey has revealed that about 30 percent of adults in Laos have a smoking habit, despite efforts over recent years by the authorities to encourage people to quit.

Until the age of 15, 33.5 percent of adults aged 15 years and up who took part in the survey, about 1 million (29.4 percent) said they were smokers. The survey also reported that 2.6 million reported that they were beginning to develop a second-hand smoke in their homes.

Although these figures are currently much higher than authorities would like, they have dropped significantly since the last survey was conducted by the Ministry of Health in 2003, when it found that 67 percent of men and 16 percent of women were smokers.

As a result of the 2003 survey, laws were passed in 2009 to try to reduce the number of smokers and to protect the public from the impact of second-hand smoke, but it seems more needs to be done to tackle the issue.

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Technicians learn how to cut emissions of hazardous refrigerant gases

Times Reporters

The consumption of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) in Laos is predominately in the commercial sector. HCFC-22, or R-22, which is a gas harmful to the ozone layer commonly used as a refrigerant. Consumption of HCFC-22 in Laos increased from 39 metric tonnes in 2009 to 48 metric tonnes in 2011. To address the rising trend of HCFC consumption, it is essential for the government to control their use, and help reduce them by taking necessary Protocol obligations. This requires freezing the amount used in 2013 and reducing this amount by 10 percent by 2015.

A quota system for all types of HCFCs will be implemented in Laos starting in 2013. Another critical component to enable Laos to meet HCFC phase-out obligations is to strengthen the capacity of refrigeration and air-conditioning training. This will subsequently provide training to servicing technicians throughout the country.

This will ensure that all service technicians will have the skills to follow the code of good practice when servicing appliances. A training workshop was conducted recently at the International Conference and Training Centre in Vientiane and the Lao German Technical School.

Taking part were 28 instructors from the Faculty of Engineering of the National University of Laos, Lao German Technical School, Pakpakase Technical College, the Vocational Education Centre, Savannakhet Polytechnic College, and the private sector.

According to the Director of the Pollution Control Division, Mr Thavrach Phonekeo, the workshop was conducted by the Pollution Control Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to assist from experts from the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office of Asia and the Pacific.

Director General of the Pollution Control Department, Mr Keosvan A Keolu, who is the national focal person for the Montreal Protocol, delivered a message at the opening ceremony of the workshop. “This workshop is an important step for Laos to strengthen the capacity of service technicians throughout the country, aiming to reduce consumption of HCFCs in accordance with obligations under the Montreal Protocol,” said the director.

The workshop consisted of theoretical and practical sessions on the code of good practices when servicing. According to Mr Thavrach, the theoretical session covered alternatives to HCFCs, safe handling of refrigerants and cleaning solvents, the code of good practice for installation and servicing, tools and equipment for service, recovery, recycling, and reclamation of refrigerant, energy conservation, and identification of counterfeit refrigerant.

The practical session allowed the trainees to obtain hands-on training from experts. The session included tube cutting, flaring, swaging, brazing, servicing, and recovery and repairing and installing air conditioners. The practical training on the last day aimed to improve participants’ presentation techniques so that they can provide effective training in the future.

Foregin experts demonstrate how to service refrigerator and air-conditioning components.

Luang Prabang provides further assistance to flood victims

The Luang Prabang provincial authorities plan to further improve basic infrastructure in the province in the wake of recent flooding.

The provincial Agriculture and Forestry Department Deputy have sent a report to HR Division of GIZ Office Vientiane, P.O.Box 9233, Vientiane Capital, or by e-mail to pamouane.phetthany@giz.de.

Luang Prabang province has applied for additional flood aid.

The provincial Agriculture and Forestry Department Deputy have sent money borrowed by farmers will enable them to plant crops and trade goods and help raise them out of poverty.

Xiang Khuang to boost worker standards

Xiang Khuang provincial Labour and Social Welfare Department recently provided vocational training courses for local workers.

According to a report from the department, improving workers’ skills and abilities is in line with the department’s strategic plan for 2011-15, which aims to boost socio-economic development.

The programme allowed to promote the development of skills and upgrade the standard of the Lao workforce to help candidates compete for jobs, not only domestically but also in other job markets.

Xaysettha farmers get rice, vegetable crops in the ground

Farmers in Xaysettha district, Vientiane, will grow 637 hectares of rice this dry season, aiming for yields of 4-5 tonnes per hectare to guarantee sufficient rice for their own consumption.

Deputy Head of the district’s Agriculture and Forestry Department, Mr Khampaeng Ouny, said farmers will also plant 219 hectares of vegetables on the land cleared for rice crops. Farmers are expected to finish planting their dry season crops by the end of this month.

JOB VACANCY

Senior National FLEGT Coordinator to be posted in Vientiane

The senior national FLEGT coordinator will support the FLEGT VPA (voluntary partnership agreement) process in Laos. He/She will be based in the yet to be established FLEGT office in Vientiane in order to be able to work closely with the FLEGT office or the FLEGT working groups and involved CSDs, and to build up and support their capacities.

The main responsibilities of this position are to support the Lao counterparts during the final preparation and the start of the VPA negotiation process. In particular, the national FLEGT coordinator will support the FLEGT readiness in Laos and support implementing the FLEGT process in Laos until the GIZ Pro-FLEGT project concludes. He/She will be initially acting under the guidance of the GIZ SuSiCme Program Director until the start of the Pro-FLEGT project

Starting Date: As soon as possible

Duration: One year extendable

Location: Vientiane

Job Requirements:

He/She has the following tasks:

- Support the Government of Laos (GoL) in establishing a FLEGT office and help to formalize working processes for the process
- Support the coordination of the FLEGT process with other relevant initiatives in the Lao forest sector
- Support the FLEGT office in the preparation and delivery of information to interested parties
- Support the Lao counterparts in the organization of stakeholder consultations, the coordination within the central government and between government institutions on national, province and district level
- Support the communication amongst the different stakeholder groups, in particular between government officials and national NGO's
- Support the delegated to the negotiations on both sides (Eu and GoL) in the preparation and organization of the negotiations
- Support institutional missions by preparing in the preparation of negotiations
- Participate in negotiation and technical sessions as observer with neutral status
- Support the FLEGT working groups in their process to develop a definition of legality and other elements of the TLAS (Timber Legality Assurance System)
- Coordinate with national consultants employed by the FLEGT office or by GIZ

Experience and Qualifications:

- Minimum of 15 years working experience in the forestry sector and good understanding of current ongoing forest policy processes
- Experience with international forest policy processes
- Good network with government agencies, ideally with MAF, MoIC and MoHRC
- Experience with international negotiations
- Personal Skills
  - Ability to work independently
  - Very good English skills
  - Strong communicative skills, in particular with regards to working with government officials, civil servants and NGOs
  - Strong resistance and ability for facilitation
  - Motivating and convincing attitude
  - Ability to work under pressure
  - Team player
  - Report writing skills (both in English and Lao)
  - Flexibility and high degree of mobility

Women are encouraged to apply. Interested candidates should send application-CV and a covering letter explaining how your experience meets the requirements latest by 15th October 2012 to HR Division of GIZ Office Vientiane, P.O.Box 9233, Vientiane Capital, or by e-mail to samprath.phetthany@giz.de.
Overseas volunteers joined together to give blood at the UN office in Vientiane last Friday to celebrate International Volunteers Day and motivate more people to donate blood.

This year the National Blood Transfusion Centre of the Lao Red Cross aims to source 30,000 units of blood to save the lives of those in need.

---Photo Sticozhou

Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism Prof. Dr Bosengkham Vongdara (right) and Thai Ambassador to Laos Mr Panya Chaivongsorn attend the celebration of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej at the Thai embassy in Vientiane on Friday.

The top five finalists in the Miss Laos 2012 contest pose after the judges picked the winners at the Don Chan Palace hotel on Friday. Over the coming year, the women will now be ambassadors for Lao customs and culture through various activities. ---Photo Sticozhou

---Photo Sticozhou

Ambassador of Australia to Laos Ms Lynda Worthaisong (second right) stands with (from left) David Sharman-Selvidge, Somchit Siri, Robyn Growett and Julie Hudson at a reception to celebrate International Volunteers Day on December 5 in Vientiane.

---Photo Sticozhou

JOB VACANCY

REDD+ Technical Field Coordinators

to be posted in Sayaboury / Houaphan

The Climate Protection through Avoided Deforestation” (CliPAD) TC Module is a Lao-German Bilateral Technical Cooperation (BT) activity working together with the Department of Forestry and Department of Forest Resource Management and provincial and district agencies in Sayaboury and Houaphan to develop REDD+ demonstration activities. The REDD+ technical field coordinator is responsible for the coordination on implementation of strategic REDD+ activities in the CliPAD target areas (Houaphan/Sayaboury).

Starting Date: As soon as possible

Work Location: Sayaboury/Houaphan (to be decided depending on applications)

Responsibilities:

• Serve as liaison officer and CliPAD focal point for the provincial and district governments and ensure close cooperation between CliPAD TC module and provincial/district government
• The coordinator is expected to cooperate with the district and provincial governments to ensure the implementation of CliPAD field activities
• Support REDD+ related planning processes involving local government and communities and in cooperation with them develop concepts for REDD+ demonstration activities such as Community forestry programs
• Support the CliPAD TC module for capacity development at the provincial and district levels in line with climate change mitigation issue;
• Work closely with both governmental and non-governmental organizations in innovative capacity development measures for Climate Change/REDD and coordinate/supervise the support of these processes.

Main Tasks and Responsibilities:

• Work as a liaison officer between CliPAD TC Module and local authorities to ensure a smooth implementation of the CliPAD TC Module
• Advise local government on participatory planning processes following the multi-stakeholder approach and work together with national, provincial and district levels to facilitate capacity development for REDD+ readiness at provincial and district levels
• Advise local government on possibilities for REDD+
• Conduct relevant workshops, training activities, seminars, etc. for implementation of CliPAD activities on local level
• Assist the principal advisor to CliPAD team in attending to the selected districts to ensure CliPAD partner activities are proceeding as planned

Knowledge Management:

• Keep the CliPAD team informed about ongoing initiatives relevant for his tasks in Sayaboury and Houaphan, and ensure knowledge transfer to Principal advisor of CliPAD
• Support regularly to the Principal advisor to project progress and impact in the framework of the Project Monitoring and Evaluation System

Management and Coordination Tasks:

• Participate in project planning, including preparation, organization and moderation of planning exercises;
• Provide inputs for the budget planning;
• Analyze the cooperation with local government, CED and CliPAD;
• Support the cooperation between TC Module and CliPAD on local level;
• Ensure good relations to local government and support the required CliPAD related administrative processes on partner side.

Others/Events Management:

• Support the provision of logistics for team and visitors;
• Support the preparation of logistics and guiding visitors in connection with field trips

Experience and Qualifications:

• At least 5 years professional experience, with at least 3 years’ professional experience in a comparable position
• Bachelor in an area that is related to the project/programme objectives, with a focus on a relevant field
• Good understanding of current ongoing REDD+ and forest policy processes;
• Experience in working with government agencies;
• Field work experience

Personal Skills:

• Ability to work independently
• Strong communicative skills, in particular with regards to working with government officials
• Conflict resolution and conflict solving/mediating
• Motivating and convincing attitude
• Ability to work under pressure
• Team player
• Report writing skills
• Flexibility and high degree of mobility

All applications will be treated confidentially and only short-listed candidates will be notified.

---Photo Sticozhou

JOB VACANCY

Junior Land Management Advisor

GIZ Land Management and Rural Economic Development Programme (GIZLM-RED) under the Lao-German Cooperation started its operation on 01 November 2011. GIZLM-RED’s period divided in to phases: the 1st phase is from 01 November 2011-30 September 2014; the 2nd phase is from 01 October 2014-30 September 2017. GIZLM-RED is comprised of three components: (1) land management, (2) decentralized development planning, and (3) rural economic development (which includes two sub-components: (1) investment promotion; (2) agricultural promotion development). While the land management component has been operated in only Luangnamtha province, the other two components have been operated in all three target provinces: Luangnamtha, Sayaboury and Attapeu.

Starting Date: 01 January 2013

Work Location: Vientiane Capital City

Main tasks and responsibilities:

Management responsibility

• Assist LMC TL in monitoring, managing and supervising staff and ensuring that they provide cost-effective services
• Assist LMC TL to plan, coordinate and organize tasks within the LMC team

Professional advisory services:

• Assist LMC TL to advise partner institution(s) on order clarification, identifying needs, developing concepts and strategies, and provides technical input on land management policy and procedure harmonization, activity planning and improvement, implementation of key functions in land management and building liaison between the departments and relevant agencies at all levels
• Assist LMC TL to deal with the design, preparation and implementation of workshops, seminars and other events on issues related to the LMC’s and programme’s area of activity
• Assist LMC TL to monitor LMC progress, reviews reports and documents on the progress programmes, identifies bottlenecks and recommends alternative management options to the programme director
• Assist LMC TL to supervise development and implementation of programme plan and LMC activities in close coordination with partner counterparts
• Assist LMC TL in defining terms of reference, selection, and supervision of contracted third parties in carrying out LMC activities, including performance evaluation
• Assist LMC TL to develop and organize quality assurance and proposes necessary changes, improvements, and initiatives.

Networking and cooperation

• Assist LMC TL to co-operate with and ensures regular contacts, dialogues, does FR work and cooperates with local communities, relevant organizations, non-governmental bodies and persons within the programme’s environment as well as with other projects in order to enhance and maintain good working relationships
• Assist, LMC TL with communication and channel local interests and aspirations and exchanges ideas and information for the benefit of the programme/LMC

Knowledge management

• Assist LMC TL to compile information on Land Management and ensure knowledge transfer
• Assist LMC TL to prepare reports and presentation materials

Experience and Qualifications:

• Bachelor in an area that is related to the project/programme objectives, with a focus on a relevant field
• At least 5 years professional experience, with at least 2 years professional experience in a comparable position
• Very good working knowledge of ITC technologies (related software, phone, fax, email, the internet) and computer applications (e.g. MS Office)
• A proven track record in a program/project management assistant position
• Fluent written and oral knowledge of the European language widely used in the country, e.g. English
• Willingness to up skill as required by the tasks to be performed – corresponding measures are agreed with management

All applications will be treated confidentially and only short-listed candidates will be notified.

---Photo Sticozhou

Women are encouraged to apply.

Interested candidates should send application-CV and a covering letter explaining how your experience meets the requirements latest by 15 December 2012 to HR Division of GIZ Office Vientiane, P.O.Box 9233, Vientiane Capital, or by e-mail to pamouane.phetthany@giz.de. All applications will be treated confidentially and only short-listed candidates will be notified.
Aquino declares state of national calamity

Philippine President Benigno Aquino III has placed the Philippines under a "state of national calamity" because of "the severe gravity of the damage" wrought by Typhoon “Pablo” in Mindanao, Central Visayas and Palawan this week. Aquino signed Proclamation No. 522 late Friday on the recommendation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRMC) to free up government resources and hasten the delivery of aid to thousands of people displaced by Pablo in Mindanao, Central Visayas and Palawan.

President Aquino has ordered an investigation to determine why so many people died despite early typhoon warnings from the government and widespread preparations for disaster response. Deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said that it would be found accountable would be spared.

The declaration also authorized local governments to use their calamity funds for search, relief and rescue operations.

Boar Longyear delivers the most effective drilling solution in the widest world variety of applications to

WAREHOUSE AND INVENTORY SUPERVISOR - Based in Vientiane Capital

Responsibilities:
• Direct and control all warehouse and inventory functions to optimise the utilisation of the Vientiane inventory, and of all forward site stocking locations.
• Ensure that all training of warehouse staff, establish lines of control and delegate responsibilities to team.
• Perform / Oversee following functions:
  • Monitors to IBC sales
  • Inventory Cycle counting
  • Min Max maintenance
  • Third party stock and transaction recording
  • Third party purchasing requirements
  • Inbound and outbound shipping records
  • Site reporting
  • Ware house housekeeping
  • Provide cost and quantity information for operations via ‘on-hand allocated’ reporting.
  • Provide stock turn analysis to assist management decision making
  • Collate and present daily performance reports and any other required inventory adjustments
  • Control and maintain reporting on inbound and outbound shipping
  • Perform expansion into other zone countries: Thailand Operations

Qualification:
• Three to five years warehousing or associated inventory experience
• Degree qualification preferred
• Experience in ERP systems, Oracle, SAP; Pronto will be preferred

ACCOUNTANT (ThaiLand), Based in Vientiane Capital

Responsibilities:
• Manage capital expenditure and reporting of cash expenses to Indochina Head Office
• Manage all receivables payable function
• Manage and process Accounts Payable
• Performing periodic month end closing, reconciliations of all bank accounts and other balance sheet items
• Preparation and analysis of profit and loss statements and prepare monthly and reporting packs for US GAAP disclosure.
• Provide all tax returns, annual/monthly reports, including payroll tax, prepaid payroll tax, VAT, withholding tax, corporate tax and any other applicable taxes.
• Liaise with local tax authorities.
• Provide assistance to management in dealing with all government departments, including customs officials where necessary.
• Ensure that accounting records and supporting documentation are kept current and available for audit and investigative purposes.
• Assist in preparation of budgets and planning.
• Assist in establishing and implementing relevant internal controls for the Thai Company.
• Continuously improve business processes, procedures and systems in order to meet future demands.
• Month End management of Intercompany commitments. Include of recognition of recognition of Intercompany balances and post and settlement functions.
• Provides assistance to other Indochina Finance team members when necessary

Requirements:
• Two – three years accounting experience
• Degree qualification in finance / accounting
• Registered accountant with the Dept. of Business Department
• Commercial acumen
• Analytical skills
• Knowledge of financial systems & accounting practices.
• Computer literate in Excel and Word
• Strong analytical skills & review methodologies
• Be able to use Microsoft Office – Word, Excel, Outlook and other requirement.
• Excellent English communication and writing.

Boar Longyear Company
Corporate Office
ISO 14001:2004 certified
ISO 9001:2000 certified (fully validated)
OSHA 1500/1 2007 certified

The view over Boston town in Davao Oriental province shows the massive devastation wrought by Typhoon “Pablo” on Tuesday morning, with the storm expected to return.”

---Photo Philippine Daily Inquirer

National Rural Livelihoods and Market Linkages Specialist

The Sustainable Silk Production Partnership Project under the Department of Trade Promotion and Product Development (TTPD), Sub-Excluding Unit (GOX), and Handaannaftaft (HLA) has published the following vacancy:

Boar Longyear delivers the most effective drilling solution in the widest world variety of applications to

WAREHOUSE AND INVENTORY SUPERVISOR - Based in Vientiane Capital

Responsibilities:
• Direct and control all warehouse and inventory functions to optimise the utilisation of the Vientiane inventory, and of all forward site stocking locations.
• Ensure that all training of warehouse staff, establish lines of control and delegate responsibilities to team.
• Perform / Oversee following functions:
  • Monitors to IBC sales
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  • Third party stock and transaction recording
  • Third party purchasing requirements
  • Inbound and outbound shipping records
  • Site reporting
  • Ware house housekeeping
  • Provide cost and quantity information for operations via ‘on-hand allocated’ reporting.
  • Provide stock turn analysis to assist management decision making
  • Collate and present daily performance reports and any other required inventory adjustments
  • Control and maintain reporting on inbound and outbound shipping
  • Perform expansion into other zone countries: Thailand Operations

Qualification:
• Three to five years warehousing or associated inventory experience
• Degree qualification preferred
• Experience in ERP systems, Oracle, SAP; Pronto will be preferred

PURCHASING ADMINISTRATION-BASED IN VIENTIANE CAPITAL

Responsibilities:
• General Purchasing function, utilisation in house purchasing systems.
• Perform following functions:
  • Purchase order production ( inventory, expense and internal )
  • Purchase order tracking and maintenance and approval requirements
  • Maintenance of the MR data base and duty allocated
  • Purchase order compliance as per BLP policies
  • Ensure open communication and cooperation between the major supply chain stakeholders, purchases, logistics, and inventory.
  • Participate in logistic functions, including import and export, as required.
• Ensuring all MR line items are ordered within given time frames.
• Ensuring Purchasing ECM responsibilities are fulfilled.
• Provide site staff assistance as required.
• Ensure logistics requirements via both internal and external providers are met and followed/Modified Procedures and policies.

Qualification:
• Three years Purchasing experience
• Degree qualification preferred
• Experience in ERP systems, Oracle, SAP; Pronto will be preferred

ACCOUNTANT (Thailand), Based in Vientiane Capital

Responsibilities:
• Manage capital expenditure and reporting of cash expenses to Indochina Head Office
• Manage all receivables payable function
• Manage and process Accounts Payable
• Performing periodic month end closing, reconciliations of all bank accounts and other balance sheet items
• Preparation and analysis of profit and loss statements and prepare monthly and reporting packs for US GAAP disclosure.
• Provide all tax returns, annual/monthly reports, including payroll tax, prepaid payroll tax, VAT, withholding tax, corporate tax and any other applicable taxes.
• Liaise with local tax authorities.
• Provide assistance to management in dealing with all government departments, including customs officials where necessary.
• Ensure that accounting records and supporting documentation are kept current and available for audit and investigative purposes.
• Assist in preparation of budgets and planning.
• Assist in establishing and implementing relevant internal controls for the Thai Company.
• Continuously improve business processes, procedures and systems in order to meet future demands.
• Month End management of Intercompany commitments. Include of recognition of recognition of Intercompany balances and post and settlement functions.
• Provides assistance to other Indochina Finance team members when necessary

Requirements:
• Two – three years accounting experience
• Degree qualification in finance / accounting
• Registered accountant with the Dept. of Business Department
• Commercial acumen
• Analytical skills
• Knowledge of financial systems & accounting practices.
• Computer literate in Excel and Word
• Strong analytical skills & review methodologies
• Be able to use Microsoft Office – Word, Excel, Outlook and other requirement.
• Excellent English communication and writing.
Italy’s PM says he intends to resign

ROME (Xinhua) -- Italy’s Prime Minister Mario Monti said on Saturday he intended to resign, according to a statement from his office.

After a two-hour meeting with Italian President Giorgio Napolitano, who has the power to dissolve parliament, Monti said he would step down after checking to see if parliament can pass his government’s budget law.

Should the budget law be passed “soon,” Monti said he would immediately “formalise” his irrevocable resignation in the hands of the president,” according to the statement.

Monti’s emergency cabinet of unelected technocrats has lost the support of former premier Silvio Berlusconi’s centre-right People of Freedom (PdL) party.

Earlier this week, the government appeared to risk collapsing when the PdL withdrew its support for two confidence votes in parliament.

The PdL lawmakers, the biggest group in parliament, abstained in a Senate vote on an economic-development package and in another vote in the House on measures to reduce the costs of the political system.

According to local experts, the fracturing of the political picture added up to the fragility of a restoration of public finances almost solely through austerity risks to generate “a general standstill” in the recession-hit country.

Following the Monti government’s resignation, Monti’s opponents and supporters triggered waves of protests nationwide and deadly clashes between police and demonstrators.

The closure of the two-week meeting in the Qatari capital was delayed for a whole day as diplomats from more than 190 countries pressed for any small progress that can be reached.

According to local experts, the fraying of the political picture added up to the fragility of a restoration of public finances almost solely through austerity risks to generate “a general standstill” in the recession-hit country.

Doha climate talks reach weak commitment by rich nations

DOHA (Xinhua) -- United Nations climate talks here in Doha on Saturday adopted a package of drafts of low-ambitious wording of Kyoto Protocol and weak commitment on climate finance after overnight negotiations over differences between developed and developing countries.

Meanwhile, the new commitment by rich nations would immediately “formalise” his irrevocable resignation in the hands of the president,” according to the statement.

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According to local experts, the fracturing of the political picture added up to the fragility of a restoration of public finances almost solely through austerity risks to generate “a general standstill” in the recession-hit country.

Second GMS regional communicable diseases control project

The Lao PDR has received a Grant from the Asian Development Bank towards the cost of the Regional Communicable Diseases Control Project II (CDC II). The Project aims to improve health and economic security of the GMS population, and will contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by reducing child mortality and other communicable diseases in the region through improving capacity for regional cooperation in CDC and improving CDC along borders and economic corridors.

In order to support project implementation, the Ministry of Health invites individual local consultants to indicate their interest in providing consulting services for the following position:

1. Information Technology Expert (36 person-month)

Duties: Under the direction of the project director, develop the database for the baseline and implement a Geographical Information System (GIS) on health network and CDC map, support information of project activities through RCU website, manage Video Conference room and communication system through Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP services, Skype).

Background: At least 3 years experiences in GIS (preferably in Arc view) and database management with degree or Diploma in IT with a speciality in GIS. Good knowledge of database building, Proficient in spoken and written English. Good ability working in a team environment.

Information and job descriptions for this position can be obtained from 8:00–12:00 hours and 13:30-16:30 hours until 18 December 2012 at the following address:

Dr. Prasongsingh Boupha,
Director General, Planning and International Cooperation Dept.
Dir. EA. CDC II Project No 0232-LAO(SF),Ministry of Health,
Fa Ngum Road, Sisattanak district, Vientiane Capital
in front of Don Chan Palaeo
Tel: 252753, 223146, Fax: 223146,
e-mail: pcu.cdc2@gmail.com

Letter of application and curriculum vitae must be submitted at the above address by 18 December 2012. Candidates will be recruited according to ADB procedures. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.
The most valuable Sedan
Invitation for Bids (IFB)
Rural Electrification Phase II (REPII) Project

Date: 27 NOV 2012
Grant No.: H2389-LA
IFB Title: Field Work Vehicles
IFB No.: REP II-6

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in Development Business, issue No. 609 of 30 June, 2003 and UNDB & dgnmark on January 16, 2006 & dgnmark on January 2, 2006

2. The Government of Lao People’s Democratic Republic intends to award a Grant from the International Development Association IDA, SIFC through the cost of the Rural Electrification Phase II (REPII) Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract No. REP II-6: Field Work Vehicles

3. Electricité du Laos (short form EdL) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of Field Work Vehicles for the Project in 2 lots.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item No.</th>
<th>ITEM DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lot 1</td>
<td>Pick-up Double Cab</td>
<td>Nee</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 2</td>
<td>Beam Effer truck</td>
<td>Nee</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bidders may bid for one or multiple lots. Bid evaluation and contract award will be on lot basis.

4. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank’s Guidelines on Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, dated May 2001, revised October 2006 and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from EdL. (Managing Director, E-mail: edlp@edl Laos.com) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address No. 1 below from 08.00 AM to 12.00 AM and 02.30 PM to 04.30 PM, Monday to Friday.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in the English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address No. 1 below and payment of a nonrefundable fee of US$ 50 (Fifty US dollars only). The method of payment will be cash or by cashier’s cheque drawn on a Bank in Lao PDR. The bidding documents can be secured from the address below while for those outside the country the bidding documents by courier if so requested, upon confirmation of payment to include courier fee of US$ 50.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address No. 2 below at or before 02.00 PM local time on 17 January, 2013. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders’ representatives, who choose to attend at address No. 2 below at 02.00 PM local time on 17 January, 2013. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of USD $14,000 (Fourteen thousand US dollars only) for each lot. The bid security form shall be a bank guarantee in accordance with the form provided in the Bidding Document.

8. The addresses referred to above are:

Address No. 1
Managing Director
Electricité du Laos
Transmission Line & Substation Development Department
Tel: +856-21-451-319
Facsimile: +856-21-451-309
Lao-Thai Friendship Rd., Thongkang Village, Siattana District, Lao P.D.R.
E-mail: edlp@edl Laos.com
P.O. Box 308, Vientiane capital, Lao P.D.R.

Address No. 2
Lao-Thai Friendship Rd., Thongkang Village, Siattana District, Lao P.D.R.
P.O. Box 308, Vientiane capital, Lao P.D.R.

Ministry of Health, CCM Secretariat-GEATM, Lao PDR

Vacancy Announcement

Introduction:
The Country Coordinating Mechanism to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in Lao PDR (CCM-LPDR) is a national consensus group created in the framework of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. CCM-LPDR was received a Grant from the GEATM for the period of 2007-2010; this fund will support the activities and human resources assigned to the CCM’s executive secretariat (CCM sec). In this framework the CCM-GEATM has a vacancy for the position of

Assistant to the Country Coordinating Mechanism Executive Secretariat (CCM Sec)

Under the general responsibility of the Executive Secretary, under the daily supervision of the Coordinating & Financial Officer and in close collaboration with the International TACOS/GEATM incumbent, performs the following functions:

1. Administrative clerical and accounting services as follows:
   - Preparation and submission of invoices to the CCM, the Oversight Committee (CCM) meetings and site visits
   - Daily maintenance of the CCM’s email account. Take notes during meetings and drafts minutes and letters in English and Lao
2. Coordination and communication as needed with other CEM-related entities or organizations, quarterly update of membership of/CMC and contact lists of related committees and partners
   - Facilitate the coordination of the dissemination of information as requested by the CCM: to maintain updated the CCM website: Drop Box or another computerized storage system
   - Ensure the good functioning and maintenance of equipment and furniture
   - Maintain the CCM’s fixed assets register and its log book
4. Reporting:
   - Collaborate in producing activity & financial reports: Organization of bills and financial supporting documents, coordinate variance analysis, produce accounting reports as per guidelines.
   - Ensure all supporting documents available at the time of audit

Education:
The post holder should have at least an equivalent of graduation from secondary school with thorough training in accounting and executive secretarial and clerical duties.

Knowledge & skills:
- Thorough knowledge of office procedures, typing and stenographic skills at required speed (English & Lao)
- Ability to develop weekly plans, discern routine from non-routine and set up priorities in work
- Ability to draft correspondence, summary of meetings and notes for record
- Ability to use word processing equipment and adapt to various software applications including accounting
- Ability to work on financial management
- Ability to work harmoniously as a member of a team, adapt to diverse educational and cultural backgrounds and maintain high standards of personal conduct

Experience:
The post holder must have a least three years’ experience in secretarial/clerical post preferably having experience working with international organization.

Language:
- Sound knowledge of spoken and written English and Lao.

Interested and qualified candidates are invited to submit applications and curriculum vitae in the English language with a subject line “Assistant to the Country Coordinating Mechanism Secretariat (CCM Sec) to “CCM Sec, Ministry of Health, Sakenau Road, Vientiane, Tel: +856-21-254456, Mobile: 020 56052535.”

Email: cmsec.map@health.gov.la” before 15th December 2012 at 4 p.m.
NEW HILUX VIGO
CHAMP
THE FUEL EFFICIENT TRUCK
with WORLD CLASS QUALITY

Wake up the spirit of Champion with world class fuel efficient technology
New Diamond Tech Commonrail, the intelligent system is designed to control fuel injection
by ECU to maximize efficiency from every single drop of fuel.

Toyota Authorized Dealers

Lao Toyota Service Co., Ltd (Vientiane Head Office) : 021-253 002-3
Toyota Lao Savan Co., Ltd (Savannah Head Office) : 041-260 892-4
Toyota Champal Co., Ltd (Paksixe Head Office) : 031-218 888
Friends-International is a social enterprise that works with marginalized urban children and youth, their families and communities. To support them become independent and productive citizens of their country, Friends-International (FI) is seeking a qualified candidate to fill the position of Technical Assistant for Phnom Penh. Its program in Vientiane, Lao PDR, is seeking 60 local staff and works daily with 800 youth and children in Vientiane. Phnom Penh is assisting child protection programs in the Lao PDR.

**Position overview:**
- **Technical Assistant** will work in close collaboration and build the capacity of the Country Program Director and other key program staff members in all aspects related to administration, communication and fundraising for different projects.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANT will:**
- Coordinate fundraising activities, include of proposal writing, with the support of FI Head Office;
- Develop and complete donor reports in liaison with management;
- Maintain good relations with working donors and identify potential donors;
- Attend and represent FI during regular stakeholder meetings in Vientiane;
- Facilitate support research to better understand the needs of beneficiaries and the changing environment around them;
- Conduct frequent field monitoring and support the team to use the FI monitoring and evaluation tools;
- Improve the quality of the overall internal and external communications of the program in collaboration with the Friends-International Communications team;
- Liaison with Friends-International Head Office on communications, donor relations.

**Experiences and qualifications:**
- University Degree in Development, International Relations, Communications or any related field;
- Minimum 2 years of experience in NGO field work, in grants writing, donor relations, monitoring and evaluation;
- Understanding of child issues and other social issues in Laos;
- English in English, Laos is a plus;
- Excellent interpersonal relations, good communication, writing and organizational skills;
- Able to work in a multicultural environment;
- Able to work with a remote team (based in Phnom Penh);

**Location:** This position is based in Vientiane.

**Duration:** Full time work

**Salary and benefits** will be commensurate with qualifications and experiences.

Interested candidates are requested to submit a cover letter with a CV and salary expectations to hr@friends-international.org with the subject line: Technical Assistant-Phnom Penh.

Friends-International is an equal opportunity employer and the successful candidate will be selected based on merit.

The successful applicant will be expected to comply with Friends-International’s Child Protection Policy.

Applications must be submitted before 18th December 2012 and will not be returned. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews.

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**Mekong River Commission**

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

MRC Secretariat is now recruiting highly qualified candidates for the positions of:

1. **Project Coordinator**
   - Mekong-Integrated Water Resources Management Project, Planning Division
   - Post level: B-13
   - Position is based at the Office of the MRC Secretariat in Vientiane, Lao PDR

2. **Programme Officer (ISH Products Dissemination Officer)**
   - Initiative on Sustainable Hydropower, Planning Division
   - Post level: B-11
   - Position is based at the Office of the MRC Secretariat in Vientiane, Lao PDR

3. **Wetland Ecosystem Specialist**
   - Environment Programs, Environment Division
   - Post level: B-11 (Re-enforcement)
   - Position is based at the Office of the MRC Secretariat in Vientiane, Lao PDR

4. **Environmental Management Specialist**
   - Environment Programs, Environment Division
   - Post level: B-11 (Re-enforcement)
   - Position is based at the Office of the MRC Secretariat in Vientiane, Lao PDR

5. **Finance Officer**
   - Finance and Administration Section
   - Post level: B-11
   - Position is based at the Office of the MRC Secretariat in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The job descriptions and other information can be obtained at MRC website: [http://www.mekongriver.org](http://www.mekongriver.org), working with mrc@mekongriver.org. Qualified female candidates are encouraged to apply. Only short-listed candidates will be notified.

**Closing date for applications:** 21 December 2012

**Application procedures:**
Only nationals of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam are eligible to apply. The application should be submitted in a single document, clearly how the candidate meets the requirements of the position. B-13 is detailed CV and (B) MRC Personal History Form. The position title and section/division must be indicated in the cover letter. The application should be sent to the National Mekong Committee in the applicant’s home country.

**Cambodia National Mekong Committee**
- Prime Minister’s Office, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Tel: (855-23) 255-898
- E-mail: cmrc.mekong@gmail.com

**Lao National Mekong Committee**
- Prime Minister’s Office, Vientiane, Laos PDR
- Tel: (856-21) 255-999
- E-mail: lcmrc.mekong@gmail.com

**Viet Nam National Mekong Committee**
- Prime Minister’s Office, Hanoi, Viet Nam
- Tel: (84-4) 822-4780
- Fax: (84-4) 822-4780
- E-mail: vmcmrc.mekong@gmail.com
DISCOVER YOUR POTENTIAL. DEVELOP YOUR FUTURE. GROW WITH PHU BIA MINING.

IT ENGINEER
Location: Phu Kham Operation
Roster: 20 days on, 8 days off

This is an important leadership role within our Loss Prevention team based at our Phu Kham Copper-Gold Operation. Reporting to the Senior Loss Prevention Officer, you will be responsible for leading a team of Loss Prevention Officers who conduct checks and searches at the mine site entrance and access points. Your responsibilities will include:

- Managing access control points to prevent unauthorized access to restricted areas
- Overseeing the work of junior loss prevention staff across the mine site
- Participating in the conduct of safety inspections, observations, breath tests and seatbelt checks
- Providing first aid and emergency response if required
- Checking all test results
- Conducting on-the-ground safety inspections, observations, breath tests and seatbelt checks
- Providing first aid and emergency response if required

To be successful in this role, you will require:

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, or IT
- Minimum 5 years experience in software development or implementation of projects associated with application services or software support
- Experience working within a mining or heavy industry environment
- Good verbal and written communication skills in English and Lao

Locatie: Vientiane Office
Roster: 5 days on, 2 days off

To be successful in this role, you will require:

- Experienced in database administration/applications administration
- Experience in networking, virtualization or data storage
- Experience in managing database applications and Microsoft Windows Server Environment
- Excellent English and Lao communication skills
- Strong interpersonal and people management skills
- Good written and verbal communication skills

LABORATORY TEAM LEADER
Location: Ban Houangayasi Operation
Roster: 20 days on, 8 days off

This is an important leadership role within our laboratory team. Reporting to the Senior Chemist who oversees the lab, this role is based in our in-house analytical laboratory located at the Ban Houangayasi site. As member of our in-house laboratory team, you will be responsible for ensuring the safety of our employees, clients, and services. Your responsibilities will include:

- Ensuring all sampling and analysis is done in accordance with approved procedures
- Preparing raw analytical reagents and equipment for daily demand for the plant
- Ensuring samples are kept according to established procedures
- Conducting routine and ongoing maintenance of laboratory equipment
- Assisting in designing and conducting sampling and analysis
- Assisting in setting up and conducting chemical experiments in compliance to the Cyanide Code

To be successful in this role, you will require:

- Degree in Chemistry at Advanced level
- Minimum 2 years experience in a laboratory, ideally within the mining processing industry
- Demonstrated ability to lead and check the work of a small team
- Good verbal and written English and Lao
- Competent in Microsoft Office suite

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

SENIOR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS ADVISOR
Location: Vientiane Office
Roster: 5 days on, 2 days off

To be successful in this role, you will require:

- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration or a related field
- Minimum 2 years' experience in supply related activities within mining or similar heavy industry
- Fluency in English and Lao, with advanced writing and speaking skills
- Component in Microsoft Office suite, with experience in a computerised warehousing system advantage

PURCHASING OFFICER
Location: Phu Kham Site
Roster: 20 days on, 8 days off

To be successful in this role, you will require:

- Minimum two years' experience in supply related activities within mining or similar heavy industry
- Good skills in Microsoft Office
- Good verbal and written communication skills
- Strong organizational and planning ability
- Good interpersonal and communication skills

We are committed to diversity, we encourage women to apply for all available positions. Our modern mine camps provide great Lao, Asian and Western food, sport and recreational facilities and housekeeping services. Site-based employees work a roster of 20 days on, 8 days off. Your responsibilities will include:

- Reporting to the Senior Purchasing Manager, you will be one of Phu Bia Mining's key representatives who liaise with senior Lao Government officials, NGOs and other Lao-based companies regarding Phu Bia Mining's exploration and exploitation activities in Laos.
- Conducting on the ground safety inspections, observations, breath tests and seatbelt checks
- Ensuring all sampling and analysis is done in accordance with approved procedures
- Excellent English and Lao communication skills
- Strong interpersonal and people management skills
- Good written and verbal communication skills
- Good skills in Microsoft Office

For general enquiries or assistance completing an online application, please contact our Recruitment team on 021 268 000.

Visit our website at www.panaust.com.au/current-vacancies to explore our current opportunities. We encourage you to apply online via our website, or to apply in person at our Vientiane office at 7th Floor Capital Tower (Indochina Bank Building), 23 Singhas Road, Savaythi District, Vientiane. For general enquiries or assistance completing an online application, please contact our Recruitment team on 021 268 000.
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT  
(Announcement No. 12/59)

OPEN TO:  
All interested candidates

POSITION:  
Chauffeur, FSN-3

OPENING DATE:  
November 27, 2012

CLOSING DATE:  
December 14, 2012

WORK HOURS:  
Full-time; 48 hours/week

SALARY:  
Actual grade and salary will be based on the qualifications of the applicant.

NOTE: THIS IS A LOCAL POSITION. THE SELECTED CANDIDATE WILL COME UNDER LOCAL LABOR LAW, AND BE PAID ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY’S LOCAL COMPENSATION PLAN. ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST BE RESIDING IN LAOS AND HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND/OR RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.

The U.S. Embassy in Vientiane is seeking an individual for the position of Chauffeur in the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC).

BASIC FUNCTION OF POSITION

The incumbent serves as the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command’s (JPAC) chauffeur. Operates JPAC vehicles in a safe manner and performs daily maintenance inspections. Chauffeurs JPAC personnel and authorized visitors, transports personnel to and from the airport in Vientiane and Udon, Thailand and assists visitors with luggage.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

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

1. Education: Completion of elementary school is required
2. Prior Work Experience: At least one year progressive experience as a chauffeur
3. Language Proficiency: Basic knowledge of English and good working knowledge of Lao language is required
4. Knowledge: Knows how to operate and perform minor repairs to passenger vehicles and trucks. Must be familiar with local laws and traffic pattern
5. Skills and Abilities: Posses valid driving licenses for both passenger cars and trucks

HOW TO APPLY

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

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

SUBMIT APPLICATION TO

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

POINT OF CONTACT

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

Interested persons should contact Embassy Human Resources Office for more information. Blank application forms may be picked up from the cabinet inside the Embassy Entrance.

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

CLOSING DATE FOR THIS POSITION: December 14, 2012

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Email: winsteel@etlao.com. Tel.: 021-452291-2, 020 5541 7687/7633 1031/15665 2945, Fax: 021 450473
**NOTICE OF RECRUITMENT – LAO NATIONAL STAFF**

The Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA) is a Norwegian humanitarian organization supporting capacity building and development in many countries and has been engaged in the UXO clearance in Laos since 1997. The strategic goal for the programme is to reduce the humanitarian and socio-economic threat posed by unexploded ordnance (UXO). NPA Lao PDR is regulated by the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) for the UXO Sector. The programme currently has 251 staff and receives funding from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NOMFA), Norwegian Telethon (NRK-1) and the United States Department of State. NPALaos wishes to recruit a qualified and well-motivated person for the following positions:

### 1. Field Finance Officer (4 positions), base in Saravan, Ta-Oy, Sekong and Attapue, one position in each base

**Duties and Responsibilities**

- Maintain financial records and financial system, which conform to the accounting standard and practices of NPA HQ in Oslo.
- Prepare monthly cash flows reports to the Field Manager. Provides update of fund balances and prepare cash flow plan for the next operational period.
- Review travel claims and other claims.
- Ensure sufficient and timely disbursements of cash to project activities as per request.
- Ensure timely payment of bills with prior approval by the Field Manager.
- Ensure that all expenditures at the offices are properly recorded on a daily basis in the ledger and all expenditures are properly authorized on the appropriate vouchers and accompanied by appropriate original receipts. Report discrepancies to the Line Manager and make corrections as advised.
- Prepare all vouchers from field office and filing.
- Other duties assigned to him/her by the supervisor.

**Qualifications and personal qualities required**

- Two years of experience working within the relative field.
- Previous experience working for an INGO is an advantage.
- Good written and spoken English.
- Previous experience working for an INGO is an advantage.
- Good computer skills.
- Willingness to travel and work in other location within Laos if needed.

### 2. IT Officer (1 Position), base in Vientiane

**Duties and Responsibilities**

- Ensure compliance with NPA global policies and guidelines on information technology in cooperation regional Information Management Advisor (RIMA).
- Make sure that the structure and consistency of the common KnowledgeBase within NPA offices is maintained up to set standards and accessible to all.
- Provide maintenance and repair of informatics hardware, software and networking services.
- Provide upgrading system when required, data backups, antivirus installation and update, and internet security to all users.
- Provide remote and on-site IT troubleshooting support to all users at country office and at the provincial offices when required.
- Develop IT training materials, system documentation, templates and other relevant documents related to IT in dialog with RIMA.
- Conduct basic and first hand IT users trainings at NPA offices when required e.g. sharing and access resources, basic Windows, MS Word, MS Excel, MS Project, MS Visio, etc.
- Make sure that all computers in NPA offices are connected in the network and that all staff have access to shared resources such as printers, scanners, internet, etc.
- Assess needs and requirement of IT equipment (hardware and software) at all NPA offices and make recommendation for upgrade to RIMA.
- Maintain and update NPA Lao PDR workspace on SharePoint with current information and upload continuously all the key and finalized documents in SharePoint site.
- Manage the overall delivery of the services in an effective and efficient manner and working closely with the RIMA in SEA.
- Any other relevant tasks assigned to by RIMA.

**Qualifications Required**

- Bachelor degree in IT, computer science or studies in information management.
- Sound IT knowledge and skills.
- Experienced in computer handling and data acquisition.
- Experience on computer maintenance and computer security software.
- A realistic and objective approach to new technologies and methodologies.
- Cooperating ability with all colleagues.
- At least 3 years of progressive working experience in any reputable organization or enterprise in the field of IT and telecommunication.
- Experience in using MS Office applications.
- Understanding of relational database management system (RDBMS).
- Understanding and knowledge of GIS (Geographical Information Systems).
- Knowledge in technical IT would be an asset.
- Capable of working independently and in groups.
- Willing to undertake domestic and international travels when required.
- Previous working experience in mine action would be an asset.

Interested candidates are requested to submit a CV and a cover letter to NPAoffice: 368 Ban Saphanhong, Siwatthasuk District, VientianeCity, and Tel: +856 20 264 812, or via e-mail address hr@npalao.org. The deadline for applications is December 18, 2012 (at 17:00).

Women and disabled people are encouraged to apply. Only short-listed candidates will be notified.
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More Information:
Head Office: Kolao T2, Oupmoung Village, Sihanoukville, Cambodia
18 | Monday December 10, 2012
Vientiane Times

LEXUS

PROJECT LEADER - Strengthening the Role of Law Through Legal University Education
Faculty of Law and Political Science
National University of Laos

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Lex-Development, the Executing Agency for Bilateral Development Co-operation financed by the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg assists the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLP), National University of Laos, through the project Strengthening the Rule of Law through Legal University Education (LAO/023), to improve the quality of teaching, providing the students enhanced theoretical and practical knowledge in coherence with labour market needs. The project further aims at improving the physical and institutional capacity of the Faculty.

The project started in June 2010 and has duration of 4 years.

We are seeking qualified candidates for the position of administrative assistant (AA).

The main functions of the administrative assistant consist of:
- Administration of Project Office
- Coordination with faculty staff members.
- Collaboration and support to administrative staffs and advisors.
- Coordinal/coordinate of language support services.
- Other tasks that may be required in the framework of the project.

Candidate profile:
- University education, preferably in the field of business Administration or Education is a requirement.
- At least 1 year of experience working in ODA projects in Laos, which have included frequent contacts with Lao Governmental agencies.
- Fluency in Lao language, speaking, reading, and writing.
- Good English in speaking, reading, and writing.
- Proficient with the MS Office package or similar software. Willingness to learn new software applications.
- Knowledge and experience from local working procedures, especially procedures applied by Governmental agencies.
- Good communication skills.
- Innovative and creative team player.

A full job description can be obtained from Phrachai Leks chats@fork@kdluxdev.

Working stations: LAO/023 project office, 1/LP, Ban Donnchamnua Campus in Vientiane, LAO F.G.R.
Salary: based on experience and qualification.
Duration of contract: one year (renewable), with a two-month probation period.
Expected starting date: ASAP
Deadline for submitting applications is: 31 December 2012.

Applications should be in English consisting of Curriculum Vitae, copies of relevant educational qualifications and a cover letter should be forwarded by email to:
LAO/023 Project Office; E-mail: Phrachai.laks@fork@kdluxdev.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interview.

Lao Uplands Food Security Improvement Project (LUSFIP)
National Coordination Office
Department of Planning
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Contact No: 20/2325 NCO

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Re-advertised

1. The Government of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic has received a Grant from the International Development Association (IDA) and the European Union Food Crisis Response Facility Trust Fund, to finance the Lao Uplands Food Security Improvement Project (LUSFIP). It intends to invite proposals for the procurement of Motorcycles under contract No. 2012/53 NCO.

2. LUSFIP now invites sealed bids from interested and eligible bidders to supply and deliver:

2 units of Motorcycles

The delivery period is within 45 days from the date of notification of contract award.

3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with National Competitive Bidding procedures of the World Bank’s Procurement Guidelines, May 2004, revised October 2006 and the public bidding procedures specified in the Decree of the Procurement of Goods, Works, Maintenance and Services dated 9 January 2004 and to the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), Ministry of Finance No. 003/MEF, 12 March 2004 so far as the details of tender are consistent with the World Bank’s Procurement Guidelines.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect tender documents from 8:30 to 16:00 hours at the address given below:

National Coordination Office
Lao Uplands Food Security Improvement Project
Department of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Patuxay, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
Tel/Fax: 021 263 657
Email: paul.souanxay@yahoo.com

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application to the address given below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 200,000 Kip. The method of payment will be by cash or by cheque drawn on a Bank operating in Lao PDR. The method of delivery shall be hand to hand at the purchaser address above and the delivery by courier can be arranged upon request by bidders, but the additional fee shall be paid by bidders to cover the actual mailing cost.

6. Bids must be delivered at or before 3:00PM hour local time on 27 December 2012. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened to the bidders. All bids will be opened at 3:00PM hour on 27 December 2012 at the National Coordination Office in the presence of the Bidding Committee and the Bidders’ representatives who choose to attend.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(Announcement No. 12/2)

OPEN TO: All interested candidates
POSITION: Security Guards (2) Residences and 1 NEC, FSN-2
OPENING DATE: December 7, 2012
CLOSING DATE: December 21, 2012
WORK HOURS: Full-time 48 hours week
SALARY: Actual salary will be based on the qualifications of the applicant.

NOTE: THIS IS A LOCAL POSITION THE SELECTED CANDIDATE WILL COME UNDER LOCAL LABOR LAWS AND EXPIRES ACADEMIC YEAR'S LOCAL COMPENSATION PLAN. ALL ORDINARY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST BE Lao NDAOD AND HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.

The U.S. Embassy in Vientiane is seeking two individuals for the positions of Residential Guards and one individual for the New Embassy Compound (NEC) Guard. NEC Guard positions will be eliminated after the completion of the NEC project.

BASE FUNCTION OF POSITION:
In charge of security guards for all official residences and offices in the local Guard Shift Supervisor. He/she is responsible for consulting access, securing, patrolling and reporting all problems, incidents or emergencies as official residences.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:
1. Education: Completion of primary school is required.
2. Prior Work Experience: One year of directly applicable experience in reliable, outstanding security service. Good working knowledge of Lao language (level 3) is required.
3. Knowledge: Must be thoroughly familiar with all Embassy Guardroom, procedures, standards and emergency responses.
4. Skills: Must be physically fit and able.

HOW TO APPLY:
Interested applicants for this position must submit the following for the application to be considered:
1. Universal Application for Employment (Form OS-74). Download the format: http://laos consulate.gov.pol year=opportunities.html
2. Candidates who claim U.S. Veterans preference must provide a copy of their Form DD-214 with their application.
3. Any other documentation (e.g., essays, certificates, awards, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualifications requirements of the position as listed above.

SUBMIT APPLICATION TO:
Human Resources Officer
American Embassy
Rue Bartholomé, That Dam
P.O.Box 114, Vientiane, Laos
(Handwritten or e-mail attachments are accepted)

POINT OF CONTACT
Telephone: 156-2-26716
Fax: 156-2-267140
E-mail: VientianeHR@state.gov

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

CLOSING DATE FOR THIS POSITION: December 21, 2012
An equal opportunity employer
The annual celebration of human rights on 10 December falls on the same day that the EU will receive the Nobel Peace Prize. The coincidence is serendipitous.

The EU is being honoured for promoting democracy, human rights and reconciliation, and for spreading peace and stability across the continent. This is a great recognition of our past achievements. Yet it also focuses the spotlight on all of us -- EU Institutions, Member States, and 500 million citizens -- to work together and redouble our efforts to promote and protect human rights not just within our borders, but worldwide.

Indeed, this past July, the EU adopted a Human Rights Strategy and appointed the first EU Special Representative for human rights. Human rights are the silver thread that runs through the EU's external action: from trade to the environment, aid to security. It is recognition of the fact that in almost every human suffering and conflict in the world today, respect for human rights is a vital part of the solution.

But we can only advance human rights effectively, if we work together and share the responsibility of promoting and protecting them. Advancing rights demands that the EU forge broad alliances -- with other governments, with international organisations, with the private sector, and, above all with civil society. Today the EU works closely with partners around the globe, such as the UN, the OSCE, the Council of Europe and the African Union. We take more than one election for deep democracy to take hold. In celebrating the right to public participation we want to honour the work of all human rights defenders who fight for the right to express their views, participate in elections and hold public office. We also want to highlight the important work of civil society in enfusing this right deeply in the social fabric of more and more countries.

The human rights movement will have truly succeeded when every person feels a shared responsibility to respond to the urgent need to fight for the rights of others.

A vibrant civil society and enhanced dialogue between NGOs and governments, international organisations is the key to ensuring human rights democracy and the rule of law. Last week, the 14th Annual EU NGO Forum brought together over 200 committed human rights defenders, activists and policy makers in Brussels. At home, they often lonely voices; together, they form a virtual chorus of freedom. The EU will throw its full weight behind such advocates of liberty around the world.

This is because exclusion is more the rule rather than the exception in too many places. In many countries, citizens are denied the opportunity to have a say in central decisions affecting their lives. Some are even tortured or imprisoned for expressing their views.

One of the European Parliament's 2012 Sakharov Prize winners, Nasrin Sotoudeh, knows this only too well. She has displayed immense courage by putting her life on the line to remonstrate against the restrictions on her family's rights.

The human rights movement will have truly succeeded when every person feels a shared responsibility to respond to the urgent need to fight for the rights of others. We should look to 10 December this year as a new start for this profound and universal challenge.

So on human rights day let us not point fingers, but join hands for a common effort to ensure that every woman and every man has the opportunity to have their say in shaping their personal lives, and the lives of their communities and their societies.

Stavros Lambrinidis
European Union Special Representative for Human Rights
**Feature**

**Just as important as a book**

As international toy companies expand in China, the value of recreation is getting more play.

Zhao Yanrong, China Daily

CHINA – For Wang Ye, a 34-year-old full-time housewife in Beijing, it’s difficult to understand how a simple toy truck can distract her 15-month-old son for hours. Wang, who said she had more free time to play with her children than with toys as a child, takes her son to the Joy City Shopping Mall in the capital’s Xidan neighborhood about three times a week. She said her son is able to sit in a toy store for more than an hour without wanting his mother. That worries her. What if he becomes addicted to toys? What if he keeps asking for more and more toys?

“The daughter of my cousin is about 4 years old now, and no matter how many toys her mother buys, she still asks for new ones,” Wang says.

Wang is among China’s latest generation of new parents in their late 20s and early 30s who are stuck in a parental conundrum. Many of their own parents preached education over playtime, hard work over leisure. But after three decades under the one-child policy in China and rapid economic growth, in which more affluent families are focusing all their attention on the baby - and new parents often believe the easiest way to take care of their elderly parents (as required by law) is by living with them - there are plenty of adults looking after and spending on the only child in the apartment. Such opportunistic toy industry are obviously plentiful.

“Nowadays, kids are very lucky to have so many fancy places to be and so many options to play with,” Wang says.

But in order to get more parents and grandparents to frequent toy stores, companies that hope to recreation being seen as a more important part of child rearing. So what should a toy company in China do to be more successful, especially in a country where the average annual expense on toys for each child is less than 30 yuan (approximately US$4.90)?

The figure ranks far behind the average on the Asian continent at US$133 per year. Fortunately, there are more than 400 million Chinese children aged 14 or younger. China is also the toy mecca, manufacturing more than 70 percent of the toys in the world, and its toy market is expected to double to 60 billion yuan by 2015 from 2010, according to the China Toy and Juvenile Product Association. One resource that companies can use to find clues as to what strategy reaps success in China’s toy industry is the shopping mall, according to industry experts.

Many major toy companies, such as the Walt Disney Co, Lego, Toys “R” Us, and Mattel, have expanded their sales coverage in China within the past three years. At the Joy City Shopping Mall in Beijing where Wang frequents, there are about 20 retail stores catered to children, including a massive Toys “R” Us at 1,300 square metres. Retail stores for children, experts say, are highly welcomed by commercial real estate companies in China. In a shopping mall, these toy stores can attract more customers and at the same time enhance sales figures in retail, dining and entertainment for the mall, according to Joy City Shopping Mall representatives.

“Opening up [stores] in shopping malls is definitely the strategy that Toys “R” Us is adopting in China. Chinese consumers prefer places where there is a lot of entertainment, which is different from most of our traditional markets,” says Mark Murphy, country manager for Toys “R” Us China. “We try to make our stores more enjoyable to be in and have the kids can actually play with the toys, and also have them spend as much time as they like.”

The Joy City Shopping Mall store is the company’s model for further expansion in northern China in terms of size, layout and location, Murphy says.

“International expansion is a key part of our overall strategy, and we are committed to further growth and investment in our business in China,” said Jerry Storch, chairman and CEO of Toys “R” Us, which is based in New Jersey, during the opening of the company’s Beijing store in August. “Our expansion into Beijing is an important step as we aggressively extend the Toys “R” Us brand throughout Asia.”

Around August, two Toys “R” Us stores, including the one at Joy City Shopping Mall, opened in Beijing. The world’s leading retailer in toy and baby products plans to open about 30 stores across 21 cities in China. It also launched its own online shopping site in China last month in a bid to tap into the country’s fast-expanding middle-income consumers. To appeal to China’s education-minded parents, Toys “R” Us is also introducing more educational toys, such as microscopes. It has also designed toys specifically for Chinese kids, such as a doll in the likeness of Balala the Fairy for girls and Battle Action Role-Play for boys.

“We hope to put in more local Chinese characters that kids in China know very well,” says Murphy, who added that there will be a wider assortment of educational toys in future to help parents.

It’s unlikely that every overseas toy company will have the clout or the expertise of a major retailer such as Toys “R” Us, but experts say in China’s emerging market, there is still time to adjust strategies.

Mattel, based in California, spent millions of dollars to open a six-story flagship store in Shanghai in 2009, but closed it last year. The Barbie maker did not provide a reason for the closure.

Children play with Transformers at a toy exhibition in Beijing. The rising purchasing power of Chinese children has attracted many toy companies.
The hidden side of ancient Hue

Only a memory: Located between two cities of Hue and Da Nang, Suoi Voi has ancient links with elephants. It is becoming popular with tourists.

Outstanding: Tourists cool off in the splendid natural swimming pool in Suoi Voi.

VIETNAM -- When you talk about tourism in the ancient city of Hue, many people will think about the mausoleums of the Vietnamese kings. Once those sites have been checked off the list, there is nothing left to see and no need to return. That is the established thinking, anyway.

To me, however, it is very different. I am fascinated by this small and historic city and its surroundings, and I am struck by a great happiness every time I return. There is far more to Hue than meets the eye.

I love the cuisine, the beautiful scenery and the slow pace, and it is easily among one of my favorite destinations.

My love for Hue has been enriched even more after a recent visit to Suoi Voi (Elephant Spring), which is hidden away in Loc Tien Commune in Phu Loc District.

In this place, my friend and I swam in the springs, played in the forest and ate delicious local chicken. It was a wonderful day.

Suoi Voi is about 60km from the centre of Hue, and 40km from Da Nang City. Its location between these two cities makes it a popular pit-stop for people making the journey between the two.

While people call it a spring, it would be more accurate to say that it is a network of pure springs, boulders, mountains and jungle which come together to create a truly stunning landscape.

The journey there is unremarkable, and the road is made of cement. We parked the car when we could go no further and clambered up high steps with some uncertainty. Then the spring appeared.

It was breathtaking. Suddenly I became very aware of an incredibly fresh atmosphere caused by the pure cool pool of water and the green of the surrounding forest.

Bamboo huts built by local people lined the two sides of the stream, with the water bubbling past creating a natural soundtrack to the idyllic scene.

Visitors here are able to hire a hut, take a rest and enjoy the local cuisine.

We did exactly this, and lay back with our feet dangling into the cool flow of water. Talking to the hut’s owner, I was informed that Suoi Voi was once called Suoi Me (Me Spring – me meaning large elephant in the ancient language).

In spring, she explained while preparing a meal for us, when the weather was warm hundreds of elephants from Bach Ma Mountain would come to the forest and this particular stream to find cassava shrubs and other food.

Oddly, they only came to this one region, and then after some time – just as mysteriously they left for the last time and never came back.

The elephants left their marks in the shape of large holes surrounding the spring, which over time filled with water to become small pools. These are clear and cool and instantly attractive to visitors who want to jump in and swim as soon as seeing them.

Signposts clearly label which ones are safe for them to do so.

My friend, who comes from northern region of Viet Nam, said that he has visited many places like Suoi Voi in the north, such as Suoi Tien, Khoang Sinh and Ao Vua, but he loved this experience the most.

“They all have the combination of natural fountains, forests, and rocks, but the ones in the north are less beautiful. Here it is clean and safe for swimming,” he said.

To make absolutely sure we were safe, my friend hired a lifeguard to swim for just VND10,000.

Suoi Voi soon proved to be an equally perfect destination for sunbathing, with visitors tired from their swim able to rest at full stretch on the large rocks to enjoy the sun as it radiated through the canopy of trees above.

While my friend swam, I took the chance to gaze out at the surrounding landscape.

I noticed a big rock shaped like an elephant with a long trunk, and the hut’s owner told me that it was artificial, made to memorise the real elephants that gave the site its name.

“This elephant marks the nearby Elephant Lagoon, which is perhaps the most beautiful pool as it lies between two waterfalls and is completely translucent.”

The hut’s owner suggested that I explore further inside the forest – packed with rare animals and plants – in order to discover more beautiful hidden scenes and enjoy many new experiences such as fishing in some pools and picking local vegetable to cook soup, which I wholeheartedly approved of this idea, and went for a long walk.

I think that Suoi Voi is a special place not just for its natural beauty but also for the things that it brings to the local people.

Since first opened as a tourist destination in 1994, it has brought jobs to many residents, despite only being open throughout the summer. It is estimated that each household can earn about VND12-15 million (US$600-750) per season from offering services to visitors.

At the end of the day – capped off with a delicious chicken noodle dish – I was extremely reluctant to leave.

It had been a truly memorable experience, and one that I am sure I will relive in the future. For me, the beauty and cuisine of Hue and its surroundings are sure to entice me back again and again.
Art & Entertainment

Artistry at the highest level

Vientiane

- Vat Phou Festival takes place in Champassak province on February 20, 2013.
- Action with Lao Children Library: Open Mon to Fri 9am to 6pm and Sat 9am to 3pm. Come in and read and borrow Lao, Japanese, Thai and English books. Located in Ban Saphangmxor, Saysettha district.
- Permanent UXO exhibition and the provision of artificial limbs for victims. COPE Visitor Centre, Khouvien Road, opposite Green Park Hotel, open daily from 8am to 4.30pm.
- Drama Club at 7.30 pm every Friday includes role playing, miming, storytelling, improvisation and stage performances at the gymnasium of the French High School. Call Yves on 020 2927 381.
- Chess Club meets at 1pm every Sunday at City Inn on Panongkhang Road, Vientiane.
- Contact: Gabriel_smit@hotmail.com
- Women's International Group. For activities and times email wiglasmembers@gmail.com
- Toastmasters Club meets every Sun. from 4.30pm at Khop Tea House, Vientiane.
- Group. For details and other meeting information contact: 020 5511293, or Maggie on 020 77834385.

Vientiane Times

What's On

Kuphluthai Pun kangon The Nation, Asia News Networks

Lining designers from Asia and France brought glamour and glee to the catwalks of the Shonai Royal Park Hotel in the Bay Area last week, as Fide Fashion Week repeated last year’s success with its second event in Singapore.

Divided into four focal themes, the Fashion Week kicked off with the Asian Couture class, featuring creations by rising Asian designers Guo Pei from China, Barney Cheng from Hong Kong, Asava by Polpat from Thailand and Torgo by Bold Ochirjantsan from Mongolia.

Asava by Polpat Somarta from Tanae Hirikawa, Junko Shimada and Yumi Katsura were the stars of the second day’s Japan Couture Evening while day three was devoted to a special couture presentation featuring Thomas Wee from Singapore, Marc-Antoine Boris from France.

For the last three nights, Singapore’s Asian fashion was whisked over, mentally if not physically, to Paris with refined and elegant showings by French couturiers Yiqing Yin, Maurizio Galante, Stephane Fournier, Christophe Josse, Atelier Gustavolin and brand new designer Yassen Samouilov. Mabille, Livia Stoianova and Yassen Samouilov’s On aura de Luxe from Bulgaria. Singaporean fashionistas were the stars of the second day’s Japan Couture Evening with a special couture presentation by two male models dressed as Centaurs.

French Couture Week began with a show by Paris-based Viqui Yin, her models walking the catwalk in dresses with ruffles and folds like origami, long drapery silk dresses, fur jackets and gowns with crystal embellishments.

Maurizio Galante showed an exquisite hand crafted collection of layers after layers of fabric and textures in the richest of colours. Julien Fournier took the audience on a journey with menswear in soft lime and turquoise. Couturier Marc-Antoine Boris took the audience on a retrospective journey with menswear in soft lambonk, leather, lightweight wool and even mink.

Day 4 started at noon with invited guests, the media, fashion students and bloggers arriving for the “Globalisation of Haute Couture” symposium. Panel members included Suzy Menkes, fashion critic of the International Herald Tribune, Didier Gobmarch of the Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture, Dr Sandho Othama, Bunika Fashion College, Dr Frank Cintamani, Chairman of Fide Fashion Weeks and couturiers Alexis Mabille, Christophe Josse and others.

Brazilian designer Lins of Atelier Gustavolin showed highly wearable and understated stylish designs for both women and men. For his womenswear, Lins reinvented his architectural cut and allowed the fabric to spiral or slip to the back with pizzazz.

Mabille envisaged women as jewels, their multiple facets revealed by lights. The grandeur of his collection and the array of opulent dresses and gowns in velvet, silk and organza, left guest gasping with delight.

On aura tout vu by Livio Staivonna and Yasen Samouilov’s closed out the event by taking guests into a world of fantasy and wonderment with their unconventional approach. Models were dressed in white, black and red, with copious amounts of fur, feathers, crystals and rhinestones, hyping the fabric to a dramatic and iconic look. Applause rang out as the final model emerged, flanked by two male models dressed as Centaurs.

Luang Prabang

Big Brother Mouse helps young people practise their French in drop-in sessions. 9.11am and 5.1pm, open every day. Just come to our office at the Royal Palace National Park and men. For his womenswear, Lins reinvented his architectural cut and allowed the fabric to spiral or slip to the back with pizzazz.

Mabille envisaged women as jewels, their multiple facets revealed by lights. The grandeur of his collection and the array of opulent dresses and gowns in velvet, silk and organza, left guests gasping with delight.

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Art & Entertainment

Local Stakeholder Consultation Meeting

Date: Wed 12 Dec 2012. Time: 9am to 5pm.
Venue: Luang Prabang Room (Meeting Room).
Location: Seththa Palace Hotel, 6 Pang Khang St, Vientiane Municipality.
Registration: Send email to cleinoir@laoway.com or call on 020 5555 6067.

TerraClear applies for local stakeholder, including NGO’s, authorities of the Lao Government & the general public a consultative forum to the “TerraClear Ceramic Water Purifier Project in Lao PDR”.

Through the sale of Ceramic Water Purifiers, Lao households will benefit significantly from reduced waterborne diseases and consume less water. The socio-economic benefits of access to clean drinking water are well documented, & include reduced time spent provisioning drinking water, reduced cost for families, reduced child & adult morbidity and improved productivity.

This project has previously been implemented with donor funding. Combined with the Gold Standard carbon finance program the project can become a unique and economically sustainable business that significantly improves public health and reduces deforestation in Lao PDR.

Contact: TerraClear Development Co., Ltd. PO Box 4898 Thakhel, Khammoune Province, Lao PDR 051-251-302 020-2345-8383 www.laoway.com
OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Oklahoma City Thunder coach Scott Brooks has already matched his best start in six seasons with a 11-3 record, with three key losses coming in four in the final minute but they could get no closer. Los Angeles outscored them 24-7 in four in the final minute but they could get no closer.

The Lakers scored the last basket with off-balanced shot with 3.9 seconds left. Bryant had 36 points and Russell Westbrook had 33 in the first half as the hosts won their second game of the season.

The Lakers whittle that back to four in the final minute but they could get no closer. Los Angeles outscored them 24-7 in four in the final minute but they could get no closer.

It was similarly close in the fourth quarter. Stephen Curry scored 21 of his 28 points to break open a game that was tied midway through the period. Curry scored 21 of his 28 points to break open a game that was tied midway through the period.

Memphis stayed atop the standings on winning percentage, moving to a 1-3 14-3 record with a 96-89 win over the struggling New Orleans Hornets. Rudy Gay tied a season high with 28 points for the Grizzlies.

The fans certainly remembered Harden, who was introduced and every time remember Harden, who was introduced and every time remember.

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Ministers take a stroll for charity

More than 1,000 people gathered in Vientiane on Saturday morning for the annual 4th Laos-Singapore Charity Run, to raise money to help tackle mother and infant mortality. The Singapore Embassy to Laos teamed up with the Institute of Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Laos-Singapore Friendship Club to arrange the event, which is in its fourth year.

Minister of Post and Telecommunications Mr. Him Phommachanh and Singapore Ambassador Hiem Phommachanh led the walk alongside many other senior officials, as well as staff from various international organisations and companies.

This year’s event raised about US$20,000 for Xaythany district hospital’s Maternal and Child Health Programme. The 12-month programme will help to care for pregnant women in nearby districts and villages by providing them with care at specialist centres, increased accessibility to antenatal care, and advice on planning for a safe birth, emergencies during pregnancy, breast feeding, family planning and basic health and hygiene.

The walkers began the trek at the Alliance International Medical Centre then made their way to Fa-Ngum Park, before looping back to the centre to the finish line. Other fundraising activities took place on the day, including a lucky draw with a motorbike as the main prize.

At the first charity event in 2009, participants raised over US$12,000, which was used to fund a school for children with cerebral palsy, and for the rebuilding of schools in Saravan province that had been destroyed by Typhoon Ketsana.

In 2010, over US$22,500 was raised to help set up a motorcycle repair centre at Somsanga Drug Rehabilitation Centre, and last year, US$15,000 was collected in aid of construction and improvement projects in Pong Song village in Vientiane province. Proceeds went towards building a water treatment plant and renovating the village hall.

Football teams hope to strike gold at Asean Uni Games

Both the men’s and women’s football teams representing the National University of Laos have said they hope to score a top place finish at the 16th Asean University Games next week.

The Lao Football Federation held a press conference at their headquarters on Friday to announce that both teams were fit and ready to play the tournament.

Speaking at the conference, federation Vice President Mr. Pasatxay Philaphandeth said “The teams are confident they can win gold medals at the games and are looking forward to having the support of the home crowd of Lao spectators.”

As if a medal win on home soil wasn’t reason enough to give their all at the games, the NUOL has also promised to award each gold medal winning team with 20 million kip. At the 15th Asean University Games, which was held in Thailand in 2010, the men’s football team came away with the silver medal, so their chances of cashing in seem good.

Currently the two teams are training at the Lao National Sports Centre in Huayhong village, Chanthabouly district. The games begin on December 12. The men’s team is made up of 25 players and the women’s team has 20, all of whom will be hoping to get a chance to show their skills on the pitch. Mr. Pasatxay said “The men’s team has been selected from the NUOL under-22 squad, some of whom competed at the Suzuki Cup 2012 in Malaysia earlier this month.”

“Both teams are fit and ready for the games after training hard and participating in a number of friendly matches with teams from both Laos and Thailand throughout the year.”

The men’s tournament will be held at the National Stadium in Xaythany district, and the women’s at the National University of Laos stadium.

Kessler stops Magee in 3rd round

HERNING, Denmark (AP) -- Mikkel Kessler of Denmark has claimed a fifth world championship after relieving Puerto Rico and grabbed the WBA belt; he became WBA champ in 2008 after he defeated Markus Beyer to get the WBC. Kessler stopped him.

Kessler, who improved to 36-1 (25 KO), lost his second defence of the WBA belt he won in July last year. He had traveled to Denmark hoping to complete a hat trick of wins over Danish opponents after having beaten Rudy Markussen in February and Mads Larsen in 2010. Kessler stopped him.

Mr Pasatxay Philaphandeth (centre) at the Lao Football Federation offices on Friday.

Sangkhomsay Bubphanouvong

Kessler stops Magee in 3rd round

HERNING, Denmark (AP) -- Mikkel Kessler of Denmark has claimed a fifth world championship after relieving Brian Magee of his WBA super middleweight title with a third-round knockout on Saturday.

A right hook sent Magee down for a third and last time, after Kessler had also floored his opponent after having beaten Danish world champions twice after Kessler had also floored his opponent after having beaten his opponent after having beaten Danish world champions twice.

Magee (36-5, 25 KO), lost his second defence of the WBA belt he won in July last year. He had traveled to Denmark hoping to complete a hat trick of wins over Danish opponents after having beaten Rudy Markussen in February and Mads Larsen in 2010. Kessler stopped him.

Mr Him Phommachanh (right), Mr Dileep Nair (left) and their colleagues walk along Souphanouvong Avenue on Saturday.
Govt urges tapioca maker to expand operations

Deputy Prime Minister Somsavat Lengsavad has praised a major local tapioca producer, the Lao-Indochina Group Public Company’s Tapioca Factory, for paying attention to development and fast growth.

Mr Somsavat and representatives from ministries, banks, the Lao stock exchange and various committees on Saturday visited the company’s factory in Pakngum district, 47km outside Vientiane city centre. The visit was made to gather information on several aspects of operation to report to the government.

“The company’s developments include starting out with just one tapioca plant and installing more plants,” Mr Somsavat said.

“They have treatment reservoirs that treat waste water from the plant and make it into biogas. This mean the production process does not affect the environment,” he said.

Mr Somsavat praised the company for complying with government policies, including using local resources and labour for the benefit of the Lao people.

“It creates jobs and ensures that people enjoy good social welfare,” he said.

Mr Somsavat praised the company for complying with government policies, including using local resources and labour for the benefit of the Lao people.

“It creates jobs and ensures that people enjoy good social welfare,” he said.

The policies also promote the popularisation of Lao products in the global market.

“The company should continue to focus on its developments and operation targets,” he stressed.

Company Chairman Mr Sengmaly Sengvatthana told Mr Somsavat that because the company had paid attention to development and growth, it won an Asean Business Award for 2012 in the growth category at the 21st Asean Business and Investment Summit.

It also obtained ISO 9001:2008 certification from the UK in recognition of the company’s quality management system, along with Good Manufacturing Practice certifications from the government and an international organisation regarding food hygiene.

The factory employs more than 300 people. It has 12 large treatment reservoirs to treat the waste water discharged from the plant.

It can produce about 320 tonnes of tapioca per day, mainly for export to China. It can process 1,200 tonnes of cassava each day. “Our expansion project will give us the capacity to process an extra 1,800 tonnes of cassava each day,” Mr Sengmaly said.

The expansion will be complete by early next year, and construction of the new plant is now about 80 percent done.

“Our biogas plant is now complete and will start supplying the tapioca factory next month to replace the use of coal,” Mr Sengmaly said.

Currently there are 13,500 hectares of cassava under cultivation, farmed by 4,800 families in 271 villages across 14 districts in Vientiane and in Borkhammey and Vientiane provinces. The company expects to expand its cassava farms to cover over 20,000 hectares in the near future.
EDL-Gen holds the key to market performance

EDL-Gen holds the key as to whether the index’s final close over the next two weeks will exceed last week’s close (near 1200 points).

With existing strong foreign investor demand for EDL-Gen in current favourable conditions all is tired up. 

The scene is set for EDL-Gen to roll the dice and tackle a new YTD high head-on, at or above 6,000 kip (US$7.5c).

Markets sometimes send mixed messages but the past two months have seen the index in very tight trading and on lower turnover and volumes but the technicals (charts) have the index sitting at positively 30% above its 50ma.

As such the index is set to rise with the first resistance barrier only a few points away at 1200 points.

The index typically will find more resistance in 10 point increments at maximum 1250 and 1260.

Any major gain by the index is totally dependent and reliant on EDL-Gen stock price rising above 5,900 kip.

Each 50 kip gain determined by market capitalisation sees an 8 to 9 point gain if EDL-Gen rises 50 kip whereas only a one point gain if BCEL rises +50 kip. The market opens today at 1106;44 and YTD high (10/11) was at 12-0.19.

The Lao stock market’s two listed stocks are uniquely different but both are at great value with Price Earnings Ratios (PER’s) both attractively solidly sitting at under a 10 point ratio.

BCEL Banking Stock foreign limit is oversubscribed which sees all the trading is left to local individuals to barter and bargain more than often in small volumes. The past 30 days have seen a daily average of 6,000 banking stock per day for around 1k US$5,700 per day. EDL-Gen in contrast is in big demand especially from foreigners in the past 30 days have a daily average of 75,400 hydroelectricity power stocks per day around US$5,700 per day. EDL-Gen and BCEL offer very low volatility and have outstanding fundamentals to support an ongoing rally that commenced in August right through until the end of December.

The Water and Sanitation Program at the World Bank Office Vientiane now invites eligible Consulting Firms to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested Consulting Firms must provide information on core business and years in business, and information indicating their commercial and financial capability to perform the contract; and the firm being recommended for award will have their WB Vendor Registration verified prior to the signing of the contract. Interested applicants will need to already have or be able to qualify for a World Bank Vendor Number (issued from World Bank headquarters) in order to participate. Interested Consulting Firms should therefore ensure that they are registered with the World Bank (or Foreign Bank) to be able to undertake this Assignment. This Vendor Number should be quoted on the Expression of Interest (EOI) if already received. Interested Consulting Firms should submit a brief Commercial and Financial Capability Statement (CFCS) for the purpose of a Consulting Firm’s contract.

The price was VND24,000 per tonne higher than local supplies are forecast to yield around 1.5 million tonnes of sugar, roughly 100,000-200,000 tonnes higher than local demand.

In the domestic market, the sugar price was expected to fall by VND1,000/kg over September to VND2,000/kg while the Ministry of Finance’s Price Control Department forecast it would continue to fall in April last year, the ministry had to cut the import taxes on raw and refined sugar to 15 percent from 25 and 40 percent, because of concern that surging prices due to the increased demand and short supply would push inflation. The price was VND2,000/kg before the first resistance barrier two weeks after the release of further aid money for Greece.

Minister of Industry and Trade Vu Huy Hoang said Vietnam would import 100,000 tonnes of sugar this year because of the country’s WTO commitment. The ministry accepted an import quota of 70,000 tonnes in August, adding that it would work closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Vietnam Sugar Association to decide the most suitable time to import sugar to ensure domestic production.
Xayaboury dam to make Laos wealthier

China’s November inflation rises to 2 pct

The NBS said in the same release that China’s producer price index (PPI), which measures inflation at the wholesale level, fell 2.2 percent year on year in November. It marked the ninth straight month of decline after the PPI dropped in March for the first time since December 2009. However, the decline was smaller than the 2.8-percent decrease in October, indicating that the economy has been stabilizing. The November PPI figure was in line with the country’s latest purchasing managers index, which rose to 50.6 in November from 50.2 in October, suggesting that manufacturing activity has improved. A mild rise in the CPI and a recovery in factory-gate prices may indicate further policy loosening as the economy recovers.

IN BRIEF

China’s November inflation rises to 2 pct

BEIJING (Xinhua) -- China’s November inflation rises to 2.0 percent year on year, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. Excluding food prices, China’s CPI edged up 1.6 percent. Wang forecast that China’s economic expansion will expand by 7.8 percent in 2012 and that the CPI will reach around 2.6 percent for the year, well below the government’s target of keeping inflation under 4 percent. A combination of low inflation and modest economic growth is surely a desirable outcome for China in the difficult year of 2012,” according to Wang.

Vegetable prices jumped 11.3 percent year on year in November, while weather-related disrupted supplies, pushing the CPI up 0.27 percentage points. Prices for aquatic products gained 4.9 percent from one year earlier, according to the statement. Excluding food prices, China’s CPI edged up 1.6 percent. Wang forecast that China’s economic expansion will expand by 7.8 percent in 2012 and that the CPI will reach around 2.6 percent for the year, well below the government’s target of keeping inflation under 4 percent.

He said the project will earn US$3.9 billion in the dam, adding that 70 percent of the funds will come from financial institutions in Thailand, while the rest will come from private investors. Despite the huge investment in the project, Mr. Sodivong said the Internal Rate of Return will be 10.82 percent. The project concession period is 29 years.

He said the government expected to earn US$3.9 billion from the Xayaboury dam throughout the 29 year concession period, including US$1.897 billion in royalties and US$637 million in taxes. The average annual revenue which the Laos government will earn from the project is estimated at US$135 million a year.

The government expects to use the income earned to reduce poverty in the country, according to officials.

Handicap International (Hi) has been active in Laos since 1996. The organization’s vision is of a Laos where all adults and children, of all ages, gender and disabilities, are able to live in dignity and freedom in their communities.

Handicap International (Hi) (Thai) has been active in Laos since 1996. The organization’s vision is of a Laos where all adults and children, of all ages, gender and disabilities, are able to live in dignity and freedom in their communities.
GREATER MEKONG SUB-REGION CAPACITY BUILDING
FOR HIV/AIDS PREVENTION PROJECT
POSITION VACANCIES FOR DOMESTIC CONSULTANTS

The Lao PDR has received a Grant from the Asian Development Bank towards the cost of the Greater Mekong Sub-region Capacity Building for HIV/AIDS Prevention Project. The Project aims to develop national and regional capacity to mitigate HIV risks and vulnerability due to increased mobility, migration and rapid economic development in the region. The Ministry of Health invites individual local consultants to indicate their interest in providing consulting services for the following positions:

1. **Project Manager/Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist: 1 position (60 person-month, fulltime)**
   - **Duties:** Under the direct authority of the project director and in conjunction with the Chief Technical Adviser (CTA), support the design project implementation plans along with the government strategic plan and undertake the following tasks:
     - **Background:** The Project Manager should have Master’s degree level of education, knowledge, experience in Medicine, Public Health or a similar development qualification. At least five (5) years’ proven experience in project management, monitoring and evaluation, in similar donor-funded projects. In-depth understanding of regional knowledge management is required. Strong interpersonal skills and experience in Capacity building of counterpart staff at different levels. The Project Manager should have a good command of English.

2. **Procurement Specialist: 24 person-month**
   - **Duties:** Process procurement required under the project including procurement plan, preparation of bidding document, bid evaluation, and contract management.
   - **Background:** At least bachelor degree in economics, logistics or other related field especially knowledgeable on laboratory equipment, and 3 years’ experiences in ADB/WB procurement practices of goods and consulting services.

**Information and job description** for these positions can be obtained from 8:00 – 12:00 hours and 13:30-16:30 hours until 14 December 2012 at the following address:

Dr. Prasongsidh Bougha,
Director General, CDC II project Director,
Department of Planning and International Cooperation, Ministry of Health.
CDC II Project Management Unit,
Fe Ngum Road,
Si Chonbath District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
(in front of Don Chan Palace)
Tel: 252753, 223146, Fax: 222146, e-mail: pcc.coc2@gmail.com

**Letter of application and curriculum vitae** must be submitted at the above address by 14 December 2012 at 4:00 pm sharp. Candidates will be recruited according to ADB procedures. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.
Oudalee finds a suitable house for you to live in Vientiane. Traditional Lao house, house with swimming pool, house on the river. House with swimming pool available now. Price range from Kip 3,000,000 and up. Call Oudalee for free advice and pick up at your convenient. 10 years experience guarantee.

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FEEDBACK

We, the Board of Directors of Lao Press in Foreign Languages, would like to receive your comments and suggestions concerning the Vientiane Times and Le Renovateur, in order to improve their quality. We are seeking your feedback on the daily issues and the recently introduced Saturday issue of the Vientiane Times in regard to the following:

Content: What styles and methods should we change, add or omit and what columns are not interesting to you?

Services: Which services should we improve, such as advertisements, distribution and online subscriptions?

Reporters: Are there any changes our reporters should make in the way they perform their duties?

We look forward to receiving your comments in order to better serve all our readers and customers.
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Join us to help power Lao economic & social development

THPC’s hydro-power Operation is located in both Bolikhamsai and Champassak provinces, THPC has been generating electricity in the Laos PDR since 1998, providing significant revenues to the country through exports and making a large contribution to national growth and development. At the end of 2012 completion of the Theun-Hinboun expansion project will enable THPC to move from 200 MW generating capacity to 500 MW, including $740 million for domestic consumption.

THPC invests in its staff for the future. As a majority Labour-owned hydro-power company, the well-being and professional progress of our employees is of paramount importance. In addition to a competitive salary and benefits package, THPC offers training opportunities plus excellent living conditions for staff and their families based at the main company site in Champassak. Facilities include spacious housing, up-to-date sports facilities, a fully-equipped medical clinic and a private school. The Theun-Hinboun Power Company Limited is looking for:

1. Senior Administrative Officer (1 Position, Vientiane Office)

Supervises and monitors all activities of the Administrative and secretarial department of THPC-LAO to assure effective office support and operate smoothly, efficiently and in a timely manner.

Responsibilities:
- Supervising and providing guidance to administrative members regarding the commitment of work assigned;
- Actively communicating within administrative team and with other divisions in a cooperative and good will manner through all possible communication media;
- Organizing and maintaining the master filing system of the THPC-LAO;
- Providing administrative support to other divisions and managers when required;
- Supervising and managing all staff assigned to the secretarial and administrative sections;
- Coordinating the assignment of office spaces, computers, furniture, and equipment;
- Preparing and monitoring office expenses and or budgets of HO and School, and highlighted areas of concern to department manager;

Qualifications:
- University degree or college graduate (preference for Business Administration)
- Prefer work experience in private sector at least 3 years.
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to demonstrate good judgement.
- Good PC skills (MS Office)
- Good command of English skills both verbal and written.
- Lao National

2. Administrative Officer (1 Position, Vientiane Office)

The responsibilities of the Administrative Officer are to administer and monitor all activities of the Administrative sections of THPC-LAO, ensuring that THPC-LAO is operating smoothly, efficiently and in a timely manner.

Responsibilities:
- Handle directly to the Senior Admin Officer
- Dealing with incoming and outgoing communication (telephone, letter, fax) and helping with document photocopy
- Receipting incoming and outgoing documents, distributing incoming documents to relevant persons
- Assisting in setting up letters or documents in the standard format for Lao and English version
- Assisting in sending of some documents when required
- Organizing and maintaining the filing system and organisational documents of the THPC-LAO
- Arranging the logistics arrangements for THPC visitors and arranging transportation day by day for staff
- Assisting in producing THPC Promotional Goods such as Calendars, Brochures, etc...
- Providing administrative support to other divisions and managers when required
- Communicating regularly and developing reports, work plan, time schedule, asisng problems, and results of related works to the immediate supervisor.

Qualifications:
- University degree or college graduate (preference for Business Administration)
- Minimum three (3) years experience in related field. (prefer work experience in private sector)
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to demonstrate good judgement
- Motivated, able to multi-task and has a good working attitude
- keen to learn and be able to work under the pressure or unsupervised
- Good command of English skills both verbal and written.
- Good PC skills (MS Office).
- Lao national.

Interested candidates should send a CV with covering letter by email to: dalsey@theplas.com, Attn: Ms. Malavath Vilaysone, Senior HR Officer.
Theun-Hinboun Power Company, 2nd Floor, Siemouang Commercial Center, Fa Ngum Rd., Ban Pha Path, Sihaouk Distric, P.O. Box 3338, Vientiane, Lao PDR. Tel: 856-21-217715, Fax (856-21) 217-529

Deadline: 12 December 2012. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interview. Applications will be not be returned. Visit www.theplas.com for more information on THPC-lao vacancies.
Lao People’s Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Ministry of Health PR Office supported by Global Fund to Fight AIDS/Tuberculosis and Malaria

Invitation to bid
Procurement of OI Drugs and Consumables for CHAS and NBTC

Under GFATM Program

LÃO-GF-MOH-Y2 OI Drugs and Consumables/2012

Date: December 4, 2012

To Eligible Suppliers,

1. The Lao Peoples Democratic Republic has received a grant from Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Ministry of Health, Hygiene Department, The Principal Recipient (PR) intend to pay this grant to procure

Of Drugs and Consumables listed below by using Grant of HIV-SSFP2.

2. The Procurement Unit of Principal Recipient (PR) of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS/Tuberculosis and Malaria in Lao PDR now invites sealed bid from interested and eligible bidders to supply the following items listed below:


3. This Procurement will follow Public procurement procedures for National Competitive Bidding (NCB) defined in the Procurement Guidelines of The Principal Recipient of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS/Tuberculosis and Malaria in Lao PDR.

4. This Procurement is open to all eligible Bidders, who have business license related to the above goods, and for in-country Bidders, they should have Business License and Updated Tax Payment Certificate of recent year.

5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information and inspect Tender Documents at the address given below:

Attention to: Mr. Khouphouthoneouthong, Procurement Specialist, email address Dr. Viengvannong Phammanvong, Head of Procurement Unit at kiensoukho@globalfundlao.org

Address: Ministry of Health, Hygiene Department, Procurement Unit of Principal Recipient of Project supported by GFATM in Lao PDR, Second Floor - room N° 6, Opposite Ministry of Health, Simeuang Road, Ban Simeuang, Sattarak District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR Tel: (856-21) 242 980 / Fax: (856-21) 242 981 Email address: kiensoukho@globalfundlao.org

6. A complete set of Bidding documents in English Language will be received by the interested Suppliers on the submission of a writing application to Global fund Project Office from

Dr. Kunhphouthoneouthong, Head of Procurement Unit (PR) or his designee.

Address: Ministry of Health, Hygiene Department, Procurement Unit of Principal Recipient of Project supported by GFATM in Lao PDR, Second Floor - room N° 6, Opposite Ministry of Health, Simeuang Road, Ban Simeuang, Sattarak District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR Tel: (856-21) 242 980 / Fax: (856-21) 242 981 E-mail address: kiensoukho@globalfundlao.org

7. Bidding Documents must be delivered to the address mentioned in the Bidding documents before the January 3, 2013, 14:00 Hrs. (Lao Time). Any Bidding Documents received after the scheduled time will be rejected and returned unopened to the bidders. All bids will be opened immediately after bid submission by the Bidding Committee in presence of bidders’ representatives who choose to attend this meeting at the address mentioned above on the January 3, 2013, 15:30 Hrs. (Lao Time)

8. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in amount of not less than two percents (2%) of the bid price in US currency. The Bid Security form shall be a bank guarantee in accordance with the provided form in the Bidding Document.

9. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted for a personal interview.

We promote diversity and practice equity.
Female candidates are encouraged to apply.
Only short-listed applicants will be contacted for a personal interview.

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 each month. This month’s winner will receive a notebook and a T-shirt promoting HIV/AIDS awareness. From all monthly winners, one lucky winner will receive one full term of English lessons donated for free by Vientiane College.

This month we have another word game for you. Just unscramble the following 5 words and place them in the boxes provide. For the right answers we will give you in the next month.

AP I AS  PE E S P A A
C I P L E  M E L C O T P
L I S O S E  S S D I C O L U R E
I C I T Y  A F C Y I T L I
R E I O N B L  E N E A O B A R L S

Cut out this entry form and send it to HIV/AIDS Project, Lao Red Cross, PO Box 2948 or take it to the Lao Red Cross office behind Vat Xeinghunhe. Closing date for the competition on Friday, 31 December 2012 at 9.00am.

Name: ___________________________  ID Card No: 01-0077494.

Address & Phone Number: ___________________________  Last month’s answer: Biography, Contemporary, Honest, Patriot and Sincere.

Last month’s winner: Mrs. Maniseng SUNDARA, ID Card No: 01-0077494.

Please contact Ms. Phouthalom for further more information at Tel: 241632.