

## PMs of Laos, Japan agree to UXO clearance, medical cooperation

Times Reporters

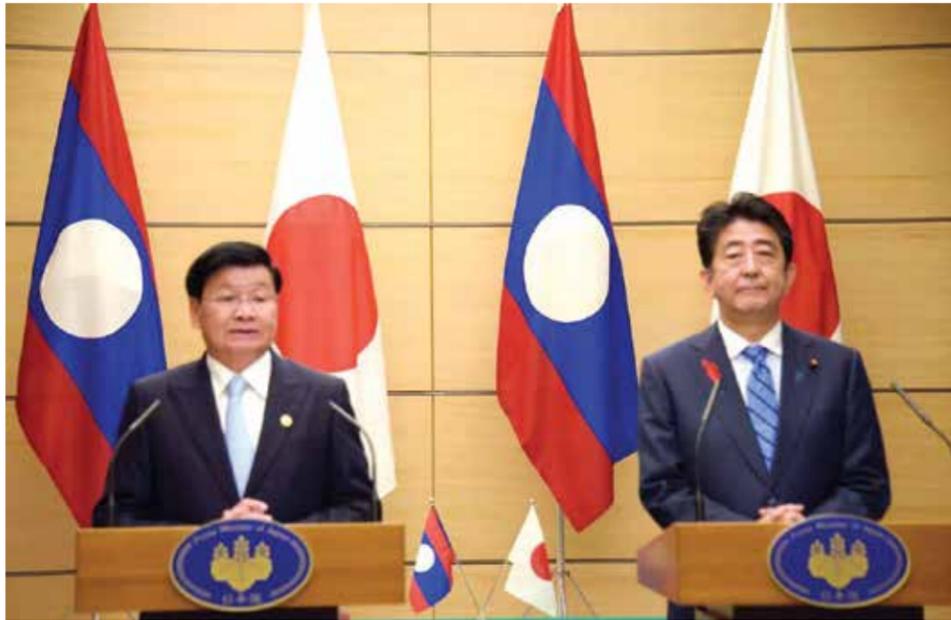
Japan has agreed to support unexploded-ordnance related projects in Laos at the cost of 900 million yen as well as facilitate cooperation between Mittaphab hospital in Vientiane and Kitahara Neurosurgical Institute of Japan.

These were among cooperation agreements signed yesterday in Tokyo and witnessed by the Prime Minister Mr Thongloun Sisoulith and Japanese counterpart Mr Shinzo Abe.

Prime Minister Thongloun and delegation are attending the 10th Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting and an associated forum on Mekong sub-regional investments in Tokyo from October 8-9.

Two prime ministers held a joint press conference following a bilateral meeting in Tokyo yesterday where they confirmed their willingness to continue to further the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Addressing to a joint statement released at the press conference, the two prime



Lao Prime Minister Mr Thongloun Sisoulith (left) and Prime Minister of Japan Mr Shinzo Abe address news media in Tokyo yesterday.

ministers said they highly evaluated the achievement of friendly relations and cooperation between Laos and Japan including exchange visits by high-ranking delegations, as well as in economic, socio-cultural and tourism-related matters.

The two sides also highly evaluated the bilateral

cooperation between Laos and Japan under the Tokyo Strategy 2015 for Mekong-Japan Cooperation, the implementation progress of projects and frameworks for the 2016-2018 Mekong-Japan Cooperation Action plan.

Laos and Japan also agreed to further the relations between Mekong countries

and Japan into a strategic partnership, ensuring benefits in socio-economic development and raising the living standards of people in the Mekong sub-region.

Laos is preparing to join the implementation of the Tokyo Strategy 2018, which is expected to be approved at

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## Laos, Vietnam Party officials promote relations

Times Reporters

Continuous enhancement of the tradition of friendship, special solidarity, and the comprehensive cooperation between the two Parties, governments and peoples of Laos and Vietnam has been reconfirmed as high ranked officials from the two countries met in Vientiane.

Laos People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) Secretary General and President of Laos, Mr Bounnhang Vorachit and fellow Politburo member and Standing member of the LPRP Central Committee, Mr Phankham Viphavanh yesterday received a high-level Vietnamese delegation led by Permanent member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee (CPVCC), Tran Quoc Vuong during a visit to Laos from October 8-10.

At his meeting with the Vietnamese delegation, Party Secretary General and President of Laos Mr Bounnhang had praise for

Mr Tran Quoc Vuong on the occasion of his the first visit of since taking on the post of permanent member of the CPVCC Secretariat.

The visit was a significant contribution to the persistent enhancement and deepening the great friendship, special solidarity, and the comprehensive cooperation between the two nations, Laos and Vietnam, Mr Bounnhang said.

He expressed his sadness on hearing of the passing of both the former Secretary General of CPV, Mr Do Muoi, and serving President, Mr Tran Dai Quang.

President Bounnhang expressed appreciation for the great and comprehensive achievements made by the people of Vietnam in socio-economic development in the recent years, particularly in the past two years in the implementation of the resolution of the 12th CPV Congress.

He expressed pride in the outcomes of bilateral

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## Thailand moves to deport overstaying foreign nationals

BANGKOK, Thailand (The Nation, ANN) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister General Prawit Wongsuwan has told the Immigration Bureau to intensify its crackdown on foreigners without visas or overstaying visas and deport those arrested within one month.

Lt Gen Kongcheep Tantrawanit, spokesman for the Defence Ministry, said Prawit, who oversees security affairs, gave the order at a meeting of military, police and Interior Ministry security agencies on Monday morning. Prawit told them to step up efforts to keep foreign tourists

safe and to crack down on transnational criminals who enter the Kingdom posing as tourists. The spokesman quoted Prawit as saying the government had received complaints about foreigners involved in illegal activities and businesses in several provinces including Bangkok.

The Immigration Bureau was told to strictly enforce the law, weed out foreigners without visas and overstaying their visas and deport them within one month. It was told to check whether foreigners doing business here were working in professions that are legally reserved for Thais

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Dr Sonexay Siphandone (centre) at a ground-breaking ceremony on Saturday for the construction of an upgraded road in Khong district of Champassak province.

## Upgrade of Donkhong concrete road gets underway

Times Reporters

Sithandone Joint Development Co Ltd has provided grant assistance of more than 212 billion kip (US\$25 million) to upgrade a 43-km road in Donkhong area of Khong district in Champassak province.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the concrete road was held at Kangkhong village in Khong district on Saturday, with the work estimated to be completed by 2020.

The ceremony was attended the Deputy Prime Minister, Dr Sonexay Siphandone, the Governor of Champassak, Dr Bounthong Divixay, and senior officials.

The project is the outcome of close cooperation between the Lao and Chinese governments.

The upgrade is expected to benefit trade, services, transport and tourism and attract more tourists to the province. The upgrade of the road is part of a project to develop a new Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Champassak. The zone, named "Maha Nathi Sithandone", covers an area of 9,846 hectares on the islands of Khong district.

An amount of US\$9 billion will be invested in the SEZ, with development to be done in six phases during 2018-2050. An important objective of the project is to transform the islands of Khong district into a modern urban centre that attracts tourists through its pleasing design and serves as a model for social, economic and environment-friendly development.

The SEZ will promote cross-border trade, organic agriculture and fishery, and have duty free shops, shopping centres, a night market, transport services, hospitality and tourism services, finance and banking services, financial institutions and insurance, educational institutions, health services, and entertainment and recreation parks.

Once the facilities are in place, it is estimated the development will attract 15 million tourists, generating revenues of more than US\$2.4 billion a year by 2050. It is expected that economic activities will generate about US\$170 million from customs duty for state revenue each year, and create 32,000 jobs for the local people.

## More women in conservation a forestry department goal

Times Reporters

Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in cooperation with Centre for People and Forests (RECOFTC) will continue pushing for 30-35 percent of forestry conservation work to involve women as part of the government's gender equality efforts.

Deputy Director of the department, Mr Boualy Phameuang made the remarks yesterday during the opening of the consultative workshop "Dialogue for Solutions: Promotion Gender Equality in Forestry Sector in Laos".

Mr Boualy said in 2005, the government initiated a strategic plan to restore forest cover to 70 percent of the country's terrain by 2020 and as part of this the ministry targeted at least 30 percent of forestry conservation positions for women.

He explained that since 1998, Laos has worked with RECOFTC in strategic engagement and collaboration with local communities and other partners to promote equitable participation, benefits and



Representatives of forestry department and RECOFTC at the meeting.

decision making for men and women, especially those living in rural areas and forest-dependent communities.

RECOFTC and the department have been organising a national level consultation to map the existing situation of gender and social inclusion activities and actors in the country, and to identify inputs to promote gender equality in the Lao forestry sector.

Mr Boualy said the department is continuing dialogue with RECOFTC about the current landscapes of gender equality and forestry initiatives to map

the key actors, interventions and priority areas, and to get a better understanding of the gaps and opportunities in integrating gender equality in the forestry sector.

RECOFTC officials said promoting social inclusion and gender equality in the forestry sector was one of its four strategic goals for its five-year strategic plan (2018-2023).

It aims to influence gender-responsive activities across forest landscapes through improved women's and ethnic groups' leadership and engagement in governance, entrepreneurship, decision

making and, consequently, benefit sharing.

This would be guided by regional level support and implemented at country level with activities in seven countries - Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Nepal, and Indonesia.

RECOFTC has maintained a close collaboration with the department by providing support with capacity building and forest governance, especially for forestry villages, livelihood improvement, gender mainstreaming and landscape management.

## Korean cooking contest winner announced

Souksamai Boulom

The Korean cooking (*Hansik*) contest 2018 announced its winners on Saturday at the Korean Week Festival in Vientiane 2018.

The contest aimed at promoting Korean cooking skills among youngsters as well as introducing Korean food to Lao people. Over 10 Korean cooking contest teams consisting of two members each reached the final round.

In this round, all teams had to cook *Tokpokki* for the five judges including the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Lao PDR, Mr Shin Sung Soon, and his spouse, Ms Jin Hyosun, and the Director General of Laos-Korea Institute for Skills Development, Dr Bounma Sithisom, a representative from the KOICA, Mr Sungsoo Oh, and the Director of Korean Association in Laos, Mr Youn Koug Sic.

*Tokpokki* is a famed Korean snack. It's made from the flour of sticky rice and then stir fried

Laos and Korean officials pose with the all cooking contest participants on Saturday.



with Korean chilli sauce. All participants received a gift box of *Tokpokki* sponsored by a Korean company. Meanwhile, the winning team received a cash prize of US\$ 600. The first and the second runner-up received US\$ 300 and US\$ 100 respectively. The contest was judged based on the taste and presentation of *Tokpokki*.

The *Hansik* contest was organised for the second time in Laos with the support of the Republic of Korea in Laos, the KOTRA and the KFPI. Of

which, the preliminary round was held last month at the Laos-Korea Institute for Skills Development.

PFPI is a food promotion body under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. It was established for improving the living condition of the people, the economic development of the country and helping build the Korean food industry.

Apart from the Korean Week Festival in Vientiane, 2018, the KOICA also held a photo contest under the

theme "2018 Development Cooperation Photo Exhibition". All photos on display were about the cooperation for the development of Laos and Korea.

This contest had six prizes worth from US\$100 to US\$600. On the same day, some 50 students from the SOS village enjoyed leisure activities during the festival such as a magic show and a free movie. They were also treated to a free lunch and the Korean ginseng vitamin courtesy the Republic of Korea.

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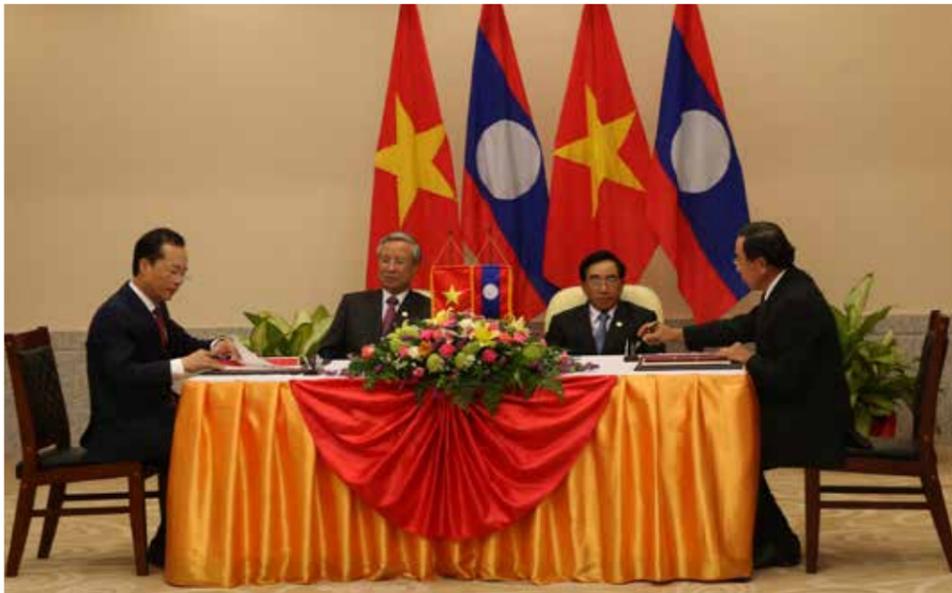
## Laos' President Bounnhang expresses sympathy to Indonesia

President Bounnhang Vorachit expressed his deepest condolences and sympathy to the President of the Republic of Indonesia Joko Widodo over the tragic earthquakes and tsunami that struck Central Sulawesi causing the deaths of many people and widespread damage to property.

The message read: "I have learned of the tragic earthquakes and tsunami that struck Central Sulawesi, Indonesia on September 28, causing a great loss of life and extensive damage to the property of people living in the affected area."

"On behalf of the entire Lao people and on my own behalf, I would like to express my deepest condolences and sympathy to Your Excellency and the Indonesian people, especially the victims and families affected by this calamity."

"We wish to express our solidarity with Your Excellency and Indonesian people in the light of this difficult moment as well as for the rehabilitation of the affected area to normalcy soon".



Mr Phankham Viphavanh (second right) and Mr Tran Quoc Vuong (second left) witness an MOU signing between Lao and Vietnamese ministries. --Photo Khamphanh

## Laos, Vietnam Party officials... FROM PAGE 1

cooperation under the agreements made by high ranking leaders from the two Parties and governments.

Mr Bounnhang expressed high esteem and recognition of the merits of the CPV, the government and people of Vietnam in regular support to LPRP, Lao government and people, particularly the timely assistance offered to the people in Sanamxay district, Attapeu province in July while many provinces in Vietnam also faced the natural disasters. At the meeting between Dr Phankham Viphavanh and Mr Tran Quoc Vuong, the two briefed each

other on the outstanding achievements and exchanged views on the cooperation between the two Parties and governments in the past and the cooperation direction in the implementation of the agreements reached by high ranking leaders.

On the same day, Mr Phankham and Mr Tran witnessed the signing of an MOU between Laos Ministry of Public Works and Transport and Vietnam's Ministry of Construction seeking to push forward the construction of new building of the Lao National Assembly according to the set timeframe, as well

as cooperation on state management in construction and urban planning, development of procedures to facilitate cooperation in investment in construction, and collaboration between the two ministries following the annual cooperation plan of the Laos-Vietnam/Vietnam-Laos bilateral cooperation committee. Today, CPVCC Secretariat Permanent member Mr Tran Quoc Vuong is set to meet President of the Lao National Assembly Mrs Pany Yathotou and pay a visit to former LPRP Secretary General and President of Laos, Mr Choummaly Sayasone.

## PMs of Laos, Japan... FROM PAGE 1

the Mekong-Japan summit.

The two sides also evaluated the progress of the cooperation plans between Laos and Japan to support Laos in the implementation of the nation's 8th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan and to achieve the goals of the Vision 2030 and Strategy 2025.

According to a statement to the press conference, PM Thongloun expressed Laos' sympathy to the government and people of Japan affected by natural disasters including recent floods, landslides, typhoons and earthquakes.

Meanwhile, Laos also expressed thanks to the government and people of

Japan for assistance to the country to help those people affected by disasters, and particularly in Sanamxay district, Attapeu province.

The PM said the assistance lent by Japan was an important factor in supporting and encouraging victims and affected areas to recover and restore a sense of normality.

On behalf of Laos, the PM also expressed thanks to the government of Japan for continued support in various sectors by way of infrastructure and human resource development, efforts to address un-exploded ordnance and all other forms of cooperation assistance and funding. At their bilateral meeting, the two sides exchanged opinions and views on various regional and global issues of interest.

## Laos, San Marino establish diplomatic relations

Times Reporters

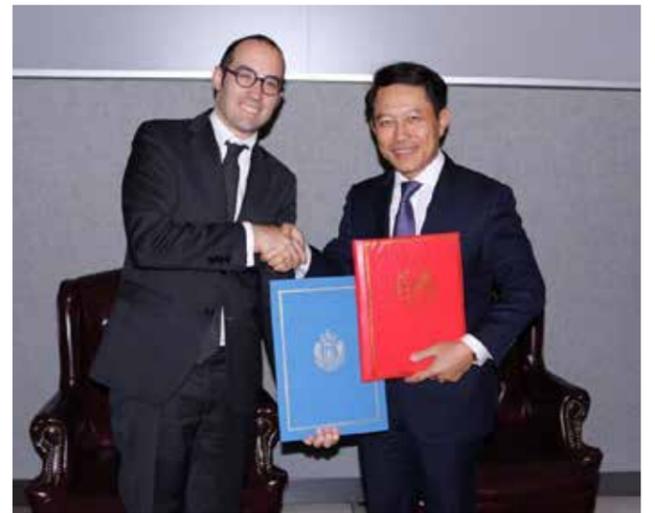
Laos and San Marino have agreed to establish diplomatic relations with the aim of bolstering fields of cooperation between the two countries.

The agreement for the establishment of diplomatic relations was signed on September 28 at the United Nations headquarters in New York by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Saleumxay Kommasith on behalf of the Lao government and Minister of Foreign and Political Affairs of San Marino, Mr Nicola Renzi.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the establishment of diplomatic ties aims to promote political, social-economic and cultural cooperation between the Lao PDR and the Republic of San Marino.

Including the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Republic of San Marino, at present, the Lao PDR has established diplomatic ties with 141 countries out of 193 in the world.

The Lao PDR also has relations with more than 130



Lao Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Saleumxay Kommasith (right) shakes hands with the Minister of Foreign and Political Affairs of San Marino, Mr Nicola Renzi after signing the agreement. --Photo Press Department

Political Parties around the world. About 24 countries have set up embassies in Vientiane and four have established consulates. The country has 39 diplomatic representative offices, of these 26 are embassies, 3 permanent representative offices, 9 general consulates, 1 consulate office and 17 honorary consulates abroad.

San Marino has the smallest population of all the members of the Council of Europe and became

a member of the United Nations on March 2, 1992.

The country is an enclaved microstate surrounded by Italy, situated on the Italian Peninsula on the north-eastern side of the Apennine Mountains. Its size is just over 61 square km, with a population of 33,562.

The mainly economy of San Marino relies on finance, industry, services and tourism and has established diplomatic relations with 95 countries around the world.

## Quality of education improved at all levels: Minister

Times Reporters

The quality of education at all levels has been further improved due to important contributions from several sectors, particularly the contribution of teachers across the country.

This was stated in a report by the Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs Sengdeuane Lachanthaboun, during the celebration of the 24th anniversary of the National Teacher's Day at the National University of Laos last Friday. The day was observed on October 7.

Mrs Sengdeuane said teachers have improved their skills to support the work of educational institutions and received awards from the government every year to honour their achievements.

Besides teachers, everyone else should do more to further develop education to meet regional and international standards.

Teachers should continue

to improve the method of teaching to ensure quality among students, and students should pay more attention to their studies.

Other sectors, including businesses, private organisations and development partners, should provide further financial and technical support for education development plans.

During the celebration of the 24th anniversary of the National Teacher's Day, the ministry highlighted the achievements in education development and its future plans.

Key achievements included the joint development of the quality of education and the expansion of the educational system across the region, including remote areas, by the ministry and involved sectors.

Other achievements are improved accommodation and expanded classrooms and more educational

materials and teachers to meet the country's school enrolment promotion plans for the primary and secondary education levels.

According to the ministry, authorities have finalised a vision for 2030 to provide all Lao people with equal access to quality education. If the country can achieve this vision, human resources will be able to compete in the regional and international labour markets.

The government also has an ambitious plan to declare the education level of the entire Lao population to be at the lower secondary school level by 2025, and at the upper secondary school level by 2030.

The strategy of education and sports development for 2025 focuses on general education, improving the quality of teachers, and further developing labour, physical education, and administration.

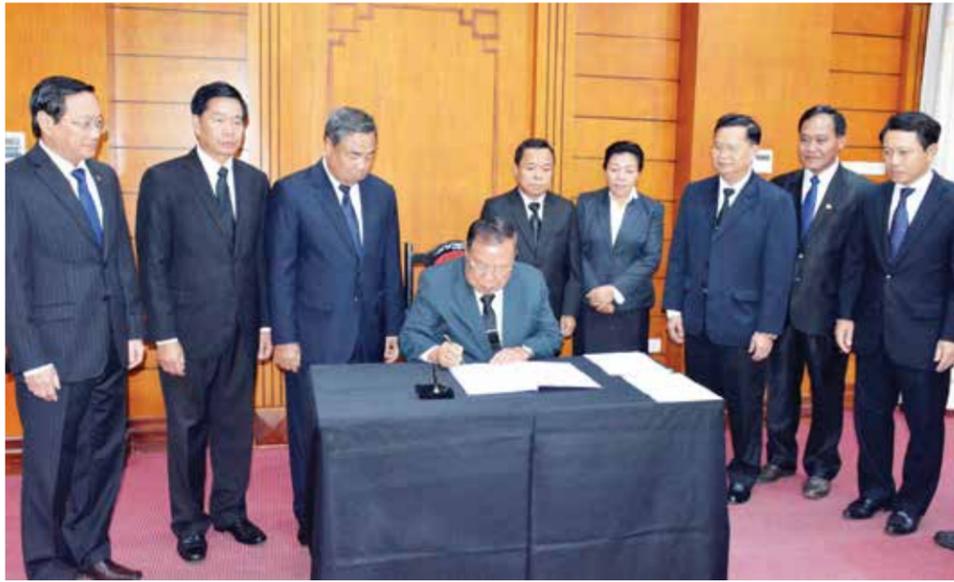
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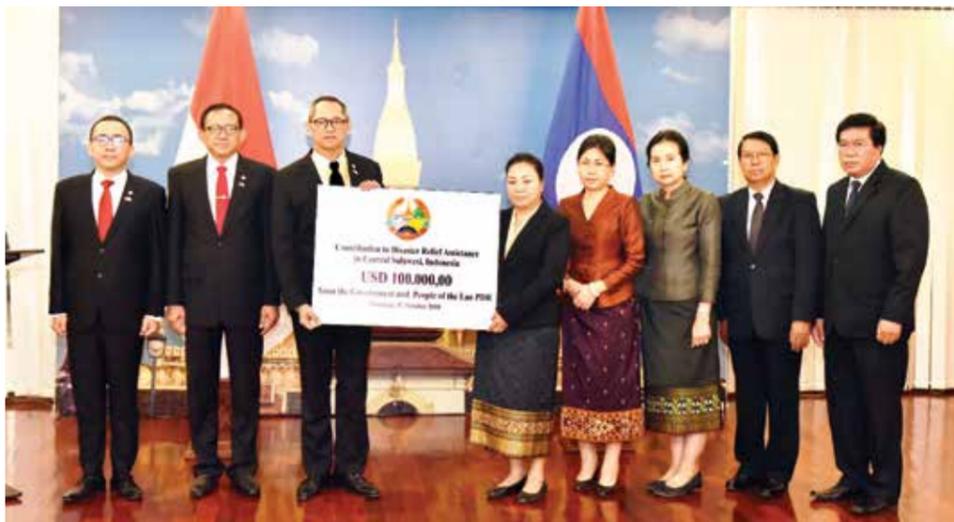
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Secretary General of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and President of the Lao PDR, Mr Bounnhang Vorachit is joined by high ranking officials on Saturday to sign a condolence book for former General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, Do Muoi who passed away on October 1. Comrade Do Muoi was born on February 2, 1917, in Dong My Commune, Thanh Tri district, Hanoi.



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs Khamphao Ernthavanh (fifth right) on behalf of the government presents US\$100,000 to the Indonesian Ambassador to Laos, Mr RP Pratito Soeharyo (third left) yesterday to assist the Indonesian government in restoration efforts following the earthquakes and tsunami that struck Central Sulawesi. The earthquakes and tsunami on September 28 caused the deaths over 1,500 people with thousands injured and homeless.



Health officials from Mahosot Hospital and Thailand come together in Vientiane last week following a workshop to discuss the use of Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography to treat gastrointestinal problems.



Australia International School holds an international mathematics contest on Saturday to select outstanding students to attend the American Mathematics Olympiad which is scheduled for January next year. About 200 students from 10 international schools attended the event.

## What the Lao papers say

### Vientiane court sentences man for dealing drugs

Translated by Times Reporters

The People's Supreme Court of Vientiane gave a prison term of five years to an amphetamine dealer and fined him 10 million kip recently.

The court recently heard the case of Mr Sonephet, a 30-year-old resident of Nongtha Neua village in Chanthabouly district of Vientiane, and punished him under the law. Mr Sonephet had been dealing in drugs since 2000, and he initially bought one or two amphetamine tablets from teenagers to use.

In August 2017, he started to deal in amphetamine tablets and he bought narcotics from Mr Ouy on three occasions. On each occasion, he bought 20 to 30 tablets and then sold them to teenagers at game shops of Nongtha Neua village.

On September 29, 2017, he bought 150 amphetamine tablets from Mr Ouy and had sold 35 tablets to teenagers when police detained him and seized 115 tablets.

The People's Supreme Court of Vientiane ruled there was evidence that Mr Sonephet had violated the law and punished him under the law.

--*Khuamsangob Daily, October 8*

### Increase agricultural production to tackle poverty in Xekong

Lamam district of Xekong province is focused on increasing agricultural production to end poverty among local residents.

Many farm areas nationwide were affected by the recent floods and farmers are now preparing to grow a variety of crops during the dry season.

Officials in Lamam plan to repair the irrigation system to support the production of commercial crops by local villagers and use the income to improve their living standards gradually. The implementation of the socio-economic development plan in the final six months of this year in Samam will focus on developing agricultural production, especially by improving the irrigation system to supply enough water for the production of food and commercial crops by local villagers. District officials will work with local authorities to supply work so that local villagers can earn a living. Besides, they will support the rearing of cattle, pigs, goats, poultry and fish and support the vaccination of animals to prevent diseases. More than 300,000 animals in Lamam have already been vaccinated. Officials in Lamam are also focused on developing basic infrastructure to boost agricultural production and improve the living standards of local residents and help them move out of poverty. The electricity network now covers 85.98 percent in Lamam and roads can be accessed all year round. Basic infrastructure too has been improved and officials believe this can help reduce the number of poor families. The district now has only six poor villages, or 13.95 percent of total villages.

--*Pathetlao Daily, October 8*

### Street lights to be repaired, replaced

Many roads around Vientiane are still dark at night and this poses a danger for motorists and increases the likelihood of accidents and crimes. Therefore, the Vientiane Power Distribution Department must work harder to repair and install lights.

The stretch from Nongbeuk road to Road No 13 North junction, the link between Nongphaya and Nathom, and the road from Nongbeuk to Nongbouathong and Dongpalab still do not have street lights. Recently, local residents telephoned this newspaper to complain about the lack of lights on the stretch from Nongbouathong to Dongpalab traffic light. Though authorities had installed street lights, many of them do not work and bad people can take advantage of the situation to commit robberies and other crimes. The Deputy Head of the Vientiane Power Distribution Department, Mr Chansom Philalom, told this reporter that there are 45 roads on which street lights have been installed and 13 roads had been expanded but the Electricite du Laos still had not taken on the responsibility of lighting them at night.

He said street lights along many roads had been in use for about 10 years and needed to be changed. The old lights consume too much electricity and authorities pay an average of more than 500,000,000 kip a month.

The Electricite du Laos is working rapidly to change street lights to cut energy usage, Mr Chansom explained. He said street lights along many roads did not work because some people had cut the electricity wires. Officials are scrambling to repair and change street lights along many roads to improve conditions for motorists at night.

--*Lao Phatthana Daily, October 8*

### Taking care of health during cold season

The cold season will arrive soon and everyone should give importance to taking care of their health. Older people and children usually have lower immunity and we should give special importance to their health to prevent diseases. People have different ways of taking care of their health but as the climate changes, it is quite difficult for people with low immunity to prevent diseases. They must give importance to eating the right food and wearing warm clothes.

There are many kinds of diseases that affect people during the cold season, including flu, cough, sore throat and bronchitis. We should give importance to eating clean food, living in a clean area. Every day, we should try to eat meat, fish, vegetables, fruits, milk, food with useful fats and eggs and drink clean water. Besides, everyone should get enough sleep and exercise. Taking care of our health is something we should not overlook. If we have good health, it is easy for us to work and if we fall sick, we should go to the hospital for treatment.

--*Pasaxon Van-Athit Weekly, October 7*

## IPCC urges rapid, far-reaching changes to fight against global warming

INCHEON, South Korea (Xinhua) -- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an international body assessing the science related to climate change, on Monday urged "rapid and far-reaching" changes in all aspects of the entire world to fight against global warming after adopting a special report on global warming.

The 48th IPCC session lasted for five days to Friday in South Korea's western port city of Incheon, bringing together about 570 representatives from over 130 countries and international organisations.

It approved the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius, which IPCC Chair Lee Hoesung described as one of the most important reports to curb the global warming during a press conference at Songdo Convensia in Incheon.

The special report will become a key scientific input into the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Poland in December.

The report highlighted a

number of climate change impacts that could be avoided by limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels in comparison to 2 degrees Celsius or higher.

According to the report, global sea level rise would be 10 cm lower with the global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius than the one with 2 degrees Celsius. The likelihood of an Arctic Ocean free of sea ice in summer would be once a century with the global warming 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared with at least once a decade with 2 degrees Celsius.

"One of the key messages that comes out very strongly from this report is that we are already seeing the consequences of 1 degree Celsius of global warming through more extreme weather, rising sea levels and diminishing Arctic sea ice, among other changes," said Zhai Panmao, co-chair of IPCC Working Group .

The special report examined pathways available to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, what it would take to achieve them and what the consequences could be.

"This report gives policymakers and practitioners the information they need to make decisions that tackle climate change while considering local context and people's needs. The next few years are probably the most important in our history," said Debra Roberts, co-chair of IPCC Working Group .

The report found that limiting the warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius would require "rapid and far-reaching" transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport and cities. The global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide would need to fall by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching "net zero" around 2050.

"Limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius is possible within the laws of chemistry and physics, but doing so would require unprecedented changes," said Jim Skea, cochair of IPCC Working Group. The special report was requested by 195 nations when they adopted the Paris Agreement in December 2015 at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the UNFCCC.



A rescue worker moves away as a heavy machine removes a car during a search for earthquake victims in Balaroa neighborhood in Palu, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia on Monday. --Photo AP

## Confirmed deaths near 2,000, still more likely in Indonesia

PALU, Indonesia (AP) -- The confirmed death toll from the devastating earthquake and tsunami on Indonesia's Sulawesi island neared 2,000 on Monday, but thousands more are believed unaccounted for and officials said search teams plan to stop looking for victims later this week.

The official toll hit 1,948, mostly in the hard-hit city of Palu, said Jamaluddin, an official from the disaster task force who uses one name. He corrected the number during a news conference in Jakarta after initially saying it was 1,944. He said a navy ship had docked in the area and opened a field hospital.

Willem Rampangilei, head of the National Board

for Disaster Management, said there could be as many as 5,000 victims still buried in deep mud in Balaroa and Petobo, two of Palu's hardest-hit neighborhoods. But he added that number must be verified by his teams because it is an unofficial figure which came from village heads in the area. The Sept. 28 quake caused loose, wet soil to liquefy there. It is too soft to use heavy equipment for recovery, and decomposition of bodies is already advanced.

"It is impossible to rebuild in areas with high liquefaction risk such as Petobo and Balaroa," he said, adding villages there will be relocated. Talks were underway with religious authorities and

surviving family members to decide whether some areas could be turned into mass graves for victims entombed there with monuments built to remember them.

Officials reiterated that the search is expected to end on Thursday. However, the deadline could be extended if needed.

Rampangilei said life is starting to return to normal in some areas affected by the disaster. Immediate food and water needs have been met, and the local government has started to function again. Many schools have been completely destroyed, but he said classes will resume where possible. However, many students are still too scared to return.

## 8 killed in adverse weather in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (Xinhua) -- Eight people were killed and over 30,000 affected as strong winds and heavy rains lashed out across Sri Lanka over the weekend, the Disaster Management Center (DMC) said on Monday.

DMC Spokesperson Pradeep Kodippili said fresh warnings had been issued in several districts as more rains were expected later on Monday and Tuesday.

He said fishing and naval communities had been warned to take precautions as wind speeds in north and northwest of the country, and the capital Colombo.

Kodippili said a depression

or cyclonic atmosphere was still present in the Arabian Sea which was expected to bring in more rains over the island in the coming days.

So far, over 1,000 houses have been damaged due to the adverse weather while over 3,000 people have been evacuated to safer shelters.

If rains continue during the day, people living in low lying areas will be urged to move to the safe shelters, Kodippili said. Meanwhile, the forces and police have been called in to help evacuate families and save those stranded as a result of the disaster situation.

Some 1,200 soldiers have been placed on standby to assist

those stranded by the floods. The Meteorology Department in its latest weather update said the depression over the southeast Arabian Sea was located 1,650 km away from Colombo and that very heavy showers or thundershowers and very rough seas and winds could be expected in sea areas within 100 km to 200 km of its location.

"The depression in the Arabian Sea is very likely to intensify further in to deep depression during the next 12 hours and into a cyclonic storm during the next 24 hours. It is likely to move northwest away from Sri Lanka," the Meteorology Department said.

## Thailand moves to deport ... FROM PAGE 1

alone. Pol Maj Gen Surachate "Big Joke" Hakpal was recently promoted to acting Immigration Bureau chief after spearheading a series of raids and spot checks that have so far found more than 1,000 foreigners without visas or overstaying their visas. The bureau announced on its website on Monday that there were 1.6 million foreigners living in Thailand between January and August. Canadians were the biggest group - 9,872 migrants - followed by 9,583 Dutch people, 9,566 Bangladeshis and 9,483 Italians. During the same period, more than 10 million foreign tourists entered the Kingdom, the bureau said.



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

Ministry of Education and Sports  
Cabinet Office

No: 4314 /Cabinet  
Vientiane Capital, date: 09 October 2018

### Invitation for Bids

**Date of Invitation: 09 October 2018**  
**Project:** Second Strengthening Technical and Vocational Education and Training Project  
**Grant No.:** 0503-Lao (SF)  
**Contract No and Title:** SSTVETP-NCB-GOOD-TCPV-2018-04. Supply of mechanical technology equipment including delivery, installation and training for Technical College of Vientiane Province  
**Deadline for Submission of Bids: 08 November 2018, 1330H (Lao Time)**

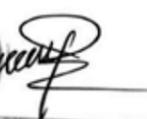
- The Lao People's Democratic Republic has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of the Second Strengthening Technical and Vocational Education and Training Project (SSTVETP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for supply of mechanical technology equipment including delivery, installation and training for Technical College of Vientiane Province, (Contract ID: SSTVETP-NCB-GOOD-TCPV-2018-04.
- The Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES), Department of Technical and Vocational Education (TVED) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of mechanical technology equipment including delivery, installation and training for Technical College of Vientiane Province. The location and delivery date are as follows:

Related Service	Delivery and Installation Location	Delivery date
Supply of mechanical technology equipment including delivery, installation and training for Technical College of Vientiane Province	Technical College of Vientiane Province	60 days after contract signing

- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the Procurement Guidelines of the Asian Development Bank (2015, as amended from time to time) and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. The complete list of required goods, details of technical specifications, and scope of supply and related services are provided in Section VII of bidding document.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Ministry of Education and Sports, Technical and Vocational Education Department, Strengthening Technical and Vocational Education and Training Project and inspect the bidding documents during office hours from **0800H to 1630H, Monday to Friday** at the address given below
- A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of LAK1,000,000. The method of payment will be by cash or by a bank transfer to the project bank account: **A/e No.010110000050106001 at BCEL**, in the name of Strengthening Technical and Vocational Education and Training Project. The bidding document will be collected in person or sent by courier service when requested by the bidders, upon confirmation of payment of an additional courier fee. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery. An additional non-refundable charge of LAK 1,000,000 will be made for international courier service or LAK170,000 for national courier service.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below before **1330H, 08 November 2018**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on **08 November 2018 at 1400H**.
- All bids must be accompanied by a Bid-Securing Declaration.
- The address referred to above is:

**Ministry of Education and Sports**  
 Technical and Vocational Education Department  
 Second Strengthening Technical and Vocational Education and Training Project  
 Project Implementation Unit (PIU), Lane Xang Avenue, Vientiane Capital Lao PDR  
 Attention: Mr. Noupphanh OUTSA, Director General of TVED, SSTVET Project Director  
 Floor and Room No: First floor, Room No. 01  
 Telephone: (856-21)216473, Fax: (856-21) 216473, E-mail: SSTVET2@gmail.com

**Permanent Secretary**  
 Cabinet Office



**Phengma XAYAVONG**

## In brief from Asia News Network

### Vietnam Party Central Committee issues announcement on 8th plenum

HANOI (Vietnam News) -- The Party Central Committee has wrapped up its 8th plenum after five days of working, with General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong in the chair. It issued an announcement on the work of the plenum. Participants of the plenum on Saturday passed the basic contents of the resolution on the strategy on sustainably developing Vietnam's sea-based economy to 2030, with a vision to 2045. The Party Central Committee assigned the Political Bureau to perfect, officially issue and organise the implementation of the resolution.

The Committee adopted the conclusion on the socio-economic situation and the State budget in 2018 as well as the plan on socio-economic development and State budget projection for 2019. Participants also reached a consensus to nominate General Secretary Trong for the National Assembly to elect to the position of the President of the state in its coming 6th session, slated in October and November.

### One foreign tourist fatally injured in Bangkok mall shooting

THAILAND (The Nation) -- A foreign tourist was fatally injured and two Thais and two other tourists hurt when a group of young men fired rifles at a rival gang near a Bangkok shopping mall Sunday night. The shooting happened at 8.30pm on a soi behind the Centara Watergate Pavillion Hotel where tourist coaches were parked. The soi is off Ratchaprarop Road in Makkasan subdistrict of Ratchathewi district. Police said Gakhrejr Dheeraj, 42, an Indian, died later in hospital. Initially, police said Keovongsa Thonekeo, 28, a Lao tourist, also died in hospital but police later said the Lao still survived. Another Indian tourist, Sharma Dharmendra, 45, was injured along with two Thai men, Thaksin Sukiad, 22, and Pornthep Pumpuang, 23. Pol Maj Gen Senit Samaram Samruajkit, commander of the Metropolitan Police Division 1, said three young men armed with rifles opened fire at their rivals following a dispute at a snooker parlour near the soi where the shooting took place.

## Japan airs hope for Cambodia's development through democratic process

TOKYO, Japan (Kyodo News) -- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Monday expressed hope for the development of Cambodia through a democratic process amid criticism from the international community over the Southeast Asian nation's latest election results.

Speaking to reporters with his Cambodian counterpart Hun Sen after their meeting in Tokyo, Abe said, "Japan expects Cambodia to develop further through the solidarity of the people and the promotion of its democratic process."

To that end, Abe said Japan will invite young politicians from various parties and senior officials of the national election board so that they can learn about Japanese election systems.

Japan will also provide support to strengthen transparency and fairness in the Cambodia's legal process, Abe added.

The Hun Sen administration has been under fire as his ruling party won all seats in the National Assembly in the general election in July amid the lack of a major opposition party, which was forced to dissolve

ahead of the race.

Hun Sen, who has been in power for 33 years, said he is "very satisfied" with Abe's proposals, adding they will contribute to the development of democracy in his country.

"I expect the younger generation to build a democratic culture," the Cambodian leader said.

Abe and Hun Sen met ahead of the Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting on Tuesday, which also involves the leaders of Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

Hun Sen extended his gratitude for Abe's readiness to help Cambodia to bid to host the Asia-Europe Meeting in 2020.

If the summit is convened as planned, it will be the first time the Southeast Asian nation has hosted such a large gathering of leaders from Asia and Europe.

As this year marks the 65th anniversary since Japan and Cambodia established diplomatic ties, Abe also promised to offer up to 3.6 billion yen (US\$31.6 million) in low-interest loans to repair and build irrigation facilities around the Tonle Sap Lake, which is one of the biggest in Southeast Asia.

## Nepal decides to raise minimum wage of journalists

NEPAL (The Kathmandu Post, ANN) -- The Nepal government has decided to increase the minimum pay of working journalists by 25 percent. A Cabinet meeting on Sunday decided that all journalists and employees working in media houses would have their salary increased by 25 percent effective from October 18.

Currently, the minimum wage of working journalist is Rs 19,500 per month.

The Cabinet also decided to appoint Krishna Murari Bhandari as the executive chairman of Gorkhapatra Corporation. Minister

for Communications and Information Technology Gokul Prasad Banskota said Bhandari was succeeding Govinda Pokhrel whose resignation was approved on Sunday itself.

He added that the Cabinet meeting also decided to nominate Dr Ramchandra Bhattarai as the chairperson of the Board of Directors of Citizen's Investment Fund.

The meeting also formed a seven member task force for the protection of consumers' rights, sugar cane farmers, and sugar mill.

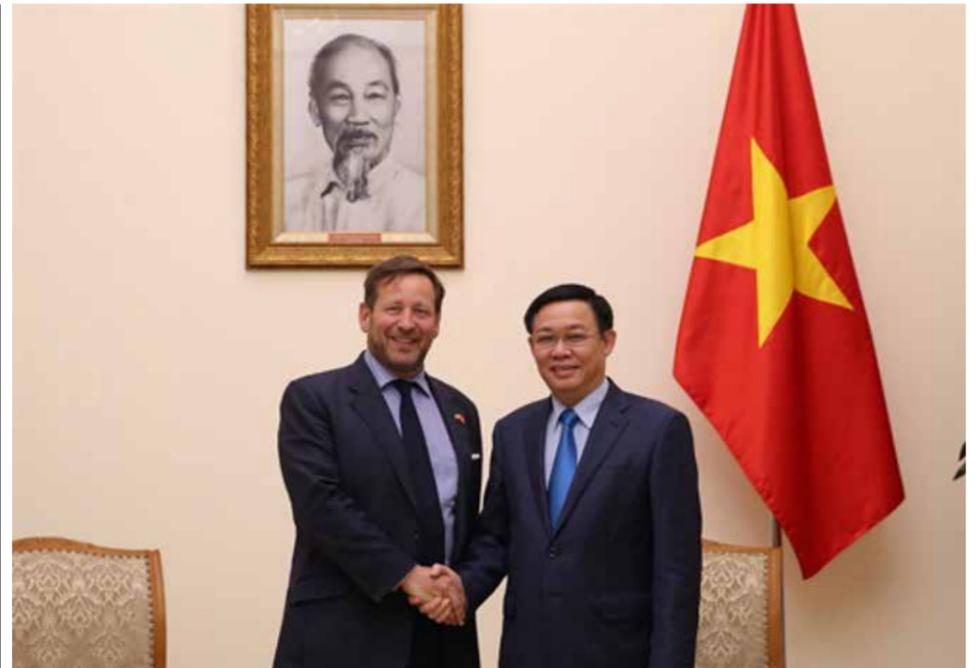
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Deputy Prime Minister Vuong Dinh Hue (right) receives UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy Edward Vaizey in Hanoi. --Photo Vietnam News

## UK assists Vietnam on smart city building

HANOI (Vietnam News, ANN) -- The UK will provide non-refundable aid sourced from the Commonwealth Foundation to help the Vietnamese Construction Ministry to build smart buildings and implement smart city projects, said the UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy Edward Vaizey.

Vaizey told Deputy Prime Minister Vuong Dinh Hue in Hanoi on Friday that the UK Government attached importance to Vietnam's role in cooperation and development.

The UK wished to help improve economic skills for Vietnamese people, assist the country in raising transparent administration and participate

in infrastructure development using high technologies, he said. The UK was in the midst of withdrawing from the European Union. However, the benefits brought about by the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) to Vietnam and the UK should be maintained, he said.

The UK was ready to push ahead with commitments between the EU and Vietnam as the country was still an EU member, the envoy said.

He thanked the Vietnamese Government for its support to the UK in accessing the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). For his part, Deputy PM Hue affirmed

that the strategic partnership between Vietnam and the UK was developing fruitfully.

The official also thanked the UK Government for its assistance to Vietnam in signing and ratifying the EVFTA, and promised that the Vietnamese Government always backed and stood ready to help the UK join the CPTPP.

Hue urged the two countries to enhance their bilateral trade ties as two-way trade value stood at only over US\$6.1 billion in 2017, and called on the UK to expand its investment in Vietnam in finance-banking given its investment capital in the country was only US\$3.7 billion.



Winrock International is a non-profit organization that works with people in the U.S. and around the world to empower the disadvantaged, increase economic opportunity, and sustain natural resources. By linking local individuals and communities with new ideas and technology, Winrock is increasing long-term productivity, equity, and responsible resource management to benefit the poor and disadvantaged of the world.

In 2017, Winrock began implementing the USAID-funded Laos Counter Trafficking in Persons Project (USAID Laos CTIP) as part of the USAID Asia CTIP regional project. Laos is primarily a source country for women, children and men subjected to many types of trafficking and forced labor across the country. The Government's National Action Plan to prevent human trafficking highlights the importance of providing vocational training, job opportunities and income generation for marginalized and vulnerable groups. One of the primary drivers of risky migration and trafficking is a lack of relevant skills and formal employment opportunities to engage in Asia's rapidly-growing economy.

Winrock is seeking a firm or consultant to conduct a study in four target provinces to identify factors currently affecting supply and demand for skills and jobs of target vulnerable populations. Information may include, but not be limited to the socio-demographic profile of each province, highlighting factors that can affect their vulnerability to human trafficking; the types of companies investing in Lao PDR their labor demands; and how beneficiaries can be linked to jobs. Illustrative sectors to be examined include technology, hospitality, construction, garment manufacturing, mechanics, agriculture, and food processing, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs). With this information, USAID Laos CTIP will empower at-risk populations and returning TIP victims to gain relevant technical skills.

To request the full Terms of Reference (TOR) and application guidelines or for any questions please email [xoukiet.panyanouvong@winrock.org](mailto:xoukiet.panyanouvong@winrock.org). The subject line in the email must clearly state: "Laos CTIP TOR Request". The deadline for submission is **October 19, 2018**.



PROJECT LAO/027  
Lao-Luxembourg Health Sector  
Support Programme - II



**NOTICE OF INVITATION TO TENDER N° LAO/027-18 0949**  
**TITLE: Rehabilitation of ophthalmology operating theatre, pharmacy store and laundry for Bolikhamxay Provincial Hospital (Works)**  
*in the framework of Project LAO/027 receiving financial support from the Governments of the Lao P.D.R. and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.*

This notice of invitation is launched by and according to the procedures of the Luxembourg Agency for Development Cooperation (Lux-Development), on behalf of Project/Programme LAO/027 receiving financial support from the Governments of Lao PDR and of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

1. **Identification and financing of the Project**
  - a) **Title:** LAO/027-18 0949 - Rehabilitation of ophthalmology operating theatre, pharmacy store and laundry for Bolikhamxay Provincial Hospital (Works)
  - b) **Source of financing:** The Government of Lao PDR and Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg as set out in the Protocol of Programme LAO/027 dated 03.07.2014.
  - c) **Status of financing:** Approved
2. **Identification of the Contract**

**Type of Contract:** Works  
**Tender Title:** Rehabilitation of ophthalmology operating theatre, pharmacy store and laundry for Bolikhamxay provincial hospital  
**Number of lots:** One  
**Grouping of lots:** N/A  
**Description:** The works consist on the rehabilitation of three existing buildings in Bolikhamxay provincial Hospital, to become the new ophthalmology operating theatre, the new pharmacy store and the new laundry.
3. **Eligibility and evaluation criteria**

**Origin:** No restriction.  
**Eligibility:** Companies satisfying the criteria included in the Statement of Good Standing and in the ethics clauses of the General Regulations.  
**Award:** The Contract will be awarded to the Tenderer that has submitted the lowest Tender evaluated as compliant with the Administrative and Technical Criteria.  
**Variants:** No variants will be considered.
4. **Place and period of performance**

**Location of the Programme:** Vientiane, Lao PDR  
**Place of performance of the Contract:** Paksane District, Bolikhamxay Province, Lao PDR  
**Performance period:** 6 months up to the Provisional Acceptance of the Works (excluding the warranty period).  
**Validity period of Tenders:** 90 days after the deadline for Submission of Tenders.
5. **Definitions**

**Awarding Authority:** Lux-Development (LuxDev)  
**Contracting Authority:** Ministry of Health (MoH)  
**Beneficiary:** Ministry of Health and Bolikhamxay provincial health department  
**Supervisor:** To be appointed later.  
**Donor:** Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg  
**Donor's Representative:** Lux-Development (LuxDev)
6. **Tender Dossier**

**Type:** Open Tender with unit prices that are fixed and not open for review.  
**How to obtain the Dossier:** the Tender Dossier may be obtained against payment of a non refundable amount of 1,000,000 Lao Kip (One million LAK) at the following address:  
**Programme LAO/027 Lao-Luxembourg Health Sector Support Programme – Phase II**  
4th floor, Simeuang Commercial Center  
Fa Ngum road, Ban Phiawat, Sisattanak District  
Vientiane, LAO PDR  
**For any request to send the tender by speed post, an additional non refundable amount of one million Lao Kip (1,000,000 LAK) or equivalent in USD shall be paid prior to sending.**  
**Consultation of the Dossier:** the Tender Dossier may be consulted free of charge at the same address mentioned above.

**Communication:** notifications and communications must be done in writing to:  
**Programme LAO/027 Lao-Luxembourg Health Sector Support Programme – Phase II**  
4th floor, Simeuang Commercial Center  
Fa Ngum road, Ban Phiawat, Sisattanak District  
Vientiane, LAO PDR  
Email: lao027@luxdev.lu

**Deadline for requesting additional information: Monday 22 October 2018**  
**Deadline for providing explanations to Tenderers: Monday 29 October 2018**
7. **Language, currency, receipt and opening of tenders**

**Language:** the language of the Tender is English.  
**Currency:** US Dollars  
**Address for Submission and Opening of Tenders:** one original and two copies to:  
**Programme LAO/027 Lao-Luxembourg Health Sector Support Programme – Phase II**  
4th floor, Simeuang Commercial Center  
Fa Ngum road, Ban Phiawat, Sisattanak District  
Vientiane, LAO PDR

**Deadline for Submission of Tenders: Thursday 8 November 2018 at 14h00 (local time)**

**Date and time of the Public Opening Session:** immediately after the deadline for Submission.
8. **Guarantees**

**Tender Guarantee:** 2% of the Tender value.  
**Performance Guarantee:** 10% of the value of the Contract.  
**Other:** see Tender Dossier
9. **Payments**

All eligible payments that will be part of this Contract will be processed by Lux-Development on behalf of Programme LAO/027 Lao-Luxembourg Health Sector Support Programme – Phase II.
10. **Information meeting and/or site visit**

A compulsory visit to the construction site will take place on **Thursday 18 October 2018 at 10h00 (local time)**. The meeting point is the following: Bolikhamxay provincial hospital, Paksane, Bolikhamxay province, Lao PDR. An information meeting will take place before the site visit.
11. **Complementary or additional services**

This Contract does not include any complementary or additional Works other than those outlined in the Tender Dossier. In the event where complementary or additional Works would be required (initially not included), their value will be limited to a maximum of 50% of the amount of the initial Contract.
12. **Additional information**
  - a) **Interference with hospital services and patient safety:**  
The works will have to be conducted on the grounds of an operational hospital. All necessary measures will have to be taken to avoid or limit interferences for hospital services and patients safety. In particular, all the areas of works will have to be fenced and clear signage for accessibility installed. Further measures will be discussed and instructed with/by the Supervisor and the hospital management prior and during the execution of the works.
  - b) **Vinyl floor and terrazzo floor:**  
These two works must be conducted by qualified and experienced professionals. The tenderer should demonstrate that he (as group leader) or a grouping member has the experience and qualification in completing these works. If not, the tenderer should subcontract them and also demonstrate that the subcontractor(s) has the experience and qualification required (see Administrative and Technical Compliance Criteria).



South Korea's North Gyeongsang Province hit by typhoon Kong-rey. -Photo Korea Herald

## Typhoon Kong-rey leaves 2 dead, 1 missing, 470 displaced in Korea

SOUTH KOREA (The Korea Herald) -- Typhoon Kong-rey, which hit the country Friday and Saturday, caused two deaths and left some 470 people homeless, according to the weather authorities. One person remained missing as of Sunday morning.

A 66-year-old man was killed while crossing a bridge in Gwangju, Gyeonggi Province, on Saturday, according to the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters.

In Yeongdeok, North Gyeongsang Province, an 83-year-old man was found

dead after he went missing while trying to flee flood waters near his house.

Meanwhile, a 76-year-old man was reported missing in the southern port city of Pohang after he slipped on a river barrage and was swept away. Some 470 Koreans from 281 households were displaced nationwide as they evacuated their homes.

The typhoon also caused power outages in more than 61,000 homes, mostly in Busan and Daegu. A total of 53 roads were damaged in Gangwon and North Gyeongsang provinces.

In Busan and Ulsan, a total of 306 trees were toppled. In

North Gyeongsang Province alone, some 1,300 houses were waterlogged.

In Busan, the roof membranes of the Incheon Asiad Main Stadium, a multipurpose stadium built for the 2002 Asian Games, was partially damaged.

Strong winds led to the cancellation of some 320 flights at 12 airports across the country. In Yeongdeok, North Gyeongsang Province, 15 fishing boats went missing.

"The government will do everything necessary, including searching for those who are missing," said Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon in a statement.

## Singapore prohibits employers to safekeep foreign domestic workers' salaries next year

SINGAPORE (The Straits Times, ANN) -- Employers will no longer be allowed to safekeep money belonging to their foreign domestic workers (FDWs), including paid salaries, from next year.

The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) will introduce a new work permit condition from January 1, 2019, to protect both employers and FDWs from money-related disputes, the MOM said on Sunday. Employers found guilty of keeping money belonging to their maids can face a maximum penalty of a S\$10,000 fine and 12 months' jail.

Speaking on the sidelines of an event held by the Centre for Domestic Employees (CDE), Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Manpower Low Yen Ling said the MOM received an

average of 600 complaints a year regarding FDW salary issues in the past three years. Said Ms Low: "We understand that some FDWs, for various reasons, wish for their employers to safekeep their monies and their salary. However, the MOM strongly discourages this practice." We hope that employers can help their FDWs to open a bank account to allow the FDWs to manage their own monies from their salary." She said this was important to minimise and prevent any unnecessary salary dispute. In a release, the MOM said the practice of employers safekeeping the money of maids poses inconveniences and risks to both parties, as FDWs who have no direct access to their money will have to approach their employers

whenever they need the money. Employers will also have to keep track of the correct amount of money to be returned to their workers.

The law requires employers to pay their FDWs' salaries in full and on time. The new work permit condition follows an announcement last week that foreigners living in Singapore, including foreign workers and maids, will be limited in the amount of money they can borrow from licensed money-lenders.

The Ministry of Law and MOM said in a joint statement last week that these foreigners will be subject to new aggregate loan caps when they take loans from the moneylenders, and may apply to be in a self-exclusion framework.

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# Business

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Tuesday October 9, 2018

## Lao Airlines service set for take-off as flag carrier shifts focus



Mr Bounma Chanthavongsa.

### Ekaphone Phouthonesy

Lao Airlines has shifted its primary focus from searching for a business partner to improving service in a bid to make the national flag carrier more competitive, according to the company's new top executive.

"Our current focus is now on the improvement of our services," new Lao Airlines President, Mr Bounma Chanthavongsa said in an interview with local media last Friday, about two weeks after taking over as chief of the state-owned enterprise.

On September 14, Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith appointed Mr Bounma, a former director of Lao Skyway, another state-run aviation company, to lead Lao Airlines and make it more competitive amid increasing global competition.

During the interview, Mr Bounma said Lao Airlines will no longer pay attention

to searching for a foreign business partner, adding that companies which expressed interest in purchasing shares in the airline had imposed unacceptable conditions.

He said after examining the current state of Lao Airlines, he recognised the state-owned company already had wide-ranging capabilities and, therefore, there was no need to urgently seek business partners. He said the establishment of a joint venture might not lead to greater efficiency and competitiveness for the airline.

"We have everything," he said, adding the company has aircraft, human resources and other essential equipment to run its business. "The only thing that we don't have is competitiveness."

Mr Bounma said that one of Lao Airlines' key strengths is its staff, which is able to provide the best service, and this warm, kind and honest

hospitality is part of the Lao culture.

He said his new business strategy would enable Lao Airlines to survive amid growing aviation competition in the region by changing the focus of the company's management and staff from engaging in competition to cooperation with business partners.

Mr Bounma said the company sees future possibilities in expanding flight services in the region thanks to growing international visitor arrivals and greater regional connectivity providing growth opportunities.

The company is exploring the possibility of launching flights to Japan in the near future and this will boost trade and investment cooperation between Laos and Japan, he said.

There are high expectations that the company's new president with his Lao Skyway experience will be able to identify the reasons for Lao Airlines' poor performance and steer it in the right direction.

Mr Bounma will do his best to use the experience gained from managing Lao Skyway to turn Lao Airlines into a competitive venture. He also said Lao Airlines will continue to cooperate with Lao Skyway so that they can provide the best service to domestic and international tourists.

## Carmakers urged to focus on design as motor market matures

CHINA (China Daily) -- Carmakers in China have been keen on upgrading manufacturing, but now need to focus on improving the designs of their vehicles if they wish to see future success, according to market research company JD Power.

A recent study from the company shows that after years of significant progress, the quality of new vehicles manufactured in China saw a dip this year, with 105 problems per 100 new vehicles reported two more than in 2017.

The findings were based on responses from 33,404 vehicle owners who purchased their cars between June 2017 and May 2018. The survey covered 285 models of passenger vehicle from 77 different brands, both Chinese and foreign.

The dip in quality this year was the result of an increase in design problems such as inaccurate navigation, Bluetooth pairing problems and audio systems that are difficult to use, said Jacob George, vice-president and general manager of JD Power Asia Pacific.

The survey revealed that over the past three years, problems related to defects or malfunctions have dropped by two per 100 vehicles, whereas design-related problems have increased by five per 100.

"It is predictable that with the increase in the installation of smart, connected in-vehicle devices, design problems will be more critical to the usability of the car," George said.



A futuristic concept car at the 2018 World Internet of Things Expo in Wuxi, Jiangsu province.

This is a sign that China is maturing as an automotive market, he added, as these problems are more usually associated with developed markets such as the United States.

Design and usability are also things that Chinese carmakers should stress as they catch up with international automotive giants, according to George.

JD Power statistics show that Chinese carmakers had 15 more problems per 100 new vehicles than international brands this year, a significant drop from 101 more problems back in 2011. George expects the gap to disappear completely around 2020.

"Now as manufacturing issues are getting better and better, design issues are what they need to focus on," he said. One disturbing finding in the Chinese market is that new energy vehicles have far more problems than conventional ones.

Some of the most frequent complaints mention

air conditioning that doesn't achieve or maintain desired temperatures, engines that loses power when the air conditioning is switched on and seat materials that scuff easily.

A separate JD Power study found that consumers also complain about the range of their electric vehicles and it taking longer than expected for the batteries to fully charge.

"So when you buy a new energy vehicle, you have the types of problems that regular vehicles have, plus unexpected problems because it is a new energy vehicle," said George.

He urged makers of new energy vehicles in China to focus on extending the range of their automobiles and to facilitate charging before the Chinese government stops subsidies to the sector by the end of 2020.

"Without any change in the range, if the subsidy is taken out, we do anticipate a drop (in new energy vehicle sales)," said George.

Exchange Rate		
as of October 8, 2018		
Foreign Currencies	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	8,486	8,528
Vietnamese Dong	0.3694	0.3768
Thai Baht	266.16	268.15
Euro	9,741	9,790
Renminbi Yuan	1,165	1,188

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# Laos, China economic cooperation



Mr Buasone Bouphavanh and Mr Ke Zhihua at the MOU signing ceremony.

## Times Reporters

The National Institute of Economic Research (NIER) and the China International Cooperation Centre (CICC) have agreed to enhance cooperation in several areas such as digital economic research, trade and investment, human resources and setting up of disaster management teams in Laos.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to the effect was signed yesterday by the President of NIER, Mr Buasone Bouphavanh, and the Director General of CICC, Mr Ke Zhihua.

Prior to the MOU signing ceremony, the two parties discussed the avenues they intended to cooperate in.

As per the MOU, the NIER and the CICC have agreed to form a team to research critical areas and thereafter send the two respective governments detailed assessments regarding the project.

The two sides also

agreed to hold meetings to discuss the cooperation on economics, trade and related investments and to meet in either of the two countries to discuss the progress on the projects.

The NIER and the CICC have agreed to support the establishing of a joint project on the digital economic research between Laos and China by assigning the China Electronic Information Industry Development Institute to implement the project. The project is supported by the Lao Ministry of Science and Technology and the Chinese Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

Additionally, the two sides have agreed to support the new urban development in Bolaven Plateau in Pakxong district, Champasak province.

The CICC is pleased to be the coordinator with the Chinese government and to provide financial support in establishing and enhancing the capacity of NIER – for

research in long, medium and short term projects.

The NIER and the CICC will join hands to support the establishment of a blue sky rescue team in Laos. The Chinese side will provide necessary equipment and training on the disaster and emergency response service. The local rescue teams will be trained for emergency by the Blue Sky Team based in China.

During a working visit to Laos, the delegation from the CICC plans to visit the Deputy Prime Minister, the President of Lao Front for National Construction, the Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, to discuss work related to assistance in national disaster management in Laos.

The delegation will also meet with the Attapeu provincial authorities and visit Sanamxay district to study the ground situation to chalk out a strategy for the future.

# Import diesel cars market presence falling amid comeback of gasoline vehicles

SOUTH KOREA (The Korea Herald) -- The market presence of imported diesel cars in South Korea has backtracked in South Korea in the face of a comeback by gasoline vehicles, industry data showed on Sunday.

According to the Korea Automobile Importers and Distributors Association (KAI-DA), the number of newly registered diesel cars in the country reached 4,530 units in September, less than half that of gasoline vehicles -- 11,187.

In the first nine months of this year, 86,841 diesel vehicles were sold in Asia's fourth largest economy, while consumers bought 92,667 gasoline vehicles.

Diesels made up 44.1 percent of cars sold and gasoline vehicles accounted

for 47 percent, the association said.

Reflecting the shift in the market, which in the past favored the high fuel economy of diesel over gas, the best selling import car last month was Audi's A3 40 TFSI gasoline sedan at 2,247 units sold, while Volkswagen's Passat 2.0 TSI gasoline's local sales hit 1,912 vehicles, making it the No. 2 car.

Gasoline-fueled vehicles stood at third through sixth on the bestselling car list in the one-month period, along with one hybrid.

BMW and Mercedes-Benz, which had been strong in the diesel passenger car sector here, both saw their overall sales rankings dip to third and fourth places, respectively, in September,

trailing those of Audi and Volkswagen, who had actively shifted to gasoline after the dieselgate debacle.

Audi and Volkswagen sold 2,376 and 2,277 cars, respectively, last month, with BMW and Mercedes-Benz trailing at 2,052 and 1,943 units.

KAIDA said weaker demand for diesels was caused by various factors such as the numerous car fires afflicting BMWs this year and growing public concern about particulates, which have been cited for causing air pollution. In addition, continuing high demand for some popular diesel models that have seen shortfalls in supply, coupled with sharp cuts by Audi and Volkswagen for their gasoline cars, caused a shift in purchasing trends.

# Japan, Africa see urgent need for growth policy for continent

TOKYO (Kyodo News) -- Ministers from Japan and African countries agreed Sunday that they urgently need to take policy actions to address the continent's "vulnerabilities" and achieve its sustainable economic growth.

Representatives from 52 countries who gathered in Tokyo for a two-day ministerial meeting identified challenges, ranging from building infrastructure and better utilizing human resources, particularly young people, to beefing up maritime security and boosting resilience against climate change.

As demand for infrastructure building has been on the rise in Africa, proper debt management for such projects has been increasingly seen as necessary.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono, who co-chaired the meeting, said he and the other participants shared the importance of making sure that borrowing countries can pay back debts and sustain fiscal health.

Tokyo has been promoting "quality infrastructure" under projects that create jobs and also train people to maintain the infrastructure after construction, Kono said, underscoring that the

focus is on human resources development.

"The basic principles of our TICAD process are transparency, consistency, and follow-ups," Kono told a press conference after the meeting, which preceded the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development, scheduled to be held in Yokohama next August.

His remarks came amid growing concern about defaults by some African countries borrowing heavily from other countries, particularly China, which has been increasing its clout in the continent with massive investment.

In 2016, Japan pledged US\$30 billion of development assistance from both the government and private sector for Africa over a three-year period.

But Kono acknowledged that progress made so far has not been sufficient, saying the "deterioration of debt sustainability" in some African countries has prevented Japan from extending yen loans.

In September, Chinese President Xi Jinping vowed to extend US\$60 billion in financing to Africa in the latest attempt by Beijing to court African countries.

Enhancing connectivity

through quality infrastructure is important for Africa to engage in global trade and seek growth led by the continent, according to a co-chairs' summary released after the meeting.

The delegates also called for digital, institutional and people-to-people connectivity as all of the domains are "central" to Africa's development, the summary said.

Olivier Nduhungirehe, Rwanda's minister of state for foreign affairs who represented the African Union Commission at the meeting, expressed Africa's hope to make the next TICAD summit focus more on business.

He told the post-meeting press conference that Japanese and African leaders should talk about quality infrastructure, trade and investment as well as the engagement of small and medium-sized companies.

"Africa welcomes Japanese investments as they bring infrastructure, technology and knowledge transfers," Nduhungirehe said.

Japan launched the TICAD framework in 1993 to put sharper international focus on African development. Africa now faces more diverse and complex needs in the face of economic growth.



**humanity & inclusion**

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**CBID Provincial Manager**

Humanity and Inclusion (HI) has been active in Lao P.D.R. since 1996. The organization's vision is of a Lao society where all adults and children live as equal individuals in a safe environment. HI is currently seeking a qualified and motivated person to work in the position of **CBID Provincial Manager**.

**Position type:** Full Time  
**Duration:** one year with possible of extending  
**Base location:** Savannakhet Province

**Main responsibilities and activities:**

- Work and Coordinate closely with the LDPA, ARMI and relevant partners to ensure the development of annual budget plan, annual operation work plans and procurement plan; update quarterly.
- Participate in relevant working groups and/or government workshops to understand and contribute to analysis of key stakeholders at the provincial level for the development of strategic planning.
- Supervise LDPA PBOs and ARMI to organize and facilitate relevant coordination meetings to ensure ongoing communication with the partners and other NPAs
- Supervise and support LDPA and ARMI on the overall CBID & SE project to ensure the proper understanding of the overall concept of CBID model and steps.
- Support and coach LDPA and ARMI on their resources' management and mobilization (human, material, technical) necessary for the implementation of project activities.
- Ensure the activities of LDPA and ARMI are completed as defined by the budget and work plan.
- Liaise and network with organizations working in relevant sectors and actively promote Humanity & Inclusion's approach and methodology at the provincial and community level;
- With MEAL team, ensure that the LDPA and ARMI project's database and filing system are regularly updated and the relevant statistical data concerning project activities and beneficiaries are collected and adequately stored.
- Provide ongoing coaching and support for project partner staffs on their project activities implementation

**Desired qualifications:**

- Lao National
- Bachelor's degree in social development or a relevant subject.
- At least 3-5 years working experience in project management with an INGO or development organization. Proven knowledge and professional experience in supporting civil society organizational strengthening.
- Leadership, ability to work proactively and take initiatives.
- Excellent on communication, planning and work plan formulation skills.
- Excellent written and spoken English.
- Good knowledge of Windows MS Office.
- Experience working with people with disabilities.
- Experience working on income generating activities, advocacy and access to health service

The full Job Description of the position can be found on the following website: <http://directorofngos.org>  
 HI offers: approximate net salary **LAK 5,500,000 - LAK 5,800,000** + benefits (13<sup>th</sup> month, insurances, etc.).  
 Applicants should email a letter of interest (no more than one page) and CV (no more than two pages, containing the contact details of 3 references) to email: [recruitment@laos.hi.org](mailto:recruitment@laos.hi.org) by **19October2018**; please state clearly in the Email subject the position being applied for. **Only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**

**Humanity and Inclusion**  
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Humanity and inclusion is an equal opportunity employer. Women and people living with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.

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- Humanity and Inclusion cannot ask the candidates for any money or incentive to select them;
- Humanity and Inclusion cannot accept any money or incentive from the candidates to select them.



The Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce, Mr Somchith Inthamith (centre), chairs the meeting yesterday joined by Mr Faber (left) and Mr Carrasco.

## Public, private sectors, partners discuss improving investments

Times Reporters

Government officials and representatives of development partners joined a meeting in Vientiane yesterday to discuss ways to increase the attractiveness of Laos as an investment destination and to develop trade.

The annual meeting of the Trade and Private Sector Working Group served as a platform for a policy dialogue between the government and its development partners and the exchange of broad views on progress and challenges in the private sector.

It also allowed the public and private sectors in Laos and development partners to discuss measures for improving investments in the country.

The meeting was divided into two sessions, with the first reviewing progress in implementing the Investment Promotion Law and the Prime Minister's Order on improving the country's performance in the ease of doing business index.

The second session was devoted to discussions on the effectiveness of public private dialogue under the Lao Business Forum and the government's plan to improve access to business development services for small and medium enterprises

(SMEs) and long-term finance by strengthening the SME Development Fund's regulatory environment.

The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce, Mr Somchith Inthamith. It was co-chaired by the European Union's Ambassador, Mr Leo Faber, and the Australian Ambassador, Mr Jean-Bernard Carrasco. More than 140 participants from line ministries, development partners and the private sector attended the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Mr Somchith said: "Overall, our nation needs more private investment to achieve sustainable growth and we highly appreciate the positive role that private foreign investment plays in creating jobs, bringing in capital, technology and know-how, helping upgrade the country's infrastructure. The economy has become more connected to the global economy."

Mr Faber told the meeting that "development of a stronger private sector and creating a transparent and predictable business environment are pre-conditions for attracting quality investment, which is essential for promotion of sustainable and inclusive economy growth".

However the

improvement of the business and investment climate remain challenged, notably by the absence of a comprehensive set of implementing rules for well-intentioned laws."

Mr Carrasco stressed that "strengthening trade and private sector development is essential for Laos' future socio-economic development", especially by creating jobs, generating revenue and fostering inclusive and sustainable growth.

"Improvements in productivity, increased trade and a strengthened private sector will also be increasingly important as Laos moves towards its goal of LDC graduation," he said.

The meeting acknowledged specific improvements made in areas of market entry through the simplification of procedures for starting a business, implementation of the VAT Law, automation of issuance of certificates of origin, and reduction in customs clearance time at the borders.

It reached broad consensus on the need to accelerate broader business regulatory reform to improve transparency, predictability and reduce the overall cost of doing business and promote productivity improvement of Lao enterprises.

## Remittances to Vietnam could fall due to US policies

VIETNAM (Vietnam News) -- Overseas remittances to Vietnam are expected to decline mainly due to global factors.

Analysts said they include US President Donald Trump's anti-immigrant policies, the US Federal Reserve's policy of raising interest rates and the US-China trade war.

Statistics from the United Nations Development Programme show that 60 percent of the remittances to Vietnam comes from the US while Europe accounts for around 20 percent. Other major sources are China,

South Korea and Japan.

The remittances come to Vietnam mainly through four channels – banks, currently accounting for 72 percent, economic organisations, customs agencies, and the postal system.

Overseas Vietnamese living in the US, Canada, Germany and France account for the most remittances.

HCM City is consistently the largest recipient, accounting for almost half the remittances coming into the country last year with US\$5.2 billion.

Last year total remittances were worth US\$13.78 billion,

putting Vietnam in the list of top 10 beneficiaries.

But things might get gloomier from here on, according to experts from the National Centre for Socio-Economic Information and Forecast (NCIF).

They said the major recent changes in the US are affecting remittances to Vietnam since it accounts for a lion's share of the amount.

The FED's interest rate hike spree has made the greenback significantly more attractive, while Vietnam's own interest rates on the dollar still remains at zero.

## India to continue oil imports from Iran post-US sanctions, replacing dollar payments with rupees

NEW DELHI (The Statesman) -- In the first clear indication of India's willingness to continue trade with Iran despite US sanctions, state refiners have contracted import of 1.25 million tonnes of crude oil from the Persian Gulf nation and are preparing to replace dollar payments with rupee trade.

Top industry sources said Indian Oil Corp (IOC) and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) have contracted 1.25 million tonnes of Iranian oil for import in November, the month when the US sanctions against Iran's oil sector kick-in.

While India wants to continue importing Iranian oil, albeit a reduced volume, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo last month stated that Washington would consider waivers on the embargo but made clear that these would be time-limited, if granted.

Sources said IOC is importing the "usual" monthly volumes of oil from Iran. It had planned to import 9 million tonnes of Iranian oil in the 2018-19 fiscal (April 2018 to March 2019) or 0.75 million tonnes a month.

US sanctions against Iran kick in from November 4, which will block payment routes.

Sources said India and Iran are discussing reverting to rupee trade after November 4.

"Iran has been off-and-on taking rupee payments for oil it sells. This rupee it uses for paying for imports of medicines and other commodities. A similar arrangement is in works," a source said.

Details of the payment mechanism would emerge in the next few weeks, he said.

Oil refiners such as state-owned IOC and MRPL could use UCO Bank or IDBI Bank

to route oil payments to Iran, sources said.

India had planned to import about 25 million tonnes of crude oil from Iran in the current fiscal, up from 22.6 million tonnes imported in 2017-18. But the actual volumes imported may be far less as companies like Reliance Industries have totally stopped buying oil from Iran and others, too, are scaling it down in hope of winning a sanction waiver from the US.

Nayara Energy, formerly Essar Oil, too, is stopping import from Iran.

US President Donald Trump in May withdrew from the 2015 nuclear accord with Iran, re-imposing economic sanctions against the Persian Gulf nation. Some sanctions took effect from August 6 while those affecting the oil and banking sectors will start from November 4.

Sources said Iran is open to accepting rupee payment for oil and may use the money to pay for equipment and food items it buys from India.

UCO Bank and IDBI Bank have been identified to route the payment as the two have no exposure to the US financial system.

UCO Bank had in the previous round of sanctions handled rupee payments.

Currently, India pays its third largest oil supplier in euros using European banking channels. These channels would get blocked from November.

During the first round of sanctions when EU joined the US in imposing financial restrictions, India initially used a Turkish bank to pay Iran for the oil it bought but beginning February 2013 paid nearly half of the oil import bill in rupees while keeping the remainder pending opening of payment routes. It began clearing the dues in

2015 when the restrictions were eased.

Besides, New Delhi sought to get around the restrictions by supplying goods including wheat, soybean meal and consumer products to Iran in exchange for oil.

Sources said this time around the entire 100 percent of Iranian oil import bill can be paid in rupees.

Iran is India's third-largest oil supplier behind Iraq and Saudi Arabia. It was India's second biggest supplier of crude oil after Saudi Arabia till 2010-11 but Western sanctions over its suspected nuclear programme relegated it to the seventh spot in the subsequent years. In 2013-14 and 2014-15, India bought 11 million tonnes and 10.95 million tonnes, respectively, from it.

Sourcing from Iran increased to 12.7 million tonnes in 2015-16, giving it the sixth spot. In the following year, the Iranian supplies jumped to 27.2 million tonnes to catapult it to the third spot.

Iranian oil is a lucrative buy for refiners as the Persian Gulf nation provides 60 days of credit for purchases, terms not available from suppliers of substitute crudes - Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Nigeria, and the US.

Besides blocking of banking channels from November, the absence of payment mechanism may pose a challenge to the transportation of the oil as Iranian crude is bought on a CIF basis and shipped on Iranian tankers.

Under Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF) mode of shipping, the seller assumes the responsibility of transportation and insurance. The liability and costs associated with successful transit are paid by the seller until the goods are received by the buyer.



Dhipaya Insurance Co., Ltd holds a lucky draw on Sunday to present ten gold prizes to customers who bought insurance products from the company during Vientiane International Motor Expo 2018 from September 29 to October 7 at Lao ITECC. The company's president Mr Sayam Ramasoot and managing director Mr Holady Volarath along with the board of directors attended the ceremony. Dhipaya Insurance was one of the main sponsors of the expo. The company provides various insurance products such as life, car, fire, marine, miscellaneous, SME and householder.

# Farms struggle to supply enough turtles to markets



Some baby soft shell turtles at a farm in Vientiane.

## Khonesavanh Latsaphao

Soft shell turtle farms in Laos are unable to meet the needs of customers across the country as they do not breed adequate head of the aquatic animals.

Mr Katto Douangphachanh, whose family runs a farm that breeds the animals in Hadkaengkay village of Xaythany district in Vientiane, told *Vientiane Times* on Friday that his farm does not have enough turtles to meet the demands of buyers. In the past, there were only a few breeders of this animal, locally known as *Pafa*, but now the setting up of turtle farms is speeding up nationwide. But most of the new farms have only a few

ponds.

“Most of the *Pafa* are sold to buyers from restaurants which have Chinese customers, who liked eating these turtles,” he said.

Besides the Chinese, there are also many Lao people who like eating soft shell turtles because the meat is soft and delicious, especially in hot pot soups.

Mr Katto’s farm usually sells 250,000 animals a year, and the animals are about 18 months old and weigh about one kilogram when they are sold.

“The baby turtles sell for 25,000 kip, and these are the newly born animals for those who want to raise turtles in their ponds,” he said.

Mr Katto said he has one farm at Khamhoug village in Xaythany district of Vientiane with about 3,000 animals, and another farm in the same area also has 3,000 animals.

The size of the animals in the two farms is different, and they are big, medium and small. “Because of the different sizes, approximately 24 to 36 kg of *Pafa* can be supplied to the market within a month. But this is not enough for Vientiane,” he said.

As the demand for turtle meat is gradually increasing, Mr Katto plans to start a third farm in the next two years. This new farm will be located in Xaythany district.

His family has been breeding turtles for about 10 years. At first, they did not think to breeding them for sale, but the family began doing the work earnestly after they had some success in the first year.

Initially, Mr Katto’s family raised 100 animals, and over the next 10 years, the number was increased to about 6,000 *Pafa*. The parents of the animals currently bred in the farms were brought from Malaysia.

# Saudi Arabia doubles down on SoftBank bet

DUBAI (The Yomiuri Shimbun) -- Saudi Arabia is preparing to double-down on its bet that Masayoshi Son can pick the technology giants of the future. The country’s sovereign fund will make another US\$45 billion investment in Son’s second massive Vision Fund.

The Public Investment Fund, or PIF, is set to make the investment as it looks for ways to deploy a US\$170 billion windfall it’s expecting over the next three-to-four years. That money would come from the sale of a stake in Saudi Basic Industries Corp. and the initial public offering of state oil company Saudi Aramco, according to PIF Chairman Mohammed Bin Salman — who is also Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince.

The PIF wants to be a key investor in the second US\$100 billion investment fund that SoftBank Group Corp. Chief Executive Officer Son plans to raise, Prince Mohammed said in an interview with Bloomberg. That would bring the PIF’s contribution to the two funds to US\$90 billion, he said.

“We have a huge benefit from the first one,” he said. “We would not put, as PIF, another US\$45 billion if we didn’t see huge income in the first year with the first US\$45 billion.”

Calls to SoftBank by Bloomberg News outside business hours went unanswered.

Since unveiling a strategy in 2016 to transform the PIF from a sleepy domestic holding company into the

world’s largest sovereign fund, it has made a series of bold investments. Many have focused on technology companies yet to make a profit. In addition to its commitment to the first Vision Fund, the PIF made a US\$3.5 billion investment in Uber Technologies Inc., built up an almost 5 percent stake in Tesla Inc. and then put US\$1 billion into its rival, Lucid Inc. The PIF also agreed to put US\$20 billion into a US infrastructure fund run by Blackstone Group LP.

Speaking at an event in Riyadh last year, Son said that investments made by the first Vision Fund were already paying off. The fund had made a return of over 20 percent in its first five months, he said.

That fund, which also raised money from one of Abu Dhabi’s sovereign funds and Apple Inc., is about four times the size of the largest venture capital fund ever created and bigger than any private equity fund in history. Son told Bloomberg Businessweek in September that he plans to raise a new US\$100 billion fund every two or three years, and will spend around US\$50 billion annually.

In less than a year since the fund first began making investments, it has already committed US\$65 billion to acquire big stakes in Uber, WeWork Cos., Slack Technologies Inc. and GM Cruise LLC.

Making another significant investment in SoftBank’s next Vision Fund

would help the PIF boost its assets, which have already risen to more than US\$300 billion, Prince Mohammed said. Currently the fund’s biggest assets are mostly local equities, including the stake in Sabic and holdings in Saudi Telecom Co. and National Commercial Bank.

“We are now above US\$300 billion, we’re getting close to US\$400 billion,” he said. “Our target in 2020 is around US\$600 billion. I believe we will surpass that target in 2020.”

That’s even higher than the target the PIF announced last year, when it said it wanted to grow its assets to US\$400 billion by 2020. At the end of 2015, the fund had US\$152 billion of assets, according to a document published last October outlining its 2020 plan. That document also said the PIF aimed to generate annualised nominal returns of 4 percent to 5 percent in the years to 2020, up from 3 percent in 2014 to 2016.

The PIF raised US\$11 billion in its first ever borrowing earlier this year as it looks to use leverage to boost its returns. The fund is also set to receive around US\$70 billion to US\$80 billion from the sale of its 70 percent stake in Saudi Basic Industries Corp. to Saudi Aramco in 2019, Prince Mohammed said. That would then be followed by proceeds from the initial public offering of Aramco, which could raise another US\$100 billion, he said.

# Fruit exports grow, imports decrease

JAKARTA (The Jakarta Post) -- Indonesia’s fruit exports increased by 24 percent in September from the same month last year, according to the Agriculture Ministry.

The ministry’s fruit and floriculture director, Sarwo Edhy, said that most export recipients were non-tropical countries, where demand had shifted toward organic fruits.

“Our top fruit exports included mangoes, bananas, snake fruits, oranges, mangosteen, pineapples and

rambutans,” said Sarwo on Friday as reported by kontan.co.id.

At the same time, fruit imports have decreased almost 30 percent to US\$91.5 million in September from US\$130.7 million in the same month last year.

“Our production is increasing and Indonesians generally don’t fancy imported fruits other than, for instance, dates and grapes,” he said.

The ministry expects Indonesia’s overall fruit

exports in 2018 to increase by 9 percent compared to 2017. Fruit exports already increased by 7.5 percent from 2016 to 2017.

Concurring with the ministry, Hasan Johnny Widjaja, chairman of the Indonesian Fruit and Vegetables Export Association, said his organisation had also enjoyed an increase in exports this year.

“Our exports to China have increased after it eased regulations,” said Hasan.



Farmers sell organic fruits and vegetables at the Bale Restaurant in Lembang, West Java.

unicef for every child

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National Education Consultant  
UNICEF Vientiane, Lao-PDR

UNICEF is a UN organization mandated by the UN General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children’s rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. In Lao PDR, UNICEF is working with its partners to support the Government to realize children’s rights on survival, development, protection and participation.

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Vientiane, Lao PDR is looking for a qualified a National Education Consultant. The assignment expects to take a total of 11 months. The consultant will be based in Vientiane, Lao PDR with field travels to provinces.

### Main Duties and Responsibilities:

The national consultant will work as part of the UNICEF Lao PDR Education Team to support the MoES-UNICEF Education Programme, specifically in the four key areas of work, namely: 1) South East Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM); 2) National large-scale student assessments; 3) MoES-UNICEF Education Programme baseline survey and 4) Education and Sports Sector Development Plan (ESDP) 2016-2020 Mid-Term Review (MTR). Each of these four areas of work has a specific work plan respectively which has been/will be agreed between MoES and UNICEF, and therefore the consultant will provide necessary support according to the respective work plans.

The consultant will work closely with the MoES and other partners and key stakeholders.

The general scope of the work is to provide additional technical support in the following areas:

- 1) Planning and preparation of the M&E and analytical work in the mentioned areas, including developing detailed implementation plans, and collection and review of government and other reference materials;
- 2) Conduct of those M&E and analytical work, including data collection and consultations with the key stakeholders at the national, sub-national, school and community levels;
- 3) Analysis of collected information and data;
- 4) Analytical report writing;
- 5) Coordination with MoES and other key stakeholders at different levels; and
- 6) Technical translation and interpretation from English to Lao and vice versa as and when necessary.

### Qualifications and Experiences:

- Lao national
- University or higher degree in Education, Social Science or relevant areas
- Minimum 2-year of relevant professional experience, especially in development work, preferably in education
- Data literacy and good analytical skills
- Strong inter-personal communication skills; English and Lao working level language proficiency; Ability to accomplish tasks with quality within deadlines
- Familiarity with the education sector in Lao PDR as an asset
- Experience in working with the Government and with UN as an asset

To apply for this post, please go to this link for online applications:

<https://www.unicef.org/about/employ/?job=515749>

Closing date for receiving applications is: **Friday, 19 October 2018**

UNICEF is a non-smoking working environment. Female candidates are encouraged to apply.

Remarks: The candidates should submit to UNICEF the technical and financial proposal together with the applications.

UNICEF has a zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, and on any kind of harassment, including sexual harassment, and discrimination. All selected candidates will, therefore, undergo rigorous reference and background checks.

**PREQUALIFICATION ANNOUNCEMENT**

(Serving as Tender Announcement)

**Tender for Lump-sum Construction Contracting of Girder Precasting Yard, Girder Precasting, Girder Transport and Girder Erection of New Boten-Vientiane Section of Laos-China Railway****1. Tender condition**

This tender project, New Boten-Vientiane Section of Laos-China Railway Project, has been approved by China and Laos governments for constructing, of which the Employer is Laos-China Railway Co., Ltd., and construction funds are from China and Laos (sources of funds), of which the capital of the project accounts for 40% of total investment amount, and the capital shall be injected as per the ratio of contributions of the project that 30% of the capital is funded by Laos, 40% of it is funded by China Railway Corp, 20% of it is funded by China Investment Corporation (hereinafter referred to as CIC) and 10% of it is funded by Yunnan Investment Group (hereinafter referred to as "YIG"); the Employer is Laos-China Railway Co., Ltd. There has been tender condition of Sections Laos-China LC-1~ LC-4 of girder precasting yard, girder precasting, girder transport and girder erection of the project, now you are invited to participate in the prequalification for lump-sum construction contracting of Sections Laos-China LC-1~ LC-4 of girder precasting yard, girder precasting, girder transport and girder erection of New Boten-Vientiane Section of Laos-China Railway.

**2. Project profile and scope of tender**

New Boten - Vientiane Railway starts from Boten in the north, a border port between China and Laos, runs southwards across provinces of Namtha, Oudomxay, Luang Prabang and Vientiane, and ends at Vientiane, the Capital of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, with a full route length of 414.332km.

Scheduled duration of whole railway: five years.

Major works of Sections Laos-China LC-1~LC-4 of girder precasting yard, girder precasting, girder transport and girder erection are: Girder precasting yard, girder precasting, girder transport and girder erection.

Railway technical standards of China are adopted, and enterprises in China are responsible for project construction.

The range of this tender: Sections Laos-China LC-1~LC-4 of girder precasting yard, girder precasting, girder transport and girder erection, each tenderer is allowed to participate in the competitive bidding of four sections simultaneously, but each tenderer can only win one section; if the same tenderer is evaluated as the first successful candidate in two or more sections at the same time, the Employer shall determine the tenderer's winning section.

Of which:

The range of works of Section Laos-China LC-1 of girder precasting yard, girder precasting,

**girder transport and girder erection: From DK3+425 to D3K41+000**

Major quantities of Section Laos-China LC-1 of girder precasting yard, girder precasting, girder transport and girder erection: Precasting and erection of about 310 single-track (reinforced) prestressed concrete T-girders, and one girder precasting (storage) yard.

Girder precasting yard, girder precasting, girder transport and girder erection of Laos-China LC-1: commencement date: December 1st, 2018, completion date: November 15, 2020

Contents of works of Section Laos-China LC-1 of girder precasting yard, girder precasting, girder transport and girder erection: Precasting, transport and erection and cast-in-place of simply-supported T-beam, supports of simply-supported T-beam and Na Teuy girder precasting (storage) yard of DK3+425 to D3K41+000 section.

**The range of works of Section Laos-China LC-2 of girder precasting yard, girder precasting, girder transport and girder erection: From D3K52+929 to D2K129+505**

Major quantities of Section Laos-China LC-2 of girder precasting yard, girder precasting, girder transport and girder erection: Precasting and erection of about 302 single-track (reinforced) prestressed concrete T-girders, and one girder precasting (storage) yard.

Girder precasting yard, girder precasting, girder transport and girder of Laos-China LC-2: commencement date: December 1st, 2018, completion date: January 25, 2021

Contents of works of Section Laos-China LC-2 of girder precasting yard, girder precasting, girder transport and girder erection: Precasting, transport and erection and cast-in-place of simply-supported T-beam, supports of simply-supported T-beam and Muang Xai girder precasting (storage) yard of D3K52+929 to D2K129+505 section.

**The range of works of Section Laos-China LC-3 of girder precasting yard, girder precasting, girder transport and girder erection: From DK136+530 to DK218+113**

Major quantities of Section Laos-China LC-3 of girder precasting yard, girder precasting, girder transport and girder erection: Precasting and erection of about 291 single-track (reinforced) prestressed concrete T-girders, and one girder precasting (storage) yard.

Girder precasting yard, girder precasting, girder transport and girder erection of Laos-China LC-3: commencement date: December 1st, 2018, completion date: March 25, 2021

Contents of works of Section Laos-China LC-3 of girder precasting yard, girder precasting, girder transport and girder erection: Precasting, transport and erection and cast-in-place of simply-supported T-beam, supports of simply-supported T-beam and Luang Prabang girder precasting (storage) yard of DK136+530 to DK218+113 section.

**The range of works of Section Laos-China LC-4 of girder precasting yard, girder precasting, girder transport and girder erection: From D1K228+902 to DK343+300**

Major quantities of Section Laos-China LC-4 of girder precasting yard, girder precasting, girder transport and girder erection: Precasting and erection of about 521 single-track (reinforced) pre-

stressed concrete T-girders, and one girder precasting (storage) yard.

Girder precasting yard, girder precasting, girder transport and girder erection of Laos-China LC-4: commencement date: December 1st, 2018, completion date: March 25, 2021

Contents of works of Section Laos-China LC-4 of girder precasting yard, girder precasting, girder transport and girder erection: Precasting, transport and erection and cast-in-place of simply-supported T-beam, supports of simply-supported T-beam and Vang Viang girder precasting (storage) yard of D1K228+902 to DK343+300 section.

**3. Applicant qualification requirements**

3.1. This tender requires that the bidder of Sections Laos-China LC-1, Laos-China LC-2 and Laos-China LC-3 shall have simultaneously (1) one of special grade qualifications for general construction contracting of railways, highways, water conservancy and hydropower, ports and navigable channels and municipal utilities of China, (2) Grade A qualification for discipline contracting of railway track-laying and beam-erecting projects (It is also OK that a subsidiary of the bidder possesses the qualification), and (3) construction experience in Laos (including projects under construction).

The bidder of Section Laos-China LC-4 shall simultaneously have (1) one of special grade qualifications for general construction contracting of railways, highways, water conservancy and hydropower, ports and navigable channels and municipal utilities of China, (2) Grade A qualification for discipline contracting of railway track-laying and beam-erecting projects (It is also OK that any member unit of consortium bidder possesses the qualification, and responsibilities and obligations of the leader and all parties of the Consortium shall be clearly defined in the Consortium Agreement), and (3) the construction experience in Laos, including the project under construction (It is also OK that any member unit of consortium bidder has the experience, subject to documents that can prove the performance such as contracts, letter of acceptances or completion acceptance reports). It is required to have the capability in personnel, equipment and funds to undertake the construction of Sections Laos-China LC-1, Laos-China LC-2, Laos-China LC-3 and Laos-China LC-4. Among them, the Project Manager who is proposed to be allocated by the applicant must have the practicing qualification of Grade A Registered Constructor in railway engineering and valid Safety Production Review Certificate, not serving for any other projects under construction.

3.2. A consortium shall not be formed for bidding of Laos-China LC-1, Laos-China LC-2 and Laos-China LC-3, but a consortium can be formed for bidding of Laos-China LC-4.

**4. Prequalification method**

This prequalification adopts the qualification system (qualification system/limited number system). If the limited number system is adopted, the number of applicants to pass the prequalification shall be limited to    .

**5. Acquisition of prequalification document**

5.1. Applicants are requested to buy the Tender Documents every morning from 9: 00 to 12: 00 and every afternoon from 14: 00 to 17: 00 (Local time, similarly hereinafter) from October 9 2018 to October 13 2018, bringing your ID card and letter of introduction of your company in Floor 6 of Vientiane Center, & 603 room of CRDC Beijing branch, 9-1 B, South Fengwo Road, Xi Cheng district, Beijing (detailed address).

5.2. Each set of prequalification documents is sold at the price of CNY 3,000, which will not be refunded after sale.

5.3. For mail-order of prequalification documents, additional handling fee (including postage) CNY    \    is required. After receiving the letter of introduction of your company and mail-order payment (including handling fee), the Employer will mail the Tender Documents within    days.

**6. Submission of prequalification application documents**

6.1. The time for submitting prequalification application documents is from 8:30:00 October 19, 2018 to 9:30:00 October 19, 2018, and the deadline for submitting prequalification application documents (application deadline, similarly hereinafter) is 9:30:00 October 19, 2018 at meeting room of CRDC Beijing branch, 9-1 B, South Fengwo Road, Xi Cheng district, Beijing .

6.2. In case of overdue submission or failure to submit to the designated place, the Employer will not accept.

**7. Media for publishing the Announcement**

This Prequalification Announcement is published on [www.bcactc.com](http://www.bcactc.com) and Vientiane Times (the media name of the announcement).

**8. Contact**

Employer: Laos-China Railway Co., Ltd.

Address: Vientiane Center, Laos

Contact person: Ma Zheng

Tel. (+856) 2056396999 13718775887

E-mail: zhltl2016@163.com



Laos-China Railway Co., Ltd.  
October 8, 2018

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## 5. CDROM

Editions of the Vientiane Times from 1994 to the present are stored and available on CD/DVD-ROM at special prices. Enquire via the VT office from Monday to Friday during regular office hours.

## 6. News Message Service via mobile phone (SMS)

Our breaking news message service in English is updated at least 5 times a day from Monday to Friday and on Sundays. Lao Telecom (LTC) customers should send 'R' to 1135 for news in English, while Telecom Lao (ETL) subscribers type 'ON' and send to 2246.

## 7. Newspaper boxes

We now offer newspaper delivery boxes for use in homes and offices. The boxes, each of which is equipped with a lock and key, help protect your daily newspaper from the perils of inclement weather.

## 8. Dictionary

Vientiane Times Lao-English-Lao and Lao-Lao Dictionary Software is available at our office.

The dictionary has been compiled over years from many sources, and consists of contemporary Lao words and some older forms derived from ancient Pali and Sanskrit. The names of government agencies, trees, animals, fish and prominent locations in Laos have been added to this dictionary.

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Vientiane Times office, Phonpapao Village, Sisattanak District, P.O. Box: 5723 Vientiane, Lao PDR, Tel: (856-21) 336042, 336048, Fax: (856-21) 336041. Email: [info@vientianetimes.la](mailto:info@vientianetimes.la) website: [www.vientianetimes.la](http://www.vientianetimes.la); [www.vientianetimes.org.la](http://www.vientianetimes.org.la)



ສາທາລະນະລັດ ປະຊາທິປະໄຕ ປະຊາຊົນລາວ  
ສັນຕິພາບ ເອກະລາດ ປະຊາທິປະໄຕ ເອກະພາບ ວັດທະນະຖາວອນ

ເມືອງດາກຈິງ

ຫ້ອງການກະສິກໍາ ແລະ ປ່າໄມ້ເມືອງດາກຈິງ

ເລກທີ 370 /ຫກປມ

ເມືອງດາກຈິງ, ວັນທີ 02/10/2018

### ໜັງສືແຈ້ງເຊີນເຂົ້າຮ່ວມການສົມທຽບລາຄາ

- ລັດຖະບານແຫ່ງ ສສປ ລາວ ໄດ້ຮັບ ຫຼືອລ້າຈາກອົງການ IFAD Grant No. G-I-DSF-8117 LAO ແລະ ແຜນງານການປັບຕົວການກະສິກໍາເຂົ້າກັບການປ່ຽນແປງສະພາບດິນຟ້າອາກາດ ASAP Grant No. 2000001141-LA ເພື່ອຈັດຕັ້ງ ປະຕິບັດແຜນງານ ຄ້າປະກັນສະບຽງອາຫານໄພສະນາການ ແລະ ເຊື່ອມໂຍງການຕະຫລາດ ພາກໄຕ້ລາວ (ຄສພຕ), ແລະ ສ່ວນໜຶ່ງຂອງກອງທຶນ ດັ່ງກ່າວ ແມ່ນຈະນໍາໃຊ້ເຂົ້າ ໃນການກໍ່ສ້າງລະບົບນໍ້າຊົນລະປະທານ ໃນບ້ານເປົ້າໝາຍແຜນງານ ຕາມລະຫັດສັນຍາ ທີ່ລະບຸໃວ້ໃນໜັງສືແຈ້ງເຊີນ ດັ່ງກ່າວນີ້. ຈໍານວນ ແລະ ບໍລິມາດວຽກທີ່ຈະໄດ້ຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດ ລວມທັງ ສະຖານທີ່ ແລະ ໄລຍະເວລາ ການກໍ່ສ້າງ ແມ່ນຈະໄດ້ລະບຸລາຍລະອຽດໃນ ເອກະສານຄັດຕິດ A: ຕາຕະລາງມູນຄ່າກິດຈະກຳ.

#### ຕາຕະລາງຊື່ໂຄງການທີ່ຈະປະມຸນການກໍ່ສ້າງ:

ລດ	ຊື່ບ້ານ	ຊື່ໂຄງການຍ່ອຍ	ເລກລະຫັດໂຄງການຍ່ອຍ
1	ບ້ານ ດາກບູ	ຝ່າຍນໍ້າລົ້ນ	FNML/DAFO/2018/003-3
2	ບ້ານ ງອນດອນ	ຝ່າຍນໍ້າລົ້ນ	FNML/DAFO/2018/003-1
3	ບ້ານງອນດອນ (ໂຮງຮຽນ)	ຝ່າຍນໍ້າລົ້ນ	FNML/DAFO/2018/003-2

- ຜູ້ປະມຸນຈະຕ້ອງໄດ້ຍິນຊ່ອງສະເໜີລາຄາ ສະບັບຕົ້ນ 1 ຊຸດ ໂດຍໝາຍ "ສະບັບຕົ້ນ" ແລະ ສະບັບສໍາເນົາ 1 ຊຸດ ໂດຍໝາຍ "ສະບັບສໍາເນົາ". ຊ່ອງເອກະສານຕ້ອງລະບຸ ຊື່ໂຄງການທີ່ຈະປະມຸນ ແລະ ລະຫັດສັນຍາ ຢ່າງຈະແຈ້ງ ພ້ອມທັງລະບຸຊື່ທີ່ຖືກຕ້ອງຂອງບໍລິສັດ ອີງຕາມໃບທະບຽນວິສາຫະກິດ ແລະ ປຶ້ມບັນຊີເງິນຝາກໃນທະນາຄານ ຂອງບໍລິສັດ.
- ໃບສະເໜີລາຄາ ຕ້ອງສົ່ງກ່ອນ ເວລາ 10:00 ໂມງ ຂອງວັນທີ 17/10/2018 ແລະ ຊ່ອງໃບສະເໜີລາຄາ ຈະໄດ້ຖືກເປີດຢ່າງເປັນທາງການທັນທີ ພາຍຫຼັງການປິດຮັບຊ່ອງສະເໜີລາຄາ ໂດຍການເຂົ້າຮ່ວມຂອງຄະນະກຳມະການປະມຸນ ແລະ ຜູ້ປະມຸນເຊິ່ງສະຖານທີ່ຈະຈັດຕາມທີ່ຢູ່ຂ້າງລຸ່ມນີ້.

ສໍາລັບການພົວພັນເອກະສານເພີ່ມເຕີມສາມາດຕິດຕໍ່ພົວພັນ: ຫ້ອງການກະສິກໍາ ແລະ ປ່າໄມ້ ເມືອງດາກຈິງ ທີ່ຢູ່.ບ້ານດາກຈິງ, ເມືອງ.ດາກຈິງ, ແຂວງເຊກອງ, ໂທລະສັບ +856 5536 9222 +856 030 4992298, ອີເມລ: [mithouna@live.com](mailto:mithouna@live.com), ຫຼື ເຂົ້າເບິ່ງເອກະສານ [www.fnm.gov.la](http://www.fnm.gov.la)

ຫົວໜ້າຫ້ອງການກະສິກໍາ ແລະ ປ່າໄມ້ເມືອງ



ທ. ສຸພາບອນ ພະສິດພອນ



ສາທາລະນະລັດ ປະຊາທິປະໄຕ ປະຊາຊົນລາວ  
ສັນຕິພາບ ເອກະລາດ ປະຊາທິປະໄຕ ເອກະພາບ ວັດທະນະຖາວອນ

ເມືອງສະໝ້ວຍ

ຫ້ອງການກະສິກໍາ ແລະ ປ່າໄມ້ເມືອງສະໝ້ວຍ

ເລກທີ 251/ຫກປມ

ສະໝ້ວຍ, ວັນທີ: 24 - 09 -2018

### ໜັງສືແຈ້ງເຊີນເຂົ້າຮ່ວມການສົມທຽບລາຄາ

- ລັດຖະບານແຫ່ງ ສສປ ລາວ ໄດ້ຮັບ ຫຼືອລ້າຈາກອົງການ IFAD Grant No. G-I-DSF-8117 LAO ແລະ ແຜນງານການປັບຕົວການກະສິກໍາເຂົ້າກັບການປ່ຽນແປງສະພາບດິນຟ້າອາກາດ ASAP Grant No. 2000001141-LA ເພື່ອຈັດຕັ້ງ ປະຕິບັດແຜນງານ ຄ້າປະກັນສະບຽງອາຫານໄພສະນາການ ແລະ ເຊື່ອມໂຍງການຕະຫລາດ ພາກໄຕ້ລາວ (ຄສພຕ), ແລະ ສ່ວນໜຶ່ງຂອງກອງທຶນ ດັ່ງກ່າວ ແມ່ນຈະນໍາໃຊ້ເຂົ້າ ໃນການກໍ່ສ້າງລະບົບນໍ້າຊົນລະປະທານຂະໜາດນ້ອຍ ໃນບ້ານເປົ້າໝາຍແຜນງານ ຕາມລະຫັດສັນຍາ ທີ່ລະບຸໃວ້ໃນໜັງສືແຈ້ງເຊີນ ດັ່ງກ່າວນີ້. ຈໍານວນ ແລະ ບໍລິມາດວຽກທີ່ຈະໄດ້ຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດ ລວມທັງ ສະຖານທີ່ ແລະ ໄລຍະເວລາ ການກໍ່ສ້າງ ແມ່ນຈະໄດ້ລະບຸລາຍລະອຽດໃນ ເອກະສານຄັດຕິດ A: ຕາຕະລາງມູນຄ່າກິດຈະກຳ.

#### ຕາຕະລາງຊື່ໂຄງການທີ່ຈະປະມຸນການກໍ່ສ້າງ:

ລດ	ຊື່ບ້ານ	ຊື່ໂຄງການຍ່ອຍ	ເລກລະຫັດໂຄງການຍ່ອຍ
1	ບ້ານ ອາດຸກ	ຝ່າຍນໍ້າລົ້ນ	FNML/DAFO/2018/004-5
2	ບ້ານ ພິນເຊ	ຝ່າຍນໍ້າລົ້ນ	FNML/DAFO/2018/004-3
3	ບ້ານ ຕາລໍໄຕ້	ຝ່າຍນໍ້າລົ້ນ	FNML/DAFO/2018/004-2
4	ບ້ານ ອາໂອ້	ຝ່າຍນໍ້າລົ້ນ	FNML/DAFO/2018/004-6
5	ບ້ານ ອາສ້ອຍ	ຝ່າຍນໍ້າລົ້ນ	FNML/DAFO/2018/004-4
6	ບ້ານ ກາວະຕະລາຍ	ຝ່າຍນໍ້າລົ້ນ	FNML/DAFO/2018/004-1
7	ບ້ານ ກາເລງ	ຝ່າຍນໍ້າລົ້ນ	FNML/DAFO/2018/004-7
8	ບ້ານ ອາຊິງເໜືອ	ຝ່າຍນໍ້າລົ້ນ	FNML/DAFO/2018/004-8
9	ບ້ານ ອາແຕງໂກຕ່າຍ	ຝ່າຍນໍ້າລົ້ນ	FNML/DAFO/2018/004-9
10	ບ້ານ ແມວ	ຝ່າຍນໍ້າລົ້ນ	FNML/DAFO/2018/004-10

- ໃບສະເໜີລາຄາ ຕ້ອງສົ່ງກ່ອນ ເວລາ 10:00 ໂມງ ຂອງວັນທີ 15/10/2018 ແລະ ຊ່ອງໃບສະເໜີລາຄາ ຈະໄດ້ຖືກ ເປີດຢ່າງເປັນທາງການທັນທີ ພາຍຫຼັງການປິດຮັບຊ່ອງສະເໜີລາຄາ ໂດຍການເຂົ້າຮ່ວມຂອງຄະນະກຳມະການປະມຸນ ແລະ ຜູ້ປະມຸນເຊິ່ງສະຖານທີ່ຈະຈັດຕາມທີ່ຢູ່ຂ້າງລຸ່ມນີ້.
- ຜູ້ປະມຸນຈະຕ້ອງໄດ້ຍິນຊ່ອງສະເໜີລາຄາ ສະບັບຕົ້ນ 1 ຊຸດ ໂດຍໝາຍ "ສະບັບຕົ້ນ" ແລະ ສະບັບສໍາເນົາ 1 ຊຸດ ໂດຍໝາຍ "ສະບັບສໍາເນົາ". ຊ່ອງເອກະສານຕ້ອງລະບຸ ຊື່ໂຄງການທີ່ຈະປະມຸນ ແລະ ລະຫັດສັນຍາ ຢ່າງຈະແຈ້ງ ພ້ອມທັງລະບຸຊື່ທີ່ຖືກຕ້ອງຂອງບໍລິສັດ ອີງຕາມໃບທະບຽນວິສາຫະກິດ ແລະ ປຶ້ມບັນຊີເງິນຝາກໃນທະນາຄານ ຂອງບໍລິສັດ.

ສໍາລັບການພົວພັນເອກະສານເພີ່ມເຕີມສາມາດຕິດຕໍ່ພົວພັນ: ຫ້ອງການກະສິກໍາ ແລະ ປ່າໄມ້ ເມືອງສະໝ້ວຍ ທີ່ຢູ່.ບ້ານແທດສະບານ, ເມືອງ.ສະໝ້ວຍ, ແຂວງສາລະວັນ, ໂທລະສັບ/ ຟັກ +856 030 4980057, 030 9468599, 020 95461277. ອີເມລ: [samlykao@gmail.com](mailto:samlykao@gmail.com) ຫຼື ເຂົ້າເບິ່ງເອກະສານ [www.fnm.gov.la](http://www.fnm.gov.la)

ຫົວໜ້າຫ້ອງການກະສິກໍາ ແລະ ປ່າໄມ້ເມືອງ



ປັນຈາ ໄຊປັນຍາ



**ອົງການອາຫານໂລກ**  
**World Food Programme**

The World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. In Laos, WFP is committed to reduce under nutrition and food insecurity throughout the country. All WFP staff contributes as a team to this mission.

**Advertisement**  
**Vacancy Announcement: Programme Assistant SC5**  
**in Houaphanh, Oudomxay and Phongsaly Provinces**

Vacancy Announcement No: WFP LAO 019	Date: 5 October 2018
Title: Programme Assistant	Duty Station: Oudomxay, Houaphanh, and Phongsaly
Grade: SC5	Contract Type: Service Contract
Organization Unit: Field Offices	Deadline for application: <b>15 October 2018</b>

We are looking for four Programme Assistants to be based at district level in following locations:

- Namoi district, Oudomxay province
- Xamtaï district, Houaphanh province
- Mai and Boun-Tai districts, Phongsaly province

They will work under the direct supervision of Programme Policy Officer at Provincial level and overall supervision of WFP Country Office in Vientiane. They will carry out the following duties and responsibilities:

**Duties and responsibilities:**

- Provide project management and/or general office support following established targets and WFP's policies and procedures.
- Perform accurate, timely recording of data within the specific technical area of work (e.g. food security and vulnerability assessments) following corporate standards and guidelines.
- Work and exchange information with internal counterparts to support effective collaboration, implementation and monitoring of ongoing project activities.
- Support communication and activities with local partners, agencies, NGOs and government institutions.
- Act as a point of contact for resolution of general operational queries requesting assistance where necessary.
- Support implementation of Strategic Support for Food Security and Nutrition Project (SSFSNP) at district level in collaboration with District Agriculture and Forestry Office (DAFO) and Department of Health (DoH).
- Support implementation of the participatory village development plans (together with WFP service provider) and multisectoral district level plans.
- Regularly provide updates and reports on the field activities implemented through Service provider, Lao Women Union and DoH staff. Regular monitoring of the implementation of Village Development Plan (VDP), Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) activities and farmer nutrition schools.
- Drafting of initial minutes of meetings and proceedings of reviews and collecting information from villages regarding programme progress and achievements.

**Education:**  
A Bachelor Degree in agriculture, nutrition, public health, social sciences is desirable

**Experience and skills:**

- At least four years relevant working experience in rural community development or equivalent is preferable;
- Experience working with technical team and contributed to programme implementation;
- Excellent word processing skills and excel skills;
- Experience working in difficult locations with people of different backgrounds.
- Ability to speak ethnic group language(s) is an asset
- Knowledge of database and data analysis is an asset.
- Fluency in both oral and written communication in English and Lao.

**Application Submission**  
Application are required to apply online by 15 October 2018 <http://www1.wfp.org/careers/job-openings>  
Requisition ID# 100125, 100126, 100127

WFP is committed to gender balance in all functions and at all levels. We are committed to increasing the number of female staff in our offices. **Female candidates in particular are encouraged to apply.**

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for an interview. Please note that CVs and other documents submitted to WFP cannot be returned.



**ອົງການອາຫານໂລກ**  
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**Advertisement**  
**Vacancy Announcement: Business Support Assistant SC3**  
**in Phongsaly Province**

Vacancy Announcement No: WFP LAO 018	Date: 5 October 2018
Title: Business Support Assistant	Duty Station: Xamnuat
Grade: SC3	Contract Type: Service Contract
Organization Unit: Field Offices	Deadline for application: <b>15 October 2018</b>

We are looking for a Business Support Assistant to be based in the in Phongsaly province. He/she will work under direct supervision of Programme Policy Officer and will carry out the following duties and responsibilities:

**Experience and skills:**

- At least three years relevant working experience in Business Administration or equivalent is preferable;
- Ability to use standard office equipment such as photocopiers and scanners.
- Knowledge of standardised business support work routines and methods.
- Knowledge of standard office software packages, e.g. Microsoft word.
- Uses tact and courtesy to give and receive information with a variety of individuals.
- Good attention to detail in order to identify data discrepancies.
- Good English communication.

**Application Submission**  
Application are required to apply online by 15 October 2018 <http://www1.wfp.org/careers/job-openings>  
Requisition ID# 100128

WFP is committed to gender balance in all functions and at all levels. We are committed to increasing the number of female staff in our offices. **Female candidates in particular are encouraged to apply.**

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for an interview. Please note that CVs and other documents submitted to WFP cannot be returned.

**Duties and responsibilities:**

- Collect, sort and disseminate correspondence, reports and other material to meet the required demands of staff to time standards.
- Respond to routine queries received and escalate where appropriate, to provide a timely and accurate service to clients.
- Proofread written documents, such as standard reports and correspondence, to contribute to the accuracy of written information developed by staff.
- Provide a set of standard business support activities, where required, to contribute to the effective functioning of business operations.
- Make travel arrangements and support events, etc., to support staff to work effectively.
- Support the maintenance of office files, documents, and records in accordance with established systems and processes so that information is current and readily available for staff.
- Undertake standard data entry tasks in accordance with defined systems, to ensure information is organised and readily available for the business team.

**Education:**  
Completion of secondary school education. A degree in Business Administration, Accounting/Finance, Secretary, Social Services or any other related field.



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

**Mekong Integrated Water Resources Management Project (M-IWRMP): Additional Financing**  
**Department of Planning and Cooperation**  
**Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment**  
**IDA Project No.: M-IWRMP (P-159447)**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**  
**Individual Consultant for the**  
**Position of National Procurement Consultant for C3.1.1 and C2.5-NPMU**  
**(M-IWRMP AF Procurement No.: C2.5-CS-009)**

The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic towards the cost of the Mekong Integrated Water Resource Management Project (M-IWRMP) funded by the World Bank thru the International Development Association (IDA) intends to apply part of the proceeds to eligible payments under the Contract for which this Request for Expression of Interest is issued by Department of Planning and Cooperation under the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment as National Project Management Unit (NPMU) for Component 2.5 of M-IWRMP.

The M-IWRMP is seeking for the positions of a **National Procurement Consultant** to support the Project for ensuring all procurement is conducted in accordance with the procurement procedures agreed between the World Bank and the Government of the Lao PDR in a manner to ensure economy, efficiency and transparency

The **National Procurement Consultant** will have the following minimum qualifications and specific experience:

- At least Bachelor's Degree in management, economics, business administration, engineering or any related field;
- Have at least 5 years of working experience performing assignments similar to the position;
- Have a good knowledge and understanding of both Lao PDR government and international funding procurement procedures, processes and practices (knowledge of World Bank procurement is an advantage); knowledge on STEP is desirable
- Have good knowledge and understanding of the Lao PDR government administrative systems as well as the government's clearance and approval procedures applicable to procurement;
- Written and oral communication skills in Lao and English

Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers*, dated January 2011, revised July 2014.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours Monday to Friday, from 0800 to 1600 hours local time in NPMU of the M-IWRMP Office, Department of Planning and Cooperation-Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment, Vientiane Capital, Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Expressions of interest must be delivered by postal mail, Fax or e-mail to the address below by **31 October 2018**.

**Mr. Bounpakone Phongpichit**  
National Project Manager-NPMU MIWRMP AF  
Department of Planning and Cooperation  
Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment  
Tel: +8562055928951  
Email: [bounpakone2012@gmail.com](mailto:bounpakone2012@gmail.com)



**ອົງການອາຫານໂລກ**  
**World Food Programme**

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**Re- advertisement**  
**Vacancy Announcement: Programme Policy Officer SC8**  
**in Houaphanh, Oudomxay and Phongsaly**

Vacancy Announcement No: WFP LAO 017	Date: 5 October 2018
Title: Programme Policy Officer	Duty Station: Xamnuat, Oudomxay and Phongsaly Province
Grade: SC8	Contract Type: Service Contract
Organization Unit: Field Offices	Deadline for application: <b>15 October 2018</b>

WFP is looking for three Programme Policy Officers SC8 to be based in following locations:

- Xamnuat, Houaphanh province
- Xay, Oudomxay province
- Phongsaly, Phongsaly province

They will work under direct supervision of the Programme Policy Officer in Vientiane Country Office and will carry out the following duties and responsibilities:

**Duties and responsibilities:**

- Contribute towards the development of a limited number of projects, plans and processes, ensuring alignment with wider programme policies and guidance.
- Provide project management support to specific and defined programmes and projects of small to moderate size that are relatively straight forward in nature, ensuring a coordinated approach with wider programmes that complies with WFP standards and procedures.
- Follow data gathering and monitoring systems ensuring that rigorous quality standards are maintained.
- Research and analyse policy and operational issues to support senior colleagues in the development of policies, programmes and activities.
- Contribute to the preparation of accurate and timely reporting on programmes and activities that enable informed decision making and consistency of information presented to stakeholders.
- Liaise with internal counterparts to ensure effective collaboration, monitor ongoing projects.
- Support the identification, development and management of potential partnerships to collaborative working leading to improved food assistance packages.
- Support the capacity building of WFP staff, partners and national government to prepare for and respond to food assistance needs, e.g. through project management support of learning initiatives.
- Provide guidance to support staff, acting as a point of referral and assisting them with analysis and queries.

**Education:**  
Advanced University degree in International Affairs, Economics, Nutrition/Health, Agriculture, Environmental Science, Social Sciences field relevant to international development assistance, or First University Degree with additional years of related work experience And /or trainings/courses.  
Fluency in English language and Lao.

**Experience and skills:**

- Has at least 7 years of experience in development
- Has gained experience in implementing technical programs (i.e. nutrition, etc.).
- Has implemented programmes and provided input into designing operations.
- Has provided input into policy discussions and decisions.
- Field experience is essential, experience being responsible for programmes or knowledge of WFP work is highly desirable.
- Ability to work in a team, establish effective working relations with persons of different cultural backgrounds.

**Application Submission**  
Application are required to apply online by 15 October 2018 <http://www1.wfp.org/careers/job-openings>  
Requisition ID# 100124, 84864, 84863

WFP is committed to gender balance in all functions and at all levels. We are committed to increasing the number of female staff in our offices. **Female candidates in particular are encouraged to apply.**

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for an interview. Please note that CVs and other documents submitted to WFP cannot be returned.

**Streetwise**

# What should be done to hasten road repairs after the damage caused by floods?

*Many roads in Vientiane were damaged by this year's heavy rains and floods and making travel inconvenient or even hazardous for villagers. Vientiane Times ventured out to ask residents of the capital how their neighbourhood roads have fared and where urgent attention is most required.*

**Times Reporters**

**Mr Bounporn, a songtheo driver in Xaythany district:**

The road in my village to the city was damaged because of the flood. It's very hard to drive on. Many



people have had accidents, especially at night when it's dark because the road had many big potholes. Most of the accidents are drivers from other regions

because they don't know the road well and were caught unawares. In some part in the village, locals have repaired it themselves already because they don't want any accidents caused in front of their homes but I think repairing the road is not the responsibility of villagers. Authorities should hurry up and fix the road for them.

**Mr Va Luang-aphay, a resident of Phangum district:**

I went back to my home village two weeks ago. The road was good because it's new but not completely finished, especially the bridge. However, last month the flood covered these areas so



Deteriorating and broken roads following the rainy season.

I worry if it will soon have problems because I don't know if the construction was good enough. Last year, it was very bad for both cars and motorbikes. I think the government should invest more money in this problem because it will be more



A road submerged in Xaythany district last month.



convenient for villagers and also assist with economic development.

**Mr Party Thevixay, a resident of Nasala village, Xaythany district:**

I really hate riding to my village. I haven't been back to the village for a month already.



I had no choice but to ride over all the potholes because there are too many. The road was already breaking up before the rainy season but now it's even worse after the flood. Of course, I really would like to call on authorities to repair this road. They should fix it because villagers pay road tax but why do authorities keep the road in such a bad state like this.

**Ms Meena Punyavong, a businesswoman in Vientiane:**

This year, the flooding caused many problems around our country including in Vientiane. The rain and flooding always damage the roads in Vientiane because they are often poorly constructed. It's always the same every time we get big rain; flooding occurs because the drainage don't work properly and

some roads don't even have drains. However, now the rain and floods have ended around the country, so the government should hurry up and repair the roads. I'm talking about not just repairing roads in Vientiane but other province as well. For example, the main road



to Vangvieng that I travelled on two weeks ago is very bad and small cars cannot use it. The roads breaking up is always a problem in Laos. The government should pay more attention to the quality of road construction so that they can be used for many years.

**CARE International in Lao PDR**  
International Consultant

Scaling Up convergent Programme Approaches to improve food and nutrition security in the northern uplands (SUPA)

**Location:** National and provincial level, incl. 5 districts in Luang Namtha and Phongsaly, Laos PDR.

**Introduction**  
Care International in Lao PDR in partnership with Comitee de Cooperation avec le Laos (CCL), Rural Development Association (RDA) and Lao Organic Production in Agriculture (LOPA) is implementing the project "Scaling Up convergent Programme Approaches to improved food and nutrition security in Phongsaly and Luang Namtha provinces. The project (2016-2020) is funded by the European Union. The Overall Objective is to improve food and nutrition security of ethnic women, their families and communities. Two Specific Objectives are defined as: (SO.1) Increased knowledge and capacities on nutritious food consumption, gender and nutrition-sensitive farming, sanitation, hygiene and care practices; (SO.2) District and Provincial government and civil society actors are capable and committed to implement gender sensitive and multi-sectoral approaches to improve food and nutrition security.

**Objectives of the assignment**  
The overall objective of the consultancy is to (i) assess the project's progress against project logical framework based on identified evaluation criteria and (ii) provide recommendations on how to improve towards successful achievement of objectives and results by the end of the project in 2020.

**Specifically focus on assessment and recommendations related to:**

1. Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency and sustainability of the project.
2. Results: The positive and negative changes produced by the project,
3. Monitoring and learning: The effectiveness of project monitoring and learning processes.
4. Specific technical approaches or methodology used.
5. Mode of delivery, such as the partnership approach adopted.
6. Management arrangements, such as staffing structure, quality of partnership arrangements, technical assistance provided.
7. Contributions to gender equality and women's empowerment.

**Required expertise and Selection Criteria**

- At least 5 years of experience on food security and nutrition programming, with a focus on SE Asia preferably in Lao PDR.
- Demonstrated successful experience in conducting project mid-term reviews
- Relevant technical experience (e.g. nutrition sensitive agriculture, gender mainstreaming, ethnicity, Social Behavioural Change and Communication, rural livelihoods, institutional development, etc.).
- Relevant post graduate qualifications
- Ability to work autonomously, and demonstrated skills in leading a research project
- Excellent written and spoken English language skills.
- Experience in Lao PDR and Lao language skills are desirable

**Timeframe**  
Fieldwork should be conducted in October-November 2018 with the final report due by middle of December 2018. Suggested timeframe: 35 days

**Application**

- Brief document of introduction, 2 pages or less (on how the candidate meets the selection criteria)
- CV (including minimum of 2 references)
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# Challenges to be overcome to realise stable power supply in Japan's Hokkaido

JAPAN (The Yomiuri Shimbun/ANN) -- One month has passed since a massive earthquake with a maximum intensity of 7 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale hit Hokkaido.

More than 14,000 buildings were destroyed or damaged, displacing a large number of people, many of whom are still living in shelters. The damage to infrastructure, including roads, and industry-related facilities amounted to about ¥400 billion. Aftershocks have not ceased in areas near the focus of the Sept. 6 earthquake. Strict vigilance is called for.

The government will submit a supplementary budget bill to an extraordinary Diet session this autumn for restoration and reconstruction of the earthquake-stricken areas. Diet approval for, and implementation of, the extra budget should be promoted steadily.

The power outages that extended over all of Hokkaido have been resolved, making a

power supply crisis a distant possibility for now. However, the situation in which the power supply is based on full mobilization of old power generation plants is expected to continue.

Hokkaido Electric Power Co. (HEPCO) must restart

consumption increases due to the use of heaters.

It is imperative to investigate the process by which blackouts extended over the entire Hokkaido area and establish a system to ensure a stable power supply. The primary factor

power station, which has the largest supply capacity among HEPCO power plants, because the Nuclear Regulation Authority's safety screening has been prolonged. Many of HEPCO's thermal power plants are at risk of failing due to the aging of

power interchange more easily.

To ramp up its power supply capacity, HEPCO planned to begin operation next February of a new thermal power plant using liquefied natural gas. Expansion of the power interchange capacity was also scheduled, but was not completed before the disaster.

Intensified competition brought about by the liberalization of power retailing could be behind HEPCO's excessive reliance on the Tomato-Atsuma plant. The generation cost is low at the plant because it is coal-fired.

It also cannot be overlooked that the increased percentage used of renewable energy sources, such as sunlight and wind power, makes it difficult to make demand-supply adjustments for electricity.

The volume of electricity generated by renewable energy plunges

depending on weather conditions. Unless other power generation sources are secured quickly to make up for this deficiency, the frequency of the overall power system will become unstable, thereby triggering risks of power outages.

There are abundant facilities in Hokkaido for solar power and wind power generation, but they have not been used sufficiently due to a shortage of complementary power sources.

Efforts must be urgently promoted to create an environment in which renewable energy can be utilized to the maximum, including the development and prevalence of large-capacity storage batteries.

Based on lessons learned from the power outages in Hokkaido, major power utilities need to work toward establishing a power supply system that is resilient against disasters.

*The capacity of the power system interconnection between Honshu and Hokkaido is small, so HEPCO is in a different situation from power utilities that operate in Honshu, which can receive the benefits of power interchange more easily.*

the No. 2 generator of its suspended Tomato-Atsuma thermal power plant as soon as possible.

Businesses and households in Hokkaido are called on to remember to make power-saving efforts in preparation for the winter season, when electricity

behind the across-the-board blackouts is that HEPCO relied on the Tomato-Atsuma plant for about half of its electricity supply. In the background is HEPCO's fragile power supply system. Learn from outages

There are no prospects for restarting the Tomari nuclear

their facilities.

The capacity of the power system interconnection between Honshu and Hokkaido is small, so HEPCO is in a different situation from power utilities that operate in Honshu, which can receive the benefits of

## It's all in how you share the cake

THAILAND (The Nation/ANN) -- While many are scratching their heads over how to reconcile deeply divided Thais torn apart by their love or hate of certain political figures, the real problem may lie elsewhere. It's a problem that always hounded Thai democracy even in peaceful times, and it mattered not which side of the polarity held power. It's the practice of giving away Cabinet posts in exchange for crucial support.

The scourge of dividing up the Cabinet "cake" will almost certainly strike again, with the new Constitution giving small and medium-sized parties more leverage and with key rivals juggling bigger stakes than ever before. The horse-trading could reach an unprecedented level, and it all puts at risk politicians' sworn duty to serve the people.

Citizens tend to believe that winning the election is the ultimate goal and the democratic system will cope with whatever stumbling blocks arise thereafter. The truth is that Thai schools are in their present sorry state and are not going to improve anytime soon because the Education minister's post is always given to disappointed politicians as a consolation prize for having been passed

over for a more important portfolio. And the Education Ministry isn't the only bargaining chip dangled before the lucky charms who pulled in the votes and are expecting rewards. Virtually every ministerial appointment is dictated not by the public interest but by the level of pre-election support the candidates provided.

We've had a Justice minister who blatantly defied the law and a Science minister who venerated the spirit house outside his office. And then there is the revolving door at the Education Ministry, where appointees with no clue about school reform come and go, in turn overriding their predecessors' policies so that nothing ever gets accomplished.

The new electoral rules could well make matters worse. Small and medium-sized parties can win Cabinet seats if their losing candidates accumulate a big enough share of the national vote to help the lead party cement victory. This notion of giving meaning to the votes that are cast for losing candidates has a certain democratic ring to it, but it also enables parties with no actual mandate or power to play kingmaker.

Their increased leverage

jibes with the cutthroat battle for power between the big players. If the Pheu Thai Party fails to win in a landslide and needs smaller parties to form a coalition government, for example, Cabinet seats will be open for bidding. If Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, Pheu Thai's main rival, needs 20 extra parliamentary votes to remain in his post, he will be sweet-talking whoever is in a position to help him.

Unqualified ministers have plagued the Thai political landscape for too long, the result of sheer nepotism on one hand and on the other the brokering of Cabinet seats to secure power. The frenzied slicing up of the cake leads to inefficiency and often corruption too.

Thailand's much-vaunted return to democracy largely hinges on whether the post-election Cabinet genuinely works for the people's benefit. If the Cabinet has too many unqualified ministers, the past four years will have been a waste – the coup, the new Constitution and the election itself. Whether we witness a new dawn or more endless twilight will depend not on who wins the election but rather who ends up in the Cabinet.

  
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1. ລັດຖະບານແຫ່ງ ສສປ ລາວ ໄດ້ຮັບ ຫຼື ສຸ່ວຍເຫຼືອຈາກອົງການ IFAD Grant No. G-I-DSF-8117 LAO ແລະ ແຜນງານການປັບຕົວການກະສິກໍາເຂົ້າກັບ ການປ່ຽນແປງສະພາບດິນຟ້າອາກາດ ASAP Grant No. 2000001141-LA ເພື່ອຈັດຕັ້ງ ປະຕິບັດແຜນງານ ດ້ານປະກັນສະບຽງອາຫານໄພສະນາການ ແລະ ເຊື່ອມໂຍງການຕະຫລາດ ພາກໄຕ້ລາວ (ກສປ), ແລະ ສ່ວນໜຶ່ງຂອງກອງທຶນ ດັ່ງກ່າວ ແມ່ນຈະນໍາໃຊ້ເຂົ້າ ໃນການກໍ່ສ້າງລະບົບຊົນລະປະທານ ໃນບ້ານເປົ້າໝາຍ ແຜນງານ ຕາມລະຫັດສັນຍາ ທີ່ລະບຸໃນໜັງສືແຈ້ງເຊີນ ດັ່ງກ່າວນີ້. ຈຳນວນ ແລະ ບໍລິມາດວາງກໍ່ສ້າງຈະໄດ້ຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດ ລວມໜຶ່ງ ສະຖານທີ່ ແລະ ໄລຍະເວລາ ການກໍ່ສ້າງ ແມ່ນຈະໄດ້ລະບຸລາຍລະອຽດໃນ ເອກະສານຄັດຕິດ A: ຕາຕະລາງມູນຄ່າກໍ່ສ້າງ.

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3	ຄຳວິງສາ( ຄຸ້ມຫົວບຸກດ )	ກໍ່ສ້າງຊົນລະປະທານຂະໜາດຄົວເຮືອນ( ນ້ຳບາດານແຈກທໍ່ )	SACCC/DAFO/2017/001-2
4	ພູໄຊ	ກໍ່ສ້າງຊົນລະປະທານຂະໜາດຄົວເຮືອນ( ນ້ຳບາດານແຈກທໍ່ )	SACCC/DAFO/2017/006
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6	ນ້ຳກິງ	ກໍ່ສ້າງຊົນລະປະທານຂະໜາດຄົວເຮືອນ( ນ້ຳບາດານແຈກທໍ່ )	SACCC/DAFO/2017/005
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8	ວິງສິມພູ	ກໍ່ສ້າງຊົນລະປະທານຂະໜາດຄົວເຮືອນ( ນ້ຳບາດານແຈກທໍ່ )	SACCC/DAFO/2017/008
9	ວິງແກນ	ກໍ່ສ້າງຊົນລະປະທານຂະໜາດຄົວເຮືອນ( ນ້ຳບາດານແຈກທໍ່ )	SACCC/DAFO/2017/009
10	ວິງລະຄອນ	ກໍ່ສ້າງຊົນລະປະທານຂະໜາດຄົວເຮືອນ( ນ້ຳບາດານແຈກທໍ່ )	SACCC/DAFO/2017/0010

2. ຜູ້ປະມຸນຈະຕ້ອງໄດ້ຍື່ນຊື່ສະເໜີລາຄາ ສະບັບຕົ້ນ 1 ຊຸດ ໂດຍໝາຍ "ສະບັບຕົ້ນ" ແລະ ສະບັບສຳເນົາ 1 ຊຸດ ໂດຍໝາຍ "ສະບັບສຳເນົາ". ຊຸງ ເອກະສານຕ້ອງລະບຸ ຊື່ໂຄງການທີ່ຈະປະມຸນ ແລະ ລະຫັດສັນຍາ ຢ່າງຈະແຈ້ງ ສ້ອມໜັງລະບຸຊື່ທີ່ຖືກຕ້ອງຂອງບໍລິສັດ ສິ່ງຕາມໃບທະບຽນວິສາຫະກິດ ແລະ ບົມບັນຊີຮຽນປາກໃນທະນາຄານ ຂອງບໍລິສັດ.

3. ໃບສະເໜີລາຄາ ຕ້ອງສົ່ງກ່ອນ ເວລາ 10:00 ໂມງ ຂອງວັນທີ 15/10/2018 ແລະ ຊຸງໃບສະເໜີລາຄາ ຈະໄດ້ຖືກ ເປີດຢ່າງເປັນທາງການຫຼັງທີ່ ພາບຫຼັງການປິດຮັບຊື່ສະເໜີລາຄາ ໂດຍການເຂົ້າຮ່ວມຂອງຄະນະກຳມະການປະມຸນ ແລະ ຜູ້ປະມຸນເຊິ່ງສະຖານທີ່ຈະຈັດຕາມທີ່ຢູ່ຂ້າງລຸ່ມນີ້.

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ນະປະເສີດ ສີຊາກິນ

# Provincial SME's need regulatory burden relief, swifter tax registration



Times Reporters

Authorities need to reduce the regulatory burden or “red tape” that businesses face in conducting their activities due to rules and regulations so that their compliance costs can be cut to increase their efficiency.

The compliance costs include management time that needs to be devoted to overcoming the regulatory burden. Reduced red tape will also help cut higher administrative costs that lead to reduced productivity and profitability.

Often, the regulatory burden imposed on the private sector creates opportunities for rentseeking behaviour by officials, leading to additional costs, the Provincial Facilitation for Investment and Trade Index (ProFIT) reported.

The regulatory burden at the provincial level has been measured using five indicators: the number of times that businesses get inspected by provincial authorities, the time and cost involved in renewing tax registration certificates (an annual requirement) and the time and cost involved in renewing operating licences.



A man walks by a rubber plantation in Borikhamxay province.

For costs involved in the renewal of tax registration certificates, an earlier ADB- Department of SME Promotion, and Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI) study demonstrated this is a costly annual exercise. The costs of renewal of tax registration certificates and operating licences include formal and informal charges.

In the case of tax registration certificate renewal by medium provinces, ProFIT shows it is relatively quick in Oudomxay province, while Bokeo province scores well on quick tax registration certificate renewal among smaller provinces.

The medium provinces include Xieng Khuang, Oudomxay, Huaphan, Xayaboury, Borikhamxay, Saravan and Khammuan.

Tax registration certificate renewal is relatively quick in Oudomxay, with more than 80 percent of businesses reporting a turnaround time of one to two weeks.

Huaphan, Bolikhamxay and Saravan are next, achieving more than 50 percent of certificates issued in less than two weeks, noted ProFIT, a survey done by LNCCI.

Xieng Khouang managed to re-issue the tax certificates within three weeks to one month in around 45 percent of cases, while Khammuan, Bolikhamxay, Saravan and Xayaboury took more than a month in about 20 percent of the cases.

The costs involved in renewing tax registration certificates varied widely. In Xieng Khouang, 80 percent of firms reported a cost of less than 2 million kip while in Khammuan, almost 60 percent of companies reported paying more than 2 million kip.

The smaller provinces

include Attapeu, Phongsaly, Bokeo, Xekong and Luang Namtha.

ProFIT reported Bokeo scored well, as the time taken to renew tax registration certificates was shorter than other provinces, while in Luang Namtha, more than 20 percent of businesses waited more than a month for the renewal of tax registration certificates.

The cost of renewing tax registration certificates is, on average, the highest in Luang Namtha and Xekong, with 40 percent to 50 percent of businesses having to pay more than 2 million kip, while Phongsaly was relatively cheaper.

It is clear from these results that there is substantial room for improvement, especially the renewal of tax registration certificates should be automatic and instantaneous and without much cost. Inspections should only be undertaken if there is justifiable cause.

A special case is the necessity to renew tax registration certificates annually. The survey shows renewal is both slow and costly.



Lao products from northern provinces on display during an exhibition at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

In Luang Namtha, only 21 percent of applications were processed within two weeks. In Luang Namtha and Attapeu, around 20 percent of applications took more than one month to process.

The cost of renewal of tax registration certificates can be significant. These costs include formal and informal charges. In Luang Namtha, 50 percent of firms paid more than 2 million kip annually.

However in Phongsaly, more than 40 percent of companies paid less than 1 million kip, but more than 20 percent paid more than 2 million kip.

Among medium provinces, Huaphan topped the list (75 score), indicating relatively less regulatory burden than other provinces, while Xayaboury and Khammuan were at the bottom (56.4 score and 49.2 score).

The study showed that two-thirds of businesses in Saravan and Xieng Khuang were inspected one to two times a year and that was the normal inspection.

However, 18 percent to 20 percent of businesses in Xayaboury and Khammuan stood out for a relatively high score for more than four inspections a year and a relatively low score for the two provinces.

Among smaller provinces, businesses in Phongsaly were confronted with many more inspections by various authorities than the other provinces (31 percent of businesses reported more than four inspections a year).

Phongsaly and Luang Namtha stood out by inspecting enterprises more than four times a year in 31 percent and 27 percent of cases, while Bokeo and Phongsaly notably inspected companies more than two times in 56 percent and 60 percent of cases. This poses an excessive burden on companies, in time taken that is not available to manage the company and in opportunities for rent-seeking by inspecting officials.

ProFIT is a valuable addition to the set of tools used by LNCCI to promote private sector development through informed dialogue with the government.

The survey was based on LNCCI's membership database. Comparison of the structure, age and size of enterprises with records of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Ministry of Planning and Investment showed the surveys are consistent with previous estimates of business size.

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## Feature

# A language book for refugee learning

KUALA LUMPUR (The Star/ANN) -- After facing a lack of teaching materials, a teenage tutor writes her own Japanese textbook for refugee children.

For about two years, 17-year-old Mitsuyo Machida has been teaching Japanese to Burmese refugee children at a centre in Kuala Lumpur. In the course of her job, however, the teenager realised she had a problem: There were few teaching aids suitable for her class. Many of the books on the market didn't seem like they were aimed at children.

Well, the spirited Mitsuyo stepped up - she decided to create her own Japanese textbook for her class. And so, despite her youth and lack of experience in the publishing industry, Mitsuyo managed to write and publish Nihongo No Hon Beginner (A Book Of Japanese Language For Beginners), which she now uses in her sessions with her students.

"I created this book based on my own experiences of teaching and what my students were struggling with in their classes. I originally published it only for my classes, but my student's reactions were surprisingly good, so I decided to self-publish it for a wider audience," Mitsuyo says at an interview at her class at the Zo Learning Centre.

Her 50+ page book is now available for about RM70 on Amazon.com, and according to her, response to it has been



'I created this book based on my own experiences of teaching,' says Mitsuyo. --Photo the Star

encouraging, with over 20 books sold so far since she put them on sale in August (tinyurl.com/star2-books). All proceeds from the sale of the books will be donated to the Zo Learning Centre.

Adapting to a new language is perhaps second nature to Mitsuyo. Born in Tokyo, Mitsuyo moved to Malaysia when she was 11 years old, following her parents who now work

here. Enrolling at Garden International School, Mitsuyo's English was originally weak. Luckily, her teachers gave her extra work to help her, which encouraged her in turn to later set up a programme to help younger students with English.

"I wanted to help other students who might have been in the same situation as I was," Mitsuyo says. "This is why I wanted to

also help younger students be open-minded, and discover the excitement of communicating with people from different backgrounds."

Mitsuyo was also introduced to community service and street feeding programmes. Bitten by the charity bug, she began volunteering early in 2017 at the Zo Learning Centre, which caters to Burmese children. Mitsuyo teaches Japanese once a week to a class of eight students aged between 10 and 14 years old.

"I wanted to make use of my unique knowledge and skills. There are many people who can teach English and Maths, but not many who can teach Japanese in English," Mitsuyo points out.

"Knowing something is always an advantage. Learning another language is always useful, and maybe it will be useful for them in the future."

A lot of the textbooks she found, however, were rather monochrome, without many pictures or colours that would attract and hold the attention of children, so Mitsuyo decided to work on that in her book.

"Every time after lessons, I would write notes on what went well in class, and what didn't go well. I noted the areas they were struggling to grasp. So when I was creating the book, I tried to explain things as much as possible in easy language," Mitsuyo explains.

"When teaching children,

I've learnt that one thing to keep in mind is to entertain them and get them to have as much fun as possible. It's not good to just let them sit and listen to you all the time. What I do is create games for fun classes, or even watch anime to pick up Japanese. Always keep them engaged," says this teen, who seems wiser than her years.

Mitsuyo then started experimenting with design applications, trying to create the best look for her pages. She made the decisions on everything, from the formatting to the design and illustrations. The teenager endeavoured to make sure the book's language was easy, its pages had colour, and that there were cute illustrations.

Aesthetics were just as important to her as content, which is why she decided to make the book green, which she perceives to be a "friendly" colour for children.

Once she had completed a first draft, it was then time for proofreading - again, something the precocious teenager did herself. All in all, it took about a year for Mitsuyo to finish her book.

"It was really difficult at times, I didn't have a professional editor or designer. So it was challenging, but I enjoyed it," Mitsuyo says with a smile.

"On the self-publishing website I used, they had very strict requirements for everything. I had to resize all my pages to the nearest

millimetre. I had to really work on that, and that took me so long!"

It helped that she had the support of her parents and other adults around her. "This is purely originally her idea, and she planned the whole process by herself, including writing, editing and publishing. I think she learnt a lot and this experience should lead to self confidence.

"I also appreciate those who were involved and supported her in each phase of producing the book," says Mitsuyo's mother (who declined to be named).

So what's next for Mitsuyo? She is, after all, only a teenager and has her whole life in front of her. She replies that though she is interested in science and maths, she foresees herself continuing to teach as a form of community service in the future. She also plans to write a second Japanese textbook, after getting feedback from her students.

"It's important to start small. Small things can make big differences in other people's lives. You don't need to get involved in teaching or creating textbooks like I did, but what's most important is to be aware of people out there who need your help.

"Be involved in something, and hopefully you'll discover the joys of helping others," Mitsuyo says.

See what we mean about being wiser than her years?

## Getting a taste for 'Le Tour de France' in Japan's Saitama

A participant passes the band to the next cyclist during the 1-hour enduro event. --Photo the Japan News



SAITAMA (The Japan News/ANN) -- About 200 people cycled ferociously through squalls in the Road to Saitama Criterium in Saiko race, with the winners

of each category invited to join the 2018 Le Tour de France Saitama Criterium to be held November 4 in Saitama.

Races for the time trial in

three categories - men's, junior men's and women's/junior women's - on a 5-kilometre circuit began around 9:30 am on September. 15 at Arakawa Saiko Park in Sakura Ward.

Ryohei Fujita, 21, from Ageo in the prefecture, said he was thrilled to win in the men's category. "I was determined to win. I'll train even harder for the main race," Fujita said.

Team enduro racing was also held, with groups of participants competing over the number of circuits they can cycle within a given time. Eight teams, all composed of family members, took part in a one-hour event.

The 3-hour enduro event involved 50 teams - some all men, others with both men and women. All were gasping for air as they handed the band to count the rounds to the next cyclist.

Family members and other spectators seemed to be enjoying themselves as well, eating food and trying out various bicycles.

**Le magazine  
Le Rénovateur  
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# Arts & Culture



## Banksy artwork self-destructs just after US\$1.4 million sale

LONDON (AP) -- Art prankster Banksy has struck again.

A work by the elusive street artist self-destructed in front of startled auction-goers on Friday, moments after being sold for 1.04 million pounds (US\$1.4 million). In an Instagram post Saturday, Banksy claimed the dramatic artistic payoff had been years in the making.

The spray-painted canvas "Girl With Balloon" went under the hammer at Sotheby's in London, fetching more than three times its pre-sale estimate and equaling a record price for the artist.

Then, as an alarm sounded, it ran through a shredder embedded in the frame, leaving half the canvas hanging from the bottom in strips.

A post on Banksy's official Instagram account showed the moment - and the shocked reaction of those in the room - with the words "Going, going, gone..." A video was later posted on the account, stating: "A few years ago I secretly built a

shredder into a painting in case it was ever put up for auction." The video showed images of a shredder being implanted into a picture frame along with footage of Friday's auction finale.

Banksy's spokeswoman, Jo Brooks, confirmed that the post was genuine.

Sotheby's - which had noted before the sale that the work's ornate gilded frame was "an integral element of the artwork chosen by Banksy himself" - appeared as shocked as anyone else.

"It appears we just got Banksy-ed," said Alex Branczik, head of contemporary European art at the auction house.

The auction house said it was "in discussion about next steps" with the buyer, whose identity was not disclosed. Some art-market watchers say the work could be worth even more in its shredded state.

"We have not experienced this situation in the past where a painting spontaneously shredded, upon achieving a record for the artist," Branczik said. "We are

busily figuring out what this means in an auction context." Geneva-based artist Pierre Koukjian, who was at the auction, said the buyer was "very lucky" to own a now-historic piece. He called Banksy's prank "a turning point in the history of contemporary and conceptual art." Koukjian, who has met Banksy, said he is sure he caught a glimpse of the artist in the saleroom amid the confusion of the moment.

"What he did is really shocking, in a good way," Koukjian said. "I think it will be historic and people will talk for a long time about it." Brooks would not say whether the artist had been at the auction. She said Sotheby's had been "100 percent" unaware of the planned stunt.

Banksy is not the first artist to deconstruct his own work. In the years after World War II, German-born artist Gustav Metzger pioneered "auto-destructive art," creating paintings using acid that ate away the fabric beneath.

## 'Venom' sets October record with US\$80M; 'Star Is Born' soars

NEW YORK (AP) -- In a weekend of perfect counterprogramming for Hollywood, the comic-book movie "Venom" shrugged off bad reviews to shatter the October box-office record with an US\$80 million debut, while Bradley Cooper's "A Star Is Born" soared to US\$41.3 million.

With US\$174.5 million in tickets sold at US and Canadian theaters, according to comScore, it was easily the best October weekend ever thanks to two very different films that both outperformed expectations.

"Venom" came in a critically panned, much-doubted foray by Sony Pictures to kick-start a Marvel expansion away from "Spider-Man." Warner Bros.' "A Star Is Born" remake rode a wave of hype, Oscar buzz and acclaim for Cooper's directorial debut and Lady Gaga's first leading performance.

One was a very iffy proposition; the other a sure thing. Both worked big time.

"We knew we had a hit," said Warner Bros. distribution chief Jeffrey Goldstein of "A Star Is Born." "We also knew that every time people saw the movie, they felt it, they cried, they loved it. People just like the movie."

That was more in question for director Ruben Fleischer's "Venom," starring Tom Hardy as the antihero who first appeared in 2007's "Spider-Man 3." The film earned a dismal 32 percent "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes. In "Venom," many expected another studio misfire with "cinematic universe" ambitions.

Yet audiences flocked to "Venom" in record

numbers, giving it a B-plus CinemaScore. The previous best October opening was 2013's "Gravity" with US\$55.7 million (not adjusted for inflation). Adrian Smith, president of domestic distribution for Sony, said that even though the studio was confident, "I did not see US\$80 million coming."

The most telling number that explained the film's success, Smith said, was the 89 percent "fresh" audience score on Rotten Tomatoes. "Venom," which cost about US\$100 million to make (relatively modest for a superhero film), grossed a total of US\$205.2 million globally.

Steven O'Dell, Sony's president of international distribution, said the studio wanted to carve out a new approach for the comic-book adaptation with the PG-13-rated "Venom."

"This is not a Marvel style; it's not DC," O'Dell said. "Tonally, it's its own unique direction."

While "Venom" attracted a younger, majority male audience, crowds for "A Star Is Born" were more female, at 66 percent, and older, at 68 percent over 35.

"In our older audience, we had people who hadn't been to a movie in years," Goldstein said.

Warner Bros., which premiered "A Star Is Born" last month at the Venice Film Festival, previewed the film in special advance screenings in the days ahead of opening, adding an additional US\$1.3 million in ticket sales. The fifth version of the oft-remade tale, which cost about US\$40 million to make, had been in development

at Warner Bros. for decades, with earlier versions of potentially star Whitney Houston or Beyonce.

With "A Star Is Born" expected to play a large role in awards season, Goldstein said the film is sure to run through Christmas. The movie's soundtrack also reached No. 1 on iTunes this week.

The two films dominated the marketplace, though in limited release, Fox 2000's "The Hate U Give" opened with US\$500,000 on 36 screens. That gave George Tillman Jr.'s adaptation of Angie Thomas' best-selling young adult novel, starring Amandla Stenberg, a modest US\$14,000 per-screen average. The film is set to expand nationwide in the next two weeks.

Aubrey Wells, who wrote "The Hate U Give" adaptation, died Friday at age 58 after a five-year battle with cancer.

"Venom" and "A Star Is Born" helped push the year-to-date box office further above last year, now up 9.2 percent.

"The industry is absolutely on fire right now," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore. "We just finished the second-best September ever. If we keep this up, there's no question we're going to get a record."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday also are included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

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- Lao Toyota Service (Sikhottabong Branch) : Call Center 1400
- Lao Toyota Southern (Pakse Head Office) : 031-251 400

# What's On

## Indonesian arts and culture scholarship



The Indonesian government is offering a non-degree arts and culture scholarship for three months. It will run from 7 April to 16 July, 2019. Candidates with interest in arts

and those fluent in English, with at least a high school diploma/degree, are eligible to apply. Candidates are expected to be single and between the ages of 21 and 27 years. All winners of the scholarship will learn about Indonesian arts and culture at one of the arts centres in East Java, Bali, South Sulawesi, West Sumatra, East Kalimantan or Yogyakarta. **When:** Deadline for sending applications is November 1. **Where:** Apply at the Indonesian Embassy in Vientiane, near the Patuxay Monument, Kaysone Phomvihane Road. Download Application form at: <http://indonesiavancouver.org/.../1.-BSBI-2019-Application-Fo...> For more information: 020 76755866

## International Day of the Girl Child celebrations



Youngsters are invited to celebrate the contributions and potential of girls in Laos to mark the International Day of the Girl Child and also observe the second anniversary of Noi! Successful women role models will share their stories and motivate young people to achieve their dreams. At the event, there will be booths that will host fun activities and promote literature related to the event. Dancing and musical performances will be staged

to mark the event. **When:** October 11 from 1pm-5 pm **Where:** ITECC Mall

## Free TOEFL reading preparatory courses

Those wanted to improve their TOEFL reading score are suggest to join a free series of TOEFL reading preparation courses. The courses are hosted by EducationUSA Laos. This is a great opportunity for interested persons to increase their score in the category of Reading. **When:** Apply by October 11 **Where:** Apply online at <https://bit.ly/2zCsrNn> the American Center @ That Dam.

## Luang Prabang Half Marathon

Join the 6th annual Run for Children: Luang Prabang Half Marathon. The event is one of Asia's most iconic races, weaving through Luang Prabang's golden temples and running parallel to the Mekong River. All proceeds of the race will go towards supporting the Lao Friends Hospital for Children. LFHC provides free medical care for all children in northern Laos. Register online at [www.luangprabanghalfmarathon.com](http://www.luangprabanghalfmarathon.com) **When:** Event on October 21. **Where:** Run through the beautiful Unesco world heritage town of Luang Prabang.

## Technology exhibition and fair



The public is invited to come and join the technology exhibition and fair 2018. New and eco-friendly technology will be displayed and demonstrated at the event and there will be other activities. **When:** October 12-21

**Where:** ITECC Mall (old building)

## Charity run

South to North charity run (Attapeu to Phongsaly) is the biggest feat ever to be pursued in Laos. A group of dedicated and concerned runners are to take an exciting journey of 1,569 km within 16 days to raise funds in support of the provincial hospital in Attapeu and Luang Prabang Children's Hospital. Be a part of history by cheering and supporting this fundraising project. **When:** October 17-26 **Where:** From Attapeu to Phongsaly province For more info please visit South 2 North Laos - Charity Run page on Facebook

## Kong-Peung drum beating competition



Thongmixay district of Xayaboury province invites everyone to take part in the annual Kong-Peung drum beating competition. About 13 representatives from as many villages of the district will compete with each other, one by one

and round by round, on the stage and the winners of each round will continuously battle it out until the overall winner is chosen. Along with the competition, there will be a beautiful decorated drum contest and cultural activities, such as a street fair showcasing local products and cultural performances. Kong-Peung is the traditional drum of the district and the competition, which has been held since ancient times, is very colourful. For more information call 020 5414 1401. **When:** October 17. **Where:** At the temple of Nanork village in Thongmixay district (northern), Xayaboury province.

## Thesis writing workshop



Those with apprehensions about thesis writing for graduation are invited to join this event. A lecturer will answer all questions and provide tips for writing a successful thesis. For information please call 020 77994046 or 020 91214845

**When:** October 14, 8.30 am to 3.30 pm **Where:** Stella

## Vegan Festival



Public are invited to join this festival. Lots of knowledge about vegan and fun activities await you at the event, such as how to cook vegan food, an art performance, vegetable costume fashion show and free vegan food. **When:** October 8-17, 9 am to 9.30 pm **Where:** Vientiane Centre

## Study in Japan Fair 2018

Those wanting to study in Japan are invited to join this event and ask nine famous universities of Japan about living and studying there. Free entrance. **Where:** Laos-Japan Human Resource Development Institute, National University of Laos (Dong Dok campus) **When:** October 17, 8am-4pm

## Video contest

UNFPA invites young people under 30 to submit entries to the Asia-Pacific Regional Youth Video Competition. These videos will act as advocacy and awareness-raising to further strengthen policies and comprehensive sexuality education programmes in the region. Furthermore, it enables young people to showcase their solutions and inspire others. The winner will receive US\$3,000 in cash and round-trip travel to attend the share-a-thon in Bangkok, Thailand in November. **When:** Submissions accepted until October 15. **Where:** Submit online at link: <https://filmfreeway.com/UNFPAAsia-PacificVideoContest>

## Short film contest

On the occasion of Visit Laos Year 2018, Luang Prabang Film Festival wants you to explore how training for and holding a job in tourism allows you to be an ambassador for your country. The public is welcome to make a short film to join competition to win up to US\$4,000 and see your film on the big screen at the 2018 Luang Prabang Film Festival. **When:** From now until October 21 **Where:** For further information please visit: [tinyurl.com/LPFF-Amb](http://tinyurl.com/LPFF-Amb)

## Blood donation for flood victims

The National Blood Transfusion Centre in Vientiane invites everyone to donate blood to assist flood victims in Attapeu province. The blood donation team in Attapeu is unable to run a blood donation drive itself. **When:** Donations accepted from 8:30am-4pm **Where:** Second floor of the National Blood Transfusion Centre. Tel: 021 218 922

## Lao Techmart 2018

The Ministry of Science and Technology is staging Lao Techmart 2018, fostering technology cooperation for sustainable development. The event will unveil plans for science and technology development until 2025 and its vision for 2030. **When:** October 12-21 **Where:** Lao-ITECC Tel: 020 7751 7171

## Laos-Australia National Scholarship

If you've been accepted to the National University of Laos (NUOL) or Souphanouvong University (SU) but are from a disadvantaged background, including individuals with a disability, you are invited to apply for the Laos-Australia National Scholarship (LANS). A LANS scholarship covers a student's tuition and living costs, and also includes a special academic support programme to build study and life skills, and improve English language to complete a bachelor degree at those universities. Up to 70 scholarships are available for this year's intake with half or more available to women scholars. **Where:** Download at [www.laosaustraliainstitute.org](http://www.laosaustraliainstitute.org) and submit your completed form to the NUOL University Hall or SU Student Affairs Office. **When:** Apply now until October 12 at NUOL and October 19 at SU

## 2018 Talent Lab for Southeast Asian filmmakers



The Luang Prabang Film Festival is now accepting applications for its 2018 Talent Lab for Southeast Asian filmmakers, led by Tribeca Film Institute's (TFI) The Lab, which will focus on grant writing and project pitching. It

will be held during the opening weekend of the ninth annual festival, which will take place during December 7-12, 2018. Selected projects will be given a \$500 travel stipend for flights to Luang Prabang and accommodation during the festival. Additionally, these projects will be eligible to receive an Aurora Producing Award of \$10,000 as cash investment to go towards the production of the selected film project, as well as an opportunity to attend the TFI Network market in New York City during the 2019 Tribeca Film Festival®. For more information please visit: [tinyurl.com/yal6fgta](http://tinyurl.com/yal6fgta) **When:** Deadline October 10, 12 pm **Where:** Send complete application to [jessica.arce@lpfilmfest.org](mailto:jessica.arce@lpfilmfest.org)

## Chinese Singing Contest

China Radio International (CRI) in collaboration with the National University of Laos and Chinese Television is holding a Chinese Singing Contest with 41 million kip in prizes on offer. The winner will receive 10 million kip and a study tour to China. Contestants must be at least 15-years-old and can apply until October 12. **Where:** Apply through email [gqds2018@gmail.com](mailto:gqds2018@gmail.com) or contact 020 9677 1355, 021 454 515 for more information. **When:** Auditions will start from October 20-21.

## Recycling competition

The Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union in coordination with Ministry of Science and Technology is inviting young people under 35 to enter a competition promoting innovative ways to use recycled material. The competition will allow young people to share their creative ideas on reusing waste. Entrants must submit a video presentation and personal information to organisers. The winner will receive 3 million kip in cash and a trophy. **When:** Submissions open until October 11 **Where:** Submit at the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union, Phonthan village, Xaysettha district, Vientiane. For more information: 020 9772 1042, 020 7781 3611



Chelsea's Marcos Alonso (left) and Southampton's Cedric Soares battle for the ball during their English Premier League soccer match at St Mary's Stadium, Southampton, England on Sunday. --Photo AP

## Liverpool, City in Anfield stalemate, Hazard lifts Chelsea

LONDON (AP) -- Premier League title favorites Liverpool and Manchester City can usually be relied on to provide open and expansive games with goals aplenty. Sunday's 0-0 draw at Anfield, however, was a drab affair that only came to life in the closing stages.

City substitute Leroy Sane was sent sprawling by Virgil van Dijk with five minutes remaining and, just when it seemed as though the visitors might snatch victory, Riyad Mahrez sent his penalty sailing way over the crossbar.

It was the former Leicester forward's third penalty miss in six attempts and summed up a match that failed to live up to expectations.

"He had the courage to take the penalty, in training he shoots perfect penalties, but sometimes it happens," City manager Pep Guardiola said. "Last season we lost here, and this season we drew, maybe next season we

will win."

The result left both unbeaten teams locked together with Chelsea at the top of the standings on 20 points from eight games, two ahead of fourth-place Arsenal, which is level on points with north London rival Tottenham.

Eden Hazard was the inspiration as Chelsea, also undefeated this season, cruised to a 3-0 victory at Southampton.

Belgium playmaker Hazard scored the first and set up the third for substitute Alvaro Morata, while inbetween Ross Barkley claimed his first Chelsea goal.

In Sunday's other game, Alexandre Lacazette and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang each netted twice as a resurgent Arsenal enjoyed a sixth straight league victory with a 5-1 rout of Fulham at Craven Cottage.

Liverpool and City canceled each other out as

they shared their first 0-0 draw at Anfield since 1986.

Mahrez's late penalty miss means Liverpool has now gone four matches in all competitions without a victory.

City was also denied a penalty claim in the 20th minute when Sergio Aguero appeared to be fouled by Dejan Lovren but, that incident apart, there was little to get the crowd excited in the first half.

Mahrez let slip a good chance on the hour when he shot wide when well placed in the penalty box.

Mohamed Salah, who failed to score in a league match at Anfield for only the second time since Dec. 26, then fired over the crossbar at the other end nine minutes later.

Liverpool have had three high-profile matches in the last 1 1/2 weeks, two against Chelsea and one against Napoli, and its recent exertions seemed to have a negative effect on the team.

## Wozniacki wins 2nd China Open, Del Potro stumbles



Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark poses with the winner's trophy after beating Anastasija Sevastova of Latvia in the women's singles final in the China Open at the National Tennis Centre in Beijing on Sunday. --Photo AP

BEIJING (AP) -- Caroline Wozniacki defeated Anastasija Sevastova 6-3, 6-3 to win the China Open and her third WTA title of the year on Sunday, while Nikoloz Basilashvili of Georgia beat top-seeded Juan Martin del Potro 6-4, 6-4 in the

men's final.

The victory was Wozniacki's second title in Beijing.

The unseeded Sevastova downed US Open champion Naomi Osaka in the semifinal, but couldn't handle the second-seeded Dane's punishing groundstrokes.

Though Sevastova threatened late in the second set, Wozniacki broke in the ninth game to wrap up the title, the 30th of her career.

Wozniacki said eight was her lucky number and, having won in Beijing eight years ago, she "felt it was my year."

"Last time was different. I was 20 years old," Wozniacki said. "A lot has happened since then."

"I think I just really appreciate still being here, playing well, being able to win these titles."

Sevastova said she had seen a path to victory in the second set before Wozniacki slammed the door.

## Vargas, Dulorme draw in WBC silver welterweight match

CHICAGO (AP) -- Jessie Vargas and Thomas Dulorme squared off in a fast-paced, competitive and ultimately even bout.

Vargas and Dulorme fought to a majority 12-round draw Saturday at Wintrust Arena, leaving the WBC silver welterweight title vacant.

Both fighters scored knockdowns, Vargas in the 10th and Dulorme in the final seconds of the fight. The scores were 115-111 for Vargas and two scores of 113-113. Some in the crowd booed the decision of the fast-paced, competitive fight.

Dulorme, of Carolina, Puerto Rico, opened strong, landing a big right hand in the opening seconds and then a solid left hook that buckled Vargas' knees. He was aggressive and moving forward as Vargas, of Las Vegas, tried to find a range.

Dulorme continued his assault in the second round, landing a big left hook that cut and Vargas over the right eye. Dulorme was quicker, dictating the tempo and landing first, staying just outside of Vargas' reach.

Vargas found his range in the fourth, hurting Dulorme with a right hand and adding a left hook that buckled him. Near the end of the round, they traded freely and continued to battle after the bell.

The fighters battled on even terms in the middle



Thomas Dulorme (left) hits Jessie Vargas during the WBC welterweight boxing match on Saturday. --Photo AP

rounds, as Dulorme seemed to win the early portion of rounds and Vargas the end. Dulorme was the quicker, more fluid boxer, while Vargas was the more flat-footed puncher. Both landed right hands in the middle rounds, with Dulorme's doing the most damage.

Vargas woke up in the 10th round, dropping Dulorme with a tremendous counter right. Dulorme fell to his knees and looked hurt, but bounced up and finished the round with a flurry. He showed little effect of the big shot as the fight entered the final round.

Dulorme dropped Vargas with a left hook in the final seconds in a round that he appeared to be winning. Vargas got up and smiled at Dulorme as the final bell rang.

Vargas is 28-2-2 with 10 knockouts, while Dulorme is 24-3-1 with 16 KO's.

On the undercard, heavyweight contender Jarrell "Big Baby" Miller destroyed crowd favorite and former two-division world champion Tomasz Adamek, whom he outweighed by 90 pounds, with a predictable second-round knockout to remain undefeated.

Miller, 22-0-1 (19 KO's) of Brooklyn, finished his 41-year-old opponent with a left to the body and a vicious uppercut to the chin that lifted Adamek, 53-6 (31 KO's), Jersey City, New Jersey, off his feet.

The 30-year-old Miller finished it off with a flurry that left Adamek dangling out of the ropes, and the much smaller fighter was counted out at the 51 second mark.

## Kevin Tway wins Safeway Open playoff for 1st PGA Tour title



Kevin Tway follows his shot from the seventh tee of the Silverado Resort North Course during the final round of the Safeway Open PGA golf tournament on Sunday. --Photo AP

NAPA, Calif. (AP) -- Kevin Tway made a 10-foot birdie putt on the third hole of a playoff Sunday to win the season-opening Safeway Open for his first PGA Tour title.

The son of eight-time PGA Tour winner Bob Tway, the 30-year-old former Oklahoma State player beat Ryan Moore on the par-4 10th after Brandt Snedeker dropped out on their first extra trip down the par-5 18th.

After strong wind died down in the late afternoon on Silverado's tree-lined North Course, Tway birdied the final two holes in regulation for a 1-under 71, then birdied all three holes in the playoff.

Moore birdied three of the last four in a 67. Snedeker, three strokes ahead entering the day and five in front with 11 to play, had four back-nine bogeys in a 74. The nine-time PGA Tour winner bogeyed the first three holes

on the back nine, birdied the par-5 16th, bogeyed the par-4 17th and parred the 18th, missing from 9 feet.

Luke List eagled the 18th for a 67 to finish a stroke out of the playoff with Troy Merritt (68), Sam Ryder (69), Aaron Baddeley (69) and Sungjae Im (71).

Phil Mickelson tied for 17th at 8 under after a 72. Fred Couples had a 75 to tie for 41st at 5 under in his final start in a regular PGA Tour event.

INCHEON, South Korea (AP) -- South Korea held off challenges from the United States and England to win the eight-nation International Crown for the first time in front of a delighted home crowd at Jack Nicklaus Golf Club Korea.

The top-seeded host team started the final round two points clear of the chasing pack and won two of the four singles matchups to finish with 15 points, four ahead of the defending champion United States and England.

Thailand finished fourth, and Sweden fifth. Australia, Taiwan, and Japan were all eliminated at the end of the third round.

In contrast to the wet conditions that cost the tournament an entire day's play on Saturday after Typhoon Kong-rey hit the Korean peninsula, bright sunshine helped produce a big and passionate crowd that cheered the home team on to victory.

In Gee Chun and I.K. Kim won singles matches for South Korea on the 18th hole. So Yeon Ryu rallied from a 2 down deficit to halve her match with Lexi Thompson. Sung Hyun Park was lost to Ariya Jutanugarn of Thailand.

# Sports



An Army FC player (left) goes on the attack while pursued by his Police FC opponent during their Division 1 semi-final at the LFF field on Saturday. --Photo LFF

## Kunming international serves up tremendous tennis feast



The tennis teams gather for the opening ceremony.

Times Reporters

An'ning City: The Colourful Yunnan - Belt and Road Initiative Kunming International Tennis Tournament officially opened on Sunday evening with parades by teams from different countries and several vibrant performances at the An'ning Hot Spring International Tennis Centre of Yunnan province in China.

Rainfall at the start of the ceremony failed to dampen proceedings and all participants wore raincoats provided by organisers.

During the opening ceremony, the national flag of China, the host country, led a procession followed by a parade featuring the tennis teams of China, Myanmar, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia and Macau China.

Many Chinese leaders and representatives of foreign embassies were invited to the event. The tournament marks the 5th anniversary of the proposal of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by President Xi Jinping.

An official of the Lawn Tennis Association of Thailand told the Chinese media that the tournament is the first step towards building cooperation in the future.



Participants donning raincoats at the stadium.

Chinese authorities said the international meet would boost many aspects of intercultural communications between the countries and peoples. It would also provide a chance for tennis players and fans from South and Southeast Asian countries to use the game to strengthen friendship and cooperation, boost the development of tennis and learn more about An'ning and China.

An official of An'ning said tennis players from China and abroad had gathered at the Hot Spring City to participate the in "Colourful Yunnan - The Belt and Road Initiative Kunming International Tennis Tournament". He took the opportunity to promote the city, saying An'ning

is an emerging centre that integrates modern prosperity and ancient civilisation. It has been renowned for more than 2,100 years for its culture, mountains, rivers and abundant resources. The Jinfang hot spring in Lianran Street is reputed as a treasure by the Tanglang River.

An'ning is an important gateway in Yunnan for South Asia and Southeast Asia due to its unique geographical location and convenient transportation system.

A Vietnamese coach told Vientiane Times that the host country had organised the event very well, as accommodation, food, transportation and sporting facilities were all easily accessible.

# Police, EVO face off in football's Division 1 final

Sangkhomsay Bubphanouvong

Police FC will play EVO FC in the final of the nation's second tier Division 1 comp at the Lao Football Federation (LFF) field on October 20 after both teams won their semi-finals on Saturday.

In the playoffs, Police FC was able to beat last year's Division 1 champion Army FC 4-2 while season debutants EVO FC overcame Vientiane United 2-1.

Army FC will face Vientiane United in the playoff for third and fourth place on October 20.

Following the final and playoff, the LFF will host a closing ceremony for the tournament and present trophies and cash prizes.

This year's Division 1 champions will receive gold medals, a trophy and 30 million kip; second place will get silver medals and 20 million kip, and third place will take home bronze medals and 7 million kip. The comp's top scorer will also be rewarded by the LFF.

This year's competition was divided into Group A with DK FC, Trinity, STT, KP, EVO United and Police FC, along with Group B

comprising Bounkeu Education School, Lao-Top College, Vientiane United, Baelao and Army FC.

The Division 1 winner will again be promoted to next year's Pepsi Lao Premier League with the LFF using its second-tier tournament to help develop emerging football talent. The federation provided financial support to each team competing in Division 1 this year.

An Army FC team was last year's Division 1 champion qualifying them to play in Pepsi Lao Premier League 2018.

# Kettiya taking on badminton's best at Buenos Aires' Youth Olympics

Sangkhomsay Bubphanouvong

Talented young local badminton player, Mr Kettiya Keoxay is currently competing at the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympics in Argentina from October 6-18.

His attendance at the event is a major achievement for the sport locally and the Lao Badminton Federation is supporting Kettiya who was able to pass the previous qualifying rounds.

Kettiya has been competing in the badminton singles event from Sunday and is drawn in Group C. His opponents include a player from Iceland, who is third-ranked in the badminton event and fifth-placed at World Youth level along with others from El Salvador and host Argentina.

There are eight groups in the badminton event and Kettiya is quietly confident of progressing to the competition's second round.

The Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympics features 241 events in 32 sports.

In other badminton news, the Lao Federation will prepare the best young players to compete at the Asean University



Kettiya Keoxay at Wattay International Airport in Vientiane last week before departing to attend the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympics. --Photo Badminton Lao Federation

Games to be hosted by Myanmar from December 7-20.

The Lao male badminton student team won a bronze medal at the 10th Asean Schools Games in Malaysia in July.

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