



Comité de Coopération avec le Laos

Boîte postale 4791, Vientiane, Laos

Tél : (856-21) 25 40 39 - Télécopie : (856-21) 21 69 25

Email : cclvientiane@ccl-laos.org

Site : www.ccl-laos.org

Revue de presse du 31 Août au 04 Septembre 2015



Vous trouverez ci-joint un choix d'articles publiés au Laos en anglais dans le quotidien "Vientiane Times"

Bonne réception et bonne lecture,
Cordialement,
Bureau du CCL à Vientiane

➤ **Vientiane Times** :

- First food safety lab set to open in Vientiane
- Modern ferry terminal planned for Vientiane
- Health officials encourage breastfeeding to reduce infant mortality
- Govt approves development of Champassak Laos-Service SEZ
- LuangPrabang temple wins Award of Merit
- Lao satellite set for launch in November
- Laos, China agree to Boten-Bohan economic cooperation zone

First food safety lab set to open in Vientiane

(By PhetphoxaySengpaseuth)

The first laboratory control and food security centre for the monitoring of food safety in Vientiane is set to open next year. Construction of the building and facilities began last month and the project is slated for completion in early 2016.



Prof. DrSomOckKingsada (centre) and Dr Francois-Xavier Babin (right).

A ceremony to lay the building's foundation stone was attended by Deputy Minister of Health, Assoc. Prof. DrSomOckKingsada.

The laboratory is being built through grant assistance provided by the French not-for-profit FondationMerieux at a cost of about US\$1.5 million (over 12 billion kip). Speaking at the ceremony on Friday, Deputy Minister of Health, Assoc. Prof. DrSomOckKingsada, said the first such laboratory in Laos will serve as a reference centre for the control of food quality throughout the whole country. It will also serve as a centre for the training of health

officials, and is an important milestone in the development of the health system, he added. The new facility will be a two-storey building with 25 laboratory rooms. Situated on a 30 x 40 sqm site, it will be built on the grounds of the Christophe Merieux Infectious Diseases Centre (ICMC) in Vientiane. Assoc. Prof. DrSomOck said that most developed countries are well advanced in regards to food safety and testing but Laos lags far behind in this regard and this facility will go some way to addressing the problem. In Laos, this deficit is often compounded by insufficient staff and a lack of training as well as the lack of a sanitary structure for quality control purposes. The new lab will ensure better hygiene and will facilitate training in the procedures to be applied by food standards staff, the deputy minister said. Chairman of the FondationMerieux, Dr Francois-Xavier Babin, said "I think this centre will help the Lao government with food quality control." The laboratory will also help to develop the capacity of Lao doctors in regards to quality control in the food sector, DrBabin added, because it will have a training room to teach staff about infectious diseases. According to an official from the neighbouring Infectious Disease Control Centre, the new laboratory will play an important role in food safety and infectious disease control.

(Vientiane Times 31 Aout 2015)

Modern ferry terminal planned for Vientiane

(By Times Reporters)

The Vientiane Public Works and Transport Department and the Chittaphong Group are working on the survey and design of a modern ferry terminal, to be built in front of the Landmark Hotel in Sisattanak district after being approved by the Mayor of Vientiane.



The Landmark Hotel in Vientiane near the proposed ferry terminal.

Sisattanak district Governor, MrPhokham-Sayasone, said he believed this new development on the Mekong River would add considerably to the district's income through the provision of various services. The ferry terminal will be a modern tourist facility and will also facilitate the import and export of goods between Laos and Thailand. The development is likely to include a shopping centre, restaurant, hotel and guesthouse, MrPhokham said. It will be an added attraction along the Mekong riverbank, where

people can stroll with their family and friends, as well as taking a boat ride. The Vientiane Mayor said the area would attract more tourists and generate income to boost the capital's economy. Ferries will carry passengers between Laos and Thailand and will be useful for people wanting to travel to Thailand for healthcare reasons. MrPhokham was unable to comment on the design of the terminal or the method of construction as this is the responsibility of the developer and the Vientiane Public Works and Transport Department. When the project has been designed, the proposal must be approved by the Mayor before a memorandum of understanding can be signed. The Mekong riverbank offers good potential for business operators who are interested in the service industry and in recent years there has been considerable investment in hotels, guesthouses and restaurants. The project will be a modern development that will benefit the whole of Vientiane, especially Sisattanak district, as it will attract many visitors. The district currently encompasses more than 4,000 small and medium enterprises, a figure that will continue to grow, MrPhokham told local media. These businesses will create more jobs and increase the contribution to the district's economy.

(Vientiane Times 31Aout 2015)

Health officials encourage breastfeeding to reduce infant mortality

(By PhetphoxaySengpaseuth)

Breastfeeding can reduce the mortality rate of infants aged 12 months or less by up to 20 percent, according to the Nutrition Centre at the Ministry of Health. Breast milk contains the essential nutrients needed for an infant to develop a strong immune system. Infants that are exclusively breastfed are at reduced risk of various diseases such as asthma, diabetes, obesity, gastrointestinal infections

and diarrhoea. A very important factor in child health is the consumption of colostrum, which is produced by the mother in the first few days after giving birth. "Breast milk is available all the time and never disappears, an official from the Nutrition Centre said. Deputy Minister of Health, DrInlavanhKeobounphanh told *Vientiane Times* on Saturday at a ceremony to mark World

Breastfeeding Week that in the last five years, 95 percent of Lao mothers were reported to be breastfeeding their children. However, despite the purported high rate of breastfeeding, this figure has actually been declining, especially in towns, because many women have to return to work, so their children are being bottle fed instead. To combat this trend, there is a need to develop supportive national policies and legislation – such as paid maternity leave and breastfeeding breaks – to enable women to continue breastfeeding. Providing this support is the right thing to do for both babies and mothers: breastfeeding prevents infant death, childhood illness and non-communicable diseases, while supporting brain development and protecting maternal health. It also makes good economic sense. Women who have adequate maternity benefits value their employers, leading to increased productivity, job satisfaction and loyalty, DrInlavanh said. Women also need strong families and community support to manage the demands

of work and breastfeeding, she added. DrInlavanh explained that the theme of this year's World Breastfeeding Week is 'Women and work – Let's make it work,' which emphasises the need for better support systems and policies to enable working mothers to breastfeed. The Nutrition Centre is promoting the importance of breastfeeding for children aged 12 months or less in communities throughout Laos. The WHO recommends exclusive breastfeeding of infants until the age of six months and then continuing until the child is at least two years of age, by combining breastmilk with a suitable dietary supplement. World Breastfeeding Week, celebrated this year from August 1-7, is an annual event highlighting the critical importance of breastfeeding for children across the globe. Breastfeeding gives children the healthiest start in life and is one of the simplest, smartest and most cost-effective ways we have of ensuring that all children survive and thrive.

(Vientiane Times 01 september 2015)

Govt approves development of Champassak Laos-Service SEZ

(By Times Reporters)



DrBounthongDivixay exchanges the agreement with MrSaysana-Samingvongsa after the signing ceremony. --Photo Government Office.

The government has granted approval for the development of the Champassak Lao - Service Specific Economic Zone (SEZ), which

is set to be located within the Special Economic Zone of Champassak province. The approval aims to facilitate investment in the light and heavy industrial sectors as well as relevant services. The agreement on the development of Champassak Lao- Service SEZ was signed recently in the province between the Lao National Committee for Special Economic Zones (NCSEZ) and Lao Service Co., Ltd (LSC). The signing ceremony was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and President of the NCSEZ MrSomsavatLengsavad, the Minister and Government Office Head DrSonexaySiphandone, Minister to the Government Office and Vice President of the NCSEZ MsBounphengMounphoxay.

Also in attendance were provincial Governor DrBounthongDivixay and President of Lao Service Co., Ltd MrSaysanaSamingvongsa. Champassak Lao- Service SEZ covers an area of some 800 hectares and is located in Pakse district. The project has an expected total investment of US\$100 million (more than 800 billion kip) and a land concession period of 50 years. According to the NCSEZ, the company will allocate and develop the area into an industrial park which will include the construction of complex infrastructure to facilitate investment in the light and heavy industrial sectors as well as relevant service businesses. Alongside that, it will enhance the development of a previously rural area into a focal development area in line with the policy, administration and management mechanisms on special and specific economic zones. The development of Champassak Lao- Service SEZ is set to facilitate and attract domestic and overseas investors to manufacture and operate businesses and provide services in the zone for domestic supply and export. More impor-

tantly, it aims to generate income for the province and create permanent jobs for local residents. Last month, the government granted approval for the establishment of the Pakxe-Japan SME Specific Economic Zone in Champassak province, aiming to facilitate development and attract more foreign direct investment, especially that of companies and enterprises from Japan. The Pakse-Japan SME Specific Economic Zone covers an area of 195 hectares and extends into the territories of Pathoumphone and Bachiengchaleunsouk districts. The project has an expected total investment of US\$62 million (more than 500 billion kip) and a land concession period of 50 years. More and more investors from countries including China, Thailand, Vietnam and the Republic of Korea have been investing in the province in recent times. The number of these investors is projected to increase as the government has recently approved the establishment of special and specific economic zones, according to DrBounthong.

(Vientiane Times 02 September 2015)

LuangPrabang temple wins Award of Merit

(By Times Reporters)



Xieng Thong temple in LuangPrabang province has won an Award of Merit, one of 12 to be announced under the 2015 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award

scheme. According to the official announcement published on www.unescobkk.org on September 1, 12 winning projects in five countries, – India, China, Laos, Australia and Thailand – have been recognised in this year's Heritage Awards. Xieng Thong temple is one of the most significant temples in the town of LuangPrabang. This photo was taken using an infrared filter. --Photo Phoonsaba panel of international conservation experts met in June to review 36 entries from across the Asia-Pacific region. The Cangdong Heritage Education Centre, Kaiping City,

Guangdong province, and Pingyao Courtyard House, Shanxi province in China as well as Baan LuangRajamaitri, Muang district, Chantaburi province in Thailand, also received the Award of Merit. Conservation of the SreeVadakkunnathan temple in Kerala, India, received the Award of Excellence in this year's UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. The Award of Merit for the conservation of the exceptionally ornate Xieng Thong temple has safeguarded the jewel of LuangPrabang architecture and Laos' most significant landmark. Undertaken within the framework of technical standards set by the LuangPrabang Department of World Heritage, the project is to be commended for its systematic conservation planning and execution. The involvement of trained monk artisans in producing the traditional decorative works represents a noteworthy revival of an age-old practice of sustaining Buddhist temples. The major initiative has arrested the temple complex's slow physical decay and reversed previous inappropriate conservation efforts, improving the condition of both the ritual buildings and the monks' quarters. By combining grassroots efforts with donor

support, the project epitomises the spirit of World Heritage in promoting international cooperation for protecting the world's most iconic heritage places. The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation programme recognises the efforts of private individuals and organisations that have successfully restored and conserved structures and buildings of heritage value in the region. By recognising private efforts to restore and adapt historic properties, the awards aim to encourage other property owners to undertake conservation projects within their communities, either independently or by seeking public private partnerships. The winners were selected based on how the projects reflected a clear understanding and application of various criteria, such as the articulation of the spirit of place, technical achievement, appropriate use or adaptation, and the project's contribution to the surrounding environment as well as the local community's cultural and historical continuity. Earlier this year, the LuangPrabang World Heritage Site scooped 'Best City' in the Wanderlust Travel Awards 2015, with Bagan in Myanmar taking second place and Stockholm in Sweden coming in third.

(Vientiane Times 04 September 2015)

Lao satellite set for launch in November

(By Times Reporters)

The first Lao satellite is set for launching in late November, it was confirmed as President Choummaly Sayasone visited the satellite manufacturing plant in China on Wednesday. The Lao president is in Beijing to attend activities to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Chinese People's victory in World War II. During the visit to China, the president, his wife and delegates visited

the China National Space Administration where the satellite is being built, according to Lao News Agency. Lao Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Mr Hiem Phommachanh was quoted as saying by the news agency that the satellite will be launched at the end of November. The launching will represent a special gift for the country as the Lao People's Democratic Republic (the Lao

PDR) will mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Lao PDR that falls on December 2. In 2011, the Lao government revised and signed an agreement with two Chinese developers including the China Asia-Pacific Mobile Telecommunications Satellite Co., Ltd to develop the first Lao satellite project. The state-owned first Lao satellite project (Lao Sat – 1), previously reported to be developed at a cost of more than US\$250 million, will be financed by a loan from China, according to a senior official from the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications in charge of the project. The satellite will be launched into the 128.5 degrees East orbital location, which is space allocated for Laos. The satellite will provide 22 transponders for both television and telephone. Early last year, the Lao government and the Chinese developers broke ground to commence the construction of the satellite station in Hadxaifong district, Vientiane.

The construction is largely completed. Lao officials have been trained and prepared for the operation of the satellite once it is launched into orbit. MrHiem said the Lao government and the Chinese developers have established a joint-venture company to operate the satellite and satellite service business. The minister said the Lao side believes that the project will generate considerable revenue which will enable Laos to repay the loan. Laos has engaged in the process to develop satellite projects in two space locations allocated for the country. It was reported previously that the government has a plan to enter into a joint venture with a Chinese investor to develop another satellite to be located at the 126 degrees East orbital location. The Chinese investor would spend US\$960 million to develop the joint-venture project and hold a 70 percent share, while Laos will hold the remaining 30 percent share in the project.

(Vientiane Times 04 September 2015)

Laos, China agree to Boten-Bohan economic cooperation zone

(By Times Reporters)

Laos and China have signed a cooperation agreement to establish an economic cooperation zone in the Boten-Bohan border area, aiming to boost trade, investment and tourism in the region. The agreement was signed in China this week between Deputy Prime Minister in charge of economic affairs, MrSomsavatLengsavad and Chinese Minister of Commerce MrGaoHucheng. It was witnessed by the visiting President ChoumalySayasone, Chinese President Xi Jinping and other high-ranking officials. This is the second cross-border economic cooperation zone that China has established with its neighbours, which should serve as a signifi-

cant driver for economic cooperation in the region. Boten is located in LuangNamtha province in northern Laos which is accessible by Road No. R3 while Bohan is in Yunnan province of China. The governments of Laos and China agreed to push for mutual support and explore potentials for economic cooperation notably the cooperation in industrial development between Laos and China. In July last year in China, Deputy Minister and Vice President of the Lao National Committee for Special Economic Zones (NCSEZ), MsBouathaKhattiya signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Vice Minister of Commerce of China Gao

Yan to upgrade the Boten-Bohan cross-border area into an economic cooperation zone. The MOU allowed the two sides to work together to improve the investment climate, improve cooperation mechanisms and push for development in the area while ensuring security along the border to facilitate border crossing activities, trade, investment and tourism. China has also granted technical assistance to Laos as well as human resource development and training and assisted with investment-related issues to ensure that both countries can work together to attract investors from around the world to the economic cooperation zone. Boten is currently designated as a specific economic zone, developed by Chinese companies - Yunnan Hai Cheng Industrial Group Stock Co., Ltd and Hong Kong FukHing Travel Entertainment Group Ltd. The US\$500m project covers a total area of 1,640 hectares with a concession period of 99 years. The

Chinese developers have announced that they will focus on four mega projects in the zone including a duty free centre, bus station complex, warehousing and a resort that shall feature a large natural marsh, hotel, meeting hall and other relaxing places. As of March this year, about US\$10 million has been spent on the Specific Economic Zone under the new Chinese developer. Vice president of the zone's management board MrVonekhamPhetthavong told *Vientiane Times* recently that infrastructure development activities are currently underway to attract more investors to the zone. "We will start construction of six buildings at the end of this month. Each building will be as tall as 20 floors. We are also building roads and installing streetlights in the zone. Other activities include the development of tourism sites, soil leveling and other facilities," MrVonekham said.

(Vientiane Times 04 September 2015)