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The largest Buddha statue to be found in Tonpheung district was unearthed during excavations on Thursday.

--Photo Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone

Bokeo dig unearths largest Buddha statue to date

Times Reporters

A statue of Buddha at least two metres tall was excavated from a sandy area near the Mekong River on Thursday, making it the largest statue to be unearthed during the ongoing search for ancient artefacts in Tonpheung district, Bokeo district, which began in March.

Nine other Buddha images were dug up on

Wednesday. One was 30 centimetres tall and 25 centimetres wide, another was 27 centimetres tall and 18 centimetres wide, and a third measured 36x30 centimetres.

The rest were measured at 15x10cm, 36x24cm, 15x17cm, 28x11cm, 23x15cm, and 30x22cm.

No precise facts about the age and origin of the images are known, but it is believed they are remnants

of temples and stupas that were part of the town of Souvanna Khomkham which occupied the site several hundred years ago.

The excavation has been upgraded to a national level, although locally sourced equipment and Lao officials continue to be involved in the excavation process as there is no need for more qualified experts.

The government has appointed a national-level

committee consisting of senior officials to ensure that future excavations are carried out professionally and that records detailing all of the artefacts are systematic and accurate.

Most of the images found to date are made of bronze and all have been placed in Thongthip Phatthanaram temple in Yaitonpheung village, Tonpheung district, for safekeeping, where they are being closely guarded.

Putin says China clearly understands roots of Ukraine crisis

(Global Times) -- Russian President Vladimir Putin said before his trip to China that Russia is open to a dialogue on Ukraine, but such negotiations must take into account the interests of all countries involved in the conflict, including Russia's, and he expressed positive views on China's position on the Ukraine crisis.

Chinese analysts said on Wednesday that China will maintain communication with and mediation among all parties involved, and now the key problem is that some other parties have shut down the door for negotiations and insist on a military solution.

On the eve of his two-day state visit to China, which starts on Thursday, Putin stated in a written interview with the Xinhua News Agency that Russia and China are promoting the prosperity of both nations through expanded equal and mutually beneficial cooperation in the economic and cultural fields.

In the interview, Putin emphasised that the coordination of foreign policies between the two

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GEF funds project to reduce the use of pesticides in agriculture

Times Reporters

The Global Environment Fund (GEF) has approved US\$4 million in funds for the Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management (FARM) project in Laos, to reduce the use of pesticides that are dangerous to humans.

The project will be conducted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Laos in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

A Memorandum of Understanding on the project was signed in Vientiane on Wednesday by the Director General of the ministry's Agriculture Department, Mr Bounchanh Kombounyasith, and UNDP Representative Ms Martine Therer.

Deputy Minister of



Mr Bounchanh Kombounyasith and Ms Martine Therer shake hands after signing an MOU on a project to reduce the use of pesticides.

Agriculture and Forestry Mr Kykeo Singnavong was also present along with government officials from Vientiane and the provinces

concerned, delegations from farmers' groups, international organisations, and the Agricultural Promotion and Nayoby

banks.

The project will run from 2024-2028 in Vientiane and the provinces of Xieng Khuang, Luang Namtha,

Oudomxay and Bokeo.

The initiative is a part of the UN Environment Programme run by the

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Xaysomboun offering free bus service

Times Reporters

In compliance with policies on reducing traffic congestion and improving road safety, authorities in Xaysomboun province are trialling the use of a free bus service.

The provincial Public Works and Transport Department put the buses

into operation on May 14, after 20 were provided by a private company.

The aim of the initiative is to improve public transport by making it easier for the general public, students, and tourists to travel comfortably.

It will also help reduce the use of private cars, save fuel, and ease traffic

congestion.

The 20 buses will run on Tuesday and Thursday each week.

The Public Works and Transport Department has asked provincial authorities to consider providing buses for other areas that are in need of vehicles, while ensuring their use is properly managed.



Minibuses in Xaysomboun province.



People line up for immigration checks at the Third Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge in Khammuan province.

Over 85,000 people cross Lao-Thai border in Khammuan this year

Times Reporters

Since January this year, 85,871 people have crossed the Third Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge across the Mekong River in Khammuan province, with

most being Thai tourists.

Head of Immigration at the Lao-Thai border crossing, Lieutenant Colonel Soukthong Vongsa, said officials manning the border crossing have recently improved document checks so that people have to spend less time in line.

During Visit Laos Year 2024, more personnel have been stationed at each point of the border crossing to ensure the orderly passage of tourists and others entering Laos through customs and immigration checks.

At the same time, travel documents are being scrutinised more closely to prevent illegal entry and exit.

Of the 85,871 people crossing the bridge in both directions, 31,222 were Lao nationals of whom 17,882 were female and 3,630 were children.

Of the 54,649 foreign nationals entering and exiting Khammuan at the border crossing, 11,920 were women and 1,536 were children.

There were 67,059 inbound and outbound vehicles. Compared to the same period last year, 3,937 more people crossed the bridge with most being Thai tourists.

Lieutenant Colonel Soukthong said "Facilities

at the border crossing have been improved. Offices and other buildings have been repainted, the electrical system has been updated, and more street lighting has been installed."

In addition, buildings and the surrounding area have been tidied up and cleaned to ensure a warm welcome for tourists entering Khammuan province.

The Third Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge connects Nakhon Phanom in Thailand and Khammuan province in Laos.

It is located at Ban Hom in Muang district of Nakhon Phanom province in Thailand and at Thakhaek in Khammuan province.

The bridge is used for the transport of goods, and serves to bolster trade and tourism. It is a critical point in connectivity between Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and the south of China. It is 780 metres long, 10 metres high and 13 metres wide.

This year the Lao government hopes to welcome at least 4.6 million foreign tourists, generating revenue of US\$1.3 billion, according to the Tourism Development Department of the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism.

Health chief calls for improved diagnosis of asbestos-related diseases

Phetphoxay Sengpaseuth

Medical staff need broader knowledge and capacity in the diagnosis, surveillance and treatment of asbestos-related diseases, which is under-prioritised in Laos.

This was the message from the Deputy Director General of the Department of Hygiene and Health Promotion under the Ministry of Health, Dr Buakeo Souvanthong.

Dr Buakeo was speaking at a training workshop in Vientiane for Lao doctors and other health professionals, which was convened to improve the diagnosis of asbestos-related diseases.

The event was organised by Australian specialists in

the field, who said that even though Australia banned asbestos 20 years ago, the country still has an enormous legacy of ageing chrysotile asbestos materials in old buildings, in houses and the community, resulting in ongoing exposure and asbestos-related disease.

As part of the training for Lao medical staff, Australia's Asbestos and Dust Diseases Research Institute has committed to providing ongoing support, education and assistance for participants.

This will include refresher training sessions (online or in person), support in developing clinical guidelines for the diagnosis of asbestos-related diseases,

and re-running training

programmes.

The three-day workshop shared the experiences of Australia, Japan and Laos.

In Australia the past use of asbestos has resulted in a high incidence of disease. The training explained the relevant specialties of radiology, pathology and oncology, and WHO guidance on ending the use of asbestos in the construction industry.

Participants also heard from some of the victims of asbestos-related diseases, as well as about the efforts of the Lao Federation of Trade Unions and Ministry of Health in reducing the use of asbestos and lowering the disease risk in Laos.

The training also examined the need for an

updated National Asbestos Profile and Action Plan to reduce future exposure and the incidence of asbestos-related diseases.

Australia's Deputy Ambassador to Laos, Mr Dan Heldon, welcomed the Australian trainers.

Mr Heldon outlined Australia's support in awareness raising on the risks to workers and consumers of asbestos products and in assisting the development of the National Asbestos Profile and National Action Plan with the Lao Federation of Trade Unions, Ministry of Health and Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA, to assist Laos to take action to eliminate asbestos-related diseases.

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Putting renewable energy into action in Laos

Phetphoxay Sengpaseuth

Energy experts, government officials and civil society will come together on May 20 to discuss the many economic, social and environmental opportunities created by renewable energy in Laos.

The special one-day event will be convened by the Australian Embassy to Laos, and will bring together experts from the Lao government, civil society and the private sector. The event is supported by EnergyLab, Partnerships for Infrastructure, and AustCham.

“Renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power offer incredible opportunities for Laos

by creating jobs, driving investment and helping to secure the country’s energy supply,” said the Policy Director of EnergyLab, Dean Rizzetti.

“The cost of wind and solar energy has fallen significantly in the last decade and renewable energy now represents the cheapest and cleanest way to meet the world’s power needs.”

The event will help build a common understanding of the significant and diverse ways that renewable energy can help Laos to meet its economic, social and environmental goals, as set out in the national socio-economic development plan.

Wind and solar power

create significant export opportunities, given the growing regional demand for clean energy.

Attendees will learn how Laos can deliver an inclusive energy transition that creates a fairer, more resilient energy system while addressing key issues impacting women and other marginalised groups.

“Discussions will help identify the pathways to make equitable energy transition a reality,” Mr Rizzetti said.

The event will be held on Monday May 20 from 9am to 5pm at the Crowne Plaza Vientiane.

To register to attend, please visit <https://energylab.asia/laos>

Japan funds employment scheme, income generation for low-income youths



Ambassador Kenichi Kobayashi and Ms Sachiko Tominaga display the signed grant agreement

Times Reporters

Young people in low incomes will be able to earn more as well as have the chance to get a regular job by learning the skills needed for the care of elderly and disabled people.

To support employment and income generation for young people on low incomes, the Government of Japan is providing grant assistance worth US\$190,000 for the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) project through its Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Project.

The Ambassador of Japan to Laos, Mr Kenichi Kobayashi, and the President of Certified International Cooperation NGO IV-JAPAN, Ms Sachiko Tominaga, signed a grant agreement.

The new project is called “Elderly and disabled care

skills training to promote employment and generate income for low-income youths”.

It will provide training for young people as well as matching services between youth trainees and businesses to promote their employment and generate income.

A new training facility will be built in Naxaithong district, Vientiane.

Since its establishment in 1988, IV-JAPAN has provided scholarships to children in Asian countries, provided vocational training and microfinance for low-income youths, and built schools and vocational training centres.

IV-JAPAN has built 22 schools and nine vocational training centres in Laos, with more than 2,500 people graduating from these centres.

Japan’s Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Project

is provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan for economic and social development projects voluntarily planned and implemented by Japanese international cooperation NGOs in developing countries and regions, including Laos.

To support the socio-economic development goals of Laos in infrastructure, education, health, UXO, tourism, and more, the Government of Japan has provided more than US\$13 million through Japanese NGOs over the past five years.

In shared efforts to address regional disparities in socio-economic development, Japan will continue to actively cooperate with NGOs to support initiatives to improve the basic standard of living at the grassroots level in Laos to ensure “no one is left behind”.



Officials join development partners for a photo at the project opening meeting in Vientiane.

Laos, partners promote smart agriculture to boost food security

Times Reporters

The National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the European Union (EU) and Oxfam will promote smart agriculture in order to strengthen food security in a changing climate.

A meeting to officially initiate the project took place in Vientiane on Tuesday, to promote climate smart agriculture in ways that improve the lives of vulnerable women and youth.

The meeting was attended by the Director General of NAFRI, Dr Chanthakhone Boualaphanh; National Director of Oxfam Laos, Mr Thasphorn Butsalang; the EU Ambassador to Laos, Ms Ina Marčiulionytė; representatives of ministries and international organisations, and agriculture officials from Luang Prabang and

Savannakhet provinces.

The aim of the project is to strengthen the capacity of women and youth groups, local experts and vulnerable community groups to engage in smart agriculture and adapt to climate change by learning from smart agriculture models, supervised by NAFRI.

The project will cost 1,850,000 euros, with the EU providing 1,500,000 euros and Oxfam contributing an additional 350,000 euros, and is being implemented from the beginning of 2024 to the end of 2028.

An Oxfam representative said Laos was sensitive to climate change as well as traditional droughts, seasonal rains and pest outbreaks.

Oxfam and NAFRI have worked to identify appropriate and sustainable solutions, such as studying plant varieties that are resistant to changing conditions and identifying techniques that can be used

by farmers.

The project aims to increase crop harvests in order to reduce food shortages.

Farmers in Luang Prabang will be trained in drought-resistant highland agriculture and those in Savannakhet province will focus on flood-resistant agriculture.

After the close of the project, it is expected that agriculture will be strengthened and modernised.

Modern agricultural models have already been demonstrated and implemented in 15 villages in 7 target districts of Luang Prabang and Savannakhet.

Specially selected families are processing their crops to add value to their harvest.

The project will be implemented by Oxfam, NAFRI and several other existing development associations and cooperative groups.

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Excerpts from the Lao Media

Xaysomboun officials open free bus service

Officials from Xaysomboun province are testing the feasibility of running a free bus service for the convenience of local people, students and tourists.

On May 14, the deputy director of the Public Works and Transport Department of Xaysomboun, Mr Khamphout Keovongphone, and other officials attended a ceremony to open this free bus service.

The free bus service in Xaysomboun provincial urban is one of the strategies adopted by the department to address the problem of burgeoning traffic, said Mr Khamphout.

He added this is a good way to reduce the plying of private vehicles in the province, to reduce the dependency on petrol, redress traffic jams and ease traffic in the area.

Mr Khamphout said that the free bus service will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays and apart from urban pockets it will cover Om, Ao, Nammo and Namyon villages.

Around 20 small buses will be pressed into service for the purpose.

This will benefit regular commuters, students and tourists, he added.

--Pathedlao, May 15

People in Khammuan hurry to harvest dry season crops

Local people in Khammuan province are rushing to harvest dry season crops and have completed the harvesting over 3,880 hectares.

According to information from the Agriculture and Forestry Department of Khammuan, people in the province have completed the harvest of dry season crops over 39 percent of total area.

Foodstuff crops have been harvested over 1,214 hectares and various commercial crops have been harvested over 1,960 hectares and the harvesting is expected to be completed by the beginning of next month.

In 2023-2024, Khammuan failed to reach its yield targets.

The province had set up a plan to grow crops for consumption on 3,661 hectares but was able to grow only on 3,449 hectares. The crops for sale was to be grown on 6,650 hectares, but could be grown only on 6,286 hectares.

Various crops are grown in Khammuan, including cassava, cabbage, cucumber, corn and the most popular variety is grown in Thakhaek, Nongbok and Hinboun districts.

--Pathedlao, May 14

Phin police detain drug dealer

Police personnel from the public security office of Phin district in Savannakhet province have arrested an alleged drug dealer and seized 12 plastic bags from him that contained amphetamine tablets.

At 9.20 am on May 6, police officers from the drug prevention and suppression unit of the public security office of Phin were alerted by a local about a drug dealer driving past Road No. 9 from Samounxay village in Phalanxay district of Savannakhet province and heading towards Phin district.

Police officers formed a special unit to track down the dealer. At 2.30 pm on the same day, police officers detained Mr Keuth, 25, a resident of Sakiphin village, Xepon district in Savannakhet province.

Police officers checked Mr Keuth's motorcycle and found 12 plastic bags containing amphetamine tablets.

Police officers detained Mr Keuth to investigate and during questioning he confessed that he owned the drugs which had been bought for sale.

Police officers said Mr Keuth will be punished as per nation's laws and will they try and track down more drug dealers from his group.

--Savannakhet Radio, May 14

GEF funds project... FROM PAGE 1

UNDP in Laos with the aim of reducing the use of pesticides that are harmful to humans, by focusing on integrated pest management methods that are ecologically sustainable.

The use of organic pesticide products will be encouraged as an alternative that does not use harmful chemicals, as well as increasing opportunities to generate income from environmental protection through the proper disposal of pesticide containers and waste.

The main goal is to strengthen policy making, legislation, management and investment in the field of pesticide use and to increase sustainable income generation

by modelling and disseminating safe pest control methods as an alternative for farmers.

The project will raise awareness and build capacity in pesticide waste management as well as capacity to monitor and evaluate pesticide management work.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr Linkham said the committee in charge of the project from the Department of Agriculture should work closely with UNDP to fulfill the objectives of the project.

Committees from the Department of Agriculture and the five target provinces should actively carry out the project as a priority in the

management of agricultural chemicals and pesticides, and comply with of laws and regulations on the management of such work in Laos, he added.

The Department of Agriculture will work with the five target provinces and target districts to explain the regulations and provide information to businesses, members of the public and farmers about the risks of pesticides, and how to use them in the right way.

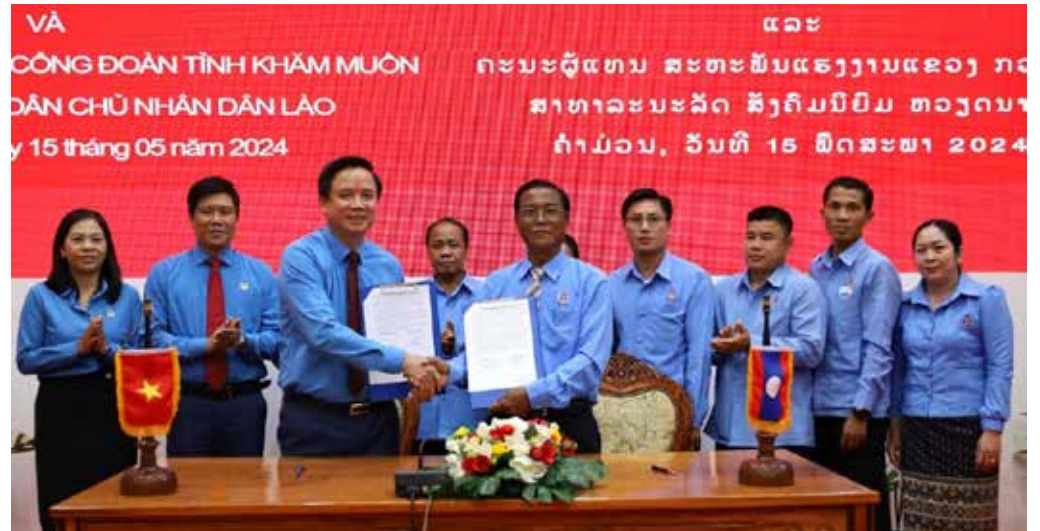
The cultivation of crops will be encouraged in ways that comply with Organic Agriculture and Good Agriculture Practice standards and crops that require little or no chemicals will be identified, Mr Linkham said.

PHOTO SCENES



A representative of Chungcheongnam-do province in the Republic of Korea and the Sharing Culture and Arts Association donates 17 ambulances, projectors and 100 sets of special fire suits worth US\$498,226 to a representative of Laos' Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

--Photo Pasaxon



Officials from the Khammuan branch of the Lao Federation of Trade Unions and Vietnam's Quang Binh province on Wednesday shake hands after signing a Memorandum of Understanding on the expansion of cooperation between the two sides through training courses for officials and workers. The two provinces have worked together in various areas of development in previous years.

--Photo Pasaxon



A ceremony to mark the upgrade of a road between Xok and Kenghinsoung villages takes place at Nonsamlan village primary school in the provincial capital of Savannakhet. The event was attended by officials from the provincial Public Works and Transport Department and the Oudomxay Bridge-Road Construction Company, other officials, and village authorities. The road upgrade cost about 2.7 billion kip and covers a distance of 11,035 metres, with the cost of construction borne by the construction company.

--Photo Pathetlao



Representatives of development partners, line departments from the Ministry of Health and provinces meet in Vientiane to learn about the improved diagnosis, surveillance and treatment of asbestos-related diseases. The 3-day training workshop shared the experiences of Australia, Japan and Laos in this field. It was noted that in the past the use of asbestos in Australia resulted in a high incidence of disease. The workshop introduced the specialties of radiology, pathology and oncology, WHO guidance for member states with regard to ending the use of asbestos, and heard from victims of asbestos-related disease, as well as the efforts of the Lao Federation of Trade Unions and Ministry of Health in reducing asbestos disease in Laos. The event examined the need for an updated National Asbestos Profile and Action Plan to reduce future exposure and asbestos diseases. Australia's Deputy Ambassador to Laos, Mr Dan Heldon, welcomed the Australian expert trainers and outlined Australia's support in awareness raising of the risks to workers and consumers of asbestos products and in assisting the development of the National Asbestos Profile and National Action Plan with the Lao Federation of Trade Unions, Ministry of Health and Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA, to assist Laos to take action to eliminate asbestos-related diseases.

World news in brief

5 Israeli soldiers killed, 7 injured in Gaza by errant Israeli tank shelling

JERUSALEM (Xinhua)

-- Five Israeli soldiers were killed and seven others injured, three of them seriously, by errant Israeli tank fire in the Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said in a statement on Thursday.

The casualties were with a force that entered Gaza City and seized buildings as part of a resumed attack on the refugee camp.

Two IDF tanks, positioned several dozen metres away, apparently spotted a gun in a window of one of the buildings and fired two shells towards the target. The army said it was investigating why the soldiers were misidentified as Palestinian militants.

A total of 626 soldiers have been killed in Hamas' Oct. 7 attack and Israel's ensuing attacks on Gaza, according to the IDF tally.

Kishida defends planned rule to revoke foreigners' residency

(The Japan Times/ANN)

-- Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Wednesday that an envisaged rule to revoke permanent residence permits of foreigners will be limited to some malicious cases. "The planned rule would not affect the vast majority of foreign permanent residents," Kishida said at a meeting of the Judicial Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, the lower chamber of the Diet, the country's parliament.

The rule was included in a provision of a bill to revise the immigration control and refugee recognition law and other relevant laws that features a plan to abolish the existing technical intern program for foreign nationals and create a new scheme to train foreign workers.

Slovakian prime minister out of surgery, no longer critical following shooting, says minister

(ABC) -- Slovakia's Prime Minister Robert Fico is no longer in a life-threatening condition after he was shot in an assassination attempt when leaving a government meeting on Wednesday, a government minister said.

Mr Fico was shot five times, initially leaving the 59-year-old prime minister in critical condition and undergoing surgery hours later on Wednesday evening.

"I was very shocked ... fortunately, as far as I know, the operation went well -- and I guess in the end he will survive ... he's not in a life-threatening situation at this moment," Slovak Deputy Prime Minister and Environment Minister Tomas Taraba told the BBC's Newshour.

Mr Taraba said one bullet went through Mr Fico's stomach and a second hit a joint.

News outlet Aktuality.sk cited an unnamed source saying Fico was out of surgery



and in stable condition.

Defence Minister Robert Kalinak told a news briefing hours earlier that Mr Fico had suffered "serious polytrauma" after several shot wounds.

Interior Minister Matus Sutaj Estok had said earlier that Mr Fico was in a life-threatening condition while he remained in the operating room.

"This assassination (attempt) was politically motivated and the perpetrator's

decision was born closely after the presidential election," Mr Sutaj Estok said, referring to an April election won by a Fico ally, Peter Pellegrini.

The shooting in the central Slovak town of Handlova, which Slovak media said was carried out by a 71-year-old man, stunned the small central European nation and drew international condemnation.

Slovakia, a member of NATO and the European Union, has little history of

political violence.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Joe Biden joined Slovakia's EU partners in expressing shock and condemnation of the shooting.

"Naturally, we condemn this attack in the strongest possible terms," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Izvestia.

"We consider it absolutely unacceptable -- this is really a great tragedy."

Mr Biden said: "Our embassy is in close touch with the government of Slovakia and ready to assist."

The country of 5.4 million has seen polarised political debate in recent years, including the hard-fought presidential election last month that helped tighten Mr Fico's grip on power.

Since returning as prime minister last October, Mr Fico has shifted policy quickly.

Opposition critics call it a power grab.

His government has

scaled back support for neighbouring Ukraine while opening dialogue with Russia, sought to weaken punishments for corruption and dismantled a special prosecutor's office, and is revamping the RTVS public broadcaster despite calls to protect media freedom.

Mr Fico has long been critical of Slovakia's mainstream media, refusing to speak to some outlets. Members of his party blasted media and opposition actions in recent months.

"I ask all to stop piling attacks, expressions of hate, on social networks, in the media, which are aimed at that or another political camp, regardless if it concerns the (government) coalition or the opposition," Mr Sutaj Estok said.

After the attack, Mr Fico was rushed to the hospital in Handlova where he had been chairing a government meeting.

Putin says China clearly... FROM PAGE 1

countries is propelling the establishment of a fair multipolar world order, which underpins the future success of the Russia-China comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for the new era.

On the Ukraine crisis, Putin said China clearly understands the roots of the Ukraine crisis and its global geopolitical impact, as reflected in "China's Position on the Political Settlement of the Ukraine Crisis," a 12-point proposition issued by China in February 2023. The concepts and suggestions indicated in the document demonstrate the sincere desire of China to stabilise the situation, he added.

Putin emphasised that the four principles for the peaceful resolution of the Ukraine crisis recently proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping seamlessly fit in the above-mentioned document.

The Russian president said "The steps build on the idea that we need to forego the 'Cold War mentality' and ensure indivisible security and respect for international law and the UN Charter in their entirety and interrelation."

"We have never refused to negotiate," Putin said. "We are seeking a comprehensive, sustainable and just settlement of this conflict through peaceful means. We are open to a dialogue on Ukraine, but such negotiations must take into account the interests of all countries involved in the conflict, including ours."

Zhang Hanhui, Chinese ambassador to Russia, told the Global Times in an



China-Russia.

exclusive interview recently that "Unfortunately, there is still no sign of a cease-fire in the current Ukraine crisis, and the conflict is still escalating and expanding. The parties involved are not willing to budge on their positions, with significant differences in understanding. Some external forces are still adding fuel to the fire and fanning the flames."

"History has proven that the end point of any conflict is the negotiating table. China supports the timely convening of an international conference recognised by both Russia and Ukraine, with equal participation of all parties and fair discussion of all peace proposals. China is willing to continue to play its unique role and contribute Chinese wisdom and strength to promote a political solution to the Ukraine crisis," said the Chinese ambassador.

CNN reported that US Secretary of State Antony Blinken made a surprise

trip to Kiev on Tuesday, meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky as Russian forces made significant gains in eastern Ukraine. Blinken's visit was the first by a Biden administration official since the long-delayed passage of US supplemental funding to the war-torn country.

In their meeting, Zelensky urged Blinken to provide more military support to the Ukrainian military, including additional air defense support. Russia is pushing ahead with its new advance into northeastern Ukraine after making several major advances there over the past week - Moscow's most significant gains since Kiev's forces recaptured Kharkiv in late summer 2022, CNN reported.

Zhang said "The China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era has never targeted any third party, nor does it tolerate any third-

party interference or coercion. China is not the creator or a party to the Ukraine crisis."

"We will never accept baseless accusations or threats of sanctions against China and Russia by certain countries using the Ukraine crisis as an excuse to interfere in exchanges and cooperation. We will firmly defend the legitimate rights and interests of our enterprises. At the same time, we advise relevant countries to stop blaming China and make real efforts to politically resolve the Ukraine

crisis," said the Chinese ambassador.

Putin said in the interview with Xinhua that "Our countries [China and Russia] have similar or coinciding positions on key issues on the international agenda. We advocate for the primacy of international law, equal, indivisible, comprehensive and sustainable security at both the global and regional level with the UN's central coordinating role."


The Russian president said "We also reject Western attempts to impose an order based on lies and hypocrisy, on some mythical rules of no one knows whose making."

Yang Jin, an associate research fellow at the Institute of Russian, Eastern European and Central Asian Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times on Wednesday that China, Russia, as well as the vast majority of the Global South all oppose unipolar world order with hegemonic dominance, unilateralism, protectionism and the double-standards and hypocrisy displayed by some Western countries, especially the US.

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Facebook: Yesung Furniture Collection-Laos
Tel: 021 454 607
www.globalfursys.com




United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Lao PDR is looking for:

Communications and Partnership Analyst

Contract Type: Fixed Term Appointment (NOB)
Job ID: 17811
Nationality: Lao
Duration: 1 Year with possibility for extension
Duty Station: Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
Closing Date: 20 May 2024



Access ToR here: <https://unf.pa/3xQYTW6>



Scan to read Terms of Reference

If there is problem accessing to the links,
please email to laos.office@unfpa.org

UNFPA provides a work environment that reflects the values of gender equality, teamwork, embracing diversity in all its forms, integrity and a healthy balance of work and life. We are committed to maintaining our balanced gender distribution and therefore encourage women to apply. UNFPA promotes equal opportunities for all including persons with disabilities. UNFPA does not charge any application, processing, training, interviewing, testing or other fee in connection with the application or recruitment process.

1. Project overview

1.1Projectname: Specialized Procurement of Insurance Services for Operational Assets of Electricite Du Laos Transmission Company Limited for the Years 2023-2025 (Open Bidding)

1.2(Open Tender) Bidding No.CG2000022001651483

1.3 Purchaser: Electricite Du Laos Transmission Company Limited

1.4 Validity period of quotation: June 13, 2024 at 0930 hrs.

1.5 Bidding agents: China South Power Grid Supply Chain(Yunnan)Co.,Ltd.

1.6 For details of the tender notice, please refer to: Supply Chain Unified Service Platform of Southern Power Grid Corporation (www.bidding.csg.cn)...

2.Scope of procurement and list of subject matter

2.1 Scope of Procurement: (1) Property All Risks Insurance: to cover the loss of project assets due to natural disasters and accidents; the total value of insured assets is estimated to be about 625 million US dollars (including the operated and to be converted substations, lines and supporting fixed assets). (2) Machinery Damage Insurance: Covers the loss of machinery and equipment due to design, manufacturing and installation errors, defects in raw materials, human errors, breakage caused by centrifugal force and electrical causes; the total value of insured assets is estimated to be approximately US\$160 million (including the operated and proposed converted substations and ancillary equipment assets). (3) Public Liability Insurance: protects against third party bodily injury or death, property damage and other related liabilities that the insured is required by law to bear as a result of engaging in its principal business; single limit of indemnification is US\$10 million, and the aggregate limit of indemnification is US\$30 million. (4) Employer's Liability Insurance: protects the insured against medical expenses and compensation for accidental death or personal injury or occupational disease caused by any employee under an employment contract during the period of employment in activities related to the insured's business and related liabilities stipulated by law; the maximum indemnification limit is 60 months' salary, and the proposed insured employees are 11 (the number of employees can be increased or decreased according to the actual situation). The maximum indemnity limit is 60 months' salary.) (5) Construction and Installation All Risks Insurance: to cover the loss of assets of construction projects in progress due to natural disasters and accidents; it is expected that the investment amount of the new project will be \$158 million in 2 years. (Insured according to the actual investment situation, but not insured if there is no investment).

2.2 List of Subject Matter:

serial number	object	Maximum number of winning bids	Standard package number	Name of the tag package	Maximum price (\$ million)	Duration of service	Charge for solicitation documents	Bid Bond (CNY)
1	Bid1:SpecialProcurementofInsuranceServicesforEDL-TPProjectOperationPeriod2023-2025	1	1	Package1:SpecialProcurementofInsuranceServicesforEDL-TPProjectOperationPeriod2023-2025	245	The date of signing of the contract to September 2025	non-charging	100000.00

3.Tender documents

3.1 Means of obtaining solicitation documents

Anyone who intends to participate in the bidding shall complete the supplier registration and obtain the electronic bidding documents free of charge through the “www.bidding.csg.cn” before the deadline of bidding document sale, and complete the handling of the supplier’s digital certificate (electronic seal), the encryption of the bidding document compilation and submission before the deadline of bidding document submission. Suppliers should reserve enough time for the digital certificate processing, and if they cannot bid due to their own reasons, the consequences will be borne by the suppliers themselves.

3.2 Time for obtaining tender documents: 16:00:00 on May 17, 2024 End time for obtaining: 18:00:00 on May 23, 2024

3.3 Deadline for bidders to request clarification of the tender documents: 29.05.2024 at 09:30:00 sec.

3.4 Bidding document submission method: Bidding document submission through “www.bidding.csg.cn”.

3.5 Deadline for submission of bidding documents: 09:30:00 on June 13, 2024.

4. Bid opening time and place

4.1 Bid opening time: 09:30:00 on June 13, 2024

4.2 Bid opening place: online bid opening.

4.3 General qualifications and special qualifications are detailed on the website: www.cebpubservice.com and www.bidding.csg.cn.

5. Monitoring Complaints

Supervision and Complaint Organization Tel:0871-63067137

Supervision and Complaint Organization Email:yincgyldj@csq.cn

Electricite Du Laos Transmission Company Limited
May17.2024

Laos, Korea foster stronger business ties

Times Reporters

Business ties between Laos and the Republic of Korea are blooming under the Korea-Laos Partnership 2024, with an event held this week bringing together leading business operators from the two countries.

The gathering took place at the residence of the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Laos and was hosted by the Korean Embassy and organised by KOTRA Vientiane, in partnership with the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI).

The meeting was sponsored by a diverse range of Korean companies operating in various sectors in Laos by the member from Korea Business Association and Korea Chamber of Young Leaders.

The event was chaired by the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Laos, Mr Jung Young Soo, and LNCCI President Mr Oudet Souvannavong.

Project Development Senior Specialist from KOTRA Vientiane, Ms Kaykham Khounvisith, delivered a compelling presentation on the Korea-Laos Business Overview.

She said Korean investment in Laos had

reached US\$900 million across 288 projects and 643 companies have been registered as of 2023.

Of these, six key sectors of interest for Korean investors include technology-based projects such as Carbon Credits for ITMO transfer; green projects; training of Lao IT students and creating job opportunities in digital content and software development; consumer goods such as K-Beauty and K-consumer products; technology-based industrial equipment; medical equipment and the mining sector with an emphasis on securing the supply chain for their industries through investment in Lao minerals.

“KOTRA allocated a budget of US\$5 million in 2023 to support Korean companies in this domain, and US\$25 million in 2024 to bolster project investments in GHG reduction initiatives,” Ms Kaykham said.

During the networking session, business leaders from both countries engaged in open discussions, sharing their experiences and exploring future collaborative efforts. This exchange of ideas and strategies aimed to strengthen business ties and creating new partnerships.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Jung Young Soo underscored the importance of bilateral trade and investment, saying “This event serves as a platform to deepen our economic ties and enhance mutual understanding between Korean and Lao businesses. Our goal is to create a robust network that will lead to prosperous collaborations.”

Mr Oudet Souvannavong added “The Korea-Laos Partnership 2024 is a testament to the growing relationship between our countries. By working together, we can unlock new opportunities and drive economic growth for both nations.”

The Director General of KOTRA Vientiane, Mr Park Jungwe, said “KOTRA Vientiane is dedicated to facilitating and nurturing the business relationships between our countries. We are committed to providing the necessary resources and support to ensure successful partnerships.”

The Korea-Laos Partnership 2024 event ended on a high note, with participants expressing enthusiasm for future collaborations and a shared commitment to strengthening business relations.



The Sepon Emergency Response Team practises the use of firefighting equipment.

Sepon Emergency Response Team enhances safety training with confined space rescue

Advertorial Desk

The Sepon Emergency Response Team (SERT) reaffirms its commitment to safety excellence through the implementation of the Confined Space Rescue programme as part of its ongoing training initiatives.

The programme, an integral component of the Sunday SERT training regimen, underscores Sepon's dedication to ensuring the highest standards of emergency response preparedness within its operations.

The Sunday SERT training, colloquially known as the Sunday SERT training, forms a cornerstone of Sepon's skill maintenance strategy.

Held weekly, each session focuses on a distinct topic crucial to emergency response, ranging from First Attack Fire Fighting to Hazmat Rescue courses. Among these vital topics is Confined Space Rescue, a specialised training designed to equip personnel with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate confined space environments safely.

Aligned with Australian Standards AS 2865 for Safe Working in Confined Spaces, the Confined Space Rescue training encompasses a comprehensive curriculum

aimed at fostering a deep understanding of confined space protocols and rescue procedures.

Under the expert guidance of certified instructors, participants undergo rigorous training exercises, including risk assessment interpretation, confined space rescue planning, and proficiency in utilising atmospheric monitoring equipment.

At LXML Sepon we recognise the paramount importance of ensuring the safety and well-being of our personnel in all operational scenarios by providing our team with advanced training such as the Confined Space Rescue programme, and empower them to effectively respond to emergencies and mitigate potential risks in confined space environments.

The Confined Space

Rescue training caters to SERT personnel and Auxiliary SERT representatives, drawn from various departments across the Sepon site.

The comprehensive programme spans two days, comprising both theoretical instruction and practical simulations to reinforce learning outcomes. After the training, successful participants are equipped with the skills to interpret risk assessments, devise confined space rescue plans, and execute rescue operations within a team framework under simulated conditions.

By cultivating a culture of safety excellence through targeted training initiatives, Sepon remains steadfast in its commitment to safeguarding the well-being of its workforce and ensuring operational resilience.



Korean officials join Lao and Korean business leaders for a photo at the business partnership event in Vientiane on Tuesday.



ສະພາການຄ້າ ແລະ ອຸດສາຫະກຳ ແຫ່ງຊາດລາວ
Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry

“ເລີ່ມສ້າງສະພາບແວດລ້ອມການດຳເນີນທຸລະກິດທີ່ເອື້ອອຳນວຍ ແລະ ມີທັດສະນະແຂ່ງຂັນສູງ ນຳໂດຍພາກທຸລະກິດ ທີ່ເຂັ້ມແຂງທີ່ປະກອບສ່ວນຢ່າງຫຼວງຫຼາຍ ຕໍ່ການຂະຫຍາຍຕົວຂອງເສດຖະກິດຂອງ ສປປ ລາວ ແບບຍືນຍົງ”

“Building up a conducive and competitive business environment with a strong business sector that contribute substantially to the sustainable economic growth of the Lao PDR”



Tel: (+856-21) 453 312 - 4
Fax: (+856-21) 452 580



info@lncci.la



www.lncci.la



Kaysone Phommvihane Ave,
Phonphanao Village, Saysettha District,
Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR P.O.Box: 4596





Representatives participating in the weeklong training session gathered for a group photo at the Academy Training Hotel and Restaurant in Vangvieng during the official opening ceremony on Wednesday.

DCTSC launches on-site vocational training course in Vangvieng

Times Reporters

The Dual Cooperative Training Service Centre (DCTSC) of the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI) is stepping up efforts to create and develop occupational standards for each sector to meet the needs of the labour market.

These efforts are also aimed at helping businesses to participate in the creation and development of occupational standards in many sectors.

As part of these

endeavours, the LNCCI has organised a seven-day training course in Vangvieng district of Vientiane province to create and enhance professional standards in the fields of animal husbandry and food and hotel services.

The training session was launched at the Academy Training Hotel and Restaurant in Vangvieng on May 15.

The Deputy Director General of the Department of Education under the Ministry of Education and Sports, Mr Thongsia Inthavong, the Secretary

General of the LNCCI, Mr Phouxay Thepphavong, the Director of the Vocational Education Development Institute, Associate Professor Bounseng Khammounty, the Deputy Director of the Labour Skill Development Institute of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Mr Bounyong Keobouaphan, attended the opening ceremony of the training course.

Representatives from institutions participating in the course were also invited to the ceremony.

Japanese firms eye investment in MRT Jakarta transit hubs

JAKARTA (The Jakarta Post/ANN) – Japanese companies are looking to invest in transit-oriented development (TOD) hubs around key MRT Jakarta stations, according to a senior official at the Japanese Embassy in Jakarta.

Speaking to The Jakarta Post on Monday, the Japanese embassy's minister for economic affairs in Jakarta, Hajime Ueda, said several private firms across various sectors were actively exploring investment opportunities in these TOD hubs, areas within a 700-meter radius from the commuting points akin to models used in Japan. These hubs are around the Bundaran HI, Dukuh Atas and Lebak Bulus stations. The Jakarta administration wrote in April 2023 that these TODs would also include affordable housing along with retail centers.

"Japanese companies are viewing the opportunity positively. There are a couple of individual companies who are already engaged in making business plans and finance schemes with their Indonesian counterparts," he said, without disclosing the companies' names.

This collaboration comes

on the heels of a visit by Transportation Minister Budi Karya Sumadi to Tokyo on April 25. During his trip, he presented six investment projects accepting bids: a mixed-use complex development at Blok M, a pedestrian deck at Dukuh Atas, the revitalisation of Sudirman Station, extended concourses at Bundaran HI and Fatmawati and a reservoir revitalisation project at Setiabudi.

The MRT has become one of the most important transportation networks in Jakarta since the first phase of the North-South line opened in 2019 with the help of the Japanese government. Japan had also been pushing to start construction of the East-West line, a planned cross-shaped route, since last year.

Conducted in multi-phases, the first phase would initially connect a 33-kilometer line between Tomang in West Jakarta and Medan Satria in East Jakarta, before eventually stretching 90 km to Balaraja in Banten, and Cikarang in West Java, upon its completion in 2032.

The first phase would be split into two stages. The first covers a 24.5 km line with construction to begin

by mid-2024, following the note exchange on a yen-denominated loan conducted on Monday involving the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The 140.69 billion yen (US\$903.4 million) loan boasts an interest rate of 0.3 percent and a 40-year repayment period that includes a 10-year grace period.

The agreement also falls under the Special Terms for Economic Partnership (STEP) program, meaning that Japanese firms would be directly involved in the project's construction, facilitating technology transfer to its local partners.

The technology transfer would focus on areas such as underground tunnel construction, train technology and signaling systems.

Currently, both Indonesia and Japan are working on the North-South line's second phase in Jakarta, extending it to the north from the existing 16 km between Lebak Bulus and Bundaran HI to a total of 28 km ending in Kota.

"With the participation of Japanese companies and efforts from the Japanese government, commuters using the MRT can benefit from the convenient lifestyle," Minister Ueda said.

Laos, Australia putting renewable energy into action

Phetphoxay Sengpaseuth

The Australian Embassy in Laos, Partnerships for Infrastructure, AustCham, and EnergyLab plan to hold a meeting on May 20 to mark the annual Renewable Energy Day, with a special one-day event titled "Laos-Australia: Putting Renewable Energy into Action".

The meeting will bring together energy experts, development partners and the government to discuss the opportunities of renewable energy.

The event will also address the broader challenge of how to create a more inclusive renewable energy sector.

It's become almost impossible to keep up with the rapid progress of renewable energy across the world. Records tumble each year, as costs of technologies fall and solutions that seemed impossible become commonplace, according to a press release from the Australian Embassy to Laos.

For Laos, accelerating the clean energy transition offers an incredible opportunity - low-cost power that takes advantage of Laos' natural resource abundance, expands export opportunities, and provides a path to equitable prosperity.

Ten years ago, there would have been good arguments

to resist increasing solar and wind power as being too expensive and too hard. But over the past 10 years, the cost of solar power has fallen by around 90 percent, and the cost of wind power by around 70 percent, according to a report by EnergyLab.

In fact, the cost of renewable energy has fallen so much that the International Energy Agency has said that solar is the cheapest form of electricity in history.

Batteries, which are the vitally important ingredient needed to store renewable energy, have also become much cheaper, with the cost falling by 90 percent over the past 15 years.

As a result of these incredible cost reductions, we're seeing unprecedented deployment of renewable energy throughout the region and the world.

Last year, the world increased renewable energy capacity by almost 50 percent. The world is on course to add more renewable capacity in the next five years.

In 2023, battery deployment in the power sector increased by more than 130 percent, adding a total of 42GW to electricity systems around the world. We're also seeing a rapid acceleration in the other clean energy technologies.

In 2023, global sales of electric cars neared 14

million, which is 18 percent of all cars sold and 3.5 million higher than in 2022.

Around 1.3 million electric two-wheelers were sold in India and Southeast Asia in 2023, with nearly one in five three-wheelers sold globally in 2023 being electric.

The Lao government has set a goal for 30 percent of vehicles in the country to be electrically powered by 2030.

This rise in electric vehicles couldn't come at a better time. Electric vehicles can be an excellent partner to renewable energy, storing power when it's sunny or windy, reducing demand when there's less electricity and, potentially, providing power back when it's needed.

Laos has already built many hydropower projects and the new 600MW Monsoon Wind Farm shows what's possible for Laos beyond conventional hydropower. This is a big achievement but the first project is always the hardest, and the path it creates makes it easy for all those who follow.

Laos' ASEAN neighbours have a huge and growing energy demand, and helping meet this need can support Laos' economic development by increasing export income and positioning the country to thrive in a net zero future.

US consumer inflation annually rises 3.4 percent in April, monthly up 0.3 percent; both slowing down from March

ISTANBUL (AA) -- Consumer inflation in the US annually rose 3.4 percent in April, and monthly increased 0.3 percent, as both figures slowed down from March, according to data released Wednesday.

The consumer price index (CPI), which measures changes in the prices of goods and services from a consumer's perspective, came in line with market estimates on an annual basis, after rising 3.5 percent in March year-on-year. The figure is a sharp decline from the 9.1 percent annual gain recorded in July 2022, which was the highest since November 1981.

The CPI rose 0.3 percent in April, compared to the previous month, coming below the market expectation of a 0.4 percent increase.

The figure showed a

monthly gain of 0.4 percent in March.

"The index for shelter rose in April, as did the index for gasoline," the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics said in a statement. "Combined, these two indexes contributed over seventy percent of the monthly increase in the index for all items."

"The energy index rose 1.1 percent over the month. The food index was unchanged in April," it added.

Core CPI, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, gained 0.3 percent in April from the previous month, also coming in line with market estimates, and slowing its pace from the 0.4 percent gain in March.

Annually, core CPI climbed 3.6 percent in April, also in line with market expectations,

following a 3.8 percent year-on-year gain in March.

President Joe Biden later in a statement released by the White House said fighting inflation and lowering costs is his top economic priority.

"I know many families are struggling, and that even though we've made progress we have a lot more to do," he said in the statement. "Prices are still too high—so my agenda will give families breathing room by building two million new homes to lower housing costs, taking on Big Pharma to lower prescription drug prices, and calling on grocery chains making record profits to lower grocery prices for consumers."

Biden said inflation has fallen more than 60 percent from its peak, while core inflation fell to its lowest level in three years.



Norwegian People's Aid
Lao PDR

TENDER NOTICE

ITT No: ITT247124003

Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), one of the world's largest humanitarian mine action organizations, is expanding its operations in Laos 2024. NPA is an international non-governmental organization (INGO) rooted in the Norwegian Labour Movement. We run projects in more than 30 countries across the globe and works, both through direct implementations of projects and with local partners and with local authorities, to ensure enhanced local competency as the key for sustainable projects.

NPA Laos currently has a need to procure uniforms as listed below for a United States of America Government funded project (US Department of State).

The tender will be conducted in accordance with NPA guidelines and donor regulations.

Norwegian People's Aid invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of one or more lots (or even individual items) of the following items:

- Lot 1: Polo Shirt navy blue (360 units)
- Lot 2: Polo shirt beige (2820 units)
- Lot 3: Round-collar T-Shirt (1860 units)
- Lot 4: Utility shirt (2770 units) & Utility trousers (2760 units)
- Lot 5: Hat (1380 units)
- Lot 6: Polo Shirt blue (600 units)
- Lot 7: Round-collar T-Shirt blue (600)
- Lot 8: Utility shirt blue (600 units) & Utility trousers blue (600 units)
- Lot 9: Safari hat (Blue) with NPA Logo (300 units)
- Lot 10: Rubber boots (1650 pairs)
- Lot 11: North Face boots (1880 pairs)
- Lot 12: TANGNAM Canvas shoes (600 pairs)
- Lot 13: Warm Jacket (200 units)
- Lot 14: Rain suit (440 units)
- Lot 15: Tree hammock (840 units)
- Lot 16: Belt (940 units)
- Lot 17: Backpack (1050 units)

The tender document with instruction to bidders can be obtained by email at tender.laos@npaid.org. Any queries shall be sent to the same email address before on 31.05.2024, at 05:00 pm. Alternatively, the tender document can be obtained by hand at the address given below, Monday to Friday during opening hours (08:00 am - 17:00 pm).

Bids will only be considered if received whether received in email in PDF format at tender.laos@npaid.org or/and received in sealed envelope to the physical address given below, proposals must be submitted with one-envelope system before on 03.06.2024, at 5:00 pm.

Bids will be opened only in the presence of NPA Bidding Committee at the address below on 04.06.2024 at 2:00 pm.

Norwegian Peoples Aid
PO Box 8106, 150 Unit 08, Ban Watnak, Sisattanak District
Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
Tel: 021 316 971

For further information please contact tender.laos@npaid.org



Implemented by **GIZ**
Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Retender: Consultancy Service Open for Local Consulting Firms in Laos

Country: Lao People's Democratic Republic

Organisation: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Address: GIZ office Vientiane, House 247/Unit 19, Thaphalanxay Village, Sisattanak Watnak Nyai Road, District PO Box 9233, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR

Title or Assignment: Conduct a country case study on synergies and lessons learnt of NDC and NBSAP processes in Lao PDR

Project: GBF implementation / ProFEB (PN: 22.2213.1-005.00; Ref: 83463172)

Scope of Work:

Case study on synergies, existing gaps and concrete opportunities for Lao PDR considering its NBSAP and NDC:

- conducting a literature-based review
- conducting interviews with relevant stakeholders on synergies and lessons learnt
- writing a report analysing the findings.

Main Tasks:

- Preparation of the work plan with milestones and detailed schedule
- Identification of key stakeholders to be interviewed and development of a methodology for the case study
- Conducting a literature-based research
- Conducting interviews with key stakeholders
- Writing a report based on the general guideline and methodology provided by the international consultant
- Preparation of a summary of the general findings (max. 1 page)
- Preparation of a power point presentation (PPT) of the results and presentation during a webinar event for relevant public sector and civil society stakeholders in Laos
- Optional presentation of the country findings in a global webinar for a broader international public of state and civil society stakeholders
- Taking part in a kick-off meeting, regular exchanges and a debriefing meeting with the international consultant, commissioning party and contractor

Interested qualified local consulting firms are invited to register to obtain more detail information of tender document by sending mail to register: LA_Quotation@giz.de from 08:00 to 16:00 starting **10 May 2024** until dead line submission **27 May 2024**. (please indicate your full address and please use this reference contract number **83463172** when request for registration)



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism

SECOND GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH PROJECT

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Vang Vieng Landfill: Operation and Maintenance of Vang Vieng Materials Recovery Facility, Hazardous Waste Facility, Planted Drying Bed, and Associated Services

The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has received a grant from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to finance part of the Second Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Tourism Infrastructure for Inclusive Growth Project. The Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism (MICT) is the project's executing agency. One of the Project's subprojects is the construction of a new landfill, providing for improved solid waste management in Vang Vieng. The landfill will come under the overall management and responsibility of the Vang Vieng District Urban Development Administration Authority (UDAA). Within the landfill are the following facilities:

- **Materials Recovery Facility (MRF):** A warehouse facility that provides for the sorting of recyclable wastes through manual/semi-mechanical means. This is designed as a clean MRF, receiving mixed recyclables that are separated from municipal waste streams.
- **Hazardous Waste Facility (HWF):** These facilities are comprised of a hazardous waste storage building, an incinerator building, and a small hazardous waste landfill cell. The system is not designed for industrial hazardous wastes but for small amounts of hazardous waste contained in municipal waste (e.g., medical waste).
- **Planted Drying Bed (PDB):** The PDB provides four chambers for the treatment of faecal sludge from latrines and septic tanks.

A private company or consortium is being sought for the management of these facilities and associated services, which shall include the following:

1. The collection of mixed dry recyclables from the Vang Vieng District.
2. The management of the MRF, including all processes associated with sorting, separating, cleaning, densifying, transporting and selling recyclable materials.
3. The HWF management and operations. The interested company or consortium will be expected to develop services for collecting, inspecting, and correctly managing hazardous wastes (e.g., medical waste).
4. The establishment of a septic tank emptying service for Vang Vieng, utilising and managing the Planted Drying Bed (PDB) for the treatment of faecal sludge.
5. The incorporation of the informal waste pickers as an informal workforce.

The Project can provide equipment for these facilities, although investment from the private sector is also desirable. A revenue-sharing arrangement is required, providing funds to the UDAA for wider landfill management. The UDAA will manage the weighbridge and all activities in the landfill cell, including the spreading and compaction of waste.

The interested company or consortium should have competence, expertise, and a track record in conducting similar assignments, including experience in collecting and processing dry recyclables (e.g., plastic, metals, paper) and other waste, and utilising the informal sector as a workforce.

The full expression of interest and application form can be obtained by sending an email including full name of the interested company or consortium, contact name and contact details from the responsible company representative, to: tiigp2g0599lao@gmail.com or telephone: +856 20 55 334 399

Expressions of interest must be submitted by 12:00 (noon), Wednesday 14 June 2024.

Director General of Tourism Development Department
THOP II Project Manager



ພອນມະລີ ອິນທະພົມ

Feature

Experts on age-appropriate ways to talk to kids about gendered and family violence



Lata Satyen says many children have already been exposed to the issue one way or another.

AUSTRALIA (ABC) -- While it can be challenging, experts say it's important to speak to kids about gendered and family violence.

Associate Professor Lata Satyen, a researcher in family and sexual violence and a psychologist at Deakin University, says children "from five and upwards" are likely being exposed to family violence as an issue from their peers, by overhearing adult conversations, and through the media.

Gendered violence is a reality in many Australian homes, frequently in the news, and the focus of recent rallies around the country.

Dr Satyen encourages parents and caregivers to be proactive and "speak about the issue in an age-appropriate way".

"If they have no information at all, then the children might assume that certain things are OK," she says.

Preparing age-appropriate conversations

Dr Satyen recommends

planning out what to say, factoring in different ages.

"Let's say there's a five-year-old and a 13-year-old, [you wouldn't have] the conversation together because the comprehension level is going to be different," she says.

"Parents and other caregivers need to be prepared to answer those follow-up questions."

Professor Heward-Belle says it's important that parents and caregivers are domestic violence informed to challenge commonly held beliefs, such as victims being responsible or 'asking for' abuse.

"[Age-appropriate books] can create a distance, but also enable an exploration of these sensitive topics," she says.

Dr Satyen says children need information about safety and security "irrespective of their gender".

When discussing violence and behaviour, have the same messaging

for boys and girls.

However, she uses an example of an older teenage boy specifically asking, "Do men actually do this more?" In this instance Dr Satyen says you might say "boys and men can be harmed as well, but yes, the stats do show that men are overwhelmingly responsible for most domestic violence".

Dr Satyen says "you do have to be factual" especially when children are at an age where they can comprehend.

What to say

Using language that kids understand is key.

"Children understand about people 'hurting' people, people 'harming' people," Professor Heward-Belle says.

More talking points from Professor Heward-Belle and Dr Satyen include:

- Asking the child about recent events they may have already been exposed to, e.g. a family member going to a rally, or violence they have witnessed.

- Discussing how violence is never OK, and how every person has a right to safety and respect in their relationships.

- Talking about what positive relationships look like, and modelling being respectful and not aggressive when interacting with others.

- Asking how your child is feeling, and that they can always come to you for advice, support or questions.

One option for younger children could be a "safety hand activity", explains

Professor Heward-Belle.

"You go through each finger with the child and go, 'Tell me on this finger who's one person that you can go to if you're feeling scared or unsafe or someone's hurting or harming you.'"

Dr Satyen says children will "need a lot of reassurance and assurance that they're going to be kept safe" and that the "adult will protect the child at all times", which is key towards the end of any conversation, along with making it clear they can keep talking to you about the topic.

However, Dr Satyen says "if the adult or child is not safe, remember there is help available".

Why have the conversation?

Dr Satyen says organisations including Our Watch run respectful relationship programs in school so children "start forming gender equal attitudes".

"That is happening at the



Susan Heward-Belle says it's important to use language children understand.

primary school level so that children understand how people need to treat each other.

"[It's] important because attitude formation starts happening at a very early age."

She says it's important that those patterns of behaviour and attitudes are also demonstrated at home and in their other social circles.

"If they're learning about respectful relationships in school, but then in the family

that's actually not being practised, then the children might get confused."

Professor Heward-Belle says the conversation can "also be an opportunity to check in with kids about how they handle things when they feel scared or how they handle things when they feel unsafe".

It also helps to "lay a foundation" that the parent or caregiver is a "safe person who can have an open dialogue about hurting and harming".



Implemented by **giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Consultancy Service Open for Local consulting firms in Laos

Country: Lao People's Democratic Republic
Organisation: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Address: GIZ office Vientiane, House 247/Unit 19, Thaphalanxay Village, Sisattanak Watnak Nyai Road, District PO Box 9233, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR

Title or Assignment: A study to conduct a national mapping of Lao TVET institutions with an aim to identify institutions suitable for DCT implementation, Lao PDR

Project: VELA (PN: 18.2090.1-001.00, Contract no: 83465451)

Scope of Work:

The current phase of the VELA project extends until July 2024. Thereafter, the German commissioning ministry, BMZ, is expected to consider a follow-on project. This subsequent initiative is likely to aid government endeavours in extending the DCT approach to more TVET institutions nationwide. To lay the groundwork for this potential expansion, the VELA project plans to undertake a study to conduct a national mapping of Lao TVET institutions with an aim to identify institutions suitable for DCT implementation.

Main Tasks:

- Develop workplan for the study.
- Development of study questionnaire for structured interviews and focus group discussions with the management and staff of the TVET institutions based on the mapping criteria provided by the project upon signing of the contract
- Desk review to study related project documents.
- Review research and data from other development partners working in the sector.
- data collection in the field (the list of colleges and schools will be provided)
- Data analysis and Report
- Final report and power point presentation.

Interested qualified local consulting firms in Laos are invited to register to obtain more detail information of tender document by sending mail to register: LA_Quotation@giz.de from 08:00 to 16:00 starting **16 May 2024** until dead line submission of **30 May 2024**. (please indicate your full address and please use this reference contract number 83465451 when request for registration)



Experts say caregivers should consider discussing gendered violence in an age-appropriate way.

Where to stroll in a city where ‘nobody wants to walk’

JAKARTA (The Jakarta Post/ANN) -- Walking around Jakarta is not at the top of most people’s list of fun weekend activities, with one article in The New York Times a few years back calling Jakarta “the city where nobody wants to walk”.

Yet in recent years, urban walking has gained traction in the capital, with groups like Rame Rame Jakarta, Jalan Gembira and Gang.Gang.An highlighting how some aspects of the city can only be fully appreciated on foot.

Meanwhile, groups like Koalisi Pejalan Kaki (Pedestrian Coalition) are pushing for local administrations to make the country’s cities more walkable by installing better pavements and promoting public transportation. And away from its busy thoroughfares, Jakarta’s neighborhoods and districts are filled with sights and sounds: generations-old restaurants, small parks and the odd historic landmark waiting to be discovered by aimless wandering, alone or with a few friends, and speaking to fellow passersby on the streets.

We’ve compiled a list of our favorite places for flânerie in Jakarta, though we don’t suggest you walk nyeker (barefoot), like Coldplay’s Chris Martin apparently did.

1. Pasar Baru, Central Jakarta

First developed in 1820, Pasar Baru was once an upmarket shopping district. It is known for its large ethnic Chinese and Indian communities and is arguably one of the best places to go for a weekend stroll. Here, you can find meandering alleyways that lead to one of Jakarta’s oldest klenteng (Chinese temple), Sin Tek Bio, which is thought to have

been built in 1698 and retains its original features. Wind your way through the area’s streets and covered markets to Jl. Pintu Air Raya and enter what looks like a private housing complex to find Toko Kopi Maru, a cafe based in the family home of Tio Tek Hong, the founder of Indonesia’s first record label. Across the street is Istana Mall, mostly empty apart from a selection of batik and, in somewhat sinister contrast, shops stocked with air guns and self-defense gear.

Make your way up to the rooftop parking lot to take in a picture-postcard view of the city, looking out over the top of Istiqlal Mosque all the way to the National Monument (Monas). There is something peaceful about Pasar Baru: the boxes of fresh fruit stacked in alleyways off the main street, the drifting incense, the cats lounging in rectangles of sunlight.

And when you’re all done walking, you need only drag your weary body to Pasar Jaya Market to sip an iced orange juice while basking in the blissful coolness of its air-conditioned canteen.

2. Cikini to Gondangdia, Central Jakarta

Depending on the time of year, you might find yourself wandering through the streets of Gondangdia overhanging with bougainvillea shrubs in full bloom, bringing color to the areas beneath elevated train tracks where children play basketball and men tend to small vegetable gardens.

Gondangdia and neighboring Cikini don’t need an introduction. Already solidified in pop culture through Duo Angrek’s song “Cikini Gondangdia” and from arts and culture enthusiasts thronging

key local sites like Taman Ismail Marzuki and the Metropole XXI movie theater, sticking to the main path from Cikini to Gondangdia is enough to keep you entertained. Notice the abandoned train tracks off Jl. Cikini Kramat, a relic from the past opium trade and the Michael Jackson impersonator on Jl. Pegangsaan Barat. If the bustle gets a bit too much, meander into some of the more peaceful side streets interspersed with classic homes, restaurants and small art galleries like Roh.

3. Jatinegara, East Jakarta

An unlikely place to consider walking for most, Jatinegara could seem a little intimidating. The vast market area is loud, full of traders and shoppers and mats laid out with all sorts of items from classic vases to pigeons. Whizzing around the streets are kereta kelinci (children’s train rides), transporting mothers and their children while filling the streets with a blast of dangdut. But it is the area’s sensory overload that makes it all the better to walk around. Formerly known as Meester Cornelis, Jatinegara was an important Dutch colonial hub with spaces allocated for the city’s Arab community and large Christian population, as evident in the number of Dutch-era churches still found there. Today, Jatinegara is putting itself back on the map with local youth and arts movements, and many are traveling to the market area to head to Kongsis, a humble creative hub, restaurant and shop that holds various events and sessions throughout the week.

4. Glodok, West Jakarta

Jakarta’s Chinatown, one of the largest in the world, is a labyrinth of alleyways filled with a mixture of traditional shop-houses, jengki (postcolonial Indonesian style) buildings and modern architecture. Known primarily for its culinary offerings and electronics, Glodok is great for walking, as it is steeped in the many historical stages of Jakarta. From a pre-Batavia coastal settlement to the Chinese kampung’s creation by the Dutch colonial administration in the 1700s and its current revival, all these present themselves as you wind your way through the area’s streets. A personal favorite is the stretch between Kota Station and Glodok’s legendary Pantjoran tea house, down a small covered pathway next to the new MRT development. Along this quiet row of shop-houses are vast murals, trees breaking through a dilapidated building, men selling mystical rings and caricatures and a small garden, complete with water features and an assortment of animals. Sometimes, the things you experience while walking don’t come with an explanation.



Twilit tour: A group of people take a walking tour organized by Rame Rame Jakarta on May 13, 2023 to explore the bustling streets of Pasar Baru, Central Jakarta.



Modest hangout: Customers lounge on Sept. 4, 2022, at Kongsis, a creative hub located in Jatinegara, East Jakarta.



Pedestrian X-ing: A man crosses a road junction on October 2, 2023, in Gondangdia, Central Jakarta..

Opinion

Streetwise

What do you think of imposters who make false claims about the high interest rates that can be earned from investment?

Every year many people fall victim to schemes that offer unlikely sounding interest rates following the deposit of money with a genuine-sounding financial institution but which is in fact totally bogus. Such false promises regularly appear on social media sites, with some promising returns as high as 35 percent in just five months. The authorities have warned people not to be fooled by such extravagant claims.

Lamphone Pasanthong

Ms Phouthaly Phongsavath, a government official in Sisattanak district: I feel



sorry for people who are taken in by these imposters, but too many people are gullible and

should realise that no get-rich-quick scheme is going to yield a return of 35 percent per month. It's clear that no bank or other financial institution can offer this high rate of interest, so we should be deeply suspicious if we see such unlikely claims. I think it's time we all learnt a lesson from other people's mistakes. If someone wants to make an investment, you should start out small so you don't lose a lot of money. The safest thing is to keep your money in a bank. Even though the interest rate is very small, you don't run the risk of losing your money.

Mr Xayphone Khountingarm, a government official in Vientiane: I'm always reading about such fraudulent schemes and



am frankly amazed that so many people have been duped in this way. Nobody should hand over their

money to someone they know nothing about and whose legality is uncertain. We should not immediately be tempted by the promise of financial gain but should look into the details of the scheme and investigate the background of the advertiser to check whether they are legitimate. Internet regulators should keep an eye out for this sort of fraud and immediately delete posts of this nature so that no more people lose their hard-earned cash.

Mr Sinxay, a businessman in Vientiane: My friend tried to persuade me to deposit some money with one of these so-called companies because they claimed they could provide a high interest rate but I wasn't sure whether their operations were legal. There have been enough



publicized instances of this kind of fraudulent practice to put us all on our guard, especially remembering cases involving PS Lao Enterprise Company and Asianface Company Ltd. We should all act more responsibly and dig into the background of such companies before making any kind of investment. The authorities should severely penalise people who are convicted for this kind of fraud so that others think twice before trying to

operate the same scam. Ms Kham Bandid, a resident of Sikhottabong district: This is something that should be nipped in the bud before any more people suffer. There are lots of scams doing the rounds, with many people also falling prey to other kinds of e-commerce operations. The government should step in and introduce strict controls concerning fraud conducted over the internet. Everything should be more closely regulated to protect people from scams of all kinds.



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Laos' emerging economic landscape in the Asia-Pacific region

In the heart of Southeast Asia lies Laos, a nation whose economic landscape has rapidly transformed in recent years, presenting a myriad of opportunities for trade and investment within the Asia-Pacific region. As a landlocked country, Laos has strategically leveraged its geographical position and rich natural resources to become a vital economic corridor that bridges the larger economies of its neighbours, including China, Vietnam and Thailand.

Economic Growth and Development

Laos has witnessed significant economic growth, driven largely by investment in infrastructure and a burgeoning hydroelectric power sector. The country's commitment to enhancing its infrastructure is evident in its expansive road and bridge projects, which improve connectivity not only within Laos but across Southeast Asia. Construction of the Laos-China Railway, a part of China's Belt and Road Initiative, epitomises this growth, enhancing Laos' access to international markets and solidifying its position as a regional

trading hub.

Hydropower remains a cornerstone of the Lao economy, with the country exporting the majority of its generated power to neighbouring nations. This focus on renewable energy sources underscores Laos' potential in green technology and sustainable economic practices, making it an attractive prospect for environmentally-conscious investors.

Trade and Investment Opportunities

Trade reforms have been a pivotal element of Laos' economic strategy, aiming to create a more business-friendly environment. The country's participation in the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement has reduced tariffs and opened new market opportunities. This integration into regional trade networks complements its vision to enhance economic ties and encourage foreign direct investment.

Laos is rich in untapped natural resources, including minerals and forests, offering vast potential in sectors such as mining, agriculture, and forestry. The government's

proactive approach in inviting investments in these sectors, along with favourable investment policies, has significantly boosted investor confidence.

Moreover, the tourism sector presents another promising area for investment. Laos' rich cultural heritage and natural beauty, featuring landmarks like Luang Prabang and Vangvieng, attract tourists from around the globe, driving demand for hospitality and services.

Supporting the Business Environment

The establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) has been a critical move to attract foreign investment. These zones offer incentives such as tax

breaks, simplified customs procedures, and business-friendly regulations. An example is the Savan-Seno SEZ, which has become a thriving manufacturing and commercial hub, showcasing the success of these initiatives in promoting economic diversification

and industrial development.

Laos has also made significant strides in improving its digital infrastructure, recognising the role of technology in modern business. The expansion of digital services and connectivity, particularly in rural areas, is set to revolutionise local businesses and integrate them into the global economy.

In a conversation with Mr Khouanchay Iemsouthi, the Economic and Commercial Counsellor at the Embassy of the Lao PDR to the People's Republic of China, insights were shared regarding the growing economic connections between Laos and China. The Counsellor

highlighted the significant role of Chinese investments in sectors like technology and infrastructure, which have been instrumental in modernising Laos' economic capabilities.

Initiatives to improve trade include easing business processes, enhancing bilateral cooperation, and increasing direct connectivity, are set to further strengthen

economic ties.

Laos stands at a pivotal point in its economic journey. With its strategic initiatives and continuing reforms, the country is poised to strengthen its role in the Asia-Pacific economic landscape.

For investors and businesses looking for new opportunities, Laos offers a dynamic and evolving market with tremendous potential. As it continues to develop and integrate into the global economy, Laos not only enhances its own prospects but contributes significantly to the region's economic dynamism.

This evolving narrative not only reflects Laos' economic resilience but also highlights its commitment to a progressive, inclusive future that prioritises sustainable development and regional cooperation.

The nation is truly a burgeoning economic frontier in the Asia-Pacific region and stands ready to welcome the world to its doors.

--This article is contributed by the Lao National Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

Laos stands at a pivotal point in its economic journey. With its strategic initiatives and continuing reforms, the country is poised to strengthen its role in the Asia-Pacific economic landscape.



Solicitation | RFP | Request for Proposal
RFP ref. No.: RFP/2024/51779

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

International Competitive Bidding

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Lao PDR is pleased to invite prospective offerors to submit a proposal for

Tender No. RFP/2024/51779

Construction Works for the Rehabilitation of the Mittaphab Hospital in Vientiane, Lao PDR

Tender closing date: 10 June 2024, 5.00 PM (local Vientiane time)



<https://www.unqm.org/Public/Notice/234331>

Please visit the above link or scan the QR code to download the tender package.

Pre-Bid Meeting (Online)

Date: 22 May 2024

Time: 10.00 - 11.30 AM (GMT+7)

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/xbz-xnbf-xsn>

Site Visit (On-Site)

Date: 22 May 2024

Time: 2.30 - 5.00 PM (GMT+7)

Location: Mittaphab Hospital, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Please contact the following person for any inquiry, expression of interest, and registration for the pre-bid meeting and site visit¹.

Thanaphone Thongmanivong / Nadiyah

thanaphonet@unops.org / nadiyah@unops.org

Only online proposals submitted via eSourcing will be considered (no email or paper-based submissions). No fee is charged at any stage of the bidding process.

¹ Attending the pre-bid meeting and site visit is not mandatory, but is strongly encouraged to avoid the risk of non-compliant proposals.

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Ministry of Education and Sports
Department of Planning
Education Coordination Unit (ECU)
GPE III-LEAP Project, Credit No. 6854-LA

1354- - - -
Ref. No.: /DP
Vientiane Capital, dated 16 May 2024

Notification of Award

NCB/GPE III-LEAP/G/22/G-11: Supply and Delivery of the Playground 172 sets.

- Based the Ministry of Education and Sports agreement Ref. No: 1921/MoES, dated 03 May 2024 endorsement the LT Sole Co., Ltd for Supply and Delivery of the Playground 172 sets.

On behalf of Ministry of Education and Sports, Department of Planning, GPE III - LEAP, we would like to inform you about the result of bidding for NCB/SSHEP/G/2024/G-11 "Supply and Delivery of the Playground 172 sets to MoES", in which bids were opened on 26th February 2024 at meeting room 3rd Floor, ICT Building, Ministry of Education and Sports. Details are as follows:

Bidders	Bidder's Name	Bid Price at Bid Opening in USD	Evaluated Bid price in USD (if applicable)	Result	Reason for Failure
1	Arizok Trading Import-Export Sole Ltd	285.262,00	285.262,00	Fail	Failure not the lowest evaluated bid price and Bid Security is 30 days instead of 90 days + 28 days which is less than project requirement the committees considered as a major deviation;
2	LT Sole Co., Ltd	272.769,36	272.769,36	Winner	

We would like to thank above bidders for their bids and participation in the bidding process for the NCB/SSHEP/G/2024/G-11 "Supply and Delivery of the Playground". We hope bidders' participation next bidding opportunity. Should you seek further explanations on the grounds on which your bid was not selected, you may write us to request for a debriefing in the address below.

Ministry of Education and Sports, Department of Planning, GPE III - LEAP (ECU)
Tel: 856 21 24 3672 or 020 5582 6153; e-mail: ecudp.laopdr@moes.edu.la

Sincerely yours,



Daoyieng PHONGSAVATH

Director General of DP

Ministry of Education and Sports, Dept. of Planning, ECU; Lanexang Avenue, PO Box 047, Vientiane Capital, Tel/Fax: +856 21 24 3672 and 020 5582 6153; e-mail: ecudp.laopdr@moes.edu.la

Entertainment



Mister Universe Laos 2024 contestants.

Mister Universe Laos 2024 announces 18 finalists

Sisouphan Amphonephong

Mister Universe Laos 2024 recently announced its top 18 finalists asking the public to cheer for them.

The audition round attracted more than 80 men from across the country, all prepared to showcase their talents.

The face-to-face audition round was held at Crowne Plaza Vientiane last weekend. The applicants took to the stage to introduce themselves to the judges and also took questions from them.

The judges selected 30 contestants who walked the ramp and answered their questions appropriately. Then they shortlisted the 18 finalists as province representatives.

The audition was live streamed on Mister Universe Lao's Facebook page and attracted many viewers.

The top 18 finalists will take part in the Mister Universe Laos 2024 and represent their province's culture and also promote tourism sites.

All of them will attend



Mr Thepmahavixay Saythilath (left) and Mr Souriyom Chandalasane.

a personality development programme and promote products by sponsors.

Miss Universe Laos Competition National Director and CEO of 78 Creation Sole Company Limited Mr Thepmahavixay Saythilath and President of Mister Universe Laos Competition Mr Souriyom Chandalasane welcomed the contestants and explained the concept and the purpose of Mister Universe Laos 2024.

The slogan of Mister Universe Laos 2024 is "Smart with a Purpose."

It has opened a chance to Lao men to show their personality, ability and talents and be a country representative at regional competitions.

They said this year they needed men who were smart, kind and with a clear purpose. The winner will be the country representative at regional-level competitions such as Mister Global 2024, Mister National Tourism 2024 and Mister National Universe 2024.

Fans can stay updated via their official Facebook page.

[Today's K-pop] Zerobaseone sells 1 million albums in 1 day for 3rd time

KOREA (The Korea Herald/ANN)-- Zerobaseone's third EP sold over 1 million copies on the day of its release, as did its two previous albums, said agency WakeOne Entertainment on Tuesday, citing a local tally.

The rookie band is the first in K-pop history to achieve the feat. Its first and second EPs have both sold over 2 million units so far.

The EP "You Had Me at HELLO" was released Monday and topped the iTunes Top Albums Chart in 22 regions while the title track "Feel the POP" landed atop its Top Songs Chart in 12 regions. The accompanying music video drew over 5.8 million viewers in about 13 hours.

The nine-member band is yet to celebrate its first anniversary, having debuted in July last year through the audition show "Boys Planet." The group is set to appear in Summer Sonic 2024 in August and will embark on its first international tour the following month.

Enhypen to return in July: report

Enhypen will make a comeback in mid-July with a new album, according to a local media report Tuesday.

Agency Belift Lab confirmed the news, specifying the date as July 12.

The band released a special album on the previous day for its "Dark Moon" series, an original story from Hybe, the mother company of its agency. The

album "Memorabilia" was released as the first physical album for the series that is themed around fate, love and vampires.

The album topped the iTunes Top Albums Chart in nine regions while the main track "Fatal Trouble" sat in the top 10 on its Top Songs Chart in 12 regions. All six tracks from the album made it to a number of real-time music charts at home.

The seven-member act's previous album, the fifth EP "Orange Blood," came out in November last year and hit the Billboard 200 at No. 4. It sold more than 2 million copies, a first for the band.

Meanwhile, the band will tour five cities in Japan starting next month.

Blackpink's Jisoo garners 500m views with 'Flower' music video

Jisoo of Blackpink received 500 million views on YouTube with the music video for the solo song "Flower" as of Monday, said agency Blisoo Entertainment on Tuesday.

The video achieved the feat in the shortest time for a female K-pop solo singer, in 409 days.

"Flower" is the focus track from her first solo album "ME" which was rolled out in March last year. The song was No. 1 on the iTunes Top Songs Chart in 64 regions and No. 38 on the UK's Official Singles Top 100. It also amassed 100 million Spotify streams in 32 days, setting a record for

a K-pop female soloist. The album is the first million-seller from a female K-pop singer, logging 1.17 million in first-week sales.

The artist is currently shooting the drama "Influenza" and the movie "Omniscient Reader's Viewpoint," an adaptation of a hit fantasy webtoon.

NewJeans to guide British Museum visitors

NewJeans voiced the official Korean audio guide for the British Museum in London, according to agency Ador on Tuesday.

"We are proud and happy to participate in meaningful work introducing a variety of artifacts that illustrate the beauty and aesthetics of Korea," said the group via the management company.

The quintet recorded a guide for major artworks displayed at the institution including an inlaid celadon from the Goryeo Kingdom, a moon-shaped white porcelain jar from the Joseon era and the Scholar's Studio, which applied traditional techniques from the 1700s.

Separately, the members will bring out a double single "How Sweet" on May 24. It will be followed by a single "Supernatural" which will mark the group's official debut in Japan. It teamed up with American singer and songwriter Pharrell Williams and Japanese contemporary artist Takashi Murakami for the Japan single.



(Credit: WakeOne Entertainment)

Namacool trailer: Hina Khan starrer promises laughter-filled college saga

INDIA (The Statesman/ANN)-- Get ready to dive into the vibrant world of college life with the upcoming comedy-drama series "Namacool," where laughter, friendship, and a dash of mischief collide! The much-anticipated trailer of this rib-tickling Namacool series, directed by Ritam

Shrivastava, dropped recently, giving us a glimpse into the whirlwind adventures of its protagonists, portrayed by the talented trio of Hina Khan, Abhinav Sharma, and Aaron Koul.

Set against the backdrop of Lucknow, "Namacool" follows the escapades of

Mayank and Piyush, two friends on a quest for fame and recognition as they navigate through the maze of their second year in college. From uproarious mishaps to heartwarming moments of camaraderie, the Namacool trailer promises a rollercoaster ride packed with comedy,

romance, and even a sprinkle of intrigue.

Also Read: 'Panchayat Season 3' trailer release date announced

Hina Khan, essaying the role of Rubiya, expressed her exhilaration about being part of the project, describing it as a delightful blend of humor and

drama that is sure to captivate audiences nationwide. Similarly, Abhinav Sharma, who portrays Mayank, shared his excitement, describing his journey in "Namacool" as a whirlwind of comedic chaos and heartfelt revelations.

Advertisement

Directed by Ritam

Shrivastava and scripted by Shantanu Srivastava, this seven-episode series boasts a stellar cast including Abhishek Bajaj, Anushka Kaushik, Faisal Malik, and Aadil Khan, promising viewers an immersive experience filled with laughter and nostalgia

How to access Vientiane Times products and services

1. Paper Subscription

Paper subscription boasts a home delivery service in Vientiane, postage within Laos or internationally for minimum period of three months at selected prices. Additionally, our readers can purchase a copy of the Vientiane Times at minimarts and shops in Vientiane and from our branches in Luang Prabang, Champassak and Savannakhet provinces.

2. Online Subscription

We offer two ways to read the Vientiane Times digitally. Subscribers can log on to our website, which is updated three times a day, or register for daily email updates. After you have paid a subscription fee, you will be sent a username and password which will give unlimited access to the content of the newspaper every day, including advertisements. You can also access back issues for up to seven days. Special discounts are given for longer subscriptions.

3. Paper Advertisements

Advertisements in the Vientiane Times can reach hundreds of thousands of readers, including online subscribers, both within Laos and around the world. Sizes ranging from 1/20 to full page black-and-white and colour display ads are on offer at reasonable prices.

4. Online Advertisements

Advertising via the Vientiane Times website will give your business international exposure. If you have your own website we are able to assist you by linking it with our web site, and your logo will be placed on our home page, www.vientianetimes.la/; www.vientianetimes.org.la/

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.

9. Vientiane Times' newspaper in Luang Prabang province

Tel: +85620 91870464 ; +85630 55111172

Vientiane Times Payment Online

Online subscribers who hold Visa and UnionPay cards can pay for services online via mobile apps and web applications of BCEL One. Customers around the world are able to pay for newspaper and online news subscriptions, advertisements and other service fees with various methods. Make cheques payable to Vientiane Times office or transfer cash using card or online services via the Bank Pour le Commerce Extérieur Lao (BCEL) in either US dollars (a/c 010110100989471001) or Lao kip (a/c 010110000989471001). If you have transferred your payment, please fax or email the receipt to the Vientiane Times address below.

Vientiane Times office, Phonpapao Village, Sisattanak District, P.O. Box: 5723 Vientiane, Lao PDR, Tel: (856-21) 336042, 336045, Fax: (856-21) 336041.

Email: info@vientianetimes.la

website: www.vientianetimes.la/; www.vientianetimes.org.la/

Classified



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Manthaturath Printing Press
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Vientiane Lao PDR
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ຫໍພິພິດະພັນສິລະປະລາວ
Lao Art Museum
Open everyday
at 8:00 am - 17:00 pm
Tel: 030 5140717



10/2 Manthaturath Road
P.O.Box: 3147
Vientiane Lao P.D.R

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What's On

Below are the logos and addresses of companies and organisations that have long-term subscribed to and advertised in the Vientiane Times newspaper and website



Lao dessert fair

Come along and tickle your tastebuds with a tempting array of Lao desserts and other food including street food. There will also be demonstrations of the preparation of sweet snacks as well as various fun activities.

When: May 17-19, from 3pm

Where: In front of the Thatluang esplanade
For more information call Tel: 020 5570 5795 or 020 5832 3844



Painting contest

Young people are invited to take part in this contest, themed: "How do you see EU-ASEAN" to promote art, creativity and develop the talents of young people in the ASEAN region.

When: Registration open until May 29.

Where: Registration online at <https://forms.gle/utmyrmzKEvm7Y9HD8>



Scholarships for study in India

The Embassy of India in Vientiane invites applications for ICCR scholarships, which fund undergraduate and postgraduate courses including doctorate programmes at Indian universities during the academic year 2024-25. The scholarships include enrollment and tuition fees, living expenses for full duration of the course, return airfare, visa fee, etc.

When: Applications accepted until May 31

Where: For information about courses, universities, guidelines and eligibility criteria, please visit ICCR's portal <https://a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in>
For more details, contact the Embassy of India at Tel: 021-352301 (Mr Phoumsavanh at 020 9335 6412), or email emb.vientiane@mea.gov.in / hoc.vientiane@mea.gov.in

Rocket festival



Everyone is invited to this annual festival, when huge home-made rockets will be launched alongside other special activities, including a street fair, traditional performances, and a concert.

When: May 22-23

Where: Meuangfeuang district, Vientiane province

Sports



FC Juventus' players celebrate on the podium after the Italian Cup Final soccer match between Atalanta and FC Juventus in Rome, Italy on Wednesday. --Photo Xinhua

Juve beat Atalanta to clinch 15th Coppa Italia title

ROME, (Xinhua) -- Juventus avoided finishing another season without a trophy as they registered their 15th Coppa Italia title on Wednesday after beating Atalanta 1-0 in the final, thanks to Dusan Vlahovic's goal in the opening minutes.

Juve had won the tournament 14 times before with their last victory coming in 2021, while Atalanta only won the title once in the 1962-63 season.

The Bianconeri made a dream start just four minutes into the game when Andrea Cambiaso's through-ball reached Vlahovic, who resisted a shoulder-to-shoulder challenge to find the net. Vlahovic had penalty appeal in the 54th minute when he went down in the box, but the referee waved play on, before another goal from the Serbian was wiped out due to offside.

Atalanta had the opportunity to equalise but Ademola Lookman saw his strike hit the woodwork in the 80th minute, while Juve's Fabio Miretti also had a shot onto the bar.

With inferior possession, Juve still held their nerve to keep the scoreline down, despite head coach Massimiliano Allegri's red card in the dying minutes.

"It was an important night, playing a final is always a wonderful event. We went through three hard months that will be of great growth. Juventus is an important club and we got what we needed to get: the Champions League and playing a Coppa Italia final that the boys then did well to win," said Allegri.

32,000 runners drawn for 2024 Guiyang Marathon in China

GUIYANG, China, (Xinhua) -- Since registration began for the 2024 Guiyang Marathon in southwest China on April 26, it has attracted 93,902 participants from across the country.

According to the draw results officially released on Wednesday, 32,000 contestants will participate in the marathon, which will commence at 7:30 am on June 16 at the North Square of Guiyang International Convention and Exhibition Center.

This year's event is certified by the Chinese Athletic Association and sponsored by the provincial sports bureau of Guizhou and the Guiyang municipal government.

The event features four categories: marathon, half-marathon, mini marathon, and online marathon. The total offline participation capacity has increased by 7,000 compared to the 2023 edition.

The route passes through Guanshan Lake District, Baiyun District, and High-tech Development Zone, encompassing Guanshan Lake Park, Yueshan Lake Wetland Park, Karst Park, and Quanhui Park.

The scenic beauty of the city and the natural terrain challenge runners to push their limits in Guiyang City's gardens and appreciate the local ecology.

Long Cong, deputy mayor of the Guiyang municipal government, highlighted Guiyang's status as the "summer resort of China," noting its pleasant climate throughout the year. The cool weather makes the Guiyang Marathon one of the few held in summer across China.

Since 2014, the Guiyang Marathon has hosted seven offline races and three online races. In March of this year, it was also recognized as a "Typical Event for the Integrated Development of Sports and Tourism" by the Chinese Athletics Association.

SMS news service on mobile phone by Vientiane Times

How to get daily news from our service:

- ▶ For Lao Telecom (LTC) users:
 - ▶ Type R in SMS, send to 1135 to register.
- ▶ For Enterprise Telecom Lao (ETL) users:
 - ▶ Type ON in SMS, send to 2246 to register.
- ▶ Service fees are 500 kip/day.
- ▶ Charged from your mobile account day to day.

We provide 6 news clips per day including exchange rates and world news. 6 days a week; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday.

LAOVIET Bank Exchange Rate as of May 16, 2024			
FOREIGN CURRENCIES		BUY	SELL
US Dollar	USD	21.299	21.398
Vietnamese Dong	VND	0,9336	0,9524
Thai Baht	THB	655,18	661,80
Euro	EUR	23.068	23.299
Renminbi Yuan	CNY	2.973	3.003
Hotline:1440 laovietbank.com.la LaoVietBank			

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

- The Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO LAO) is a humanitarian de-mining organization working in Lao PDR under the aegis of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.
- UXO LAO invites sealed bids from qualified suppliers for the construction of a new **Provincial Office in Thakhek, Khammouane Province**. UXO Lao will require the supplier to engage in a Long-Term Agreement with them until the project is officially handed over. UXO Lao will reserve the right to expand the contract to other possible office buildings.
- The confirmed first round of procurement for the winning bidders is shown below:
#T24-002-Lot-1-Khammouane Office Construction Project
 - 1x New Office Building Construction
 - 1x Building Renovation
 - 1x Perimeter Fence
 - 1x Guard House
 - 1x Office Parking Area
 - 1x Electrical Improvements
- A complete set of bidding documents and Instructions to Tenderers (ITT) may be obtained by interested suppliers from the UXO Lao National Office (address given below). Tender packs must be picked up in person or can be sent digitally by emailing uxolao.tenders@uxolao.gov.la. Please see the bidding schedule below:

Activity	Date	Time
Publication Date	08 May 2024	09:00 am
Information Meeting at UXO Provincial Office	27 May 2024	09:00 am
On-site Technical Visit	27 May 2024	13:00 pm
Closing date of Clarifications	14 June 2024	16:00 pm
Bid Closing Deadline	26 June 2024	09:00 am
Public Tender Opening	26 June 2024	09:30 am
Contract Award	Within 30 days of bid opening	
- Tenderers must submit two bid envelopes (Technical and Financial) to the UXO Lao office at the address shown below on or before 26/06/2024 at 09:00 am in a sealed envelope with the UXO Lao Tender Return Labels in place. Bids received after the deadline or by fax or email will not be considered.

Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO LAO)
UXO Lao Head of Bidding Committee
Thonsangnang Village, Chanthabouly District
Vientiane, Lao PDR
- Technical bids will be opened in the presence of bidders for those who choose to attend on 26/06/2024 at 09:30. It is not mandatory for tenderers to attend, but UXO Lao will circulate meeting information in advance of the bid opening.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

- The Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO LAO) is a humanitarian de-mining organization working in Lao PDR under the aegis of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.
- UXO LAO invites sealed bids from qualified suppliers for the construction of new **Staff Accommodation (Nong) & Mechanical Workshop (Xepon) under Phase One Construction in Savannakhet Province**. UXO Lao will require the supplier to engage in a Long-Term Framework Agreement until Phase One is officially handed over. UXO Lao will also reserve the right to expand the contract into Phase 2, pending donor approval and supplier performance.
- The confirmed first round of procurement for the winning bidders is shown below:
#T24-003-Lot-2-SVK-Phase One-Construction
 - Nong Site Location**
 - 3x Staff Accommodation Buildings
 - 3x Kitchen Buildings
 - 1x Water Tower
 - 1x Explosives Store
 - 3x Concrete Tent Slabs
 - Xepon Site Location**
 - 1x Mechanical Workshop
 - 1x Electrical Infrastructure Improvements
- A complete set of bidding documents and Instructions to Tenderers (ITT) may be obtained by interested suppliers from the UXO Lao National Office (address given below). Tender packs must be picked up in person or can be sent digitally by emailing uxolao.tenders@uxolao.gov.la. Please see the bidding schedule below:

Activity	Date	Time
Publication Date	08 May 2024	09:00 am
Information Meeting at UXO Provincial Office	25 May 2024	09:00 am
On-site Technical Visit	25 May 2024	13:00 pm
Closing date of Clarifications	14 June 2024	16:00 pm
Bid Closing Deadline	26 June 2024	09:00 am
Public Tender Opening	26 June 2024	13:00 pm
Contract Award	Within 30 days of bid opening	
- Tenderers must submit two bid envelopes (Technical and Financial) to the UXO Lao office at the address shown below on or before 26/06/2024 at 09:00 am in a sealed envelope with the UXO Lao Tender Return Labels in place. Bids received after the deadline or by fax or email will not be considered.

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