



Comité de Coopération avec le Laos

Boîte postale 4791, Vientiane, Laos

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

Email : cclvientiane@ccl-laos.org

Site : www.ccl-laos.org

Revue de presse du 07 Décembre au 11 Décembre 2015



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

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

➤ **Vientiane Times:**

- [Ministry to prevent locust outbreak](#)
- [Disabled people in Laos still have insufficient access to social and economic services](#)
- [Vientiane bus shelters to be modernized](#)
- [Southern Laos launches tourism destination brand](#)
- [NA seeks power to control public debt](#)
- [Census reveals slower than expected population growth](#)
- [Stronger law enforcement required to deal with corruption](#)

Ministry to prevent locust outbreak

(By Times Reporter)

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has formulated measures to prevent and control yellow-spined bamboo locust outbreaks after thousands hectares of crops in northern provinces were destroyed.



Yellow-spined bamboo locust outbreak in northern province of Laos.

The yellow-spined bamboo locust army destroyed more than 4,000 hectares of corn, job-tear and upland rice cultivation in six districts in LuangPrabang, Phongsaly and Huaphan provinces, the Plant Protection Centre Director, MrSyriphonhPhithaksoun reported at the national ad hoc committee meeting on the outbreak of yellow-spined bamboo locusts in Vientiane on Friday. The meeting was chaired by Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, DrPhetPhomphiphak supported by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). The centre expects at the beginning of next year the numbers of yellow-spined bamboo locusts will increase about 10 percent and would affect about 7,500 hectares of corn and upland rice cultivation, MrSyriphonhsaid. To prevent and control the outbreak, the centre has formulated three measures, he added. Plan A states, the centre in cooperation with provincial authorities and relevant sectors will spray bio-pesticide on the ground and rent helicopters to spray bio-pesticides

in the air killing the bugs in 26 target areas between April and May, then in August next year bio-pesticides will be sprayed again to kill the bigger ones by helicopter. This plan is expected to use around US\$2.48 million for implementation and would be middle to highly effective, MrSyriphonhsaid. For plan B, the centre proposes to spray bio-pesticide to kill small yellow-spined bamboo locusts on the ground between April and May, then in August next year spray the bio-pesticides in the air. This plan is expected to spend around US\$1.67 million of funds for implementation but would be less effective. "As a third option, we could kill small yellow-spined bamboo locusts by spraying bio-pesticide on the land between April and May," said MrSyriphonh. This method would spend about US\$2.55 million in 140 target areas but would be least effective, he added. MrSyriphonh confirmed that spraying bio-pesticide would not affect human and animal health. "We choose to kill yellow-spined bamboo locusts during this period as they are still young," he said. Last yellow-spined bamboo locust outbreak in Laos began in October, 2014 in Phonthong district, LuangPrabang province spreading to other areas in the province and Phongsaly and Huaphan, MrSyriphonh said. Government sectors, especially the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in cooperation with provincial authorities and relevant sectors, have enhanced prevention and control of outbreaks using traditional methods and spraying bio-pesticide, but authorities didn't find this very effective. Previously, the ministry received 150 units of pesticide from China and some more bio-pesticide from other countries, but the ministry still needs more assistance for preventing a new outbreak,

(Vientiane Times 07December 2015)

Disabled people in Laos still have insufficient access to social and economic services

(By PhetphoxaySengpaseuth)

Disabled people in Laos still experience insufficient access to social and economic services, because of a lack of support of state and private actors. Some 18,600 disabled people in Laos are member of the Lao Disabled People's Association (LDPA). Of them, only 20 percent has access to social and economic services, an official confirmed. Deputy Director General of the Department of Pension under the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Mr Sisavath-Khomphonh told on Friday the signing of a MoU with the Curtin University of Technology of Australia will improve access to social and economic services. He said the embassy of Australia to Laos supports this project with about 180,000 Australian dollars (over 1 billion kip). The aim of this project is to identify and contribute empirical evidence of barriers and facilitators to social and economic participation and development for people with disabilities in the Lao PDR. The project will work with Lao organisations (government, disabled people's organisations, international non-government organisations, and non-governmental organisations) to improve their knowledge on

people living with disabilities, working with relevant Lao ministries to develop disability-inclusive development policies and programmes to ensure social and economic participation for Lao people with disabilities. Acting president of the LDPA, Mr Nouan-Latsavonexay, said this project plays an important role in the country. He added the needs of people with disabilities will be investigated. For several years, the government installed different projects to improve daily life for people with disabilities. But, the demand of services is high and current projects can't keep up. Representative of the Curtin University of Technology, Ms Angella, said they will work with key stakeholders in Laos to identify barriers and facilitators to social and economic participation for people with disabilities. She said they will build capacity of local stakeholders in research, monitoring and evaluation, and share good practices for disability-inclusive development. Research findings will also be evaluated, supporting relevant ministries and Disabled People's Organisations to design and implement disability-inclusive development policies and programmes.

(Vientiane Times 07 December 2015)

Vientiane bus shelters to be modernized

(By Times Reporters)

A major design and advertising agency in Laos plans to invest US\$500,000 to modernize bus shelters in Vientiane after conducting a research on the possible benefits of the investment project.



The design of the new bus shelters in Vientiane.

BlueGrass Design Group announced last week that the design and advertising company would begin construction and renovation of 75 bus shelters around Vientiane soon, hoping the upgraded facilities will be able to shelter the capital commuters in 2016. The new bus shelters will be fully equipped with a public Wi-Fi service and GPS locators to offer commuters a more accurate arrival time of buses, the company said as quoted in its media release. "Our goal is not just to provide shelters for commuters in Vientiane," said Principal of BlueGrass Design Group Praseuth Banchongphakdy. "We want to deliver shelters commuters can benefit from in as many ways possible." The company signed a 10-year contract for bus shelter management with the Vientiane City State Bus Enterprise on March 28, 2014, and has been working on research and development of a roll-out plan set for 2016. The company spent the last two years working on various aspects of upgrading bus shelters in Vientiane.

In addition to researching and sourcing different shelters available, the company has placed some criteria for the new shelters to meet, including suitable design to provide commuters shelter from rain and sun. Other criteria are well-lit designs to provide safe spaces for citizens at night and creating free Wi-Fi zones for the community plus equipping the shelters with a GPS service to sync with the black-boxes provided by JICA to track bus location and provide more accurate arrival times. The company has been cooperating with the Vientiane City State Bus Enterprise to analyse the suitability of existing shelter locations and if moving them would serve the community's needs better. "We have spent a lot of time learning from other countries how they developed, trained and deployed maintenance teams to keep the shelters in good condition for the public," the company said. "We have since also taken the best elements we have learned to develop our own maintenance programme that we will deploy once the shelters are installed." BlueGrass has also been working with Planet Online to provide 4G internet and Wi-Fi services at the shelters, and with representatives of JICA to ensure the arrival time system is compatible with the GPS black box system installed in buses. According to BlueGrass, the first phase of the project will cost about US\$400,000 to purchase, ship and install the shelters. Together with maintenance costs for the first year, equipment for connectivity will cost an additional US\$100,000, bringing the total for 2016 to approximately US\$500,000. Upon completion of Phase I, BlueGrass will begin roll out plans for Phase II in 2017 to complete the installation of the remaining shelters for Vientiane Capital.

(Vientiane Times 07 December 2015)

Southern Laos launches tourism destination brand

(By Times Reporters)

The new brand “Southern Laos, Charming by nature”, has been officially launched to promote the four southern provinces of Saravan, Xekong, Attapeu and Champassak as one tourism destination. The event took place recently in Champassak province and was attended by high level public and private sector representatives from Saravan, Xekong, Attapeu and Champassak provinces, as well as the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism. In his opening speech, Deputy Governor of Champassak Mr Buasone Vongsongkhone said “Like the anniversary of our country, today’s brand launch event is about our identity, about who we are, about what we stand for.” He further stressed that, “The brand reminds us about what we need to treasure and what kind of tourism we want to promote such as a sustainable tourism which is respectful to our culture, to our environment and which helps to share economic benefits amongst all members of the society in southern Laos.” The brand was developed in a participatory process over a period of 10 months, facilitated by Swisscontact and supported by international branding expertise from the marketing agency QUO, based in Bang-

kok. According to Tim Gamper, Country Manager of Swisscontact in Laos, the most important element of the branding process for southern Laos was not its output of a logo and a tagline, but the fact that it brought tourism stakeholders together from the public and private sector, across provincial borders and across business interests. CEO of QUO Mr David Keen underlined that the brand launching event was just the start of a journey which is likely to contribute significantly to the economic success of the four southern provinces of Laos. But he stressed the importance for local stakeholders to take ownership of the brand and to live it in their day-to-day operations. The event was surrounded by cultural performances from southern Laos and brought to life by large picture banners, giving a glimpse of the charming nature of the destination. A big list of media tools was also launched for stakeholders to incorporate with their own material creatively. Part of the media package is a new website (www.southern-laos.com) filled with highlights on things to do or see, as well as an area for tourism trade professionals.

(Vientiane Times 09 December 2015)

NA seeks power to control public debt

(By Times Reporters)

The National Assembly is debating whether to assume oversight of government and public debt in a bid to safeguard macroeconomic stability. Assembly Vice President Mr Somphanh Phengkhhammy on Monday proposed a number of changes to the constitution. One of these would require the government to seek approval from the legislative body if it wishes to change the proportion of government debt in relation to GDP. The Constitution Drafting Committee has suggested that public debt be kept within a certain percentage of GDP. At present, there is no regulation governing the matter in the Lao constitution. National Assembly members are currently debating the inclusion of such a regulation in the constitution. Many expect that a change to the constitution, which outlines the role and duties of the assembly, will receive a majority vote. Once enshrined in the constitution, this law would empower the assembly to more closely monitor government expenditure. The decision of the Constitution Drafting Committee on the issue comes as the country is facing increasing public pressure concerning government activities that take place without the approval of the National Assembly. No exact information is available about the total extent of public debt but top government leaders including Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong have expressed concern over rising public debt on many occasions. In a bid to

curb the budget deficit the government has cut the living allowance that was recently awarded to all state officials and has deferred a pay rise for government workers. According to the Annual Economic Report of the Bank of the Lao PDR, which is posted on its official website, Laos' total external debt was recorded as US\$5.1 billion in 2014. This is a 24 percent increase on the figure for 2013 and accounts for 44 percent of GDP. The report does not provide data on domestic debt but it is widely acknowledged that this has seen a massive increase in recent years. This is largely attributed to the government and local authorities' practice of allowing private companies to pay the cost of government-owned development projects initially, with the government reimbursing the company at a later date. Most of the government funding involved in such schemes has not been approved or monitored by the National Assembly. Economists welcomed the Constitution Drafting Committee's suggestion of giving power to the National Assembly, as the people's representative, to oversee government debt and safeguard macroeconomic stability. "I support the idea of the NA having the power to oversee government expenditure," said economist Dr Mana Southichak. Dr Mana welcomed the proposed change, saying it would allow the National Assembly to take a more active role in monitoring the government's performance.

(Vientiane Times 09 December 2015)

Census reveals slower than expected population growth

(By PhetsamoneChandala)

The population has grown relatively slowly over the past 10 years and the figure now stands at about 6.4 million, the fourth 4th Population and Housing Census has revealed. Based on earlier forecasts, officials had estimated that the figure this year would be about 6.8 million, so many people were surprised by the result.



DrBounponeBouttanavong.

The findings of the March census were announced yesterday by the National Steering Committee for the 4th Population and Housing Census, at a meeting chaired by Deputy Prime Minister DrBounponeBouttanavong.

The census results put the total population at 6,472,400, of which 3,237,600 were women and 3,254,800 were men. Compared to the 2005 figure, population growth has averaged 1.45 percent per year, down from the growth rate of 2.08 percent recorded by the 2005 census. Population movement remains largely unchanged. The census showed that 15 percent of people live in Savannakhet province, 13 percent in Vientiane, 11 percent in Champassak province, and 7 percent in LuangPrabang province. Xaysomboun province has the smallest population, accounting for

just 1 percent of the national total. The survey also revealed an increase in the number of households, with 1.2 million recorded. However, the average size of households dropped from 5.8 people in 2005 to 5.3 people in 2015. Population density was found to have increased slightly from 23 to 27 people per square kilometre, which is low compared to other countries in the region. Vientiane has the highest population density at 209 people per square kilometre while Xaysomboun and Xiengkhuang provinces have the lowest density at about 10 people per square kilometre. Village infrastructure was shown to have developed significantly with 80 percent of all villages now having road access and electricity, while 90 percent of villages have a primary school. Addressing the meeting, DrBounpone said the committee had summarised, corrected and improved the information contained in the population and housing census survey using modern equipment. The committee was now able to report the initial results of the census following a two months' delay. "We have conducted this census survey earnestly and responsibly to ensure standardisation in terms of methods, principles and the transfer of information from the central to local levels," DrBounpone said. By carrying out the census, the government has fulfilled its international obligations and contributed to Laos' national socio-economic development plan. The population and housing census survey is carried out every 10 years to conform to the statistical requirements of the United Nations Development Programme, he added.

(Vientiane Times 11 December 2015)

Stronger law enforcement required to deal with corruption

(By Times Reporters)

Stronger law enforcement must be carried out in order to deal with corruption, according to the State Inspection and Anti-Corruption Authority (SIAA). SIAA Vice President Mr Bounpone Sangsomsack was addressing a gathering to mark International Anti-Corruption Day on December 9 in Savannakhet province. He said it was necessary to enhance initial and in-depth inspections to address the problem at an early stage and prevent corruption from escalating. Mr Bounpone said it was also critical to inspect those getting rich irregularly and formulate clear measures to deter officials from corruption. Mr Bounpone also presented recent achievements, saying a number of positive developments had been identified during the past year in Laos, with high political commitment and a new Investigative Department created within the SIAA to specifically tackle corruption cases and bring them to the criminal justice system. The marking of International Anti-Corruption Day is to raise public awareness and understanding of corruption which is undermining socio-economic development and poverty reduction in Laos. More than 500 participants including students from University of Savannakhet, government officials and representatives from the private sector attended the event and to share their opinions in the international campaign 'Break the Corruption Chain'. The gathering was attended by Deputy Governor of Savannakhet province Mr Santiphab Phomvihanh, who expressed

the relevance of anti-corruption awareness today in a growing economy such as Lao PDR. Lao PDR has long suffered from the effects of corruption and the risk continues to increase. When corruption and bribery succeed, the goal of fairness and equality fails. The State Inspection and Anti-Corruption Authority gave participants the opportunity to share their thoughts and experiences in the fight against corruption via a question and answer session. "People often think that corruption is 'just a way of life', but every society, sector and individual would benefit from saying 'NO' to this crime", according to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). UNODC representative Ms Rose Poreaux highlighted the importance of recognising the roles everyone can play in avoiding being part of acts of corruption. UNODC will continue to support the SIAA with its many partners to use the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) as a platform to end corruption, and in doing so, make Laos a fairer place. The participants were invited to share their experiences—positive or negative—on corruption, and a box was also set up to receive their opinions. Complaint boxes can be found in each ministry, all year, and complaints can also be sent directly to the SIAA. International Anti-Corruption Day on December 9 provides an opportunity for the international community to present a unified front in the fight against corruption and celebrate the considerable and important progress made over the last year.

(Vientiane Times 11 December 2015)