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### Revue de presse du 30 Novembre au 04 Décembre 2015



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

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## New partnership declaration to guide development action

(By Times Reporters)

The government and its development partners have endorsed a new ten-year framework for development cooperation in Laos with the “Vientiane Partnership Declaration” signed yesterday.

The endorsement signing of the declaration took place at the 12th High-level Round Table Meeting held in the capital.



Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong (standing, third left), UNDP Administrator Helen Clark (third right) and other officials from Laos and UNDP witness the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Saleumxay Kommasith and UN Resident Coordinator Ms Kaarina Lammonen signing the “Vientiane Partnership Declaration”.

The declaration would help ensure that all funds, efforts and knowledge for development bring about the maximum possible impact, to 2025 and beyond, according to a press release distributed at the meeting. The declaration aims to maximise the use of Official Development Assistance, which makes up less than 7 percent of the country's Gross National Income, and to align it fully with government development priorities, while also boosting domestic income for development. The declaration includes commitments to enhance local development planning, build an inclusive financial sector and develop knowledge sharing networks, including the transfer of new, clean and green technologies. At yesterday's Round Table Meeting, 300 delegates from the government, donors and developing countries, the United Nations agencies, business and

civil society organisations were working to lay the foundations for action in implementing the Eighth Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (Eighth Plan), which aims to boost economic, human and environmental benefits simultaneously. In his opening remarks to the meeting, Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong made mention about the country having made considerable efforts to reduce poverty and laid strong foundations to graduate from least developed country status by 2020. He also spoke about the country taking steps to implement the Eighth Plan. “In the years to come, we will focus all our efforts on the implementation of the Eighth Plan to 2020. We will determine clear measures, in a clear action plan, to achieve development in the economic, socio-cultural and environmental spheres,” Prime Minister Thongsing said. In his speech, Mr Thongsing, representing the government, reaffirmed the government as a reliable partner in managing the implementation of Official Development Assistance in an effective and transparent way that would help bring about sustainable development, reaching the people who are the real beneficiaries. Speaking at the meeting opening ceremony, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme Ms Helen Clark said, “I'm delighted to see that the Sustainable Development Goals are being included in Laos' Eighth National Socio-Economic Development Plan.” She noted the 17 global goals, saying they aim to tackle problems that affect us all, poverty and inequality and injustice, and climate change by 2030. “These goals are part of the broadest, most ambitious agenda for people, planet and prosperity in history, and that is exactly why partnerships are so important,” she said. “Without new partnerships, new sources of funds and new technology, we won't meet these vital targets. In this way, the imple-

mentation of the Vientiane Partnership Declaration will be key for Laos,” Ms Clark cited. UNDP Chief Helen Clark also said that the UN was committed to supporting Laos to lead in translating the goals to country-level realities in Asia. During her stay in Laos, Helen Clark paid a courtesy visit to Presi-

dent Choummaly Sayasone at the Presidential Office on Thursday. President Choummaly highly valued Ms Clark's attendance at the round table meeting and her official visit to Laos, which he said contributed to deepening the cooperative relations between Laos and the UNDP.

(*Vientiane Times* 28 Novembre 2015)

## Society unites for final national day anniversary dress-rehearsal

(By *Times Reporters*)

Some 48 groups from a wide cross-section of society came together in Vientiane on Saturday for a final dress-rehearsal parade ahead of this Wednesday's national day anniversary on December 2. The 48 groups comprising 15,000 people from government and private sectors gathered at That Luang esplanade from the early morning to prepare for the final dress-rehearsal parade.



The final dress-rehearsal parade takes place along That Luang esplanade on Saturday.

When sound of music rang out the groups of marchers began following one another until the end of the parade. The rehearsal aimed to evaluate the readiness of all marchers ahead of Wednesday's big official parade. Senior government officials were also present at the rehearsal to see firsthand the progress of preparations for the national day anniversary. Officials in charge of the parade told *Vientiane Times* that rehearsals for the national day celebrations had been taking

place periodically for several months and all sectors were now ready for the main event.

The 48 groups in the parade will represent the growth and accomplishments of different sectors in Vientiane and the provinces over the past 40 years. A dress rehearsal also took place on Friday evening at the National Sport Complex in Vientiane for the five performing programmes with performers donning their official outfits and dancing to the event music. A spectacular light show added to the colourful audio-visual show on stage. The dance programmes included 4,000 performers who have practised their assignments meticulously in readiness for the event. The final rehearsal for the performing programmes took place on Sunday to ensure all was ready in the show to highlight the national pride of Lao people in protecting and developing their country over the past 40 years. Officials in charge of the programmes said they were now confident after numerous rehearsals that everything was now ready for the event. National Day is a landmark date to reflect on the history of Laos and the ethnic Lao people fighting bravely against foreign colonialists to protect their territory and bring independence and freedom to the Lao people. Laos is nation with a history of emergence, existence and growth on this land, which has been recorded in history for thousands of years. Lao ancestors and patriotic people have exerted

efforts in national protection and construction for generations. Following national liberation in 1975, the Lao government has actively worked on socio-economic development plans for each period to bring the coun-

try out of poverty and carry out the two strategic tasks of national defense and development.

*(Vientiane Times 30 Novembre 2015)*

## **First Vientiane Expo opens marking 40th anniversary**

*(By Times Reporters)*

Vientiane Expo 2015 has opened to mark the 40th anniversary of the Lao PDR and highlight the nation's socio-economic and product development achievements in the lead up to Asean integration. The exhibition was officially opened on the seventh floor of the new Lao ITECC building in Vientiane on Saturday by Prime Minister Mr Thongsing Thammavong. Also in attendance were Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Somsavat Lengsavat; Vientiane Mayor, Dr Sinlavong Khoutphaythoun; Minister of Industry and Commerce, Ms Khemmani Pholsena; Deputy Secretary-General of Asean for Asean Economic Community, Dr Lim Hong Hin along with other leading government officials, ambassadors and representatives from international organisations. The exhibition is publicising many great achievements of national development over the last 40 years under the leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, in particular products and goods that have become a source of national income and supported projects such as One District One Product (ODOP). "The object of Vientiane Expo 2015 is to actively contribute to the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Lao PDR. We are taking this opportunity to highlight the right direction set by the party-government in protecting and developing our country in order to firmly build future prosperity," Minister of Industry and Commerce,

Ms Khemmani Pholsena said at the opening ceremony. It would also create opportunities for both Lao and foreign businesses to conduct trading activity and exchange lessons relating to business experience with each other, she said. The exhibition is running for 10 days from November 28 to December 7 featuring a total of 209 local and foreign business operators occupying more than 350 booths. Some 159 local enterprises are represented with 23 from provinces and 18 from ODOP initiatives. There are also 60 firms from abroad and international organisations. The main products being exhibited were handicrafts, clothes, jewellery, furniture, home decor items, cosmetics, medicines, food, financial services, education, tourism and others, Ms Khemmani added. In the exhibition there are also workshops, business exchange meetings, trade and investment seminars, and cultural performances from both home and abroad. Officials hope the expo will become an important forum for selling goods and encouraging the development of local products into the brand name "Made in Laos". In addition, the exhibition will allow Lao and foreign business and international organisations to demonstrate their own achievements throughout the 40 year period during the establishment and development of the nation.

*(Vientiane Times 30 Novembre 2015)*

## Hongsa Power to celebrate commercial power generation

(By Times Reporters )

Hongsa Power Company Limited will hold a celebration to mark commercial power generation at the Hongsa power plant, with two generators now fully operational and the third set to operate early next year. The ceremony will be held at the Hongsa Mine Mouth Power Plant, Hongsa district, Xayaboury province on December 9, and will be attended by high ranking officials of Laos, Thailand and other foreign guests. The first power generator was officially put into operation in June of this year and the second generator began operating early this month, while the third one is expected to begin generating in March next year, according to the company. The plant will help to create revenue for the government for development and to promote the bilateral economic relationship between Thailand and the Laos. The constructions started in 2011 and are expected to finish next year with a 25 year land concession of 76.2 square kilometres from 2016-2041. The company is expected to spend US\$3.7 billion on the construction and the plant will have a total capacity of 1,878 MW or 626MW per generator, using 14.3 million tonnes of lignite per year. Under the agreement, 1,473 MW of electricity will be sold to the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT), and 100MW to Electricite du Laos (EDL). Banpu Power Limited, and Ratchaburi Electricity Generating Hold-

ing Public Company Limited both share 40 percent, and Lao Holding State Enterprise shares the remaining 20 percent. The Hongsa Mine Mount Power Project is the biggest thermal power plant in the country. The project respects international environmental standards but some people are still concerned about the pollution it might cause. The company cooperated with the provincial Health Department to ensure and follow up the health of current and coming generations. After the project began construction, it created many jobs for local people, especially young workers. According to a 2014 company report, almost 3,000 Lao people are employed in the plant and this number is expected to rise this year. This has improved living conditions of the local people and reduced the number of people illegally working in Thailand. The company highly values its social responsibility to families affected by the project by promoting agricultural projects, livestock breeding and handicrafts to gain an income. However, many families still suffer as the special projects are located far from their homes. The company also assists the community with educational development and health promotion by constructing schools and dispensaries and handing over equipment within the district, as well as road construction works.

(Vientiane Times 30 Novembre 2015)

## Regional business matching is crucial for AEC, DPM says

(By Times Reporters )

Businesses and enterprises from the public and private sector in Laos will need to learn more about the advantages of the value chain, business clusters and business matching at the regional and international levels.



*MrThonglounSisoulith addresses a scientific seminar on the Lao PDR's preparedness for regional and international economic integration in Vientiane yesterday.*

These measures will form part of preparedness for the official onset of the Asean Economic Community in December this year, and increase the confidence of the Lao business sector that it can operate in the newly competitive environment. This was the key message from Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs ThonglounSisoulith at a scientific seminar on the Lao PDR's preparedness for regional and international economic integration, which took place at Lao-ITECC shopping mall on Sunday. The seminar was organised on the sidelines of the opening of the first Vientiane Expo to mark the 40th anniversary of Lao National Day and to disseminate the benefits and challenges of economic integration with the region and internationally. "Regional and international integration will not only enable us to benefit from business integration but

Laos will also seize assistance from developed countries, financial institutes and various international organisations, contributing to the rapid growth and socio economic development in Laos," he said. MrThongloun also said that the government is now working on improvements to the integration environment for business cooperation, trade and investment, aiming to ensure effective facilities and easy access to the procedures for business cooperation. "We are now working on improving the relevant regulations, measures and necessary legal procedures to ensure it is associated with regional and international systems. By doing so, it will attract more domestic and international investors to invest in Laos," MrThonglounsaid. Under globalisation and international economic integration, the free flow of trade, services, investment and migration of capital and labour, we have provided opportunities for many countries to form groups for economic connectivity under the agreements such as free trade areas, which are now becoming a trend for today. "As a result, international trade has become more competitive, which also creates opportunities and challenges for the growth of the Lao economy," he said, saying that with the arrival of AEC integration at the end of this year, the Asean state members have already decreased the barriers to trade, concluded agreements on products and services and other relevant agreements. Currently Laos is on track for a 93 percent reduction of the barriers to AEC integration, meanwhile the overall for Asean countries has been identified at 91 percent. During the scientific seminar, Minister of Industry and Commerce, MsKhemmani-Pholsena, also highlighted several important issues to be discussed at the seminar as well as informing about Laos' preparedness in various sectors for AEC integration. In addition, Deputy Secretary General of the Asso-

ciation of South East Asian Nations (Asean), Dr Lim Hong Hin, also spoke about the 2015 AEC Blueprint and reviewed the measures for AEC integration and other issues. Deputy Minister of Public Works and Transport, Mr Lattanamongkhounivong, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry,

Dr Phouangparisack Pravongviengkham, and Vice President of the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr Oudet Souvannavong, also briefed on the nation's preparedness in the relevant fields for AEC integration.

*(Vientiane Times 30 November 2015)*

## Nam Khan 2 energy generation commences in Luang Prabang

*(By Times Reporters)*

**Luang Prabang province:** Energy generation at the Nam Khan 2 hydropower project in Luang Prabang province officially commenced on Saturday in Xieng Ngeun district, after a four year construction phase.



A view of Nam Khan 2 hydropower project in Luang Prabang.

The dam is on the Khan River and was built by a Chinese company, Sinohydro Corporation Ltd; the project is managed and operated by Electricite due Laos (EDL). The Energy and Mines Minister, Dr Khammany Inthilath said that the Nam Khan 2 is an important project under the master plan of the government. It has an installed capacity of 130 megawatts (MW) and will be able to generate 558 GWh of electricity per year. "The project involves total investment of about 2.4 trillion kip (US\$308.5 million)," Dr Khammany said at the opening ceremony, which was attended by Deputy Prime Minis-

ter Mr Somsavat Lengsavad and officials from Luang Prabang, the Ministry of Energy and Mines, along with the Chinese Ambassador to Laos, Mr Guan Huabing and company representatives. "The opening of the project is a present to celebrate the 40 year anniversary of Laos," Dr Khammany said. The Nam Khan 2 dam is a government project and the entirety of the investment money for the project has been borrowed from the Exim Bank of China. The project construction included a 115kV transmission line that links to a substation in Xieng Ngeun district of Luang Prabang that will supply the generated electricity to the northern provinces and Vientiane. The dam will particularly benefit people in northern Laos and remote areas who are still waiting for electricity to be supplied to their villages. The reservoir will also be developed as a tourist attraction, which will provide a boost for the local economy. The government is promoting the rapid development of power plants for local supply in a bid to cut electricity imports. Dr Khammany said that prior to national liberation in 1975 there were only three hydropower plants in Laos with a total installed capacity of just 33MW. "So far we have 38 power plants with a total installed capacity of 6,264 MW, which are able to generate electricity of more than 33,400GWh annually," he said. "In 1975, there were only 19,000 families or 3 percent of the total population that had electricity

use in Laos; however these days about 89.6 percent of the total population can access the power grid. Laos is aiming for a total installed capacity of about 12,000MW by 2025, a report from the Ministry of Energy

and Mines states. The abundant resources of the Mekong River and its tributaries give Laos the potential to produce more than 25,000MW of electricity.

*(Vientiane Times 01 December 2015)*

## Laos marks 40 years of national pride

*By Somsack Pongkhao*

All Lao hearts were beating with national pride following the spectacular celebrations in the capital yesterday to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Lao PDR.



*The 48 parades of 15,000 marchers from all sections of Lao society mark the 40th anniversary of the Lao PDR at That Luang esplanade in Vientiane yesterday. -- Photo Khamphan*

The sound of music rang out around That Luang esplanade, motivating the spectators to concentrate their eyes on 48 inspiring parades featuring over 15,000 marchers from all sections of Lao society. A large crowd of spectators lined the esplanade from early morning to witness the eagerly-awaited parades which highlighted the nation's achievements over the last 40 years.

As Laos trumpeted its success to the world, the parades reflected national growth, notably the accomplishments in the two strategic tasks of national protection and development over the past 40 years. Meanwhile, Lao people living in the provinces and overseas watched live television coverage of the celebrations on National Day. Secretary General of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and President of the Lao PDR Choummaly Sanya-

sone delivered his remarks at the official ceremony of the 40th anniversary, highlighting the significance of the national day and how the country has developed over the past 40 years. The president reiterated that December 2, 1975 was the date when all Lao people were extremely proud to free the nation from foreign imperialists, abolishing obsolete feudalism and establishing the new regime – the regime of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. "Since then our country has enjoyed full independence, sovereignty and full territorial integrity and the multi-ethnic people have become the real self-masters of the nation," he said. President Choummaly said the status of Laos as an independent country has created favourable conditions for the multi-ethnic Lao people to improve their livelihoods, contributing to national protection and development. The president said he was very proud of the victory of national liberation in 1975, saying that the establishment of the Lao PDR was the great outcome of the national revolution, which was carried out for decades under the great and capable leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party. The foundation of the Lao PDR was also a victory of a massive solidarity force of the entire Lao people and army who fought bravely against the imperialists. Mr Choummaly described the development changes which have been made over the past 40 years, resulting in the continued growth of the Lao economy and declining rate of poor families. The road network has

been expanded. In addition, hydropower development and other mega projects have been realised. Moreover, the 40th anniversary saw the launch of Laos' first telecommunications satellite (Lao Sat-1) into orbit and the ground breaking ceremony of the railway project, linking Vientiane to the Laos-China border. Attending the official ceremony of the 40th anniversary were senior leaders from the Party and government as well as high-level delegates from China, Vietnam and Cambodia. In addition, foreign diplomats and people of Lao origin living abroad were also present at the event. The parades began with the procession of senior revolutionary forces, comprising 400 people and followed by parades carrying the sign of the 40th anniversary, the national symbol and the parade carrying national flags and Party flags respectively. Next were the parades of national defence and security before the processions of different government sectors, State enterprises and the capital followed them. The marchers included soldiers, police, government officials, the private sector, youth, children, women and local authorities, with their collective presence reflecting their solidarity and patriotism in creating a driving force for national defence and development. Those who marched in the parades were dressed in colourful costumes symbolic of their sectors. Some marchers also beat drums and played other musical instruments while waving both national and Party flags. Other marchers also carried photos of revolutionary leaders including President Kaysone Phomvihane, President Souphanouvong, former President Khamtay Si-

phandone and President Choummaly Saisone. Some sectors demonstrated their roles in serving the nation such as doctors demonstrated how they cured patients and Lao television demonstrated how they broadcast the news live. The slogan 'Long live December 2' was repeatedly read out to the crowd, which the marchers repeated in chorus instilling patriotism and love of our homeland. Marchers also carried photos of Vientiane's symbols including That Luang stupa and Patouxay monument. Many people could be seen wearing pins or emblems bearing the national flag, which was also on show outside houses and residences throughout the capital. The events were broadcast live on Lao National Television so those who were unable to be there in person could watch the spectacle at home. The traffic was perfect yesterday morning with few cars because public offices, schools and shops were closed. Meanwhile the highlight of the evening was the five performing programmes comprising 4,000 performers which took place at the National Sports Complex in Vientiane. The programmes mainly reflected the national pride of the Lao people in safeguarding and developing their country over the past 40 years and the unity of the multi-ethnic people in developing their beloved homeland. The evening programme was also highlighted with a dramatic fireworks display, allowing members of the public to watch the fireworks by themselves from their homes and nearby areas. Other special activities organised to mark the occasion included trade fairs and other cultural performances

*(Vientiane Times 03 December 2015)*

## Laos-China railway project construction commences

*(By Souksakhone Vaenkeo)*

Laos and China broke ground yesterday in Vientiane to kick off construction of the historic railway project linking Vientiane with the Chinese border over a distance of 427.2 kilometres. Secretary General of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Choummaly Sayasone and other leaders, Chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) of China, Mr Zhang Dejiang and officials of both sides attended the groundbreaking ceremony yesterday in the Lao capital. The groundbreaking ceremony took place as people across the country celebrated the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (December 2, 1975 – December 2, 2015). Lao Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the project Somsavat Lengsavad told the ceremony that construction of the 38.7 billion yuan (US\$6.04 billion) Vientiane-Boten railway would take about five years to complete. The 1.435-metre standard-gauge railway will connect the Chinese railway at the Chinese border with Thailand's planned rail line at the Thai border in Nong Khai province via Laos. The single-track line consists of 21 sidings enabling trains to pass, 11 passenger stations and one freight container station. The railway composes 170 bridges totalling 69 kilometres in length or 16 percent of the total length, and 72 tunnels amounting to 183 kilometres or 43 percent of the total length. The electricity-powered passenger train is set to run at a speed of 160 km per hour and 120 km per hour for the freight train. However, passenger trains could run at speeds of 200 kilometres per hour on flat terrain from Vangvieng to Vien-

tiane. Some 50 metres of land along each side of the rail line will be preserved for the project to ensure safe operations in accordance with international standards. It was reported previously that China would be responsible for 70 percent of the total investment, with Laos responsible for the remainder. Mr Somsavat told the ceremony that relevant sectors of both sides were preparing the necessary preliminary work to allow the project to proceed according to plan. He said the project would be a catalyst of the Lao government's efforts in switching the nation from being landlocked into a land-linked one contributing significantly to countrywide socio-economic development. He said the project, which coincides with the 'One Belt, One Road' initiative of Chinese President Xi Jinping, would contribute to increased friendly relations and cooperation between Laos and China, and between China and Asean. Chinese officials said their government had attached great importance to realising the project that would boost cooperation between Laos and China and between China and the region. The Vientiane-Boten railway will form part of the regional rail link known as the Kunming-Singapore rail network over a distance of 3,000 km. The rail line will link China's Kunming all the way down to Singapore, passing through Laos, Thailand and Malaysia. It was reported that the governments of Thailand and China have engaged in talks to develop the rail network in Thailand, while Singapore and Malaysia have also agreed to build a high speed rail link between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore by 2020.

*(Vientiane Times 03 December 2015)*

## Nam Ou 2 launches first energy generator

(By Times Reporters)

The first energy generator on the Nam Ou cascade, the Nam Ou 2, with an installed capacity of 40 megawatts (MW), commenced electricity generation on Sunday in Nam Bak district of Luang Prabang province.



Mr Somsavat Lengsavat (centre), officials and developers press a crystal ball to open the energy generation.

The commencement of generation is a present to celebrate the 40 year anniversary of Laos, officials reported.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Mr Somsavat Lengsavat and officials from the National Assembly, Luang Prabang, the Ministry of Energy and Mines, along with the Chinese Ambassador to Laos, Mr Guan Huabing and company representatives. "Currently we are undertaking the installation of the second unit that will be completed soon," Nam Ou River Basin Hydropower Co Ltd Deputy General Manager, Mr Bounpong Ketsadasak said on Tuesday in Vientiane. Nam Ou 2 hydropower plant will have three generators, each with an installed capacity of 40MW, the handout noted. The plant's total installed capacity of 120MW will be able to generate electricity of about 546GWh annually for local supply, reducing the electricity imports from neighbouring countries, according to a handout at the ceremony. Minister of Energy and Mines, Dr Khammany Inthilath, said at the ceremony that the project construction started at the

end of 2012 and is expected to launch commercial operation in early 2017. The project will have a total investment cost of more than 2.45 trillion kip (US\$300.17 million). It has two shareholders; Sinohydro of China holds 80 percent while the remaining 20 percent is held by Electricite du Laos (EDL). Nam Ou 2 hydropower plant is the first in a series of construction projects along the Nam Ou river. Dr Khammany said that the Lao government and the Chinese hydropower developer, Sinohydro, are working in cooperation towards the construction of seven hydropower dams on the Nam Ou river in northern Laos. The first phase of the Nam Ou power project includes Nam Ou 2, 5 and 6. The main civil works of the first phase of Nam Ou River Basin Hydropower Project began in December 2012. Hydropower projects 5 and 6 are being built on the Nam Ou river as part of a series of dams planned on the watercourse under the build-operate-transfer model, each of which will have a concession period of at least 25 years. The Nam Ou 5 dam, located in Samphan district of Phongsaly province, will have an installed capacity of 240MW. The Nam Ou 6 hydroelectric dam is located in Phongsaly district and will have an installed capacity of 180MW. These two projects are worth an estimated US\$770 million and are targeted for completion in the near future. Prior to national liberation in 1975 there were only three hydropower plants in Laos with a total installed capacity of just 33MW. So far Laos has 38 power plants for which development has been completed, with a total installed capacity of 6,264MW. Laos is aiming for a total installed capacity of about 12,000MW by 2025. The abundant resources of the Mekong River and its tributaries give Laos the potential to produce more than 25,000MW of electricity.

(Vientiane Times 04 December 2015)