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(From left) Dr G. Stuckmann, Dr Bouavanh Senthathit and Dr Urs Lauper chair the workshop.

Swiss experts help improve ultrasound diagnosis

Times Reporters

Doctors and nurses have discussed how to effectively use ultrasound for diagnosis at a recent workshop supported by Swiss professionals in the field.

Speaking at the opening of the workshop on ultrasound use, Director of the Mother and Child Hospital, Associate Professor Dr Bouavanh Sensathit, said that the workshop would be very beneficial in improving the health of mothers and children in the years to come.

"It also supports the government's policy on reducing the death rate of mothers and their children," he said.

According to the Lao Social Indicator Survey, in 2012 the death rate of birthing mothers was 357 out of every 100,000 births. The death rate of children under one year was 68 out of every 1,000 live births and for children under five it was 79 out

of every 1,000 live births.

During the two-day workshop more than 20 participants from Mahosot, Mittaphab, Sethathirath, 103 and April 5 hospitals, along with personnel from Xieng Khuang and Champassak provincial hospitals learned how to diagnose the fetal condition among expectant women, working with lecturers from Kantonsspital Winterthur University Hospital.

These included an ultrasound of the liver, liver anatomy, generalised and focal liver diseases, ultrasound of liver vessels, paediatric ultrasound in gastrointestinal emergencies, a practical approach to breast masses and asymmetries of the breast.

This was the first time that Kantonsspital Winterthur University Hospital has undertaken training to show doctors and nurses how to use

ultrasound for diagnosis.

In addition, they learnt about breast calcifications and neurosonography in premature births and infants that reach term.

Dr Bouavanh said that the workshop would not only benefit the participants but also benefit mothers-to-be and their children. This is because participants would learn new techniques on how to diagnose with ultrasound effectively.

If there are problems encountered, doctors and nurses will be better placed to save the lives of mothers and children in time, especially in regard to the diagnoses of heart conditions and brain abnormalities.

The Swiss-Lao Project provided more than 40 million kip to conduct the workshop. The project's President, Dr Urs Lauper, and Dr G. Stuckmann from Kantonsspital Winterthur University Hospital helped chair the event.