

Hospital management workshop raising bar in healthcare

Times Reporters

Health authorities say the drive to improve hospital management is all part of the government's policy to upgrade service standards and patient satisfaction, and ensure equal access to treatment.

Now senior health staff are getting a further boost from a workshop on hospital management taking place at Mahosot Hospital from March 19-23.

Participants are getting intensive training on practical knowhow and skills in hospital management, such as good leadership practice, the implementation of change, and optimisation of organisational structure

The workshop is being led by Dr Urs Lauper, the Founder and Honorary Chairman of the Swiss Laos Hospital Project.

Speaking at the workshop



Surgeons operate on a patient at Mahosot Hospital.

yesterday, Director General of Mahosot Hospital, Associate Prof. Dr Bounthaphany Bounxouei,

stressed the importance of the

management training session for senior administrative staff from Vientiane hospitals.

"This workshop aims to raise services at government-

operated hospitals to international standards, so they can compete with private hospitals in Vientiane and

CONTINUED PAGE 4

Protecting Lao workers' rights, interests 'important': Chinese ambassador

Souksakhone Vaenkeo

The Chinese Embassy to Laos attaches great importance to protecting the rights and interests of Lao nationals working for Chinese companies, China's Ambassador to Laos Wang Wentian told the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare last week.

The ambassador and Dr Khampheng Saysompheng met to discuss ways to ensure effective performance by Lao workers employed by Chinese firms, while ensuring their rights and interests were protected.

Mr Wang said the embassy was pleased to cooperate with the ministry and relevant Lao sectors in this matter.

He told Dr Khampheng that Chinese contractors working on the Laos-China railway had run free training courses in Luang Prabang province in a bid to improve the skills of Lao workers so they could work competently.

Unfortunately, not many people attended the courses.

Training sessions were arranged for 30 people each but only 30 participants in total turned up for the last three sessions, the ambassador said.

"After undergoing training, Lao workers can use their skills to work not only on the railway but for other development projects," Mr Wang told the minister through an interpreter.

To encourage and enable more Lao people to work on the railway, he urged Dr Khampheng to publicise

the training courses in the hope that more people would attend.

Mr Wang promised that his embassy would do its best to uphold the rights and interests of Lao workers employed by Chinese companies.

Wages must be paid on time and Lao laws and regulations complied with, he added.

"This is part of protecting the rights and interests of Lao workers," the ambassador said.

He asked Dr Khampheng to inform the embassy if the ministry received a report suggesting that a Chinese company had infringed Lao law concerning labour matters.

Mr Wang promised the embassy would act if it received such a report.

According to the embassy, more than 200 enterprises from China are now doing business in Laos.

In a press conference held at the embassy last week, the ambassador told Lao and Chinese reporters that the Chinese government had mechanisms in place to regulate and manage Chinese companies investing overseas.

Companies wanting to invest in foreign countries need to be registered with the relevant Chinese authorities before going abroad. They must also be registered with Chinese embassies in the countries where they are working. This helps prevent poorly-operating companies from going abroad, the ambassador said.

CONTINUED PAGE 3

Trump opioid plan includes death penalty for traffickers

WASHINGTON (AP) -- President Donald Trump's plan to combat opioid drug addiction nationwide calls for stiffer penalties for drug traffickers, including the death penalty where

appropriate under current law, a top administration official said. It's a fate for drug dealers that Trump, who aims to be seen as tough on crime, has been highlighting publicly in

recent weeks.

Trump also wants Congress to pass legislation reducing the amount of drugs needed to trigger mandatory minimum sentences for traffickers who knowingly distribute certain illicit opioids, said Andrew Bremberg, Trump's domestic policy director, who briefed reporters Sunday on the plan Trump is scheduled to unveil Monday in New Hampshire, a state hard-hit by the crisis.

The president will be

joined by first lady Melania Trump, who has shown an interest in the issue, particularly as it pertains to her focus on child welfare.

Death for drug traffickers and mandatory minimum penalties for distributing certain opioids are just two elements under the part of Trump's plan that deals with law enforcement and interdiction to break the international and domestic flow of drugs into and across the US.

CONTINUED PAGE 3

Announcement

Vientiane Times will publish a one-day special edition to celebrate Visit Laos Year 2018 and Lao New Year, which takes place from April 14-16.

To promote Visit Laos Year 2018, we invite companies, organisations and individuals to express their best wishes to the government or to each other on this occasion. We will deliver this free edition of the newspaper to hotels, guesthouses, companies and individuals in Vientiane and Luang Prabang during the New Year holiday. For more information call: 336042-9.

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Ms Bounmy Keosipaseuth shakes hands with Mr Jitu Goswami after signing a Memorandum of Understanding.

Agricultural developers partner in Champassak agri-business venture

Times Reporters

Pavina Agriculture Development Co., Ltd. (PADC) is partnering with India's Kalang Organics Private Limited (KOPL) to grow crops on 1,500 hectares in Mounrapamok district, Champassak province.

The two parties last week signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the Champassak Grand Hotel in Pakxe district, to create a joint venture in the cultivation of crops for sale to domestic and international markets.

The MOU was signed by PADC President Ms Bounmy Keosipaseuth and KOPL Chairman Mr Jitu Goswami. The signing was witnessed by Champassak provincial Governor, Dr Bounthong Divixay. The two parties plan to develop agriculture in Mounrapamok district through commercial crop production, animal husbandry, food processing, and agro-marketing.

They plan to work together for a mutually beneficial and strategic alliance in the agro-

marketing business.

PADC will prepare the necessary infrastructure for growing rice, vegetables and fruit, as well as livestock rearing, and will build a rice mill with a warehouse and dryer.

KOPL will provide financial and technical assistance and seek markets. The profits will be shared equally between the two partners.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Dr Bounthong said the agreement would help to drive the province's agricultural development.

He reminded the two parties to comply with all aspects of the law and ensure their projects operated efficiently.

The government is pushing for increased cooperation in trade, investment, connectivity and agriculture between Asean and India as both sides mark the 25th anniversary of their dialogue relations, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, Mr Alounkeo Kittikhoun, said while heading a Lao

delegation at the Asean-India Business and Investment Meet and Expo in New Delhi on January 23.

According to a report by the Asean India Business Council on the past 25 years, Asean and India have enhanced their economic integration through the finalisation of the Asean-India Free Trade Agreement in 2010.

With a combined population of nearly 2 billion people, about 25 percent of the world's population, Asean and India are among the most dynamic and fastest growing economies in Asia.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Asean-India Dialogue, the Asean-India Expo and Forum took the theme of Strategic Economic Partnership and Connectivity to help realise the untapped economic potential and strategic partnership between the 10 Asean member states and India through the expansion of bilateral trade and investment and people-to-people contacts.

Hospital management workshop... FROM PAGE 1

Udon Thani province in Thailand. Mahosot Hospital wants to base its management on international standards," he said.

All of the major public hospitals in Vientiane including Mahosot are set to undergo infrastructure and medical equipment upgrades to bring them closer to international standards over the next few years.

"I think that good leadership and hospital management does have a strong impact on improving the quality of service in hospitals. That is why this project is supporting the management workshop," Dr Bounthaphany added.

"A fundamental cultural shift is needed in Lao hospitals. The management team should encourage all staff to be more responsive to the needs of patients. Good teamwork by all professionals has to be set in motion and

sustained," he said.

Staff at every level must be fully committed to patient care and management teams should ensure that their staff are accountable role models, as well as motivating and empowering all team members to work to the best of their ability.

He noted that Mahosot was improving its management in cooperation with the Swiss Laos Hospital Project.

Swiss consultant Dr Alphons Schnyder, who is co-leading the workshop, said there was strong potential to use resources more efficiently.

He said good quality leadership was a key factor in a hospital's success. All doctors, nurses and other staff should be taught how to be patient-centred and quality-oriented if international standards were to be achieved.

What the Lao papers say

Pakngum farmers urged to use modern farming methods to boost crop yields

Translated by Times Reporters

Pakngum district in Vientiane has the potential to commercially grow rice and a variety of vegetables that can meet the needs of the capitals markets.

District officials are encouraging people to use modern farming methods in a bid to reduce the amount of labour needed for farm work by about 10 percent a year. "In the past, district officials did not know about new farming methods and didn't use modern technology in agriculture, but now they will try to help local people use modern equipment to reduce the amount of manual labour required," district Governor Mr Vongdeuane Bounyaseng said. Some villagers are now using rice harvesters and growing organic vegetables. In one week, the district can provide 1.5 to 2 tonnes of crops and grow grass to feed cattle, he said. With support from the authorities, the district now has 35 pig farms, 16 chicken farms, six duck farms and one partridge farm, which supply markets in Vientiane, Mr Vongdeuane said.

He said district officials also helped to educate Party members and officials about the policies of the Party and government to make the country self-sufficient while prioritising district development and reducing poverty rather than waiting for assistance from the authorities.

--Pathetlao Daily, March 19

Sisattanak students get lesson in dangers of drugs, careless driving

Sisattanak district police carried out a drive last week to inform students about the dangers of drug abuse and road accidents.

Talks were given at Thongkang Secondary School and several other institutions in Sisattanak district. Drug abuse is widespread and many youngsters have become drug dealers, which has led to an upsurge in crime including robberies and burglaries, as well as road accidents. The students were advised not to use drugs and to avoid becoming addicted. They should use their free time to play sports, do research or study, and get involved in useful activities.

In 2017, many crimes were recorded in Sisattanak district, including 221 cases of theft and 110 drug-related cases, which resulted in police detaining 224 people. Last week, police educated 36 young drug users about the dangers of their lifestyle before sending them back to the care of their parents. They were told to engage in positive activities and warned that people with serious drug problems would be sent to the rehabilitation centre.

District police also arrested five alleged drug dealers at a gaming shop in Xaysettha district after finding 30 amphetamine tablets in their possession.

--Lao Phatthana Daily, March 19

Old Buddha images discovered in Vientiane province cave

Officials in Meun district, Vientiane province, have discovered many old Buddha statues in a cave located between Vang and Namhy villages.

On March 13, the Governor of Meun district, Mr Phouvone Bounvilay, went with authorities and local officials to see the cave at Homthao, about 27 km from the centre of the district on National Road No. 4501.

Earlier, officials checked the cave after local residents informed them that it contained Buddha images believed to be hundreds of years old.

Officials also found four other caves that could be opened up to tourists. They said visitors could see the Buddha statues, go for a walk in the woods, and admire the Mekong River. Mr Phouvone said they would develop the area and the cave as a tourist attraction. "Initially, we will clear the area to create space for parking and build a restaurant and toilets for use by visitors," he said. It is expected that the cave with the Buddha images will be opened to the public before Lao New Year next month.

--Socio-Economic Daily, March 19

Luang Namtha drug bust snares 100,000 amphetamine tablets

Police in Luang Namtha province detained an alleged drug dealer and seized 100,000 amphetamine tablets in his possession on March 12.

Police said they detained the man after a tipoff from local residents on March 11 that a drug deal would take place somewhere between Sompantay and Xiengkong villages. On March 12, police formed a special unit to put their target under surveillance. At 1.30 pm, they found the target along the road between the two villages and found 100,000 amphetamine tablets in a bag. Police held Mr Yato, 31, from Pounxay village, Long district. During questioning, he admitted to owning the tablets and said he had bought them from a drug dealer in Myanmar. Mr Yato is currently in custody and investigations are continuing in the hope of tracing others involved.

--Socio-Economic Daily, March 19

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