



Mr Chansy Phosikham (left) and Mr Phongsavanh Sitthavong (right) on Tuesday attend a cornerstone laying ceremony for the Xayaboury City Pillar Hall in Xayaboury district. --Photo Lao National Radio

Hospitals address critical need to improve management

Phetphoxay Sengpaseuth

Administrators and medical staff from Vientiane's main hospitals are meeting at a workshop in Vientiane this week to learn about effective management methods and the best way to apply them.

Participants are sharing their ideas and experiences around improving healthcare and training personnel in essential fields through properly managed systems.

The one-week workshop, which is being led by the Swiss Laos Hospital Project, covers patient services management, quality health services, and issues surrounding human resources and development.

Attendees are studying corporate culture frameworks, strategic planning, organisational leadership, good governance, financial management, human resource management, and changes in management with regard to project management.

Deputy Director General of Setthathirath Hospital, Dr Khamla Choumlivong, said

the workshop had an important role to play in developing the capacity and knowledge of hospital administrative staff.

"If we want to solve the problems we face in healthcare services we should start with hospital administrators because they are the ones who will make the decisions on most issues within their organisations," she said.

It is recognised that hospital management aspires to protect the rights and benefits of members of the public with regard to the delivery of medical treatment, she added.

A broader policy aims to provide people of all ethnic groups with quality treatment on an impartial basis.

A senior official from the Ministry of Health said the workshop highlighted the importance of improving hospital management at each facility, adding that it was imperative to increase understanding of this aspect of running a successful hospital. Senior officials who undergo training don't always have experience in human resource

development or patient service management because they are specialists in other types of healthcare, he added.

Many doctors, nurses and other medical staff are unable to provide good quality medical services because they lack adequate knowledge of management practices, which means they don't always look after their patients as well as they should, he said.

In the past, the Ministry of Health has teamed up with hospitals in Vientiane to hold meetings and workshops aimed at teaching hospital staff about the importance of providing good quality healthcare. Unfortunately, hospital administrators still lack the capacity and knowledge to properly manage these services and their associated issues. Before the ministry attempts to apply hospital management practices in other hospitals in the country, success must first be achieved in bridging the gaps and laying the foundations for sound hospital management in Vientiane.

Ground broken for Xayaboury city pillar hall

Times Reporters

Xayaboury province is spending over 8 billion kip to build a City Pillar Hall (Hor Lak Meuang) in the provincial capital Xayaboury district.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the ornate building took place on Tuesday, with the work estimated to take 18 months.

The ceremony was attended by Politburo member and Head of the Organisation and Personnel Committee of the Party Central Committee, Mr Chansy Phosikham, Xayaboury provincial Governor Mr Phongsavanh Sitthavong, and other officials.

Director of the province's Information, Culture and

Tourism Department, Mr Chantry Simanichanh, told *Vientiane Times* on Tuesday "Work is beginning this month and will be finished by the end of 2019. The construction cost of over 8.3 billion kip will be provided by the province and also sourced from the general public."

The design and décor of the pavilion will reflect the province's cultural traditions and local people's lifestyle. It will also feature a painting of an elephant, which is the symbol of Xayaboury province.

The structure will serve to uphold the country's culture and will enhance the local landscape.

Mr Chantry said it would be the province's first city

pillar hall and would be surrounded by a garden.

It will be a fitting addition to Xayaboury district's two public parks, the first of which is in Nahai village.

The second park is under construction in Thana village and is slated for completion next year, with funding from the Japanese government. It will have landscaped gardens, toilets, and areas where people can exercise and relax.

This park will be a symbol of the friendship between Laos and Japan and will give visitors a feel for Japanese traditions.

The parks are part of Xayaboury's plans to provide more leisure facilities and green spaces for both local residents and tourists.

Govt allocates more land for agriculture

Times Reporters

The government hopes to meet its target of allocating 4.5 million hectares of land for agriculture as quickly as possible to ensure sustained production and improved yields.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, through the Agricultural Land Management Department and relevant sectors at the central and local levels, has allocated more land for agriculture but this has yet to yield results as the process has encountered various obstacles.

In support of this objective, the participatory forest and land use planning and management (pFALUPAM) process is yielding increased production, equitable benefits, secure tenure, good land and forest governance and sustainable management in Laos.

The project's agricultural and land technical staff from Vientiane and target provinces recently spent two days discussing their experiences.

They exchanged information about land

surveys in Laos and their importance, land management, agricultural land development, and land issues and solutions.

"As we are aware, land is a necessary and important facet of the economy, society as a whole, and our way of life," said the Director General of the Agricultural Land Management Department, Mr Khamphone Rasachack.

Laos has strong potential for agricultural production due to its natural resources, and most people are still dependent on agriculture for their livelihood.

There is an urgent need to allocate a certain number of hectares for livestock breeding, rice cultivation and commercial crops.

"After allocating land for these purposes, we need to create effective measures to regulate its management and development for sustainable long-term benefits," Mr Khamphone said.

The government, especially the ministry, has framed a strategy for land management and development by 2025 and a vision for 2030.



Mr Khamphone Rasachack.

The Agricultural Land Management Department will finalise the details of indicators for agricultural land development and allocation, particularly soil quality evaluation and land use planning, said Mr Khamphone.

p F A L U P A M is implemented by The Agro-Biodiversity Initiative (TABI) in more than 200 villages in 13 provinces. TABI was launched in 2009 as a joint programme of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Trump says to meet with Putin... FROM PAGE 1

importance of denuclearising the Korean Peninsula, according to the statement.

Putin was re-elected Russian president for the fourth time in a landslide victory on Sunday, garnering more than 76 percent of the vote.

Trump's remarks on his possible meeting with Putin came less than a month after the United States bridled at Putin's missile plan, saying US defense capabilities remain "unmatched" and "second to none."

The US Department of Defense rolled out its budget for fiscal year 2019 in late February, asking Congress for US\$716 billion for arms purchases and a staff expansion.

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