



Mr Khamsavai Nyommanyong (right) shakes hands with Mr Shaun Massey at the Certification Assessment Programme signing ceremony on Monday in Vientiane.

Phu Bia, tech college launch certification assessment programme

Viengdavanh Banphahaksa

Some 174 employees of Phu Bia Mining Company will benefit from a certification assessment programme to improve their knowledge through government diplomas or certification after many years with the firm.

Lao-German Technical College and Phu Bia Mining Company on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a new initiative to improve skills and knowledge for Phu Bia's employees by studying for a government diploma.

The MoU was signed between General Manager of Phu Bia Mining Company, Mr Shaun

Massey and Director of the college, Mr Khamsavai Nyommanyong and attended by teachers and company staff.

Mr Shaun Massey said "Today, we are here to sign an MoU for a new initiative which we are calling our Certification Assessment Programme (CAP). This programme has been developed to improve skill and knowledge of some of our existing trade employees at our mining operation who joined our company many years ago without a formal or recognised qualification."

"We have identified 174 Lao trades' employees who will benefit from this programme. At end of a dedicated 3-4 weeks training programme, these employees will be assessed

using a 'Recognised Prior Learning Model (RPL)' and if successful, will receive a Lao government diploma or certification," he explained

According to Phu Bia Mining Company, the CAP programme was its commitment to continual training and development of its staff.

Mr Massey expressed his thanks to Mr Khamsavai and his staff for their important participation in making the programme possible.

Mr Khamsavai said the college has been working with Phu Bia Mining Company since 2012. During that time they have graduated 85 young Lao trade apprentices including 14 women and trained over 100 local trade employees in multiple trade skills.

Workshop aiming to strengthen newborn care in Laos

Phetphoxay Sengpaseuth

The government and the Swiss Laos Hospital Project are continuing to strengthen the skills of Lao newborn healthcare professionals in a bid to improve the health of new-borns and infants in the years to come.

That was the message on Monday at the opening ceremony of a three-day refresher workshop to improve newborn healthcare in Laos supported by Mother and Newborn Hospital and Swiss Laos Hospital Project.

The meeting was co-chaired by Deputy Director General of the Mother and Newborn Hospital, Dr Syvanxay Vongsack and Vice President of Swiss Laos Hospital Project and specialist in neonatology, Ms Marion Monkhoff.

President of the Paediatrics Association of Laos, Associate Prof. Dr Khampe Phongsavath, said



(From left) Ms Marion Monkhoff, Dr Khampe Phongsavath and Dr Syvanxay Vongsack chair the workshop.

it was essential that newborn healthcare staff were equipped with the necessary skills to save lives in an emergency.

He said attempting to improve the health of mothers and children under one in five indications was still a challenge but he was hopeful of meeting targets to reduce newborn mortality rates in line with the government's health policy.

Head of the Neonatal Ward and paediatric and neonatology specialist at

the Mother and Newborn Hospital, Dr Phommady Vesaphong said "We hope that those attending the workshop from targets provinces of the country will use the skills they learn to save the lives of mothers and children in their own communities."

During the workshop, 93 participants are learning new methods of patient treatment to ensure accurate diagnoses and the most effective therapies.

Media informed of cigarette advertising laws

Times Reporters

Individuals or organisations advertising tobacco products will be fined and punished under a Prime Ministerial decree on the regulation and control of the addictive weed.

First offenders will be fined 20 million kip. If breaching the rules a second time a fine of 40 million kip will be issued. Third offences will attract an 80 million kip fine.

These fine amounts, and other measures to regulate the tobacco industry were in a decree signed by the Prime Minister last month.

To ensure the public is informed of the new regulations, the Hygiene and Health Promotion

Department of the Ministry of Health held a tobacco control workshop in Vientiane province this week. It was presided over by the Director General of the department, Dr Bounpheng Philavong. Most participants were representatives of media organisations.

The workshop aimed to encourage and support the media companies to convey key elements of the new laws to the public. It also had the objective of making sure media organisations themselves are aware of the laws and implications if they breach tobacco advertising legislation.

In addition to fining individuals and organisations

who advertise tobacco products, the decree will also set out fines for offenders who package or sell cigarettes with no health warning and image on the packet. Selling or distributing cigarettes to under 18-year-olds, selling or distributing tobacco products at tobacco-free locations, importing and trading in cigarette packets containing fewer than 20 cigarettes and cigarette vending machines are all outlawed under the new measures.

The decree on fines and other measures for the regulation of tobacco consists of 22 Articles. It was signed by Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith on February 21, 2019.



Dr Bounpheng Philavong (third left seated) poses with participants in Vientiane province.

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Lao Press in Foreign Languages

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