



Mrs Sengdeuane Lachanthaboun (sixth right) and senior officials from Savannakhet province and the Ministry of Education and Sports last week gather to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Savannakhet University.  
--Photo Savanphatthana

## Savannakhet University celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Times Reporters

Savannakhet University last week hosted an event to celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary after opening its doors to students in October 2009, becoming Laos' fourth state-run university.

Students from around the country are increasingly seeking places at the university and today it has 8,811 students on its books.

The university comprises the faculties of Agriculture and Environment, Business Management, Languages, Humanities, Technology and Information, Food Science, Education, Natural Science, and Engineering.

Some of its courses aim to develop the rural areas in particular, at the bachelor

degree level, and it also has master's degree courses in business as well as in education management and development that target students from rural areas.

Last academic year Savannakhet University had 309 officials and a total of 5,849 students graduated, of whom 3,233 were female.

The university trains students to work in a wide variety of fields and equips them with knowledge to serve society and assist in the country's development. The anniversary celebrations were attended by the Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs Sengdeuane Lachanthaboun, Deputy Governor of Savannakhet province, Mr Thonekeo Phouthakayalath, Acting Dean of the university,

Dr Souliyong Xaykosy, and senior officials from the province's Education and Sports Department and the Ministry of Education and Sports. During the event, Class 2 and 3 Labour Orders and certificates were presented to officials.

Ten booths were also set up to display the work of each faculty. Over the past academic year, new facilities were built at the university including offices, a library, and classrooms at the provincial Talented and Ethnic Secondary School.

New furniture and educational materials were provided and seven concrete roads with a total length of 10km were built to ease access to the various buildings.

## Medics review treatment of diabetes patients

Phetphoxay Sengpaseuth

A better understanding of the effectiveness of diabetic patients' health management is needed among medical staff working in Vientiane's hospitals.

This was the message from diabetes specialist and Deputy Director of Setthathirath Hospital, Dr Bounmy Somsamouth, when he addressed a recent international Symposium on Diabetes. The meeting was attended by Prof. Hisamitsu Ishihara from the Nihon University School of Medicine in Japan and medical staff from Vientiane's nine district hospitals and the city's main hospitals.

Participants discussed home care for patients with diabetes as well as medical strategies employing information and communications technology (ICT) in South East Asia for the treatment of diabetes. The symposium was supported by the Nihon University School of Medicine.

Dr Bounmy said diabetes was a non-communicable disease but was currently affecting many people in Laos and was a major concern for the Ministry of Health. In 2016, the prevalence of diabetes in Laos was 5.6-5.7 percent in females and 5.5 percent in males, according to the World Health



Dr Bounmy Somsamouth (right).

Organisation.

The Ministry of Health is now undertaking prevention and control measures to reduce the number of cases.

Nutrition teams should guide patients in the treatment of their illness and provide accurate and complete information about nutrition that is easy for people to understand and follow, Dr Bounmy said. Regular exercise depending on the age and condition of the patient is advised for at least 240 minutes a week. Muscles can take sugar from the bloodstream and so reduce blood sugar levels, he explained.

The main aim of managing diabetes is to stabilise blood sugar levels. This helps to prevent complications such as retinopathy, nephropathy and neuropathy.

Diabetes control or treatment consists of three

main methods, including diet management.

In order to regulate blood sugar, a nutrition specialist should advise diabetic patients about ways to maintain normal levels.

A physician may also choose to use a combination of anti-hypoglycemic drugs or use an insulin substitute.

Nutrition control and drug adherence by patients is essential for the successful treatment of diabetes.

Most people with diabetes in Asean countries are aged 15-59, which are the most productive years of their lives. This means that compliance with treatment requirements is difficult due to financial challenges and fragile health systems. A regional healthcare alliance through medical ICT has been developed and introduced to other countries as a "Japanese style healthcare model".

## Paediatricians build network in neurology, epilepsy, child development

Times Reporters

The diagnosis and treatment of neurology, epilepsy and child development in Laos should be more effective now that paediatricians are establishing a network in these fields.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Symposium on Neuropaediatrics, Epilepsy and Child Development in Vientiane this week, Director General of the Mother and Newborn Hospital, Dr Phath Keungsaneth, said the symposium would help to create a strong network among paediatricians from district and central hospitals in Vientiane as well as provincial hospitals.

"I hope that this symposium will teach participants to

provide treatment effectively and reduce the mortality rate of newborns in Laos in the years to come," he said.

President of the Paediatrics Association, Associate Prof. Dr Khampe Phongsavath, said the symposium was beneficial because it would broaden the knowledge of the more than 80 paediatricians working in district and central hospitals in Vientiane.

"The training we receive here will provide specific knowledge about effective treatment," he said.

Most importantly, it is necessary for paediatricians to build a network that enables them to share their knowledge and experience in the fields of neurology, epilepsy and child development. Vice President of the Swiss Laos Hospital

Project, Dr Marion Mönkhoff, said the symposium was a chance for paediatricians to talk to each other as they had found in their daily work that they did not know all the answers to problems that arose in neurology, epilepsy and child development.

Knowledge of child development was extremely important, she said, not just playing with children. Careful monitoring enables doctors to identify which children are developing normally and which are not.

"This symposium will start to create a network among doctors from all around the country so that they have the chance to talk and share their experiences," she added.

Ms Regine Wehrle from Germany said Setthathirath

Hospital ran a weekly clinic for neurology treatment, which also dealt with child development. But some paediatricians don't know how or where to refer children for treatment, so the symposium would establish a network to make it easier for doctors to share work when they have patients that need specialised treatment.

Head of the Neonatology Division at the Mother and Newborn Hospital, Dr Phommady Vesaphong, said the symposium would improve doctors' skills in neurology and epilepsy in line with the Ministry of Health's policy to improve services under the 'five goods and one satisfaction' initiative.

The Swiss Laos Hospital provided financial support



Dr Phath Keungsaneth (seated centre), Associate Prof. Dr Khampe Phongsavath (second left), and Dr Marion Mönkhoff (second right) pose together with participants at the Symposium on Neuropaediatrics, Epilepsy and Child Development.

for the Symposium on Neuropaediatrics, Epilepsy and Child Development.

Dr Chanthavong, a child neurologist at Setthathirath Hospital, Head of the Child Development Centre at the

Children's Hospital, Dr Phonedavanh Donesavanh, and Head of the Child Neurophysiology Division of the University Hospital Zürich, Switzerland, Prof. Dr Bernhard Schmitt gave presentations at the event.

### Lao Press in Foreign Languages

#### Vientiane Times

Tel: (856-21) 336042, Fax: (856-21) 336041  
P.O.Box: 5723; Postal Code: 01000  
[www.vientianetimes.la](http://www.vientianetimes.la); [info@vientianetimes.la](mailto:info@vientianetimes.la)

**Supervisor:**  
Savankhone Razmounry

**Editor-in-Chief:**  
Thonglor Duangsavanh

Tel: 021 336042  
[info@vientianetimes.la](mailto:info@vientianetimes.la)

**Deputy Editor-in-Chief:**  
Phonekeo Vorakhoun

Tel: 021 336042  
[vorakhoun@gmail.com](mailto:vorakhoun@gmail.com)

**Deputy Editor-in-Chief:**  
Phon Thikeo  
Tel: 55624351, 021 336042  
[phonethikeo28@yahoo.com](mailto:phonethikeo28@yahoo.com)

**Features Editor:**  
Panyasith Thammavongsa  
Tel: 020 54046644,  
021 336047, Fax: 021 336046  
[panyasith155@gmail.com](mailto:panyasith155@gmail.com)

**News Editor:**  
Sisay Vilaysack  
Tel: 55615716, 021-336045,  
Fax: 336046  
[sisay69@gmail.com](mailto:sisay69@gmail.com)

**Business Editor:**  
Manichanh Pansivongxay  
Tel: 020 55607017, 021  
336047, Fax: 021 336046  
[chanfeature@hotmail.com](mailto:chanfeature@hotmail.com)

**Graphic Designer/IT:**  
Malaythong Phayanouvong

Tel: 021 336048, 020 55729209  
**Copy Sub-editor:**  
Elizabeth Winch

**Finance Manager:**  
Somphone Vongsa  
Tel: 336040, 020 55647291

**Marketing Manager:**  
Phouthasack Inthakoummane  
Tel: 021 336042,  
Fax: 336041  
Mobile: 020 55599209  
[sale.adv@gmail.com](mailto:sale.adv@gmail.com)

If you have a problem accessing the website, please call directly to  
Tel: +856-21 336041;

020 22235266,

Email: [info@vientianetimes.la](mailto:info@vientianetimes.la)



Vientiane Times Facebook page is available now. Use any QR code scanners to scan it and it will take you directly to