

National News

International interest on quality education and lifelong learning in the Lao PDR

(KPL) The Ministry of Education and Sports' Non-Formal Education Department and DVV International had the honor of receiving international guests to share global and regional experiences on Quality Education and Lifelong Learning.

From 10-14 March in Vang Vieng District, Vientiane Province, around 100 participants will follow up the Shanghai International Forum in 2010 on Lifelong Learning and CONFINTEA IV.

Academic experts include Prof Dr Kim Shinil (Former Deputy Prime Minister) from Korea, Dr Timote Vaoleti from the University of Waikato, New Zealand and Prof Dato' Dr Susie See Ching Mey from Malaysia University, and several others who will present inspiring experiences in non-formal education and analyze challenges in policy and skills development in lifelong learning in the Lao PDR.

Guests from England, Cambodia, Philippines and Australia enrich this informative exchange by giving speeches about inclusive education, global-regional planning and skills development. Given their widely differing contexts, they will make an outstanding contribution to educational management in the Lao PDR.

Representatives from each provincial level of the ministry of Education and Sports and several departments will be present to enhance the personnel's effort to promote Non-Formal Education

development field work.

The conference aims to reach an integral and common understanding of policy makers in Lao PDR and discuss experiences of the best practices on NFE development in the different provinces. The conference's content will continuously keep an eye on and discuss the post-2015 NFE development, regarding literacy and basic vocational development programs.

Increasing literacy rates in the last years encouraged Lao PDR's policy to improve qualitative education – whether for children, youth, adults or universities. An introduction into Lifelong Learning concepts for schools and vocational trainings provides a platform for political dialogue and identify opportunities and challenges in the country.

The conference puts this into account by a detailed analysis on statistics of drop-out and enrolment rates and emphasizing the need of closer cooperation between universities. This event offers the opportunity to widen the network between universities and put attention on their importance of community work in Lao PDR.

This conference is concurrent with a publication on Lifelong Learning and governance edited by Prof. Dr. Hinzen and Prof. Dr. Joachim Knoll. It is a contribution to several presentations of the conference and takes up diverse points of views from Europe and Asia, offering a profound analysis of Lifelong Learning and governance.