

# MEDIA RELEASE

## AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY VIENTIANE



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6 October 2014

### **Australian Embassy runners raise \$7000 for new hospital**

Australian Embassy staff have collectively raised over US\$7000 (LAK 5.6 million) for a new children's hospital ahead of Sunday's charity half marathon in Luang Prabang.

The Embassy officials will be competing in the Luang Prabang half marathon "*La Procession*" on 12 October, in which runners can choose to complete either 7, 14 or 21 kilometres around the World Heritage-listed city.

Australia's Ambassador to the Lao PDR, John Williams, said he was proud of his staff for investing so much time and effort to support a worthy cause.

"The Australian Embassy team in Vientiane deeply value our links into communities across the Lao PDR, and share a strong commitment to helping to address inequity and disadvantage," Williams said.

"The Luang Prabang half marathon is a perfect event for our staff to contribute further to Lao society, and participate in a healthy, fun community activity."

"Australian Embassy staff have been training hard for the event. Their muscles are sore, but their enthusiasm has been infectious," Williams said.

The half marathon is being staged by Friends Without Borders to raise funds for a much-needed paediatric hospital in Luang Prabang. All funds raised will go toward the construction and fit out of the *Lao Friends Hospital for Children*, scheduled to open in February 2015.



*Members of the Australian Embassy's Luang Prabang half marathon team*

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