

MEDIA RELEASE

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY

VIENTIANE



12 August 2013

Australian Embassy Direct Aid Program is now open for applications

The 2013/14 Australian Embassy Direct Aid Program (DAP) is now open for applications. DAP is a small-scale grants program which targets humanitarian need. The 2013/14 DAP round will support projects with a focus on sustainable development, health, education, gender and women's empowerment, poverty and vulnerable groups.

The objective of the program is to support projects that address basic developmental hardship and reduce poverty. Projects that are community based and participatory in nature will be highly regarded. The Australian Embassy welcomes projects that involve beneficiaries directly through the identification, design and management of projects.

In past years DAP has provided financial support to a wide range of social and community development projects throughout Laos in areas such as health, education and agriculture. In 2012/13 DAP supported 11 important projects including;

- Refurbishment of Ban Hom Neua and Ban Nahai Primary Schools
- Renovation of the operating theatre at Paklay District Hospital in Sayaboury Province
- Provision of medical equipment to Kham District and Sayaboury Provincial Hospitals
- Provision of books and furniture for a children's room in Nonkhor Tai Village
- Purchase of a respiratory ventilator for the Intensive Care Unit at Bolikhamxay Provincial Hospital
- Construction of a school building at Ban Nam Deng Tai Primary School
- Refurbishment of a carpentry instruction block for the Northern Regional Vocational Training School
- Development of Integrated Disease Management Strategies for Durian Dieback Disease
- Construction of a library at Ban Dongphosee Primary School

Individuals, community groups and NGO's engaged in development activities on a not-for-profit basis, are encouraged to submit applications for funding.

DAP application forms and guidelines are available in Lao and English from the Australian Embassy or online at the Australian Embassy website www.laos.embassy.gov.au. Applications should be addressed to the DAP Coordinator, Australian Embassy, Vientiane and sent by 12 September 2013. Applicants should note that it is a lengthy process and decisions on funding will not be made prior to October 2013.

It is a requirement of the Australian Government that any construction projects funded through DAP should meet or exceed Australian standards and ensure that **all materials are ASBESTOS free**. Further information on asbestos can be found in the DAP guidelines or by contacting the Australian Embassy.

For further information on DAP please contact the Australian Embassy on telephone 21 353800.