

MEDIA RELEASE

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Australia's Ambassador Congratulates 75 Laos-Australia National Scholarship Awardees

At a ceremony today, the Australian Ambassador to Laos, HE Lynda Worthaisong, congratulated 75 students who have successfully obtained Laos-Australia National Scholarships. H.E Professor Dr Soukkongseng Saignaleuth, President, and Professor Dr Somsy Gnophanxay, Vice President of the National University of Laos, also attended the event.

The four-year national scholarships, provided by the Australian Government, support students from remote and educationally disadvantaged districts in Laos to undertake bachelor degree study at the National University of Laos. These national scholarships are in addition to the Australian Government's scholarships programs that enable Lao students to study in Australia.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ambassador Worthaisong said that Australia was committed to providing scholarships to support talented young Lao people. She told the students: "I hope these scholarships will help you to become future leaders in your chosen fields, and to contribute to the further development and prosperity of Laos."

The Ambassador noted that "Education is at the heart of Laos' future development. For this reason, education is also a flagship of the Australian aid program here in Laos".

The Laos-Australia National Scholarship Program aims to support young men and women to obtain professional qualifications in areas that are a focus of the Australian aid program in Laos, including education, rural development, trade and natural resource management. In addition to supporting young people further themselves, the program is working with the National University of Laos to further develop the management and delivery of scholarship programs and comprehensive student services.

This year marks the third year of the program, with 140 students having already commenced their studies in 2012.

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