

MEDIA RELEASE

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY VIENTIANE



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Lao Scholars Prepare to Depart for Studies in Australia

At a farewell ceremony yesterday, the Australian Ambassador to Laos, HE Lynda Worthaisong, farewelled 50 Australia Awards Scholarship recipients who will be commencing their studies in Australia in 2014.

Speaking at the dinner, Ambassador Worthaisong said “Here tonight, we have 50 Australia Awards Scholarship recipients, including 4 recipients of the prestigious Australia Awards Leadership Program Scholarships, who have proven themselves academically and gone through a competitive selection process to be chosen for our scholarships.”

“The Australian Awards Scholarships are a very important part of Australia’s development cooperation, not only in Laos but in South East Asia and around the world. Awardees gathered here tonight have been provided with an important opportunity to further develop their leadership qualities and academic skills, and to also contribute to the future development of Laos.”

Australia Awards Scholarships are an integral part of Australia’s development cooperation program with Laos, which is helping to develop human resources particularly in education, rural development, trade and investment, natural resource management and gender and disability inclusive development. These scholarships also continue to build long-term and enduring people-to-people linkages between Australia and Laos.

Of the 50 Australia Awards Scholarship recipients for 2014, there are four PhD candidates, 36 awardees who will undertake their study at Masters level, seven who will study for Bachelor degrees, and three awardees who will study for technical and vocational qualifications. The successful recipients come from a wide range of backgrounds, representing seven provinces as well as Vientiane capital.

Since the inception of Australian Government scholarships in Laos, more than 1,100 awardees have successfully gained tertiary qualifications in Australia and returned to apply their new skills in Lao PDR.

Further information about Australia Awards can be found at www.australiaawards.gov.au.

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