



# JOINT MEDIA RELEASE



AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION  
(ANZBA)

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, VIENTIANE

## **Business representatives discuss risks and regulations relating to corruption**

*5 June 2013*

The Australia New Zealand Business Association (ANZBA), with support from the Australian Embassy in Vientiane, hosted a working luncheon on 5 June to provide business people with an update on risks and regulations associated with corruption.

Keynote speakers at the event included representatives from the Australian Trade Commission based in Hanoi, the Australian Federal Police as well as law firm McDonald Steed McGrath Lawyers.

Speaking at the luncheon, Ms Elodie Journet, Senior Trade Commissioner at the Australian Embassy in Hanoi highlighted the importance that the Australian Government accorded to corruption issues. Federal Agent Kel Mansfield of the Australian Federal Police briefed companies on relevant Australian legislation. He noted that bribery of foreign public officials was one of very few offences for which Australian nationals and Australian companies operating overseas could be charged under Australian law. Kate Bickford of McDonald Steed McGrath Lawyers presented an overview of the anti-corruption legislation of the Lao PDR.

The Australian Ambassador to Lao PDR, Lynda Worthaisong, underlined the important role of the private sector in fighting corruption around the world. In many countries, corruption has been shown to distort market access, increase costs, damage business reputations and in some cases even undermine stability. She said that all businesses therefore had a responsibility to contribute to good business practices in order to support good governance. She welcomed the positive reputation that many Australian companies had earned in Laos and elsewhere in this respect.

The business luncheon was one of a series of events held this year by ANZBA to raise awareness among members of key issues.

Companies interested in joining ANZBA should contact:

Melanie Fuller  
Executive Administrator  
[anzbalao@gmail.com](mailto:anzbalao@gmail.com)  
[+8562022225302](tel:+8562022225302)  
[www.anzba.org](http://www.anzba.org)