

# Education

## GIZ's challenges, approaches and achievements in the Lao education sector

### The challenge

Constant economic growth of about 8% and the development efforts towards a market economy in Laos are at risk due to the lack of a qualified workforce adapted to the needs of the national and regional labour market. Low education levels among enterprise owners (especially small and medium enterprises), with most of them not having tertiary education, also constitutes an obstacle for the further socio-economic development of the country.

But economic growth also puts pressure on the environment of a country, where the majority of the population depends on forest ecosystems and small-scale agricultural production. To support long-term sustainable development, knowledge, attitudes and practices need to improve, especially of the rural population and of political and economic decision makers regarding environmental protection, biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation.

<b>Project name</b>	Vocational Education in Laos (VELA)
<b>Commissioned by</b>	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
<b>Lead executing agency</b>	Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES)
<b>Description</b>	VELA aims to improve the vocational education and training (TVET) system in order to provide graduates a solid basis for entering the labour market. It builds on the results and lessons learnt of the previous HRDME programme (Human Resources Development for a Market Economy). By strengthening the regulatory framework, VELA seeks to establish consistency and legal certainty plus the harmonisation of curricula and certificates within ASEAN. Furthermore, VELA promotes the cooperation between employers and the TVET sector and supports the access of disadvantaged groups to TVET in order to enhance their prospects on income generation.
<b>Duration</b>	01.12.2013 – 30.11.2017
<b>Contact person</b>	Armin Hofmann, <a href="mailto:armin.hofmann@giz.de">armin.hofmann@giz.de</a>

### Our objective

Improving vocational and environmental education as contribution to sustainable economic development in Laos

### Our approach

- Developing the capacity of governmental institutions to provide vocational and technical education and training (TVET) geared towards labour market requirements
- Improving the institutional framework for the development of TVET with participation of state-owned enterprises and the private sector
- Enable the access of disadvantaged groups to non-formal and formal vocational education
- Developing the capacity of teaching staff and management of TVET schools
- Developing capacities of ministries, civil society and mass organisations in formal and non-formal environmental communication and education on sustainable development and climate change
- Implementing awareness-raising and mass media campaigns on environmental protection on the central, provincial and village level

### Results achieved so far

- 14 Bachelor studies for vocational teacher education at the Faculty of Engineering have included obligatory practical training in their curricula.
- 146 vocational teachers were trained in didactics and methodology.
- 44 demand-driven non formal trainings with 1112 participants (461 of them female) were conducted at TVET schools and villages in 2013.
- The number of enrolled students in the only accredited TVET teacher education programme in Laos more than doubled from 34 to 70 within two years.



L. to r.: Villagers of Sayaboury province are interviewed about their environmental and climate change related knowledge, attitudes and practices; vocational teacher training at the Faculty of Engineering (National University of Laos).

- A standard for education of TVET teachers was declared by decree as binding by the Ministry of Education and Sports.
- Weekly environmental TV and radio shows provide the public with information on climate change as well as biodiversity, forest and wildlife conservation.
- 60 Government and NGO staff members were trained in environmental communication and education methods.
- 45 secondary school and high school students as well as young Lao film makers were trained on environmental protection and communication in various workshops.
- More than 35,000 students and members of the general public were reached through different environmental education measures on the topics of waste and garbage management, climate change, biodiversity and wildlife conservation, and collaborative management of National Protected Areas.

<b>Project name</b>	TVET Teacher Education Programme (TTEP)
<b>Commissioned by</b>	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
<b>Lead executing agency</b>	Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES)
<b>Description</b>	TTEP aims to increase the number of well-trained vocational teachers by implementing standards, modernising the curricula and qualifying the lecturers. Incorporating more hands-on content is the key issue and contributes to the technical competency of vocational teachers and their students. Moreover, TTEP aims to strengthen the cooperation between vocational schools and future employers, thereby increasing the number of Laotians interested in learning a trade and finding full-time employment.
<b>Duration</b>	01.07.2012 – 30.06.2016
<b>Contact person</b>	Eberhard Frey, <a href="mailto:eberhard.frey@giz.de">eberhard.frey@giz.de</a>

<b>Project name</b>	Promotion of Climate-related Environmental Education (ProCEED)
<b>Commissioned by</b>	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
<b>Lead executing agency</b>	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE)
<b>Description</b>	ProCEED aims at improving knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding environmental and biodiversity protection as well as climate change adaptation in Laos. To this effect, a wide range of national mass media, community communication channels and non-formal education activities are combined. In addition, the project assists to review and update the National Strategy on Environmental Education and Awareness (NSEEA) and strengthens environmental awareness at two vocational training centres in Sayaboury and Houaphan.
<b>Duration</b>	01.01.2012 – 31.12.2014
<b>Contact person</b>	Michael Trockenbrodt, <a href="mailto:michael.trockenbrodt@giz.de">michael.trockenbrodt@giz.de</a>

### About GIZ Laos

GIZ, as part of the Lao-German Development Cooperation, has been active in Laos since 1993 and is currently implementing projects in two priority areas: rural development and economic cooperation. Moreover, GIZ participates in regional programmes on behalf of the German Government, for example with the Mekong River Commission. Please visit our website [www.giz.de/laos](http://www.giz.de/laos) for further information on GIZ's work in Laos and worldwide.

Published by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH  
Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany  
GIZ Office Laos  
Watnak Nyai Road 247, Unit 19  
Thaphalanxay Village, Sisattanak District  
P.O. Box 9233  
Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR  
T +856 21 353 605  
F +856 21 312 408  
[www.giz.de/laos](http://www.giz.de/laos)  
[giz-laos@giz.de](mailto:giz-laos@giz.de)

Author(s) Katja Freitag  
Layout PR unit, GIZ Office  
As at May 2014

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)  
Division Central Asia, East Asia, Laos, Cambodia  
Addresses of the BMZ offices  
BMZ Bonn  
Dahlmannstraße 4  
53113 Bonn, Germany  
T +49 (0)228 99 535-0  
F +49 (0)228 99 535-3500  
poststelle@bmz.bund.de  
[www.bmz.de](http://www.bmz.de)  
BMZ Berlin  
Stresemannstraße 94  
10963 Berlin, Germany  
T +49 (0)30 18 535-0  
F +49 (0)30 18 535-2501