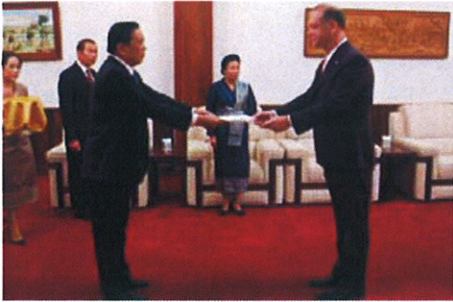


President welcomes new ambassadors



President Choummaly Sayasone (left) receives the credentials of Germany's Ambassador to Laos. —Photos Khamphanh



Luxembourg's Ambassador to Laos (right) presents his credentials to President Choummaly Sayasone.



The Netherlands' Ambassador to Laos (right) presents his credentials to President Choummaly Sayasone.

Times Reporters

President Choummaly Sayasone yesterday welcomed five newly appointed ambassadors at the Presidential Palace in Vientiane.

Three of the new appointees were foreign ambassadors to Laos and two were Lao ambassadors about to take up their posts in other countries. The ceremony began with the foreign ambassadors presenting their credentials to President Choummaly. The new ambassadors to Laos are Mr Robert Hans-Perter Von Rimscha of Germany, Mr Marc Thill of Luxembourg, and Mr Johannes Andres Boer of the Netherlands.

President Choummaly then handed credentials to Mrs Viengsavanh Sipraseuth, who is the new Lao ambassador to Singapore and to Mr Khamphan Anlavan, who assumes the post in Malaysia. Laos established diplomatic relations with Germany in January 1958, with Luxembourg in September 1997, with the Netherlands in November 1975, with Singapore in December 1974, and with Malaysia in July 1966. Laos currently has diplomatic relations with 133 countries worldwide.



President Choummaly Sayasone (left) hands credentials to Mrs Viengsavanh Sipraseuth.



Lao Ambassador to Malaysia Mr Khamphan Anlavan accepts his credentials from President Choummaly Sayasone.

Experts assess progress on path to education reform

Phaisyithong Chandara

Education officials and development partners gathered in Vientiane yesterday to reflect on their achievements over the past year and to plan for the coming year.

The meeting was held in preparation for the sector's Roundtable Implementation Meeting next month.

Participants drew up a plan for the effective implementation of the Education Sector Working Group (ESWG), as there are still many issues in the education sector which need to be urgently addressed, especially in regards to providing rural children with access to a better education.

The ESWG held a group workshop with education officials and representatives from UNICEF and AusAID, who discussed lessons learned from the implementation of the ESWG work plan for 2010-2011.

One of the priority issues for this year's plan will be addressing the challenge posed by the low school enrolment rate among rural children, especially young girls, many of whom remain at home to work on family farms.

The Ministry of Education and Sports Planning and Cooperation



Mr Sengsomphone Viravouth (centre) addresses the meeting.

Department Director General, Mr Sengsomphone Viravouth, said the review of achievements in education from October 2010 to October 2011 would provide a basis for the ESWG's contribution to the annual Roundtable Implementation Meeting taking place on November 22.

The theme of this year's Roundtable meeting is the 'Pathway to Achievement of the 7th National Socio-Economic Development Plan/MDG2 and 2020 Least Developing Country Graduation'.

The topic encourages

sectors to review progress made towards significant national plans and goals, and to realign any policy elements that may be off track in terms of achieving the targets.

Mr Sengsomphone said the Ministry of Education and Sports and ESWG will outline the positive results in the sector over the past year, as well as the implementation of its strategies for ensuring that progress towards Universal Primary Education in on track in the lead up to the 2015 deadline.

The ESWG will be asked to consider what key

outcomes they would like to see in the education sector over the coming year, and what reforms or innovations will help to achieve them.

Of particular note in this year's review were ESWG actions and progress towards the targets of Laos's strategic plan for greater aid effectiveness, the Vientiane Declaration Country Action Plan 2007-2011.

Other significant sector events reviewed at this week's meeting included a presentation of the teacher education strategy and action plan by the Department of Teacher Education, the drafting and distribution of which has been supported by UNESCO.

The ESWG is due to meet again next week for further pre-Roundtable meeting consultations, when the result of the ministry's recent Rapid Assessment Survey of Barriers to Achievement of MDG2 will be considered.

The ESWG work plan for 2011-2012 will be finalised through further government consultations with development partners.

President urges...

FROM PAGE 1

birthing mothers and infants, with measles and rubella posing significant threats for mothers-to-be.

The viruses can result in a baby being born deaf or with heart and eye problems, cleft lips and other conditions if a woman is not vaccinated before she becomes pregnant.

The National Committee for Mother and Child, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, is organising the national measles and rubella vaccination campaign, aiming

to reach 95 percent of the target population of three million. The campaign also aims to support the resolution passed at the Ninth Party Congress earlier this year.

"I would like to urge people of all ethnicities to be vaccinated against measles and rubella," said Mr Choummaly.

In addition, he urged private and government organisations to promote the campaign by raising awareness of the importance of vaccinations among the target groups.

3 day weather forecast

Xieng Khuang				
Date	Temperature (C)		Weather	
	Min	Max		
19/10/2011	15	21	Mist	
20/10/2011	15	20	Mist	
21/10/2011	15	20	Mist	
Luang Nantha				
Date	Temperature (C)		Weather	
	Min	Max		
19/10/2011	18	39	Light rain	
20/10/2011	18	30	Mist	
21/10/2011	18	30	Light rain	
Luang Prabang				
Date	Temperature (C)		Weather	
	Min	Max		
19/10/2011	20	31	Partly cloudy	
20/10/2011	20	32	Partly cloudy	
21/10/2011	21	31	Light rain	
Vientiane				
Date	Temperature (C)		Weather	
	Min	Max		
19/10/2011	22	26	Partly cloudy	
20/10/2011	22	26	Partly cloudy	
21/10/2011	23	27	Light rain	
Savannakhet				
Date	Temperature (C)		Weather	
	Min	Max		
19/10/2011	21	26	Partly cloudy	
20/10/2011	21	26	Partly cloudy	
21/10/2011	22	27	Partly cloudy	
Champassak				
Date	Temperature (C)		Weather	
	Min	Max		
19/10/2011	22	30	Light rain	
20/10/2011	22	29	Light rain	
21/10/2011	21	29	Partly cloudy	

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