

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

30/9/13: Return of 20 students from the SOLS 24/7 program in Cambodia. Five to continue to work with PADETC as interns.

4/10/13: Reflection and Discussion Meeting with the Ministry of Education.

10/10/13: PADETC Quarterly Meeting

28/10/13: Meeting with Butterfly Works, Vientiane Youth Centre and Oxfam Novib to scope a joint Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights project using social media.

7/11/13: Science Film Festival opens in Vientiane and then travels to 5 provinces until the end of December.

14-29/11/13: Environmental Awareness Bus Tour in Khammouane Province, supported by GIZ.

29/11/13: Applications close for the Economic Empowerment Fellows Program.

3-6/13/13: Annual Staff Retreat.

15/12/13: PADETC Fair.

SOLS 24/7 PROGRAM

PADETC, in conjunction with Oxfam Novib supported 20 Lao youth to travel to Cambodia for the SOLS 24/7 (Science of Life Studies) program.

SOLS 24/7 offers education solutions with the mission 'Education for all'. SOLS 24/7 provides a comprehensive one year training boarding program for disadvantaged and at-risk youth. The students focus on all study of English, ICT and 'the Science of Life' personal development program.

These students recently returned to Laos and came to PADETC for a debriefing session. The students learnt many life skills and now can read, write and speak English at an advanced level.

We are proud of what they have achieved and look forward to working with 5 of them at PADETC as they continue their internships.

For more information about the program you can visit www.sols247.org

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to PADETC's first quarterly newsletter! It covers some of our success stories and news from the last few months. **"Be proud of what you do and share it with others"** is one of the fundamental principles of lifelong learning. PADETC is committed to being a Learning Organisation and is always open to sharing with others.

As you may already know, PADETC is a Lao-run non-profit organisation that is committed to contributing to sustainable development in Laos. The articles in this newsletter provide an insight in to PADETC's objectives and key areas of working related to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and Enabling Environment for CSOs including the Small Grant Facility.

I am also pleased to announce the first **PADETC Fair** will take place on 15 December 2013. The fair will showcase PADETC's work and achievements, including many unique resources and products that PADETC has developed over the years. Please stay up to date with our website – www.padetc.org and our updated PADETC facebook page.

PADETC is very happy to be working closely with a large and varied group of donors, partners and friends. Without them the work of PADETC would not be possible. We hope you enjoy this pilot edition of the PADETC quarterly newsletter and we are happy to hear any feedback at padetc@padetc.org.

There is more to come. We encourage you to look out for upcoming PADETC activities.

Sincerely,
Mr Khamphoui Saythalat
Director
PADETC



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FELLOWS PROGRAM

PADETC's [Suanmailao Eco-Forest Learning Centre](#) and the [Mansfield Center of the University of Montana](#) are pleased to be working in partnership to deliver the Economic Empowerment Fellows Program.

This program focuses on expanding economic opportunity to broader society, with the goals of increasing incomes and reducing poverty. The program will take place over five weeks in the United States in 2014, and Suanmailao and the Mansfield Center are currently seeking professional applications for participation.

Successful applicants will travel to the United States and gain firsthand knowledge of how organisations and institutes generate employment and economic activity.

For more information on the program and to find the application form, please visit <http://www.padetc.org/learning-centers-networks/suanmailao-eco-forest-learning-center/>. You can also contact the Suanmailao Centre Manager at chantalangsy@padetc.org. This program is sponsored by the [US Embassy in Lao PDR](#). **Applications close on 29 November 2013.**

NEWS AT THATENG AND PANYANIVEJ

PADETC's two organic farms have been busy! Panyanivej Eco-Rice Fish Farm has recently signed an MOU with Vientiane Technical College to collaborate with the school to bring students for practical education at Panyanivej Farm.



Thateng Integrated Organic Farm will be expecting the arrival of a new volunteer later this year, who is an expert in organic farming from the Philippines. The farm continues to train local farmers in organic farming and organic fertilizer production. A few changes in signage on the main road have also seen an increase in tourists stopping by while they are in the area.

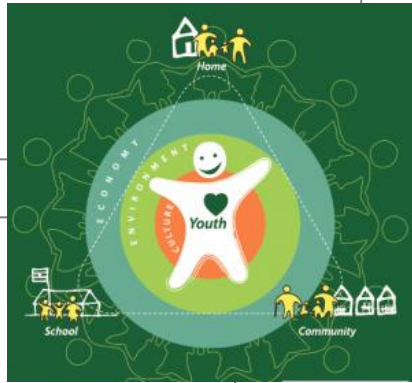
EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

PADETC, supported by UNDEF, has been collaborating with the Department of Physical and Art Education, under the Ministry of Education and Sport, to conduct youth training on Community Surveys and youth and teacher training on Indigenous Knowledge in six provinces across Laos.

This training has contributed to education policy as now 20% of the curriculum will focus on Indigenous Knowledge - where students learn about, and with, their community. This engages and brings together all three aspects of Education for Sustainable Development - School, Family and Community.

So far 192 youth had been trained and they have produced 6 village maps and profiles, 44 comic books on bio-diversity and natural resources and 6 sets of Indigenous Knowledge handouts for 6 primary school and district. This project is ongoing will be completed in 2014.

As part of this project PADETC will hold a for comic book competition later this year or early next year - please be ready to join us! A television program about the education development PADETC youth volunteer activities will also be on Lao TV next month. Keep up to date with the PADETC facebook pages!



YOUTH PROGRAM

For many years PADETC has run a college and university volunteer program and achieved lots of great things with a large number of young people.

PADETC has now started a new youth volunteer course, for young people who want to improve their skills and knowledge and learn through practice and working with the community. The course includes: teamwork, inter cultural skills, leadership, facilitation, training of trainers, environment and community development. After completing the course the youth have the skills to work in many areas of community development. During November and December 2013 PADETC's youth are going to facilitate the Science Film Festival, the Environment Bus Tour as well as the CSO booth at the That Luang festival.

For anyone who is interested in being a youth volunteer and taking part in this course, we are happy to welcome you! Please contact the Suanmailao Centre Manager - chantalangsy@padetc.org



SCIENCE FILM FESTIVAL

Together with the [Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation \(SDC\)](#), [GIZ](#), and the Government of the PDR through the Research Institute of Education and



Science under the Ministry of Education, and the Cinema Department of the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, PADETC is proud to be delivering the 2013 [Science Film Festival](#) (SFF) in Laos.

The SFF opened with a three day event at the Cinema Department from 7 to 9 November (8:30am to 4pm each day), and is now travelling to Xieng Khouang, Khammoune, Champasak, Savannakhet, and Vientiane Province until the end of December.

PADETC's [Suanmailao](#) and [Doklao](#) Learning Centres worked together to select and dub 13 science films on the topic 'energy and sustainability', and train 12 youth volunteers to deliver the mobile screenings and follow up community activities in each location across Laos.

The SFF will bring science 'edutainment' to many people in Laos for the first time, as well as build the capacity of a large network of youth volunteer facilitators. This project aims to get people excited about science, and to inspire youth, teachers and communities to approach learning in fun and innovative ways.

Over the course of the opening event in Vientiane and the mobile screening tour, it is estimated that 20,000 people will be able to access, learn from, and enjoy the Science Film Festival.

For more information, visit: www.facebook.com/sciencefilmfestival or call 020 7791 1943.

PADETC SMALL GRANTS FUND

PADETC is now delivering a Small Grants Fund (SGF), supported by Oxfam Novib. The SGF differs from other funds as it is smaller (up to US\$10,000) and more specific, and PADETC also offers day-to-day support and mentoring to grantees.

The SGF particularly supports organisations in three areas: policy advocacy; institutional strengthening; and programme support - especially in the areas of agriculture and education. The SGF also focuses solely on Lao speaking organisations that often have no direct access to other funds.

This is an innovative approach with the expectation the SGF will further enhance local ownership and networking amongst local organisations. The PADETC grant fund was supporting 8 NPAs as of early November 2013.

For more information and to get a copy of the grant guidelines (in Lao language) please email vatthana@padetc.org.