



FLP's First Career Fair is a Big Success

By Catherine Gallagher, volunteer, Vientiane, Laos



The first Career Fair at the National University of Laos was organized by the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLP) and Asian Law Students Association (ALSA) students, in cooperation with the Lux-Development project 'Strengthening the Rule of Law through Legal University Education' and with support from BABSEA CLE volunteers. It was a great success: the official T-shirts arrived on the day, the weather was wonderful, all the participating companies were set up and ready to go by 10 am, and a large and enthusiastic crowd of students came by to gather information that may help them plan their futures.

The Career Fair offered free tables for companies and organizations, in order to encourage participation. There was very good response and the result was 23 different booths, with five law firms represented: Lao Law and Consultancy Group, McDonald Steed McGrath, DFDL, Rajah & Tann and the Vientiane

Law Firm. Other participants included organizations working in banking, international cooperation, journalism, power companies and audit, advisory and tax services. In addition, there were six student booths: the Environmental Protection Group, Student Gender Group, Human Rights Group, FLP Debate Group, FLP-CLE and ALSA Laos.

The career fair site was set up with the student groups to one side of

the stage and businesses on the other. The event sponsors were located nearest centre stage with the wonderful backdrop stating "FLP Career Fair JOB Boom Boom!" Organizers will tone that down a little next year, so that students do not come believing they will definitely find a job if they attend the fair.

Opportunities

There were several exciting announcements made that kept enthusiasm high: for example, McDonald Steed McGrath is starting a summer internship program for one or two FLP Law students to undertake work experience for a one-month placement. Students were informed of this new opportunity during McGrath's CV skills workshop, which was attended by over 100 students. The Lao Law Consultancy Group and Rajah & Tann law firm were also offering scholarships to Lao law students (*continued next page*)





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One of the goals of the event was to give students the opportunity to learn what it means to work as a lawyer, as opposed to "only" knowing about the law when they graduate from law school. But it also gave law students the opportunity to speak to representatives from companies such as BCEL and Electricite du Laos, giving them an idea of the variety of career opportunities available to those with a legal background.

There were fairly large audiences at all the presentations and the participating companies reported that they were extremely pleased with the student attendance. Every completed questionnaire returned by both companies and students alike called for the event to be

repeated next year and become an annual event. Not enough can be said to emphasize the good work done by this year's core group of dedicated ALSA students to bring about the success of this event.

Organizers predict that next year's job fair will be even larger and more successful because of the good experience participating companies had this year and because more students will want to help organize the event. And these future fairs at FLP will allow students to develop more confidence and understanding about the legal profession... and more able to seek out the ever-increasing employment opportunities in Lao PDR.

COMING SOON!

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