

TICA-GIZ Planning Workshop for Programme Activities



TICA and GIZ colleague smiling after the 2-day intense work

The Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and GIZ held the Thai-German trilateral cooperation planning workshop in April 2012.

After 3 years of joint efforts in transferring Thai-German Technical Cooperation experience to further development in Thailand's neighbouring countries, the partners joined up to review the ongoing cooperation and plan future programme activities. The workshop enjoyed the enthusiastic participation of TICA and GIZ staff and was also attended by representatives from the German Embassy.

The overall objectives of the cooperation are to support Thailand's role as technical cooperation provider in the region and contribute to the development goals of the target third countries, which currently include Cambodia, Lao PDR, Timor Leste,

Vietnam and, in the near future, Myanmar. The 4 main agreed activities of the programme are:

- 1) Capacity building in project management for relevant partners
- 2) Developing a trilateral cooperation instrument as a model for replication
- 3) Developing joint definition of objectives and strategies for Thai-German technical cooperation in the region
- 4) Implementing up to 9 small-scale trilateral projects with the target third countries in the fields of education, rural development and health

Currently, Thailand and Germany are implementing 5 trilateral projects in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam. All the projects are jointly formulated, planned and implemented by the three parties and draw mainly on technical inputs from Thai experts. The first phase of the programme ends in mid July 2014.



TICA Deputy Director-General Suchada during active discussion

Nam Xong Sub-River Basin Management Project

GIZ collaborated with the Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA) and the Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Lao PDR in organizing an event to mark Nam Xong Protection Day in Vang

Vieng city, Lao PDR on April 27, 2012. The aim was to raise the awareness of local residents and entrepreneurs as well as the general public about the importance of maintaining and protecting water resources around the Nam Xong Sub-River.



The event also acted as a good starting point for developing an integrated watershed management

model for sustainable development. Activities included an opening speech by Mr. Chanthanet Boualapha, Director-General of the Department of Water Resources, Lao PDR, educating the communities through an exhibition, asking questions and getting answers about the Nam Xong, rallying for garbage collection along the sub-river and various recreational activities aimed at promoting good cooperation with the communities around the Nam Xong. The sub-river is an important water resource for consumption and production as well as a popular tourist attraction that generates revenue for Vang Vieng's residents. The management model developed by the project for the Nam Xong sub-river basin will be used as the pilot model for future expansion to other river basins in Lao PDR.

Project on Strengthening National Good Agricultural Practices in Lao PDR

GIZ collaborated with the Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA), the Department of Agriculture (DoA) in Thailand and the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR in organizing the planning workshop under the Strengthening National Good Agricultural Practices project in Lao PDR. This was held on 23-24 April 2012 at the International Cooperation and Training Center (ICTC) in Vientiane.

The project supports the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in the development of Lao National Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) in its fruits and vegetables branch in accordance with ASEAN standards and is preparing the country for the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), which gets off the ground in 2015. A twin objective is to enhance the competitiveness of the enterprises in Lao PDR through the development experience of the Quality Good Agricultural Practice (QGAP) of the DoA and the Thai Good Agricultural Practice (ThaiGAP) of the Thai-German Programme for Enterprise Competitiveness (T-G PEC). Implementation is for a period of two years, beginning in May 2012.

The workshop gave rise to an action plan consisting of four main activities:

1) Revising the existing certification body with regard



to organization structure, terms of reference and the job description of personnel;

2) Developing Lao national GAP standard and standard operating procedures;

3) Developing human resources for inspection, certification and advising farms; and

4) Extending GAP implementation to farmers and supporting farmers to obtain GAP certification.

Training on Saa (Mulberry) Paper Production and Posaa (Mulberry Bark) Harvesting

As part of the Paper Mulberry Supply Chain Project, GIZ, TICA, the Industrial Promotion Center Region 1 (IPC1) in Chiang Mai and Sayaboury Department of Industry and Commerce (DoIC) in Lao PDR conducted several capacity-building activities for Posaa producers as well as related officials in Sayaboury province, Lao PDR.



In April, the project conducted training on Saa paper production and Saa handicraft product development in two pilot villages in Hongsa district. Mr. Vichith Yeenang, the Head of Tonpao Saa handicraft cluster in Chiang Mai, together with officers from IPC1, supported DoIC in designing and conducting the training, which focused on generating skills and identifying the added value of Saa paper production as a source of additional income for villagers. The participants learned practical skills in producing hand-made Saa paper and also in developing a variety of handicraft products, among them paper bags, hats and notebooks. After the training, a Thai trader placed an order for Saa paper with the trained villagers. The link

between the products and market will be further strengthened by the project.

In June and July, several training activities in improving Posaa harvesting techniques for officials and farmers are being conducted in Hongsa and Ngeun districts to improve the quality/quantity of raw bark from Laos, which is mainly exported to Thailand for processing as paper. A Lao-Thai business matching workshop was held to improve the linkage between bark quality and buying price. The old bark (with no removal of the outer bark) was also marketed and ordered by Thai traders.

A feasibility study for the setting up of a Saa paper processing plant in Sayaboury will be the main focus of the project throughout 2012 until the end of the project in March 2013. It is expected that a Thai investor will put money into the processing plant in Sayaboury, which would give Posaa and Saa paper producers in Lao more value in the Posaa value chain while allowing the Thai investor to reap the benefits of having a plant near the raw materials.

