

American foundation supports clean water in Laos



Dr Luc Janssens (left) shakes hands with Dr Kongkham Myboun after signing the agreement in Vientiane.

Hundreds of rural families will have clean water to use thanks to the Lao Rehabilitation Foundation based in the United States of America, which has donated US\$500,000 towards the project.

The project memorandum of understanding was signed in Vientiane on Friday between the foundation's President, Dr Luc Janssens, and Deputy Director of the National Centre for Environment Health and Water Supply, Dr Kongkham Myboun. The signing ceremony was attended by government officials and local authorities.

The project will build reticulated water supply sites and bore wells in Oudomxay, Khammuan and Savannakhet provinces as well as in Vientiane. It will run for five years from 2013 to 2017, aiming to help improve rural people's living conditions, particularly in relation to clean water.

In the past, the foundation has helped Laos to build health offices as well as providing medical and office equipment in various provinces. Over the last five years, the foundation has also helped to provide health care treatment in the northern provinces, especially Oudomxay, Luang Namtha, Bokeo and Phongsaly.

Some of the project activities began last month, with the foundation wanting to start them as quickly as possible given the needs of rural communities. Many families living in remote areas still do not have access to clean water because there is a lack of funding for the installation of infrastructure and more assistance is still required.

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