

Mobile medical team boosts health prospects in Oudomxay



Medical teams from the Lao Rehabilitation Foundation of the United States have teamed up with mobile teams from Oudomxay provincial hospital to provide free medical checks and treatment in Houn and Pakbeng districts. Medical staff treated dental problems, as well as ear, nose and throat ailments and vision problems, with a focus on children and expectant mothers. The teams toured the area last week, seeking out people in need of treatment in rural areas.

Manager of the Sustainable Comprehensive Eye Care Project at Oudomxay hospital, Dr Phetsamone Indara, said the service would not only help to improve the health of poor people in rural areas, but would also give medical staff the chance to improve their skills.

During the week-long mission, Lao and American medical staff conducted check-ups and provided treatment and surgery as needed. They carried out 76 cataract surgeries, 18 surgeries on other eye conditions, and performed 1,866 health checks for eye, ear, nose and throat, pediatric and obstetric care. Expectant women were checked using ultrasound echography. The teams also carried out dental checks on 393 primary school students, provided toothbrushes, toothpaste and explained the correct method of teeth cleaning in addition to providing books, pens and pencils for teachers and students.

During the visit, President of the Lao Rehabilitation Foundation, Dr Luc Janssens, presented medical equipment to Houn and Pakbeng district hospitals. The donated items comprised an ultrasound echography machine, auto sphygmomanometer, fetal heart detector, dental extraction set, laryngoscope set, oxymeter and other essentials.

Dr Phetsamone said the equipment would help to improve medical services in these areas in the years to come. The Lao Rehabilitation Foundation of the USA and the Fred Hollows Foundation of Australia (for eye care) provided a total of US\$33,385 towards efforts to improve the health of rural people in Oudomxay province.

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