



Medical team gives patients new vision in life

About 30 people in Oudomxay province who had problems with their eyelids have undergone corrective surgery performed by Thai and Lao specialists, and are now enjoying better vision.

An ophthalmologist from Oudomxay province, Dr. Phetsamone Indara, told *Vientiane Times* yesterday the Thai team comprised staff from several hospitals with years of experience in eye surgery.

The procedures they performed included eyelid correction, endoscopic surgery to restore the normal flow of tears, and the removal of cysts and tumours. The mission also aimed to broaden health service coverage for people in remote areas, ethnic groups and the urban poor.

The surgery was carried out at Oudomxay provincial hospital from January 9-13 with financial support from Thai doctors and the Lao Rehabilitation Foundation at a cost of more than 81 million kip (US\$9,958).

Dr. Phetsamone said the team took several hours to do the surgery and the procedures were successful. If people hadn't had this surgery, they would have

suffered from poor vision later on in life.

He said Laos lacked specialists in this field and people who suffered from malfunctioning eyelids were unable to receive treatment.

We hope this mission has helped to make life more comfortable for people in Oudomxay with eyelid and associated problems, Dr. Phetsamone said. It will improve their lives and give them faith in modern medicine, he added.

Over the years, the medical team has treated or performed surgery on over 30 such cases.

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