

## **Laos-Sweden cooperation on health policy**

(KPL) The Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and the Ministry of Public Health came together this week to sign a cooperation agreement on the national pharmaceutical policy draft from the Lao Government.

SIDA and the Ministry agreed to cooperate in this area over a period of three years, from May 2006 until June 2009, with funding worth US \$1 million.

The Lao government will contribute funds worth 354,900,000 kip, and various other sectors will provide 138,100,000 kip.

The signing ceremony was held between Mr Khamhoung Heangvongsi, Deputy Minister of Public Health, and Ms Annlis Aberg, the SIDA Charge D' affaires in Laos.

The purpose of the project is to enhance the capacity at a central level for officials, provinces, and districts, in the areas of finance and technical expertise, with the goal of human sustainability.

Over the past ten years, SIDA has assisted in building the national health policy, which has received contributions nation-wide, from sectors concerned with the pharmaceutical quality system, including the legal sector.

The current aim is to redraft laws and regulations relating to this area, as well as upgrading technical expertise in both the state and private sector. (KPL-5-5-2006)