

New Norwegian ambassador presents credentials



(KPL) On 23 May at the Presidential Palace, Lao Vice President Mr Choummaly Sayasone received the new Norwegian Ambassador to Laos Mr Storlkn Kjell Magne, whose headquarters are located in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Laos and Norway established diplomatic ties on 12 November 1991, and set up the Embassy's headquarters in Sweden and later in Hanoi.

In the past, the two countries have not cooperated directly, but Norway has offered assistance to Laos through various organisations such as the United Nation Development Program (UNDP), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and various non-governmental organisations.

Through these organisations, Norway has contributed to drug-use reduction project in Bokeo and Luang Namtha provinces, the Nong district development project and the AIDS prevention project in Savannakhet province.

Between 2003 and 2006, Norway also contributed funds to the expansion of the electricity project in Sayboury province, as well as funding information sessions for the most recent hydroelectric projects.

Currently, Norway has investments in three projects in Laos, two of which involve the industry and handicrafts sector, worth US \$900,000, to which the Lao government has contributed US \$300,000.

At the same day, the new Norwegian ambassador also called on Mr Somsavat Lengsavad, Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs.