



### Norway donates to hydro project

The Norwegian government has announced a 9 million kroner (nearly US \$1,500,500) grant for the Lao government to support the

Second Xeseth Hydroelectricity Dam Construction Project in Saravan province.

A signing ceremony was held between Mr Phongsavath Boupha, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Mr Storlken Kjell Magne, the new Norwegian ambassador to Laos.

The Second Xeseth Hydroelectricity Dam Construction Project is proceeding with the help of a US \$135 million low-interest loan from the Bank of China.

Twenty percent of the project is owned by the Lao Electricity State Enterprise State Company.

This grant will go towards enhancing the cooperative relations between the Lao and Norwegian governments and people.

Mr Kjell Magne presented his credentials to Mr Choummaly Sayasone, Deputy President of Laos this week, to confirm the projected success of his mission in Laos.

At the present, Norway has invested 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.

Laos and Norway established diplomatic relations on 12 November 1991, and the Norwegian Embassy headquarters are located in Hanoi, Vietnam. ( kpl 25-5-2006)