

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURES PROJECT BETWEEN FACULTY OF ENGINEERING OF NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LAOS AND FINLAND FUTURES RESEARCH CENTRE (ICI-LAOS) 2009

Finland Futures Research Centre

Location of the action: Lao PDR

Total costs of the project: 458 467 €

Funded by: Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Length of the project: 1–12/2009

Project partners: National University of Laos (NUOL), Lao PDR; Tampere University of Technology (TUT), Finland

Laos is a land-locked, poor country with massive natural resources and low level of rural electrification. Investments in hydropower have been massive in the recent years, and thus the country aims to utilize improved electrification as a major means in poverty alleviation. At the moment, electricity is the largest export product for Laos. The environmental and social sustainability of such objectives is not always straightforward, and therefore FFRC aims to improve the institutional capacity of local researchers and teaching staff in efficient and inclusive energy planning.

The objective of institutional partnership stemmed from the need for capacity building in the field of energy and environmental education in the Faculty of Engineering in the National University of Laos. Networking between teachers and researchers in Laos and Finland has provided possibilities for improved curriculum development and exchange of expertise within a new Sustainable Energy Futures Programme.



Turun yliopisto
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The outputs of the ICI-LAOS project are:

- several new specialists with master's or post-graduate degrees in renewable energy technology (solar energy, biomass energy and smallscale hydropower)
- full curriculum for renewable energy and energy efficiency
- energy technology and energy efficiency laboratory
- first research activities in energy related fields

In addition, NUOL staff also participated in international courses taking place in the Mekong Region, to enhance networking with regional universities and exchange of information.

This capacity building project has succeeded in providing improved knowledge for future energy experts on sustainable development and renewable energy in rural electrification in Lao PDR.



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