

GFMER COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE / PRESS RELEASE:

[Training Course in Reproductive Health Research - GFMER - WHO - UNFPA - LAO PDR Programme - Vientiane 2009-2010](#)

Fifteen Lao health professionals successfully conclude Reproductive Health Research training

Vientiane and Geneva; Friday, 23 April 2010

The closing ceremony was held today in the auditorium of the recently established University of Health Sciences, a leading academic institution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Fifteen Lao health professionals successfully concluded the Reproductive Health Research training conducted by UHS in association with the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER: a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre) with financial and technical support from the United Nations Population Fund and WHO.

The course ran from September 2009 to April 2010, ending with an exam and the presentation of three research projects which the participants intend to carry out in the next year. Research topics were all selected based on the need to improve evidence for public health programmes in Laos: they include perceptions of risk among pregnant women, recourse to abortion among adolescents, and family planning and human rights.

The text of the message from GFMER representatives addressed to the closing ceremony follows:

“On behalf of GFMER and its President, Prof. Aldo Campana, we wish you the most cordial greetings and best wishes. We are very pleased to welcome today the first group of participants to have successfully completed the training course in Research Methods in Reproductive Health.

We are proud of these diverse graduates, who have shown themselves to be rich in scientific versatility, but with a sense of responsibility in the service of Public Health.

Where research and investigations are carried out; progress follows. Their absence leads to the danger of stagnation if not decline. Health institutions whose members show a productive activity, each in its field, are institutions alive and progressing. To achieve such goals we need all of you participants and partner institutions to work together with the support of Government, the Ministry of Health and all public institutions and authorities for whom medical education and research are routes to better life for the people.

Scientific research as taught here is primarily aimed to improve the evidence base for reproductive health and generate the information necessary to establish sound public health policy.

The best evaluation of the course will be if the participants use knowledge obtained during this training to find evidence for better interventions, and transmit competence in the interest of the public health sector;

And if today we can all be proud that fifteen new researchers are receiving their certificates, so too we draw our strength from our Laotian colleagues and friends and their efficient work, listening, patience and understanding.

We particularly wish to thank Prof. Sing, staff of the Faculty of Medicine and all at the University of Health Sciences, Prof. Sychareun, Dr. Molina and all the staff of the Post-graduate Institute, Dr. Douanchang, Dr. Alongkhone, Dr. Khamsay for being the bridge between Geneva and Vientiane, the list is long; we also thank UNFPA particularly Madame Mariolein Coren and WHO.

GFMER humbly asks that the partners be faithful to the spirit that united us in this collaboration, we look forward to the continuity of work in the coming years.”

Yanick-M. EBINGER Project Manager Lao PDR Collaboration

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