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Course boosts prospects for health of mothers, children

Times Reporters

Health officials hope the health of mothers and children will continue to improve after medical staff completed a 20-day reproductive health training course last week.

The 15 participants were presented with certificates at the University of Health Sciences in Vientiane on Friday.

The ceremony was attended by university Vice President, Associate Professor Dr Sing Menorath, Deputy Director General of the Organisation and Personnel Department, Dr Phouthone Vangkonevilay, and a representative of the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research of Switzerland, Professor Robert Thomson.

Dr Sing said the training course was very important because it supported the Ministry of Health's policy to reduce the death rate of mothers and children in the years to come.

"The ministry is always urging the university to develop human resources both in terms of quality and quantity. The provision of better medical services at hospital and healthcare centres is a good measure of the quality of medical staff," he said.

"In addition this is a great opportunity to develop the research capacity of the university so that it becomes



Dr Sing Menorath (right) presents a certificate to Dr Anan Saccpraseuth from Mahosot Hospital.

a centre of excellence for research in the future."

Dr Phouthone said reproductive health research was essential for human resource development. "However, I want all trainees to use the skills they gain from research for practical application in their work."

Professor Thomson said research was about looking for a simple and elegant solution to a problem.

"Some people say research is expensive. I think the expense is worthwhile because all the details and information obtained can be used by the ministry for health sector development."

The course aimed to improve the research capacity of healthcare professionals

in Laos. It also strengthened research capacity in the area of sexual reproductive health. In addition, it is expected to improve research capacity at the University of Health Sciences and other institutions within the ministry.

Participants learned about reproductive health research methodology, family planning, principles of epidemiology, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, risk of pregnancy in Laos and other modules related to reproductive health.

The participants came from the University of Health Sciences, Mother and Child Centre, Vientiane Health Department, and Mahosot, Mittaphab, Mother and Child Health and 103 hospitals.