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“Platinum Sponsor”



TRAINING
**FINANCIAL MAN-
AGEMENT FOR NGO**

08:00 - 17:00, 27th of April 2022, Hybrid Event

Trainer:

Vanhany **MANIVANH**

A local consultant for Asian Development
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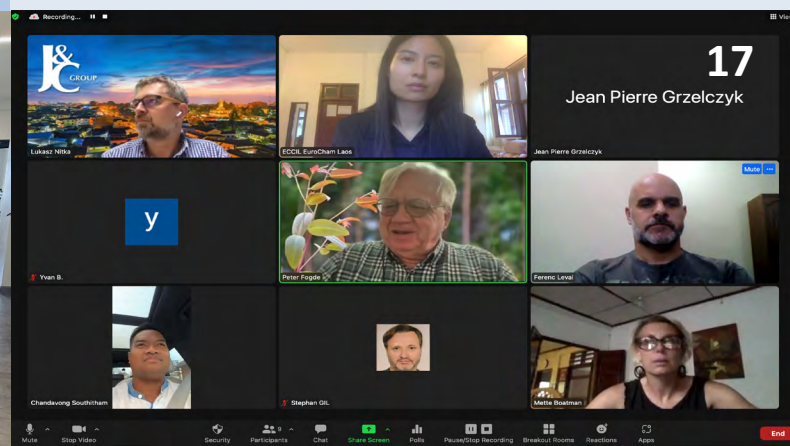
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ECCIL News

21 03 Inhouse Training on “Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation”



ECCIL EuroCham Laos organized an inhouse training on “Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation” for our platinum sponsor, BFL BRED Group’s officers. The training aimed to strengthen the capacity in planning, controlling and evaluating working plans. The session covered leadership development, working analysis, routine planning and planning for projects. Experiences gained from using modern planning tools had been shared by an expert from Thailand, Dr. Nara Kittimeth-eekul, who specializes in human resource development. Additionally, the trainees learned to apply methods appropriate for its particular scale of operations.

24 03 Training on “Photography for Business”

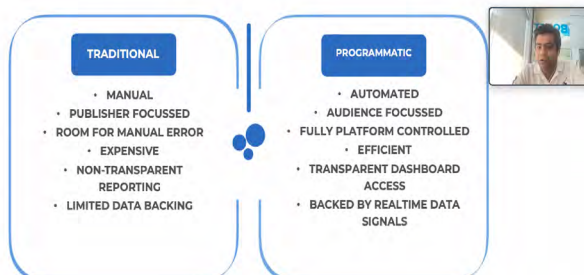


ECCIL EuroCham Laos provided the unique photographic training geared for businesses and organizations. Attendees had gained the fundamentals of photography to support their job and businesses, by learning the basics needed to take excellent photographs, from the first step (how to choose the right camera for the job) until the last step (photo editing). Thanks to all attendees for their active participation and for joining the training.

30 03 Webinar on “Demystifying Programmatic Advertising”



DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRADITIONAL AND PROGRAMMATIC BUYING



ECCIL EuroCham Laos teamed up with Boost Digital, in partnership with Eskimi and Digital Monkey, to organize a webinar on Demystifying Programmatic Advertising, which mainly focused on how Programmatic advertising can help companies to generate demand for their products and services outside the walled gardens of social media using data, technology, and creativity. In the webinar, well-known digital marketing corporations had shared about programmatic adtech solutions, and how it could benefit Laos brands and businesses.

Upcoming Events

27/04

Hybrid Training on “Financial Management for NGO”



ECCIL
EuroCham Laos

TRAINING
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR NGO

08:00 - 17:00, 27th of April 2022, Hybrid Event

Trainer:
Vanhanxay **MANIVANH**
A local consultant for Asian Development Bank on Financial Management Training

Join our hybrid training to learn more about alternative methods for implementing financial management systems, and choosing the appropriate methods for your organization scale of operations. Organizations and companies have to meet international standards to get funding or financial assistance. By framing well defined financial plans and policies NGOs can also earn good reputation within its community. They can also improve their current position and look forward to gain trust, faith and reliability.

19/05

Hybrid Training on “Advanced Performance Management Accounting”



ECCIL
EuroCham Laos

TRAINING
ADVANCED PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING

• • • • •

This Advanced Performance Management Accounting course is designed to enable learners to being able to apply relevant accounting knowledge and skills and exercise professional judgement in selecting and applying strategic management accounting techniques in different business contexts to contribute to the planning, control and evaluation of the performance of an organization and its strategic and operational development. Join us for the better performance in accounting.

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Members News & Success stories

Prudential Laos officially launched PRUBusiness as a new group benefits product.



Congratulations to our Platinum Sponsor, **Prudential Laos** for the launch of PRUBusiness, a group benefits product. In the presence of business partners, multiple SMEs, corporates, several international Chambers of Commerce and Industry, LNCCI the launch successfully introduced an alternative protection solution for businesses to protect their staff against death and disability. With customizable benefits and flexible coverage, this product can help ease current challenges faced by employees today.

Discovery Laos Today won the ASEAN Sustainable Tourism Awards 2022.



Our Silver Sponsor **Discover Laos Today** won the ASEAN Sustainable Tourism Awards 2022 in the “Rural” category together with the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism of Luang Prabang. The award demonstrates what private-public partnerships can achieve when both work in tandem towards a common goal. Discover Laos Today has worked closely with local communities and boost social mobility by exposing local SMEs to an international audience and retooling their skills to align with the growing tourism industry.

AIF GROUP business branch KM IT and Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Welfare announce a cooperation in the construction of the Labour Registration and Data Platform (LRDP).



The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and Our Platinum Sponsor **AIF Group** business branch, KM IT will jointly set up the LRDP and establish it as the hub sharing the terms of foreigners’ employment contracts, their income, and obligations under the Labour Law. The two parties will implement the agreed areas of cooperation through joint participation in workshops, seminars, meetings and conferences. The project will transform the management of the workforce and ensure that the database was comprehensive and up to date.

Crowne Plaza has been certified as LaoSafe.



Our Gold Sponsor, **Crowne Plaza** has been successfully assessed and LaoSafe certified in the subsectors of the tourism and hospitality industry - accommodation provider. The certification process ensures **Crowne Plaza** is at its utmost best to serve customers in a Safe&Clean way. LaoSafe is a health and hygiene programme for the tourism and hospitality sector, received official approval from the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism (MICT).

Sponsors & Members

ECCIL EuroCham Laos is pleased to announce its newest Platinum Sponsor and new members of March.

Platinum Sponsor.



Founded in 1992, **Agroforex Company** specializes in the development of various native natural resources, planted and cultivated, from initial processing for export, to Europe but not only. Starting from a pioneering approach to Responsible and Ethical Development, this integrates the social and environmental dimensions, means an in situ presence with the village communities and continuous monitoring.

Main conventional and EU/NOP certified organic products: Benzoin Siam and derivatives, Benzoe tonkinensis (PHEUR2158), Royal cinnamon, Agarwood oil under CITES, Orthosiphon (PHEUR1229), etc. Main user industries concerned : pharmaceuticals (human and veterinary), food flavourings, aromatherapy, cosmetics, perfumery (fine and functional), etc.

New Members.

Discover Laos Today



We are very pleased to welcome **Discover Laos** as our new Corporate Member! ECCIL EuroCham has been expanding in Luang Prabang during these past months, and our newest member is a licensed land tour operator based in Luang Prabang, supported by the Laos Tourism Board. With more than 10 years' experience in the tourism arena, the team at Discover Laos are made up of travel enthusiasts, avid thrill-seekers, adrenaline-junkies, photography hobbyists and specialists of leisure, adventure and discovery. ECCIL EuroCham is particularly proud to be supporting a company with a strong CSR program. Our Executive Director and our President visited the

company's office in Luang Prabang to discuss their future projects and ventures and were shown their impressive fleet of Electric Vehicles.

Discover Laos Today is also this year's Winner of the Corporate Social Responsibility awards. The company has been heavily involved in the protection of Lao's endangered turtle species through its work in building and funding an insurance colony. There, the turtles are being protected from the wildlife trade and bred to ensure the survival of their species. The turtles are cared for by world-renowned herpetologist Nathanael Maury, who breeds the turtles in specially designed enclosures on the outskirts of Vientiane.

Many of the turtles being cared for are critically endangered and without drastic changes they will soon become extinct in the wild. It is the hope of Discover Laos Today that a sustainable breeding population can be established which will allow the turtles to be relocated to a separate educational facility, to preserve the isolation of the breeding centre and to increase the awareness of their plight to tourists and the general public. The long-term goal of the sanctuary is the eventual release of the turtles into the wild, once effective safeguarding mechanisms are in place.



The Lao Friends Hospital for Children



ECCIL EuroCham is very proud to welcome this very special member in our family! **Lao Friends Hospital for Children (LFHC)** is situated in Luang Prabang and is the only Free Pediatric Hospital in northern Laos. Its mission is to provide free, compassionate medical care to the children in Laos, creating community health education programs, and by training local healthcare professionals.

Laos has the highest child mortality rate in the region and a very high poverty level. The 170-strong team is operating a 37-bed hospital with a surgical suite, 24-bed neonatal unit, ER, laboratory, pharmacy and an outreach program for about \$2.4 million.

In terms of sustainability, LFHC is training local clinicians both inside the hospital and in other districts with the goal of improving the quality of healthcare throughout the country, particularly in the north. Their goal is to have the hospital run by these clinicians within the next ten years. Their motto is "This is an hospital by Lao people for Lao people". ECCIL EuroCham is looking forward to support them in their honourable mission. To learn more about LFHC, read our exclusive interview with Pierre BOISMARD, Director of Development of LFHC on page 10.



TREATMENT
Almost 150,000
children treated since 2015.

EDUCATION
A four-year
pediatric training program initiated
at Lao Friends Hospital for Children.

PREVENTION
LFHC's Outreach Team traveled
almost 19,000 miles, often on
dirt roads, to deliver healthcare to
334 children in 2020.

Dam Dam coffee



Welcome to **Dam Dam coffee** as our Newest Member this month! Dam Dam describes itself as a "slow coffee bar" and mainly focuses on Lao specialty coffee and artsy vibes. For its founder, David Viron, mutual trust among the community is crucial in the coffee industry and Dam Dam establishes foundations through knowledge and positive community. Quality and empathy are the main mottos. Dam Dam sells anything coffee in its shop in Vientiane, and often collaborates with local artists and hosts exhibitions at the café. Dam Dam is also one the co-founder of Indie, an independent initiative run by a Lao coffee community to share quality, ethic and have fun who launched an indie coffee fair in Savannakhet.



Sophie Garcia



Sophie Garcia is a French fashion designer who was trained at the Chambre Syndicale de la Couture Parisienne, and has a long standing love relationship with Laos. Since a first trip to Laos where she discovered inspiring details of modernist architecture that adorn period houses, she has since been established in Vientiane where she specialized in creating clothes whose cuts are inspired by the lines, folds and draping of traditional local outfits. All the models are thought out, drawn and patterned by her hands in her workshop in Vientiane and her collections are all hand-made in Laos, with pattern details inspired by Southeast Asia modernist architecture that she reinterpreted in textile patterns, topstitched or woven by hand in a traditional workshop. The raw materials are carefully sourced during her travels in Southeast Asia, always in search of noble and quality fabrics by favouring natural fibers for ethical and sustainable fashion.



Job Board

Our Sponsors and Members are looking for successful candidates for the following positions:



Deputy Director of Business Development

AIF Group
Vientiane, Lao PDR
Apply at: recruitment@aifslaos.com



Corporate Relationship Manager

Banque Franco-Lao Ltd
Vientiane, Lao PDR
Apply at: recruitment@bfl.la



District Sales Manager – UPPER NORTH WEST

Lao Brewery Company Limited (LBC)
Luang Namtha Province, Lao PDR
Apply at: recruitment@beerlao.la



Site Contract Management Coordinator

Nam Theun 2 Power Co. Ltd
Khammouane Province, Lao PDR
Apply at: <https://tinyurl.com/38yj5tce>

Member story - Interview of the Lao Friend Hospital for Children



Could you please introduce the Lao Friend Hospital for Children (LFHC) to the readers?

We believe every child has the right to a healthy and loving life. In 1994, photographer Kenro Izu witnessed a 7-year-old girl die because her father could not afford the \$2 cost of her medicine. Deeply troubled by what he had seen, Kenro founded Friends Without A Border. Friends Without A Border opened its first, pediatric hospital in the town where this girl passed away, Siem Reap. In 2015, FWAB, after handing over the administration to locals, opened its second free pediatric teaching hospital, Lao Friends Hospital for Children (LFHC) in Luang Prabang.

Lao Friends Hospital for Children (LFHC) is built on the same cornerstone of:

CARE: We provide free, high-quality medical care to children 15 years of age and below in a compassionate environment.

EDUCATION: We provide medical education and mentoring to health clinicians across Laos.

PREVENTION: We improve the health, nutrition, and hygiene of local communities through outreach programs, education, and home care.

The hospital currently has outpatient and inpatient departments, a neonatal unit, a surgical suite, a 24/7 ER, a thalassemia clinic (treating a very dangerous form of anemia commonly found in southeast Asia), a pharmacy, a clinical lab, a development clinic for children with disabilities such as autism and cerebral palsy, and an outreach program in the rural area. The hospital also plays an important role in the community as an employer with a total of 170 employees with most management positions now taken by Lao nationals, 30 doctors, 70 nurses, and other medical technicians such as pharmacists, radiologists, laboratory technicians.

What are the biggest strengths of your organization and what makes it different from other hospitals?

Lao Friends Hospital for Children is the only FREE pediatric hospital that provides high-quality care in the northern region of Laos. The hospital treats more than 30,000 children a year without charging anything and provides medical training for dozens of Laotian doctors, nurses, and specialists.

What have been the biggest challenges to operate your business during the COVID-19 outbreak?

In 2020, the country was able to contain a small number of cases, but LFHC experienced the first effects of the COVID-19 pandemic with mainly the departure of international volunteers. The epidemic, with the explosion of positive cases, started to affect Laos at the end of March 2021 and spread widely throughout the country. LFHC had to radically change the way we segregate patients, reinforce the triage on arrival, and strengthen security procedures, in order to take all possible measures to ensure the safety of our patients, staff, and community members.

Despite all the measures taken within the hospital, some staff contracted the virus and had to quarantine. Given that we were already short-staffed with no volunteers, our staff has been working tirelessly to continue to provide high-quality care. Doctors and Nurses also showed selfless dedication and commitment to volunteering to provide pediatric care inside the Provincial COVID-19 Quarantine Center. On a positive front, the Lao clinicians have taken on much greater responsibility during the Covid period and now many of them have been promoted to a leadership positions.

Member story - Interview of the Lao Friend Hospital for Children



What is your growing strategy for the next (5) year(s)? What are your next projects?

* During 2022 LFHC will open a new High Acuity Unit (HAU). In the HAU, critically ill children will be able to receive intensive care, close monitoring of things like heart rate, oxygen level, and blood pressure, more detailed and invasive monitoring of the vital signs required when ventilating patients, with finely tuned administration of life-saving medications we are unable to give elsewhere in the hospital. Children may also need extra help to breathe, done with an endotracheal tube connected to a ventilator.

* Opening of Human milk bank. The human milk bank will play an essential role by providing human milk to infants who would otherwise not be able to receive human milk. The largest group of recipients are premature infants who derive very substantial benefits from it. Human milk protects premature infants from necrotizing enterocolitis and sepsis, two devastating medical conditions. We will believe it will save many children lives.

* Looking at the great progress of 2021 despite the challenges, the nurse education department looks forward, with new initiatives and projects in place. This includes, continuous collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the University of Health Sciences to align all programs in LFHC, and at the same time ensure all training programs are accredited or recognized by the national governing authorities. The training program will also be linked to the promotion scheme of the hospital and will use a credit unit system depending on the number of hours of the training. As the collaboration work with the University of Health Sciences, we are aiming to support the creation of the Specialist Paediatric Nursing Curriculum, which will train nurses to specialize in Paediatric Nursing – aiming to start having this nationally rolled out in 2024, and LFHC being one of the training centers for this program.

Currently one out of every 25 Laotian children dies before the age of five. Stunted growth among Lao children because of malnutrition is an epidemic – stunting affects more than half the children under age five living in rural areas. Our goal is to help change the medical landscape by training Lao doctors and nurses to be world-class medical professionals, by teaching parents how to raise healthier children, and by preventing and treating child illnesses before they cause lifelong damage.

What are the reasons behind your decision of joining ECCIL EuroCham Laos?

“The LFHC is a hospital for the Laotians, by the Laotians.” Currently, most of the LFHC’s income comes from private donors from around the world and less than 5% comes directly from Laos. LFHC joined ECCIL EuroCham Laos to have the chance to meet and present its project to the main actors of the business world in Laos. The aim is to get their support to literally save the lives of children in Laos.



Press Corner

Businesses identify unresolved issues in tourism sector



Businesses in the tourism sector have held consultations with relevant government departments to address several unresolved issues related to their operations. A consultation workshop on the private tourism sector, under the Lao Business Forum (LBF) mechanism, was organized for this purpose by the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI). The main objective of the workshop was to assist tourism-related businesses to identify issues that impede their operations and to propose recommendations and solutions to the concerned government departments; including the tourist arrival

process, digitalization of the telex process, privatization of tourist attractions, the long time taken for document processing, dearth of reliable information, the creation of a Tourism Promotion Board (TPB) and fees related to passenger arrivals. The tourism business's issues will be consolidated and prepared a position paper so that the concerned authorities can come up with possible solutions following a subsequent public-private consultation workshop.

Govt to tap young entrepreneurs for economic development



The contribution of all private sectors to socio-economic development will bolster the government's efforts to successfully implement its development plans in the years to come. This was a key message from the Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Sonexay Siphandone, while presiding over the annual meeting of the Young Entrepreneurs Association of Laos (YEAL). The gathering brought together several hundred members of YEAL from across the country, both online and offline, to review the past achievements of the association and to frame a roadmap for 2022. Local young entrepreneurs were called to diversify

their foreign markets and to increase joint ventures or investment cooperation with partners from different countries. promotional funds from the government for micro, small and medium-size enterprises (MSMEs) are available at various commercial banks, but borrowers should meet the criteria of the banks.

Govt to source more investment to boost agricultural exports



The government has pledged to secure more investment from China in the agriculture and forestry sector, using the potential offered by the Laos-China Railway to boost exports. Key export products included bananas, rubber, cassava, sugar cane, watermelons, cattle and buffaloes, with China being the largest purchaser. Although the export of goods via the railway is seen as convenient and quick, very little agricultural produce is currently transported this way. Some 400-600 trucks loaded with produce head to China each day, but many of them are currently stranded at the border. The Laos-China Railway,

which recently marked 100 days of successful operation, has carried more than 360 cross-border freight trains and transported more than 280,000 metric tons of international freight.

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ECCIL at Work

Members Visits



During the month of March, our Executive Director visited **Krungsri** who renewed their membership with the Chamber. The Bank of Ayudhya PLC “Krungsri” opened its door in Lao PDR in 1994, with its first branch opened in Vientiane in 1994 followed by the second branch in Savannakhet in 2009. Krungsri has been offering a wide range of banking services to our domestic and international client since 1994. They specialize in providing corporate banking solutions in three major currencies LAK , USD, and THB, including deposits, working capital, short to long term financing, foreign currency exchange

(all major currencies), trade services, global payment, treasury products, payroll and consultancy services. We are grateful that they continue to choose us to support their business goals.



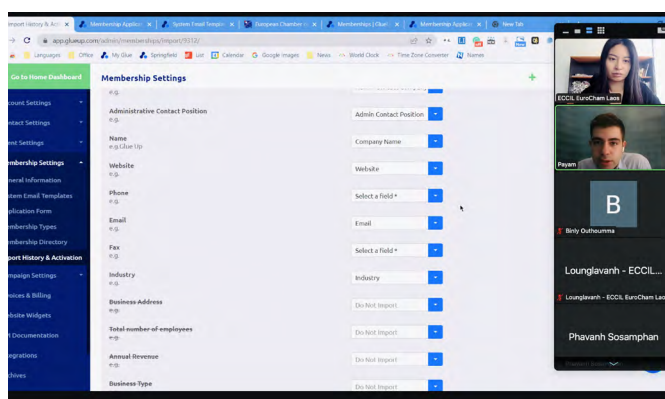
Our Executive Director and External Relation Officer also visited **Nam Theun 2** who renewed their Silver Sponsorship to the Chamber. NTPC is a Hydropower company in Lao PDR that built and operates the Nam Theun 2 Hydroelectric Project for the first 25 years of its operation. NTPC is dedicated to running a world class hydropower facility and to improving the living conditions of people in the areas around the project. With the prime objective being to generate electricity by capitalizing on the natural features of the Nakai plateau, the project made sure that keeping the balance of the surrounding ecosystems, human activities and environmental harmony was the key components.



The Nam Theun 2 project incorporated a multitude of environmental and social projects aimed at assisting and supporting those impacted by the project in matters such as health, education, housing and vocational training. Infrastructures such as access to roads, electricity, access to clean water and healthcare have been provided to the communities upstream of the power station to accompany them in their new life.

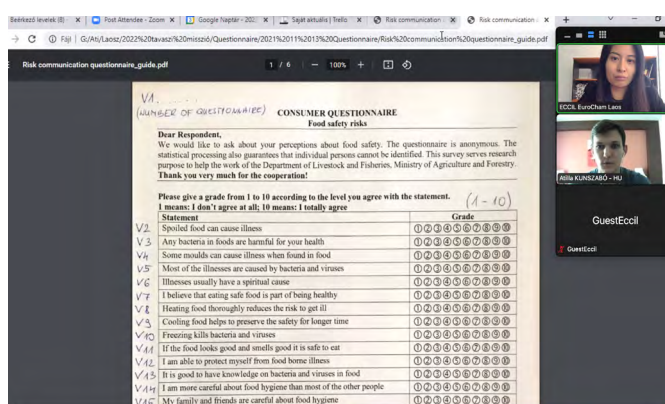
Since the start of Nam Theun 2, nursery and primary schools have been built and enrollment rates have increased significantly. As part of its vision for inclusive access to quality education, Nam Theun 2 is also a proud supporter of various scholarship grants at different levels. At the grassroots level, the “long-term scholarship” or program is providing opportunities for high school graduates of the Nakai district to pursue higher education with the aim of developing their communities in the future. Since its inception in 2015, 96 grants have been awarded with 60 having successfully graduated. On a boarder level, Nam Theun 2 has partnered with the French Government to initiate the “scholarship for the future” program by which each year, students may obtain a 3-year grant for university studies in France. Since 2015 the program has granted scholarships to 23 students, 11 of which have directly been recruited to work at Nam Theun 2 after graduation. ECCIL EuroCham is grateful that NTPC continues to choose us to support their business goal.

02 03 Glue Up training



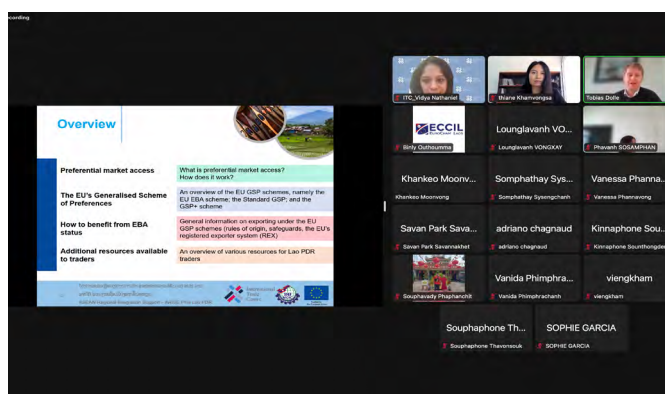
ECCIL EuroCham is planning to migrate to the new CRM platform Glue Up and have started training its staff. The migration is planned for end of April and all ECCIL EuroCham Members will be able to use the all-in-one CRM platform to communicate with the other members, and to navigate through events and memberships.

03 03 Kick off Meeting Food Safety Survey



ECCIL, and its member Vitafort Agro Asia Co.,Ltd. are collaborating on the administration of a food safety survey for the Hungarian Tied Aid Project for the Department of Livestock and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. ECCIL EuroCham Laos shall complete the consumer survey for 500 people in Vientiane Capital to measure the public understanding of food safety from demographics of all age groups and all levels of education, men, and women alike within the months of March/April.

09 - 11 03 Export to EU under EBA scheme



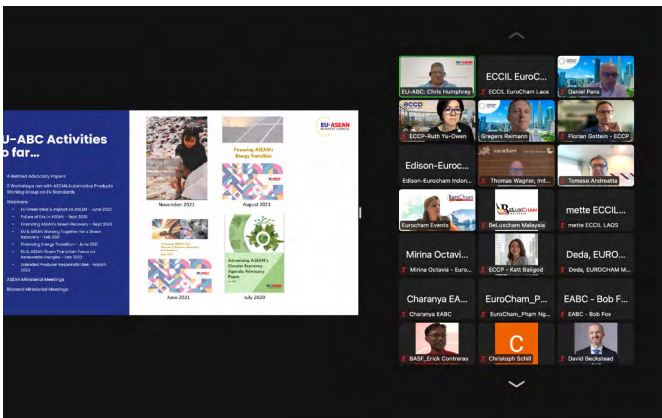
ECCIL EuroCham has teamed up with ITC, under the scope of the ARISE Plus Lao PDR project, to organize this training programme, to help entrepreneurs in Lao PDR understand the opportunities available for Lao PDR under the EU's EBA scheme, and how exporters can effectively make use of these benefits to access the EU market.

13 03 Luang Prabang corner



ECCIL EuroCham's activities are expanding to Luang Prabang. The Chamber's President, Peter Fodge, Board Member Dilip Jesusathan, and Executive Director Thiane Khamvongsa were in Luang Prabang for the launch of the Luang Prabang Beer from our valued Member Lao Brewery Co., Ltd. The Chamber also hosted an impromptu sundowner on March 13th, sponsored by Best Telecom at the future Sushi Q location on the Mekong riverbank and welcomed 3 new members in Luang Prabang.

15 03 Roundtable On Green Sustainable Energy



Board Members Mette Boatman and Vice-President Ferenc Levai represented ECCIL EuroCham to the EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC) Roundtable On Green Sustainable Energy. EU-ABC is the primary voice for European business within the ASEAN region and regular coordination meeting and roundtable are being held with the 9 EuroChambers of the ASEAN region. The roundtable on Green Sustainable Energy is an internal discussion among Asean Eurochams to explore, learn and discover from the approach and experience in each country.

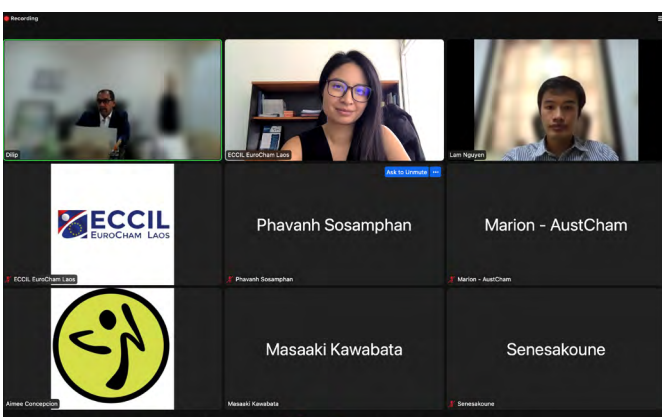
18 03 ASEAN Access Match



ECCIL EuroCham along with partners AGBA and EDC, were introduced to the ASEAN Access Match, a platform that offers registered users the chance to participate, free of charge, in virtual cross-border matchmaking and market information events, as well as practical knowledge workshops. The project opens new doors to the world of international trade and ECCIL is in the process of on boarding on this new partnership and is eager to offer the service to its members. ASEAN Access MATCH can help them find new business partners and opportunities, and information about new

markets through market information webinars and virtual business matchmaking events in the ASEAN region, and allow them to meet with companies and find new business opportunities through pre-booked 1-2-1 meetings.

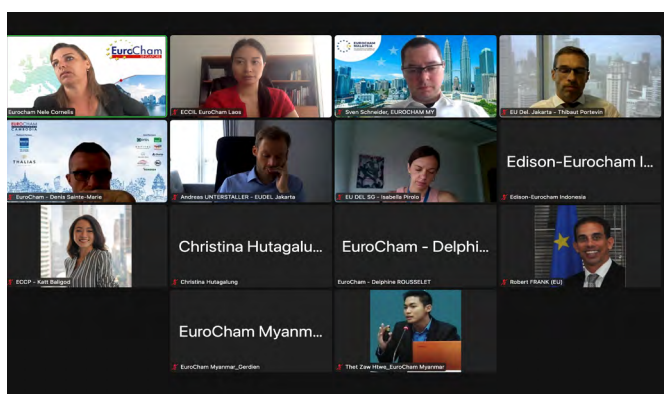
21 **03** Roundtable Meeting on The Amendment of the Law on Tax, No. 01/NA



As part of the advocacy activity, the roundtable meeting is a platform for members to discuss, make suggestion and joint efforts under the umbrella of the Chamber. This meeting moderated by Board Member Dilip Jesusathan and with the participation of several members, partners and sponsors such as RMA, Unilevers, Toyota and AustCham, was focused on the application of the VAT reduction and its consequence for companies that have carry over inventory from the year before. Outcomes from the roundtable discussions are used for the production of a position papers, that will

be submitted to the line ministries and related authorities, and as base for requesting a subsequent meeting with the tax department at the Ministry of Finance.

23 03 EBOWWN



The European Business Organizations and namely all 9 Eurochams of the ASEAN region had a coordination meeting with Mr Thibaut Portevin, Head of Cooperation of the Delegation of the European Union to ASEAN. The meeting allowed the EuroChams to be briefed with an overview of the projects and collaborations from the EU side and to exchange about potential opportunities to continue the dialogue on regional cooperation in the coming months, with potential consultations to organise on future economic connectivity projects building on ARISE+, and on the development of regional Team

Europe Initiatives (Green TEI / Connectivity TEI). There is willingness on both sides, the EU and the EBOs to work together and be more aligned in terms of the projects.

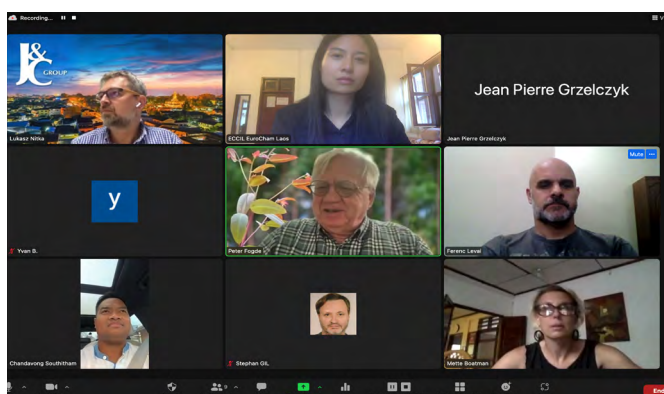
25 03 Discussion on VAT with Department of Customs



Department of Customs led by the Deputy Director General, Mr. Phaithoun Thienglamay had warmly welcome ECCIL EuroCham for the first official meeting regarding VAT issues on 25 March 2022 at the Tax Department. The meeting was attended by EuroCham board members Mr. Lukasz and our sponsors RMA and Unilever. Some issues gathering from the latest Roundtable meeting hold on 21st March 2022 (focused on “The Amendment of Some Articles of the Law on Tax, No. 01/NA”) had been highlighted and talked through the meeting. The reduction of the VAT

rate from 10% – 7% is strongly appreciated but the timeframe of the implementation, namely the impossibility to carry over VAT return for the year 2022 has caused difficulties to the private sector. The department, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance and the Government of Laos acknowledged the issues and both sides had opportunities to share issues and exchange ideas. The Tax Department also introduced the new VAT facilitation mechanism for the private sector which could provide advantages and facilitate private sector in terms of Customs and Tax matters especially for Import-Export businesses which the department strongly encourages private sector to join the system.

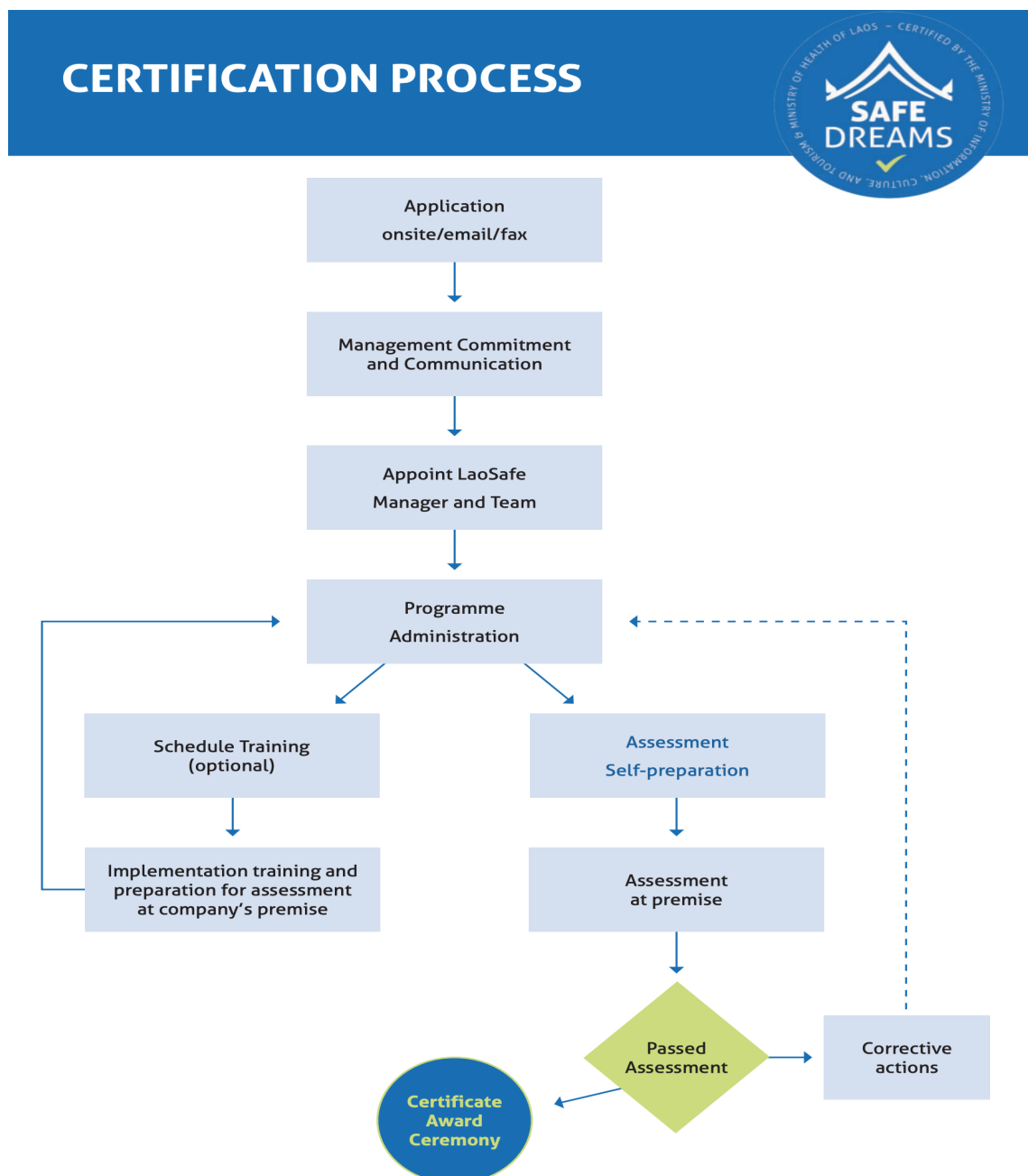
07 04 Executive Committee Online Meeting



The monthly Executive Board Meeting took place on the 7th of April, with 8 Board Members out of the 11 present. The Executive Board discussed the financial results of the first months of 2022 presented by the Treasurer, as well as the presentation of the 2021 financial results at the next ECCIL EuroCham General Assembly planned for end of May. Focal areas & committees group reported on their actions in advocacy and strategy meetings. The Executive Director presented the situation on ECCIL funding, the operational report of the month, the action taken for the Chamber development and the planned activities for the year.

FACTSHEET - LaoSafe Registration

LaoSafe - Accommodation Standard is to help raise the profile of Laos as a safe and clean destination. By adhering to these Standards, businesses are actively demonstrating that they are taking proactive actions to address risks related to COVID-19 to help create a safer environment. Accommodation businesses seeking to be certified under this hygiene programme should use this Guide to help prepare for assessment and certification.



The Accommodation Standard under the LaoSafe Programme and, as per the Standard, covers five key areas:

- 1 **Personal grooming and hygiene standards**
- 2 **Environment hygiene**
- 3 **Staff safety**
- 4 **Guest safety**
- 5 **Risk management**

By requesting the form and more information via email to laosafe@luxdev.lu



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Business Environment & News

Legislation on the Export of Natural Wood Products

The new legislation No.0332/MOIC, dated 22 March 2022, imposed by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce on the authorization of the export of natural wood products, aims to boost production and wood processing as well as to improve monitoring and tracing sources of timber to ensure they are legally sourced and accordant with the approved list of wooden items for export. Additionally, the legislation aims to provide favorable conditions for natural timber export to foreign countries.

The legislation supports the Lao PDR's Wood Processing Sector Export Roadmap in the workplan for Laos' exports with value-added wood products based on three strategic objectives:

(1) Improve the sector's sustainability through better coordination, and increase access to legal timber; (2) Stimulate product diversification and enhance skills and processing capacities, fostering technology adoption, and spurring investment; and (3) Enhance the sector's ability to create and sustain market linkages.

In order to be authorized, the natural timber exporters must participate in timber processing or agricultural and forestry import-export businesses and have a system for controlling and monitoring timber imports and exports, as well as fully complying with all legal obligations.

Those intending to export natural wood products must submit documentation to a provincial department of industry and commerce at least five days prior to export in order to be considered for an export license.

The documents to prepare for submitting the export license consist of the following:

1. "Export License for timber products" form from the Department of Industry and Commerce.
2. "List of the timber products to be exported" form from Department of Industry and Commerce.
3. Copy of enterprise registration license.
4. Copy of certification of annual tax payment.
5. Copy of factory operation license.
6. Certification of origin.
7. Confirmation letter of timber import-export between partners from country of origin and country of destination.

There are 12 categories of wooden products eligible for export, and a further 12 that are prohibited under current laws (The List of Eligible and Prohibited Wooden Products for Export No.1009/DoIH.PSD).

Wooden products eligible for export consist of 12 categories: (1) wooden briquettes and pallets; (2) wooden charcoal; (3) wooden parquet and interior flooring; (4) plywood; (5) wooden handle products; (6) builders' joinery and carpentry of wood; (7) other articles of wood; (8) wooden furniture; (9) bamboo and rattan products; (10) split poles; piles, pickets, stakes of wood and sawn wood; (11) wood wool and wood flour; and (12) chip wood.

Wooden products prohibited from export also consist of 12 categories: (1) columns; (2) column and laminated beams; (3) large tables and chairs made from a piece of timber; (4) large cutting boards; (5) large planted woods; (6) other black charcoals; (7) S2S, S4S E4E decking; (8) moulded timber products; (9) truck body joinery; (10) coffins; (11) balustrades; and (12) stair rails and laminated stair rails.



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