



News Release

(Embargoed till 23 March 2017, 3.00 PM Singapore time)

Lao PDR Public Health Officials Train in Health and Nutrition Practices through Partnership with Temasek Foundation International and Temasek Polytechnic

Singapore, 23 March 2017 – Some 100 public officials from schools, hospitals and health centres across Lao PDR have undergone training in a public health and nutrition programme supported by Temasek Foundation International and Temasek Polytechnic. Led by the Ministry of Health, Lao PDR, the initiative complements efforts to improve national standards of health care in Lao PDR. The two-year programme, which started in 2015, was funded by Temasek Foundation International through a grant of S\$223,430.

Over the past two years, the participants learnt about health and nutrition related best practices, such as meal planning, healthier meal preparation, health education and illness prevention. They were also trained in nutrition assessment skills, which enabled them to carry out basic nutrition assessment to monitor the health status of the target groups as identified by the Ministry of Health, Lao PDR. The training, which was held in both Lao PDR and Singapore, was conducted by lecturers from Temasek Polytechnic's School of Applied Science.

The impact of the programme will be extended even further when these participants, in turn, use their learning to train more than 200 other health educators and school teachers on ways to design healthier and more nutritious meals in hospitals and schools.

To commemorate the success of the programme, a closing ceremony of the Public Healthcare and Nutrition Intervention Programme was held today in Singapore, officiated by His Excellency Associate Professor Dr Phouthone Muongpak, Vice Minister of Health, Lao PDR. Also present were Mr Benedict Cheong, Chief Executive, Temasek Foundation International and Mr Peter Lam, Principal & Chief Executive Officer, Temasek Polytechnic.

“Temasek Foundation International supports knowledge exchange and shared learning between health care leaders and specialists in the region so that health care in our communities will be enhanced in the long run. We are pleased to partner the Ministry of Health of Lao PDR, and Temasek Polytechnic of Singapore in this programme to complement the continuing efforts of Lao PDR to improve the national standards of health care”, said Mr Benedict Cheong, Chief Executive, Temasek Foundation International.

“Temasek Polytechnic shares the Foundation’s vision to contribute to a more vibrant, and connected global community. We are glad to share our expertise in the area of health and nutrition, and assist in providing training to health educators, counsellors, school teachers and leaders at these nutrition centres in the Lao PDR,” said Mr Peter Lam, Principal & CEO of Temasek Polytechnic.

“We are grateful that Temasek Foundation International and Temasek Polytechnic have come together to partner us in making this a sustainable community development project. This project has helped develop our local capability to improve the nutritional status of women and children in Lao PDR,” said His Excellency Associate Professor Dr Phouthone Muongpak, Vice Minister of Health, Lao PDR

About Temasek Polytechnic

Temasek Polytechnic (TP) is a significant contributor to the field of professional education in Singapore. TP currently offers 48 full-time diploma courses in the areas of applied science, business, design, engineering, humanities & social sciences and informatics & IT. It also offers over 20 part-time courses, up to the advanced diploma level. TP students undergo a holistic learning system that combines hands-on experience, character education and relevant life skills, in an enriching learning environment.

The Polytechnic has also infused global realities into its programmes and developed a mindset on campus that embraces socio-cultural diversity. These approaches ensure that TP graduates are economy relevant, future relevant and life relevant. For more information, please visit www.tp.edu.sg

About Temasek Foundation International

Temasek Foundation International is a Singapore-based non-profit philanthropic organisation that funds and supports programmes, which aim to build capabilities with programme partners in Asia and beyond. These programmes enable human and social capital development, contributing towards a more vibrant and connected global community, with positive networks of cooperation. The programmes also aim to enhance capabilities in the areas of health care, education, public administration, urban management and disaster-response.

Temasek Foundation International, formerly known as Temasek Foundation, was set up in 2007 by Singapore investment company, Temasek. It was renamed Temasek Foundation International in 2016.

Temasek Foundation International also manages the Singapore Technologies Endowment Programme (STEP), which was established in 1997. This programme focuses on social and cultural activities, leadership skills, environmental knowledge and innovation.

Temasek Foundation International is a member of the Temasek Philanthropic Platform, which was established by Temasek to better serve the evolving needs of the wider community, reinforcing its approach to sustainable giving. Since its inception in 1974, Temasek has established 17 endowments, which focus on building people, building communities, building capabilities and rebuilding lives.

For more information on the Temasek Philanthropic Platform, please visit www.temasekfoundation.org.sg

For more information on Temasek Foundation International, please visit www.temasekfoundation-international.org.sg

About Ministry of Health, Lao PDR

The Ministry of Health, Lao PDR is the government agency that carries out the functions for state management of people's health. This includes health prevention and promotion, communicable diseases control, health care and rehabilitation services, food & drug administration, traditional medicine, human resource for health and social health protection.

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FACT SHEET

Public Healthcare Nutrition Intervention Programme in Lao PDR

Who:

- Funded by Temasek Foundation International
- Implemented by Ministry of Health , Lao PDR
- Expertise from Temasek Polytechnic, School of Applied Science

What:

- Conduct capability-building programmes in food & science nutrition intervention for staff nominated by Ministry of Health, Lao PDR
- This includes staff from schools, hospitals, nutrition centres in a bid to improve the health and nutritional status of target groups in the country
- Possibility of designing and including curriculum on Nutrition and Health for Nursing School
- 100 participants trained (nutrition intervention training programme) over two years.
- The 100 participants will potentially train another 200 community health educators, counsellors, and teachers in various provinces

When:

- Over a period of 2 years, from 2015 – 2017

How:

- Nutrition Intervention Training Programme (50 participants/year)
- Development of materials in Lao language to facilitate training
- Trainees to train community health educators, counsellors and teachers in various provinces (100/year)
- Annual review trips by Temasek Polytechnic and Temasek Foundation International to understand progress of programme and provide further support
