Child’s Dream Foundation gives 26.5 billion kip boost to education

The Child’s Dream Foundation of Switzerland has provided more than 26.5 billion kip (US$3,137,600) for the development of education in Laos.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the project was signed yesterday between the Director General of the Department of External Relations under the Ministry of Education and Sports, Assoc. Prof. Dr Sisamone Sithirajyongsa, and the Co-Founder of Child’s Dream Foundation, Mr Marc Thomas Jenni.

The signing ceremony was chaired by the Deputy Minister of Education and Sports, Assoc. Prof. Dr Kongsy Sengmany. According to the ministry, the money is being provided under a project named ‘Broadening Access to Sustainable Education Phase III’ and is operating from the date of approval until July 31, 2021.

The project aims to improve education standards in 12 districts of Luang Prabang province, 11 districts of Savannakhet province, 10 districts of Champassak province, and eight districts of Xayaboury province.

The main activities will involve improving infrastructure to increase educational accessibility through the continued renovation of existing school buildings in all districts of the four provinces. This will be followed by supplementary programmes to enhance the quality of education and the learning environment in schools supported by Child’s Dream. This will be done by building the capacity of teachers, installation of water systems and computer laboratories, and income generation projects. Lastly, the project aims to support highly capable and motivated youth and young adults by providing high school and university scholarships as well as technical support to scholarship students.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mr Jenni said that he sees teacher motivation as being a big problem, especially in remote areas, because people want to teach in towns, so it is very important to help motivate teachers in remote areas so that they stay there and educate more children.

He said he was honoured and delighted to be in Laos to sign yet another three-year MOU with the government.

He truly hoped the parties involved could build on this trustworthy relationship into the future, to support the Lao government in its quest to bring education to the very furthest corners of the country.

By Times Reporters
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