



Lao Round table meeting during 31 July – 05 august 2023 in Luangprabang

According to the implementation plan of the project, three partner universities in Laos, the National University of Laos (NOUL-P6), Savannakhet University (SKU-P7) and University of Health Sciences (UHS-P8) had organize the management meeting and the Lao Round Table Meeting (Panel Discussion) during 31 July – 05 August 2023 in Luangprabang. There were 44 participants in total from all ten partner universities, Souphanuvong university students and teachers whom attended the event. The round table meeting was held on 04 August 2023 with five panelists from different sectors including the Director General of Department of Higher Education (DHE), Ministry of Education and Sports, Vice-President and Deputy Director of Administration Cabinet of University of Health Sciences, Director of Namkhan 2-3 Hydro Power Plant – EDL GEN, and a representative from KOLAO DEVELOPING CO.LTD., joined the panel discussion about ‘PLC and related curriculum developments in electrical engineering, electronics engineering and automation controller towards industrial development trends’.

Here are some results of the panel discussion relating to the questions:

1. Do you support our curriculum modification to prepare the students to get the right competences due to the penetration of digital world in the factory in our domain?

The panellists expressed their supports with appreciation of the curriculum modification within the three Lao partner universities, NOUL, SKU & UHS. However, the Director General of DHE confirms that as long as the modification of the whole curriculum of the study program is less than 20%, the accreditation of the modified curriculum can be done at university level. In this case, the modified contents of the course/subject can be approved by the dean of the faculty or university president.

2. What are the industrial Lao Challenges/policy from education point of view?

The Ministry of Education and Sports has set strategies to promote its higher education reaching the international standard, we try to build more qualified human resources in responses to the development of digital technology & automation. MOES recently supports the institutions to focus on the development of study programs relating to Sciences Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The challenges of Lao government include lack of qualified labor force, especially, in terms of ICT skills.

In summary, the ministries in Laos attempts to promote more digital and technological oriented environment, and it aims to created more qualified students with skills and competencies in digital technology and automation meeting required skills and technical competencies for working in the industries like hydro power plants, car assembling companies.

3. What are the guidelines and policy of ministry of health toward the modern hospital in Lao PDR?



In addition, from the view of the Ministry of Public Health, the representatives from the UHS, informed that it is significant that the medical students/staff including doctors, nurses and related staff have ability in using the digital technology in their work and can use modern technology in both teaching, learning and providing good services for patients in the hospitals.

4. Question 5: Do you think that future medical staff as to be prepared to handle data base system like SQL?

Yes, at least the medical staff should have basic understanding in dealing with the database management program. Approaching modern hospital in Laos is required more medical staff to have more skills in ICT in general.

5. Could you tell us the state and needs in term of digital transformation of the industrial process?

According to talks by representatives of EDL-Gen & car assembling companies, there is a high need for employees who are able to deal with technology, machines and automation in the factories or work stations. Due to the development of digital world and modern technology, it is better if the universities could provide or organize the training relating to PLC or automation, and cyber security. Moreover, we welcome students to do internship at our companies or factories.

6. How we can communicate to your enterprise education opportunities to your staff and future employee in lifelong learning spirit?

In the long term, it would be better if partner universities have MOUs with companies or factories, so that companies can send their staff to have training provided by the universities or accepts students from universities for internship.

7. Do you support our objective to implement in our pedagogical labs some devices similar to the one used industrial system (center of excellence) to facilitate the employability of our student? in another word do you think that the center of excellence that we have presented to you will contribute to this challenge?

The panellists support the idea that the universities should implement in their pedagogical labs and some devices similar to the one used industrial system (center of excellence) to facilitate the employability of students, in another the center of excellence that universities have presented will contribute to deal with challenges

8. How we can disseminate our project results among your network.

The panellists agreed that they are appreciated to work with partner universities, to disseminate the results of the project to their network organizations. Besides that, the project also publish their results via social media platforms like FB&Instagram, press media like TV, journals or newspapers or university websites.







