

Streetwise

What are your thoughts on the weekly Yunnan supplement published by Vientiane Times?

For the past two years Vientiane Times has been publishing a 2-page weekly supplement in cooperation with the Yunnan Daily Press Group, to inform Lao readers about developments in Yunnan province. This has a particular relevance as Yunnan borders northern Laos and ties between the two countries are becoming increasingly stronger, especially with the rapid development of infrastructure.

Times Reporters

Deputy Director General of Lao National Radio, Mr Sangkhane Choumhamphanh: The Chinese government takes Yunnan province to promote development cooperation and provide a door to Asean. I am a reader who follows



and Asean, especially the rapid developments taking place in Yunnan. It's also interesting to read about the cooperation between China and Laos. News about Yunnan is particularly relevant to Lao readers because the province borders our country.

Mr Ngae, a government media official: The supplement is a good option for Lao people and foreigners living in Laos to get information about Yunnan province and its developments. It's good for readers to be informed about developments in China and how they apply to Asean countries. As we all know, China's economy is growing rapidly and is expected to become the largest in the world in the near future. So it's important that we understand development trends in China in order to benefit from them through cooperation in various areas. The railway currently being built by the Lao and Chinese governments is proof of this

cooperation and will provide a stronger link to other Asean countries. It's also good that people who live near the border and have a similar culture to that of Yunnan are kept informed. The supplement bolsters the content of Vientiane Times and the newspaper can directly relay developments that would otherwise go unreported as the paper does not have easy access to these areas. It's very useful for the Lao media to know what's going on in China so reporters and readers can stay abreast of new developments. Vientiane Times is a gateway for the delivery of information from China, especially from Yunnan province, to non-Chinese speaking people in Laos and the rest of the world through its print publication and website.

Ms Elizabeth, a veteran reader of the Vientiane Times: Given the growing ties between Laos and China, I think it is very helpful to have the Chinese

perspective on shared development issues, and the articles in the supplement are informative and wide ranging. Along with the railway now being built in Laos to link Vientiane to the Chinese border, the descriptions of cooperation in various areas are helping to build a sense of a shared destiny, as China's leaders have alluded to. This also helps to bolster the One Belt, One Road initiative by creating increasingly closer links and understanding between the peoples of Laos and China. I like the use of coloured photos as this really brings the articles to life. I would like more information about the source of some of the articles as these are not always cited. One or two are clearly sourced from Xinhua and others are taken from the China Daily and China News, but what about the rest? I am happy that the Vientiane Times has agreed to be a vehicle for firsthand information on Lao-Chinese developments and hope the supplement continues. I fully support this joint venture between the Chinese and Lao media and hope it can be expanded so that even more information is provided. I really appreciate the diversity of topics covered.

Steven Cleary, news reporter and regional analyst Having witnessed firsthand the rising regional connectivity alongside rapid expansion of online publishing and social media in Laos and the region, I am also a proponent of the Yunnan-China supplement in the Vientiane Times. I believe timely and trustworthy information

CHINA-YUNNAN supplement content including articles like 'Kyrgyzstani, Ethiopian runners win SCO Kunming marathon', 'One year on, Yunnan bullet trains serve 12 million passengers', 'Yunnan security company opens office in Laos', and 'Lancang-Mekong institute to benefit six countries'.

sharing plays a crucial role in the achievement of peaceful and sustainable regional socio-economic development among neighbours.



Knowledge can foster increased understanding, dialogue and mutually beneficial integration at all levels, in this case, between the peoples of China's Yunnan and Laos, while serving to inform the international audience, including fellow Laos' Asean members and dialogue partners. There is no doubt the socio-economies of Laos and Yunnan province

share an increasingly close symbiosis and connectivity, from a person to person perspective and a policy, via signature One Belt, One Road transport infrastructure initiatives such as the Laos-China railway, Vientiane-Boten expressway and more. It is vital for readers and audiences in Laos and Yunnan to know more about the various initiatives, events and issues to take advantage of opportunities, mitigate risks and overcome challenges that arise in their relevant domains. I hope the Vientiane Times can continue to share increasingly professional reportage to raise knowledge on important issues and events between Laos and Yunnan, be it in print, online or even in app form so that information is available even more widely in the future.

Vacancy Announcement Finance Officer IUCN Lao PDR, IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, is seeking a qualified individual to join our Lao PDR Country Office. IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization, with more than 1,200 government and NGO Members and almost 15,000 volunteer experts in some 160 countries. IUCN Lao PDR country Program is part of the Lower Mekong Region Country Group, a unit of the Asia Regional Office in Bangkok, under the umbrella of the global IUCN and we're now looking for Finance Officer to join our team at IUCN Lao PDR at Vientiane Office as soon as possible. The FO will be also expected to hand basic HR functions and to serve as the HR focal point in IUCN Lao. SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES: Arrange petty cash replenishments and maintain agreed level of cash in hand for disbursements. Prepare petty cash vouchers, obtain approval and make payments; reconcile petty cash on daily basis for IUCN Lao PDR. Reconcile petty cash in excel sheet on monthly basis the printed and signed version should be accompanied with full supporting documents. Ensure adequate programme monitoring and reporting mechanisms are in place and adhered to at all levels of programming so that impact of the programme can be measured. Reconcile staff advance and loan accounts of IUCN Lao PDR accounts. Coordinate with relevant staff for settling outstanding amounts under their loan/advance accounts on a monthly basis. Prepare debit/credit notes for IUCN Lao PDR. Coordinate with ARO finance team on cross charge processing. Check travel advances, travel claims and other settlement of advances and process journals on travel authority form and travel claim form. Assist Regional Finance Unit Enter data into the online accounting system (NAV) and maintain important data/information on local computer. Coordinate and provide assistance to Accounts Officer in Asia Regional Office (ARO) regarding accounting cross charges and reporting of Lao PDR office. In coordination with the Regional HR Unit and/or HR Manager of IUCN Vietnam, administer all HR-related activities and transactional services for staff of IUCN Lao. REQUIREMENTS: A Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Financial Management, Commerce, or a related field of study is a must. At least five years of progressive experience in the related areas including in a similar position in an international organization. Excellent people skills, including in conflict resolution and team building, problem solving, and negotiations. Working knowledge (including practical experience) with the local and national labour laws, relevant legislation, policies and procedures relating to both HR and Administration in Lao PDR. CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION: 14 January 2018. Applicants are requested to apply online through the HR Management System, by opening the vacancy announcement and pressing the "Apply" button at http://www.iucn.org/involved/jobs/ Only short-listed candidates will be notified IUCN is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from qualified women and men.

Vientiane Times is on sale at these outlets: Vientiane - Vientiane Times office (Tel: 021 336042), Scandinavian Bakery (Tel: 021 215 199), Simeuang Mini Mart (Tel: 021 214 295), Oudomphathana Mini mart (Tel: 030 5700802), O-two Mark Mini Mart (Tel: 021 454 772), Pepsi kiosk (opposite Namphu or Fountain) (Tel: 020 97555195). Luang Prabang Province - Ms Channaly (Tel: 020 22355897). Champassak Province - Ms Kham (Tel: 030 5787701).