



## Mineral project promotes mining industry

SOUKNILUNDON  
SOUTHIVONGNORATH

A geological mapping and mineral information service project was the focus of a workshop held yesterday in Vientiane.

The project was conducted from April 2006 to August 2008 by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to benefit the Lao Ministry of Energy and Mining's Department of Mines.

Mines Department Director General, Mr Thongphat Inthavong, said the workshop aimed to inform participants about the results

of the project and to seek their input.

"The project has been undertaken by the consultant team of Mitsubishi Material Techno Corporation, in cooperation with the technical team, and consists of five components," he said.

"These include the review and analysis of available data, information and documents related to mineral resources for the compilation of geological maps, and the construction of a geographic information system (GIS) based database in 14,400sqkm at Attapeu province."

The project also trained local officials in geological

surveying, GIS and chemical analysis of minerals. Some officials attended a study tour in Japan which focused on these topics.

Mr Thongphat said Laos had good potential to develop mineral resources such as gold, copper, silver, tin, potash and bauxite. The government considers the mining sector to be one of the most important economic sectors because of its potential to contribute to national revenue, community development, job creation and poverty reduction. Identifying the location of mineral deposits is considered essential in promoting investment in the sector and sustainably developing mineral resources.

"Consequently, the government of Laos requested JICA to undertake geological and mineral investigations in the Attapeu area, which would add to the information we have about mineral resources and promote investment in the mining industry, as well as building the capacity of staff," Mr Thongphat said.

The Lao mining industry has been rapidly developing since the late 1990s. To date there are 118 companies investing in 181 projects, of which 45 are local companies and 72 are foreign companies. In 2007, the mining sector generated about US\$130 million in national revenue.

JICA Laos Resident



JICA Laos Office Resident Representative Mr Hiroaki Takashima.

Representative, Mr Hiroaki Takashima, said the mining sector was playing an important role in generating government revenue and promoting economic development in Laos.

"Since 2006 JICA has conducted the study on geological mapping and mineral information," he said.

"Now JICA has almost completed the study and will summarise its outcomes in a draft final report of the project."

He said the main purpose of the study was to develop the capacity of the Lao government to conduct geological and mineral resource mapping and to compile data and information about mineral resources. These kinds of capacities were indispensable for the Lao government to promote the mining industry in Laos, he said.

Workshop participants were from government departments, universities and mining businesses.



An example of copper mining in Attapeu province.

**DGEO  
and  
DOM**

# ກອງປະຊຸມເຕັກນິກການສຳຫລວດ



## Exploration Technical Meeting

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Date: 5 August, 2008      Place: Department of Geology (DGEO), Vientiane, Lao P.D.R.

	Topics	Presenter	Time
1.	Opening Address from the Department of Mines (DOM)	Mr. Thongphath INTHAVONG (Director General, DOM)	13:30-13:35
2.	Opening Address from the JICA	Mr. Satoshi KOBAYSHI (JICA Tokyo Office)	13:35-13:40
3.	The Handbook for Geological Survey (Prepared by JICA Team)	Dr. Yoshimitsu NEGISHI (Expert for Evaluation of Mineral Resources)	13:40-14:10
	- <i>Coffee Break</i> -		14:10-14:30
4.	Advanced Argillic Alteration in Epithermal and Porphyry Environment: Implication for Mineral Exploration	Dr. Yasushi WATANABE (Group Leader, Geological Survey of Japan)	14:30-15:30
	- <i>Discussion</i> -		15:30-15:50
5.	Closing Remarks from the JICA Team	Mr. Yoshiaki SHIBATA (Team Leader)	15:50-15:55
6.	Closing Remarks	Mr. Thongphath INTHAVONG (Director General, DOM)	15:55-16:00

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ຈັດຕັ້ງໂດຍ: ໄຈກາ, ກົມທໍລະນີສາດ ແລະ ກົມບໍ່ແຮ່

**Organized by the JICA, DGEO and DOM**

## PROGRAM (1/2)

ກອງປະຊຸມສຳມະ າຂອງໂຄງກາ ສ້າງແຜ ທີ່ທໍລະ ິສາດ

ແລະ ຂໍ້ມູ ແຮ່ທາດ

**DGEO and DOM**



**Workshop on**

**Geological Mapping and Mineral Information**

**Service Project**

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Date: 6 August, 2008      Place: the Lao Plaza Hotel, Vientiane, Lao P.D.R.

Topics	Presenter	Time
1. Opening Address from the Department of Mines (DOM)	Mr. Thongphath INTHAVONG (Director General, DOM)	08:30-08:50
2. Opening Address from the JICA Vientiane Office	Mr. Hiroaki TAKASHIMA (Resident Representative, Laos Office)	08:50-09:00
3. Outline of JICA/DGEO/DOM Project	Mr. Yoshiaki SHIBATA (Team Leader)	09:00-09:20
4. Technical Transfer and Progress in Geological Survey	Mr. Motomu GOTO (Expert for Geological Mapping)	09:20-09:40
5. Technical Transfer and Progress in Chemical Analysis	Ms. Yasuko KAMEGAI (Expert for Chemical Analysis)	09:40-10:00
- <i>Coffee Break</i> -		10:00-10:15
6. Technical Transfer and Progress in GIS	Mr. Chantala KEO HAVONG (Geo-Information Division, DGEO)	10:15-10:35
7. Geology of the Attapeu Area	Mr. Siphandone VILAYHACK (Director of Geology Division, DGEO)	10:35-10:55
8. Mineral Resources of the Attapeu Area	Dr. Yoshimitsu NEGISHI (Expert for Evaluation of Mineral Resources)	10:55-11:15
- <i>Discussion</i> -		11:15-11:35
- <i>Lunch -Dok Champa (Ground Floor)</i>		11:35-12:35

## PROGRAM (2/2)

Topics	Presenter	Time
9. Geology and Mineral Resources in the Southern Lao P.D.R.	Mr. Yoshiaki TAKASHIMA (Project Leader, DGMV)	12:35-12:55
10. Geology and Mineralization of the Sepon District	Mr. Boun Oum BOUTTATHEP (Senior Geologist, Lang Xang Mineral Co.,Ltd.)	12:55-13:15
11. Phu Kham Cu-Au Deposit - A Porphyry-Skarn System - (Senior Adviser Government Affairs, Phu Bia Mining Co.,Ltd.)	Mr. Souvath SISOUTHAM	13:15-13:35
12. REE Potential in Bolaven Plateau	Dr. Yasushi WATANABE (Group Leader, Geological Survey of Japan)	13:35-14:05
- Discussion -		14:05-14:30
- Coffee Break -		14:30-14:50
13. Mining Policy of Lao P.D.R. -Current and Future-	Dr. Simone PHICHIT (Deputy Director General, DOM)	14:50-15:10
14. Development Plan of Geological Sector	Ms. Chansavath BOUPHA (Deputy Director General, DGEO)	15:10-15:20
15. Geological Mapping Projects in Lao P.D.R.	Mr. Khampha PHOMMAKAYSONE (Deputy Director General, DGEO)	15:20-15:30
16. Summary of Recommended Actions	Mr. Yoshiaki SHIBATA (Team Leader)	15:30-15:40
- Discussion -		15:40-16:05
17. Closing Remarks	Mr. Thongphath INTHAVONG (Director General, DOM)	16:05-16:15

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