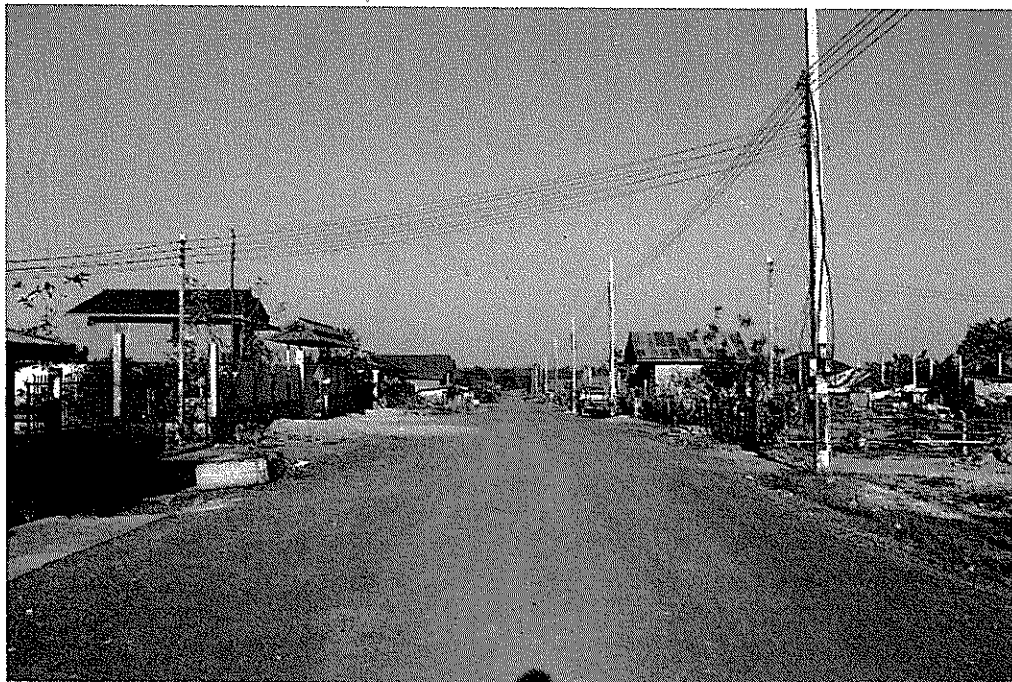


Home news



The resettlement houses.

New life for former Don Chan villagers

Times Reporters

For the past two years, former residents of Don Chan village have moved to their new location at Ban Nonethong (Km 24 south). After adjusting to the once unfamiliar environment, they are now settling into their new home well.

In 2012, more than 100 households were relocated from Donchanh to Ban Nonethong (in Huaxeing village group), Xaythany district, Vientiane.

was too small and unsuited for growing crops.

Each family was provided a 20 metre x 40 metre plot of land with extended families receiving a further 20 metres x 20 metres.

The location of the plot was decided via a lottery system and villagers also received compensation on their previous land which helped them settle into their new home.

Now, after two years of living in their new surrounds,

daughter run their small shop which sells daily household goods. They buy the goods in a nearby market and sell them to the villagers in the new village.

She said that some villagers have found work in factories, which produce garments and electrical wire near the new village, which is close to the industrial zone.

Some residents travel to work in the city to earn their living, others still work in the market where they used

Symposium to boost Lao research skills

Times Reporters

Laos is rich in natural resources and has good potential for producing bio-production platforms but the country's human resources skills in researching are limited, a biotechnology expert has said.

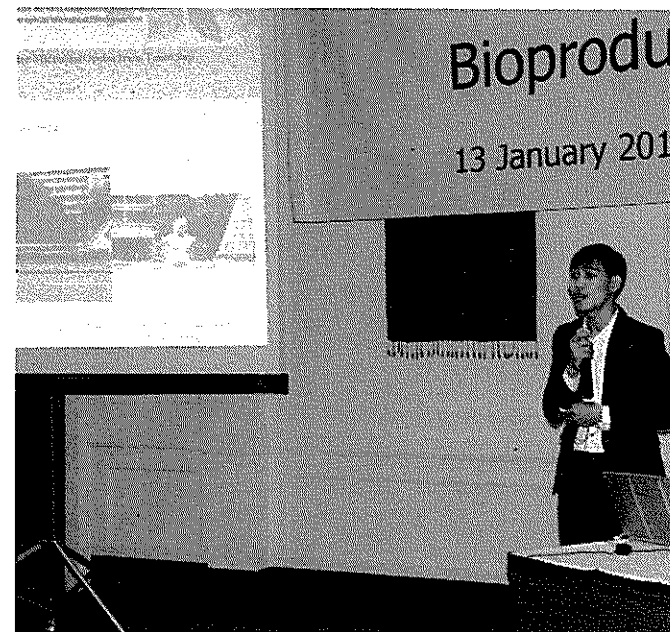
The JSPS-NRCT (Japan Society for Promotion of Science-National Research Council of Thailand) Vientiane Symposium 2014 on bio-production platforms was held yesterday, with researchers, students and teachers from Laos, as well as professors and researchers from Japan, Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia attending.

The seminar aimed to share knowledge and experience on bio-production research with the goal to boost cooperation and create a better network between Asian countries.

It is also focused on human resource development within Laos especially researchers at the National University of Laos, National Agriculture and Forestry Researcher Institute, the Biotechnology and Ecology Institute and Lao Traditional Medicine Institute.

The programme has been in operation for five years in cooperation with different major universities in Laos, Osaka in Japan, Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia and is supported by the Japan government.

Laos is comprised of rich natural resources and has good potential to produce traditional medicines and bio-energy, while



A Cambodian researcher presents at the seminar in Vientiane.

Japan possesses the skills and technology to develop this sector, the International Centre for Biotechnology Osaka University Director, Prof. Dr Takuya Nihira told *Vientiane Times* at the seminar. Dr Nihira said Japan aims to further develop human resource for bio-production platform research in Laos through training and supporting Lao researchers to study at a Masters level in partnership universities in Thailand, Vietnam and Japan through the UNESCO Bio-technology School in Asia.

"We also would like to boost the network between Asean countries to strengthen cooperation and increase knowledge about scientific

research."

Natural resources have a major commercial impact in the fields of medicine and agriculture, and research is necessary for this increasing value.

The Biotechnology and Ecology Institute of the Ministry of Science and Technology worked closely with the Osaka University to organise the seminar and associated training programmes, said the Institute's Director General, Dr Souroudong Sundara.

He believed through the seminar Lao researchers, teachers and students will learn from the visiting professors and researchers to improve their own organisations.