Training of Trainers on International Law for Lao Judges 7 - 18 March 2011

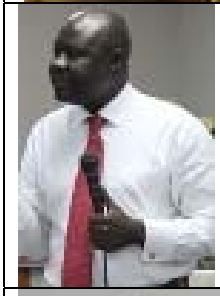
The International Law Project organized a Training of Trainers on International Law for Lao judges in Vientiane (7-11 March 2011) and in Vangvieng (14-18 March 2011). 24 Judges from the People's Supreme Court, Regional High Courts and all 16 Provincial People's Courts and the People's Court of Vientiane Capital attended the two week training. The training was designed to build capacity of the Lao judiciary in the application of international law in courts in Laos. The trainers, upon completion of the training, will be able to give trainings on judicial application of international law for fellow judges across the country, thus build the Lao judiciary's capacity in an effort to build a Rule of Law State in accordance with the Legal Sector Master Plan (LSMP) adopted by the Lao Government.

The official opening of the TOT was graced by Hon. Khampha Sengdara, Vice President of the People's Supreme Court.
The training covered the areas of international law which are of most relevance to the judiciary as well as teaching skills and curriculum development for judicial training on international law.

The international laws covered in the course included:

- Overview of International Law;
- Law of Treaty;
- United Nations in General;
- Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes under International Law: ICJ.
- International Law making by the United Nations;
- State Responsibility under International Law
- Non State Actors' Responsibility;
- Relationship between International Law and Domestic Law of the Lao PDR;
- Jurisdiction under International Law;
- Immunities under International Law;
- International Law of Human Rights;
- ICCPR's provisions relevant to the judiciary;
- Judicial Application of International Human Rights Norms;
- The right to a fair trial;
- The UPR Recommendations relating to the judiciary.
- Extradition Law;
- International Refugee Law
- Human Trafficking;
- Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters;
- Transfer of Prisoners;
- International Law relating to Anti-Terrorism and Transnational Organization Crime;
- International Humanitarian Law;
- International Criminal Tribunals;
- Curriculum Development and Effective Teaching of International Law for the Judiciary;

The training was facilitated by the following resource persons:

	Mr. Homayoun Alizadeh, Regional Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for South East Asia, Bangkok
	Prof. Sam Blay, Chief Technical Advisor of the International Law Project, Professor of International Law, UTS
	Mr. Fumio Ito, Expert of the UNODC, Vientiane
	Dr. Jayampathy Wicramaratne, Attorney at Law, President's Counsel, Sri Lanka
	Mr. Morgan Pilai, International Law Specialist, South Africa
	Mr. Vipon Kititasanasorchai, Expert of the UNODC Regional Office, Bangkok

	Mr. Manith Sengsathith, National Technical Adviser, International Law Project
	Mr. Phoukhong Sisoulath, Project Manager of the International Law Project
	Mr. Vongvilay Thippalangsy, Acting Director of the Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Division, Department of Treaties and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Mr. Maythong Thammavongsa, Director of the Political and Security Division, Department of International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Mr. Sayfong Sengdara, Officer of the Department of Treaties and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Miss. Pavady Somkham Officer of the Department of Treaties and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

	Mr. Thavisith Homsombath Officer of the Department of Treaties and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The training of Trainers is a follow up to the preceding activities of the International Law Project relating to the judiciary. In March 2010 the International Law Project in collaboration The Hague Forum for Judicial Expertise with the generous support of the Dutch Embassy to Laos facilitated the dispatch of 18 Lao judges for training on international human rights law and international criminal law in The World Legal Capital. Shortly after Hague training, the International Law Project organized in May 2010 a Workshop devoted to the Right to a Fair Trial in collaboration with the International Commission of Jurists facilitated by ICJ experts, including a former UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of the Judiciary.