



Higher Education in Lao PDR

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Higher Education Institutes in Laos

□ HEI in Laos consists of 3 types:

- 1) Public Universities (There are 5 public Universities)
- 2) Public Colleges (12 institutes)
- 3) Private Colleges (50 institutes)

□ Public Universities: 5 public Universities

- 1995: National University of Laos (NUOL) “Environment Excellence”
- 2002: Champasack University (CU) “Agriculture Excellence”
- 2003: Soupranouvong University (SU) “Tourism Excellence”
- 2007: University of Health Science (UHS)
- 2009: Savannakhet University (SKU) “Economy Excellence”

Source: Bouadam et al; 2017



Higher Education Development in Laos

- ❑ So far, GOL plays attention to improve the HE for human resource development in terms of **qualitative and quantitative** dimensions. The country's HE is striving to meet international and regional standards.
- ❑ ADB (2011) reported that most Lao graduates work in the public sector. They also concluded that a lack of educated and skilled human resource in Laos is a critical constraint to growth.
- ❑ Duronsoy et al. (2014) also revealed that 50% of companies faced problems recruiting staff, noting that graduates lacked qualification, skills & knowledge, and motivation. 74% of private sector employers were more satisfied with overseas graduates' skills than those locally trained.



Challenges of Higher Education in Laos

- Recently, Ondara & Thongsavath (2015) indicated that Human resource development in Laos is unresponsive for demanding of soci-economic growth. They concluded that Lao labor is “Over but Less”.
- Many HE curricula remain outdate and unresponsive to industry needs.
- Teaching methods rely heavily on lectures and provide marginal opportunities for practical learning.
- Teaching staff are relatively inexperienced and lack pedagogical and research training and post-graduate degrees.
- Lack of cooperation with private sectors



Strengthening Higher Education in Laos

Second Strengthening Higher Education project (SSHEP II) 2017-2021:

- Improve infrastructure of HEI (**particular: SKU**)
- Offering MSc and PhD scholarships (local and oversea)
- Provide Competitive Research Fund
- Development of new course **“Entrepreneur” & Environment**
- Improvement of ICT
- Exchanges and visiting programs

Thank you for your attention