

SKILLS FOR TOURISM PROJECT • LAO/029

IMPACT STORIES

TVET TEACHERS

“The students are very excited when they graduate and take the first steps in their careers”



Konsavahn Lavongtheund and Soulivahn Maniphone, TVET Teachers, Vientiane Province

Image: Students during a lesson with Konsavahn in Vangvieng. Credit: Bart Verweij

Konsavahn learned of the PTHAS Training Programme while teaching the subject of Life Skills at the Technical College of Vientiane Province in Vangvieng.

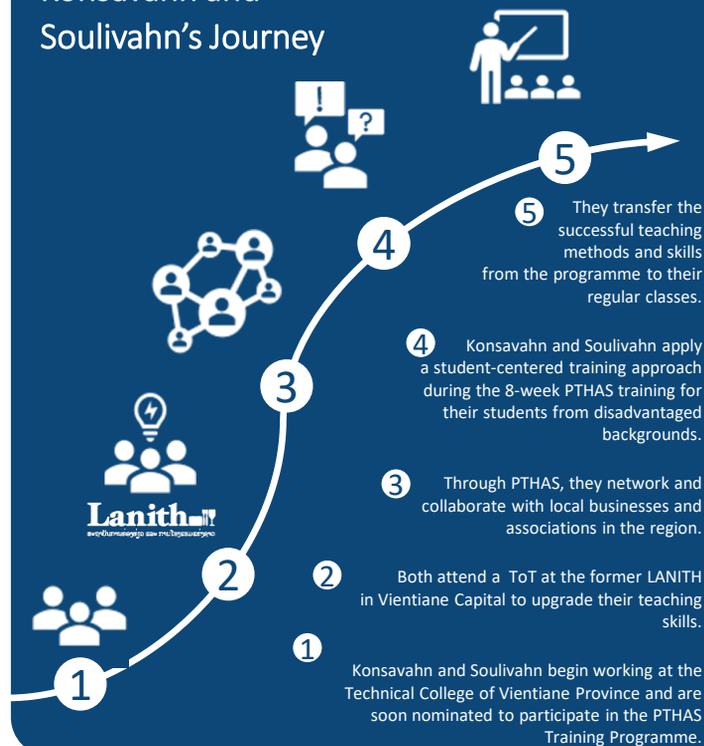
Soulivahn, originally from Luang Prabang Province, had been teaching computing at the same school as Konsavahn for three years before getting involved in the PTHAS Training Programme in 2018.

“When our school director told me to take on the PTHAS training I was unsure,” he says remembering, “I wasn’t confident in teaching hospitality.”

Nevertheless, Konsavahn and Soulivahn participated in a 10-day *Training of Trainers (ToT)* session at the former Lao National Institute for Tourism and Hospitality (Lanith) where they were oriented in the PTHAS programme.

The course promoted modern teaching techniques such as student centred-learning and introduced interactive games and activities to make teaching fun and stimulating. There was also a strong emphasis on working outside the classroom with the private sector.

Konsavahn and Soulivahn’s Journey



Both Konsavahn and Soulivahn found the training tough, but worthwhile. "The modules are very hands-on, especially the topic about Life Skills," says Konsavahn. "It's a well-rounded programme," adds Soulivahn.

The teachers were impressed by the support of the private sector, especially when hosting industry days and internships, which most students say are their favorite parts of the programme.

Both Konsavahn and Soulivahn believe they they have become better teachers through their experience with PTHAS. Konsavahn says the programme allowed her to broaden her skillset to include more interactive and fun activities in the classroom and see the value of external practical sessions.

Soulivahn is proud to contribute to PTHAS and of the impact of the programme on the lives of the students. The teachers also support them through post-training support activities to help them find jobs in the industry.



"They are very excited when they graduate and can move on to the first step in their careers", he explains.

"The PTHAS programme gives the students an option to do something more than farming or just staying at home."

Learning goes both ways as she also learns from her students, "It's a continuous process," Konsavahn adds. For Soulivahn, he has learned things from PTHAS that he adapted to his other classes: "I was able to incorporate new skills I learned from the PTHAS to my regular lessons. My students love it!", he exclaims.

"I have gained inspiration and insight from my students through the stories that they have shared with me. The PTHAS programme gives the students from the villages an option to do something more than farming or just staying at home," Konsavahn concludes.

Top: Konsavahn Lavongtheund, Bottom: Soulivahn Maniphone , Credit: Bart Verweij

Pheun Than Heng A Sip (PTHAS) Training Programme



RESULTS TO DATE: TEACHER CAPACITY BUILDING

 **27** TVET teachers trained (23 female) from 6 provinces

 **73%** approval rating from teachers (3.85/5)*

 **55** private sector partnerships for TVET schools

 **'Very Good'** rating of training by graduates (4.4/5)**

In collaboration with the Skills for Tourism Project (LAO/029), Swisscontact implements the Pheun Than Heng A Sip (PTHAS) Training Programme.

PTHAS seeks to upgrade hospitality skills amongst 500 MSME staff (upskilling) and support 500 more people from disadvantaged backgrounds to enter the tourism and hospitality sector (labour market insertion) in selected southern and central provinces.

The Skills for Tourism Project (LAO/029) is co-financed by the Governments of Lao PDR, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and Switzerland, and is implemented by the Ministry of Education and Sports of Lao PDR and LuxDev, the Luxembourg Development Cooperation Agency.

*From TVET teacher feedback data collected by Swisscontact 2018-2020 with 73% stating to be satisfied or highly satisfied on a 5-point Likert scale

** From enhanced graduates feedback data collected by Swisscontact 2018-2020 using a five-point Likert scale: 1=poor, 2=fair, 3=satisfactory, 4=good, 5=very good