



IMPACT STORY

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

“They have to choose and focus on the subject that they are passionate about and to build a career from it.”



Image: Suphat Khaykham Credit: Swisscontact

Mr. Suphat Khaykham is a keen supporter of the Vocational Training and Employment Support Services project (VTESS) implemented by Swisscontact (see below). Suphat is the Deputy Director of the Integrated Vocational Education School (IVET) in Xiengkhuang Province, and he understands the importance of the project for the school and its trainees. Suphat organizes the teachers and the lessons, plans the internships of the trainees, and leads the cooperation between the IVET School and the project.

To learn more about the workforce situation in his province, Suphat conducted a survey with the local labour department in Xiengkhuang. **“Although agriculture had not previously been a popular course for young people to take at IVETs, I found that there was a potential for agricultural-based employment here. We are now endorsing that working on a farm can also provide a good income in the future.”**

After showing how studying agriculture is a viable option, short listing the trainees is the next challenge, “It is also important to take into account the willingness of the trainee to complete the course. If they lose

interest too soon, then it will affect the planning of the internship and the overall results,” he said. “Taking a Certificate 1 course enables them to develop knowledge from a wide range of subjects. However, they have to choose and focus on the subject that they are passionate about and to build a career from it.”



Image: IVET students studying agriculture Credit: Swisscontact

VTESS supports the build-up and strengthening of an inclusive vocational education and training system in Laos. Learn more about Swisscontact’s VTESS project at: <https://www.swisscontact.org/en/projects/vtess>

Suphat added that it is important that the students think of their internship as a stepping stone for them to be hired in the future. “It is an entry point for them to enter the labour market,” he said.

The feedback from the trainees is generally good about the project. The trainees are proud to be a part of the project because they get to continue their studies, hone their skills and gain work experience. It also gives them more opportunities to find a job. What Suphat likes about the project is that it contributes to higher employment rates for the trainees because of the coaching aspect.

He said, “It gives them the confidence they need during the hiring process and the overview of the labour market.” The project also provides the necessary equipment to the school and the trainees to support their studies

Suphat expressed his appreciation for the VTESS project by saying, “We have received good support from the VTESS project; especially, the disadvantaged groups who are unable to continue their secondary education due to family economics or other problems. The project created opportunities for them to become self-sufficient and to be hired.”



Inception phase: Aug 2019 - March 2020

Project duration: (4 yrs) Aug 2019 - July 2023

Funded by: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Implementer: Consortium Swisscontact / Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts

Key implementing governmental partners:

- Ministry of Education and Sports - MoES (Lead)
- Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare – MoLSW

Target Groups:

- Early school-leavers: young people (15-35 years of age) who have completed primary, but not lower secondary education, and are subjected to income poverty.
- Wider: Teachers from IVET schools, staff from job centres or similar institutions (career counsellors, job coaches, community or youth workers, village facilitators, social workers)



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