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RESOURCES

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• Return to last year's inflation levels unlikely--IMF

Lao people this year will not experience an inflation crisis caused by rapid currency devaluation like they experienced last year, an official of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) told the Vientiane Times last week.

• Defence Ministry holds annual conference

THE annual meeting for the year 98-99 of the Ministry of Defence was held from January 8 to 14 in Vientiane under the chairmanship of Lieutenant General Choummaly Saignasone, Politburo member of the Party Central Party Committee, Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Defence.

• PM Sisavath receives Thai army chief

GENERAL Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army and his delegation called on Prime Minister Sisavath Keobounphanh at the PM's office on January 12.

• Transplantation completed on 20,000 ha across country

Dry season ricefarming in full swing

FARMERS across the country, up to January 7, completed their transplantation of dry season rice on 21,495 hectares, accounting for 28 per cent of the targeted plan, according to the Agricultural Extension Department's report.

• Prime Minister calls at Political Military

currency exchange

US \$1 = 4,245.00 kip

(Black market)

US \$1 = 4,675.00 kip)

US \$1 = 36.40 baht

1 baht (Thai) = 116.20 kip

1 franc (France) = 735.32
kip

1 franc (Swiss) = 2,963.30
kip

1 pound (United Kingdom)
= 6,772.61 kip

1 yen (Japan) = 37.35 kip

1 DM (German) = 2,479.26
kip

1 C\$ (Canada) =
2,736.99 kip

1 A\$ (Australia) = 2,614.18
kip

*Source: Banque Pour Le Commerce
Exterieur Lao.*

Consumer Index in Vientiane

Gasoline (1 liter) = 1,200
kip

Sticky Rice (12 kilo) =
20,500 kip

Jasmine Rice (12 kilo) =
26,400 kip

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YAHOO!

Ecola

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Academy

PREMIER Sisavath Keobounphanh, on January 11, met and talked to cadres, teachers and students of the Military Academy on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Lao People's Army (LPA).

• [Sisavath visits Xieng Khouang](#)

PRIME Minister Sisavath Keobounphanh paid a working visit to the northern Xiengkhouang province on January 6.

• [Brig Gen Saysompheng Souryavong dies](#)

Brigadier General Saysompheng Souryavong, a member of NA (Forth Legislature) and Chairman of NA of the National Defence and Security Affairs Commission, passed away on January 10 after a long illness.

• [Germany continues support for palm leaf manuscript project](#)

The government of the Federal Republic of Germany has provide additional funding for the Palm Leaf Manuscript Conservation Project, under the Ministry of Information and Culture (MIC).

• [Laos-Japan forestry cooperation project](#)

• [ASEAN statisticians to set up data exchange network](#)

• [French Language Centre offers French course to NUOL staff](#)

• [More light for rural people](#)

• [Thanalaeng cargo check-point collects a billion kip in tax](#)

• [Illegal parking arbitrarily causes road accident](#)

• [UK consultants investigate doing business in Laos](#)

Chicken (1 kilo) = 10,000 kip

Beef (1 kilo) = 12,000 kip

10 eggs = 3,000 kip

A bottle of Pepsi = 1,000 kip

Fer (beef noodle soup) = 3,000 kip

Tuk-tuk fee (from Airport to Morning market) = 2,000 kip

(Note: if you are a foreigner, expect to pay double for this fee.)

Average wage for a teacher per month = 52,000 kip

UPDATED

What's going on in Vientiane

ambulance service

Mahosot Hospital
214-018

Friendship Hospital
413-306

Setthathirath Hospital
413-720

Police Hospital
212-537

emergency phone calls

Fire: 190

Police: 191

Ambulance: 195

Electricity: 212-808

corrections page

• [Corrections](#) made in the last thirty days will appear [here](#).

opinions

- [Industrial Zone hopes to attract investors](#)
- [Enough water plus quality seeds equal higher rice output](#)
- [ATR pilots and mechanics complete training in France](#)
- [Visiting interplast surgeons from Australia treat Lao Patients](#)
- [Vegetables growing without chemical fertiliser is safe for health](#)
- [A tradition of loyalty and unity](#)
- [Chinese art troupe's performance](#)
- [Unknown soldiers monument built in Xieng Khouang](#)

• Here are [opinions](#) around the country.

more news about Laos around the web

- [ASEAN ministers meet to boost slumping tourism](#) from [Reuters](#) (January 28, 1999)
- [Laos denies it threatened to shoot intruding jets](#) from [The Nation](#) (January 27, 1999)
- [Laos to shoot intruding Thai warplanes](#) from [Bangkok Post](#) (January 26, 1999)
- [Thai jet 'violates' Laos airspace](#) from [The Nation](#) (January 26, 1999)
- ['War' raging to control pests in Indochina](#) from [Asian Times](#) (January 25, 1999)
- [Laos Dam Resettlement Plan Approved](#) from [Business Day](#) (January 22, 1999)
- [Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam make pleas for help](#) from [The Nation](#) (January 21, 1999)

food for thought

Tour through Laos by bicycles

*Vientiane: Of dust,
beggars and
bandits* from Eric's
point of view

- ▶ [Laos Hydro Plant Selected as Power Supplier](#) from [Business Day](#) (January 20, 1999)
- ▶ [United States and Laos hold 41st joint MIA search](#) from [Associated Press](#) (January 20, 1999)
- ▶ [Five Laotian power plans to be suspended](#) from [The Nation](#) (January 20, 1999)
- ▶ [EC provides food relief for Laos drought victims](#) from [Reuters](#) (January 19, 1999)
- ▶ [LAOS-THAILAND: Bid to strengthen security in border zone](#) from [Bangkok Post](#) (January 10, 1999)
- ▶ [Asia amphetamine rings targeting Europe](#) from [Reuters](#) (January 8, 1999)

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