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LAOS: A training centre for better efficiency in water utilities

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LAOS: A training centre for better efficiency in water utilities

Starting with policies for decentralisation and reorganisation of the water sector, set out in 1998, The Laotian Authorities wished to increase the efficiency and quality of water utilities (Nam Papa).

Within the framework of their co-operation with Laos, the French Authorities (French Agency for Development - AFD) agreed to support a training project, that would not only cover the drinking water sector but also prepare the Nam Papa personnel to the development of the sanitation sector, essential for the well-being of the population and for the country economy.

The main objective is to allow and implement the training of the staff in charge of these sectors, in order to:

- strengthen the decentralisation policy;
- improve the management of water systems (planning and management) and technical skills (O&M, water quality);
- • prepare the people in charge to the sanitation challenges;
- enable the drinking water supply and sanitation companies to improve their services to the users.

After an invitation to tender, the AFD entrusted the feasibility study of the project to the IOWater-BCEOM group.

Relying on surveys carried out by the group and on its proposals, the Governmental Authorities decided to build a National Training Centre for Water Professions (CNFME) for Laos.

The implementation of this project will include, in particular: the construction of buildings, lecture rooms and accommodation facilities, the creation of the educational facilities of the training centre and the implementation, at the same time, of activities enabling its operational start (provision of educational tools and materials, educational and technical training programme for the Laotian trainers and corresponding supporting actions).

Relying on the conclusions of the feasibility study, the Lao Authorities made a request to the AFD for the financing of the training centre project.

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