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## Strengthening Skills Development in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar through South-South and Triangular Cooperation Highlights from 2023

(RAS/18/09/CHN)



ILO/China South-South Skills Partnership Programme

Annual Report



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## 1 Executive Summary

The ILO/China Programme on Strengthening Skills Development in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar through South-South and Triangular Cooperation (herein and after referred as “ILO/China Partnership Programme”, “ILO/China SSTC Programme”) aims to improve the employability of workers and increase the productivity of enterprises through skills development and institutional capacity building, to build forward better.

As a sustained and impactful programme with a US\$ 4 million financial contribution from Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS) of China, it continues supporting its development partners in CLM countries from formulating skills laws and regulations for mutual skills recognition in the ASEAN region, initiating national skills gap survey, to enhancing institutional capacity building of its partners. This includes initiatives ranging from reskilling and upskilling policy advice to institutional capacity building, from skills testing to skills certification, from job counselling to curriculum and training module development, from combined training of online and offline modalities to skills competitions/contests in partner countries.

The ILO/China SSTC Programme promotes knowledge sharing on skills development between skills centres, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions through SSTC. The inauguration of Skills Development Network through South-South Cooperation (SSC) on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 was a demonstration and highlight of the knowledge sharing between TVETs in the Asia and the Pacific region through SSC. Supported by the ILO, MOHRSS, the network currently brings together 21 TVET institutes and training centres from China, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar<sup>a</sup>.

At the beginning of the reporting cycle, the project taskforce, ILO regional skills and employability specialist conducted multiple rounds of project planning consultation with tripartite constituents based on project needs assessment. This thorough dialogue enabled the project to formulate, and plan targeted, relevant and impactful technical outputs and activities.

The participatory project planning exercise has achieved strong ownership from tripartite constituents. Project Advisory Meeting in Lao PDR in early 2023 endorsed both Project Overall Workplan and Project Annual Workplan 2023. The Project followed the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) decision and workplan of UN Joint Programme on skills development, thus creating synergies of development cooperation in the domain of skills development with Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MOLVT) of Cambodia and social partners.

Against the backdrop of COVID-19 in Cambodia and Lao PDR, the Project was able to

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<sup>a</sup> In the case of Myanmar, following the military situation on 1 February 2021, ILO/China Partnership Programme has been reviewed and reprogrammed in accordance with the guidance of the UN Country Team (UNCT). All activities that would strengthen the de facto authorities have been halted. However, certain programming can continue activities with non-government organizations to demonstrate the benefits accrue primarily to the people or communities without discrimination. Under the guidance of UNCT, ILO/China Partnership Programme continued to promote skills development for youth, women and men through ILO social partners, Technical and Vocational Education Training institutions. The project's operations in Myanmar are active in three areas: **Research**, to produce a map of current policies and practices of skills development and TVET coverage, as well as potential improvements; **Outreach**, to provide a platform of TVETs and skills training providers to share experiences and peer learning; **Training** courses to strengthen the institutional capacity of TVET institutions and social partners.

meet its present objectives of improved policy formulation capacity, improved institutional capacity development in CLM countries. The Taskforce of the Project has not only provided solid support to project partners, but also looks from inside in their own team building. Aside from weekly Team stocktaking and exchanges, the project taskforce also participated in multiple training programmes organized by International Training Centre (ITC) and Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) of ILO.

Year 2023 during the post-covid recovery, more than 51 workshops were organized either by or supported by ILO/China Programme. These include a dozen of TOT programmes on subjects of web design, graphic design, Information Communication (ICT), New Energy Vehicle, Automotive Maintenance, Electrician Installation, Welding, bricklayer etc. The SSC Skills Development Network has become fully fledged with a total of 9 MOUs signed between 18 member TVETs of the Network/Alliance. Peer-to-Peer cooperation relations were thus formed. As a result, more than 15 workshops of these bilateral partners were organized on the topics of TVET management, quality assurance of TVET institutions, digitalization of TVET institutions, digital skills training, poverty alleviation through TVETs etc. The ILO/China SSTC Programme also supported TVETs member develop curriculum on ICT.

As a South-South and Cooperation knowledge-sharing initiative, the ILO/China Programme supported representatives from countries member of ASEAN to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative Seminar on promotion of high quality of employment that was organized by MOHRSS and ILO. The ILO/China SSTC Programme shared its experience in the networking of TVETs and curriculum development, TOT training Programme and expanding South-South cooperation in skills development network to promote human resources development. We noted with appreciation the support of China in the implementation of the ILO/China Project on Strengthening Skills Development in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar through South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

## **2 Progress summary**

### **2.1 Consensus building and commitment to Project.**

The development cooperation methodology of ILO/China SSTC Programme, i.e., using social dialogue to decide on priority industry, areas of technical intervention for skills development, launching of SSC Skills Development Network/Alliance, knowledge sharing between beneficiary countries proves to be a success. Development partners and tripartite constituents much embrace the PPP as a key instrument for their technical and vocational skills development. This is demonstrated in the inauguration of the Skills Development Network through SSC, with members of TVETs from both public and private sectors on board. This is further demonstrated by the entering Memorandum of Understandings between 18 member TVETs of the Network.

As a South-South and triangular cooperation project, the Project Taskforce kept regular consultations with tripartite partners over the past year. These rounds of dialogue with CLM partners enable ownership of tripartite constituents in CLM countries. Tripartite constituents of partner countries further provided their unreserved support for the Project through their implementation of project activities in 2023.

## **2.2 International and Domestic Benchmark Research**

Both international and domestic studies, including skills and employment gap snapshot surveys, were initiated to analyse the skills development system of TVET institutes in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar. The Project commissioned and followed up a study in consultations with Centre of International Exchanges (CIE), a public institution under MOHRSS. The CIE was well capable in identifying good practice and innovative approaches on skills development, Public Employment Service (PES) in development partner country. The process of consultancy and field study conducted by CIE was able to share with ASEAN countries about the rapid development of TVETs in China. This is an enabling factor for knowledge sharing between the Development Partner and Project Implementation Countries, on enrolment of TVET students, partnership of TVETs and enterprises. The good work from CIE laid a solid foundation for identifying candidate member TVETs from China to launch the SSC Skills Development Network/Alliance.

## **2.3 Project Planning based on Needs Assessment of Priorities of Tripartite Partners**

The Asia and the Pacific Region was severely affected by the lasting disastrous impacts of the Covid Pandemic. Thus, the Project was instrumental to SSTC against the backdrop of the pandemic crisis of COVID-19, which negatively affected hundreds of thousands of labour market entrants and TVET learners. The Country-based project needs assessment and workplan formulation for 2023 was essential to ensure commitment from tripartite constituents, and make sure the project focuses on the following mandates: (i) linking technical and vocational training to current labour market mechanisms; (ii) developing skills qualification and competences standards, curriculum through networking and (iii) shaping alliance between CLM countries, other ASEAN countries and China.

Like any other SSTC programmes, the Project planning of ILO/China SSTC Programme was a participatory exercise of tripartite constituents. The planning process followed the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) of Partner Countries and focused on Country Programme Outputs (CPO). Stakeholders of this Project affirm their commitment to collaborate in the implementation of this project under the framework of Decent Work Country Programmes in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar respectively. DWCPs, with their Country Programme Outputs components, are the primary framework for ILO support to constituents at the country level to meet the ILO's strategic objectives around priorities identified by national tripartite constituents, grounded in the country specific context and responding to their challenges. The ILO SSTC Programme, thus, becomes a systematic fit to DWCP and CPOs in their skills development and employment promotion efforts in partner countries and in ASEAN member states.

## **2.4 Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting in Cambodia**

The Project Advisory Committee (PAC) in Cambodia held a successful meeting on April 25, 2023, to review the progress of the project in 2022, discuss challenges and opportunities, and endorse the 2023 workplan. The PAC meeting was chaired by H.E Hing Sideth, Director General of DGTVET and attended by DDGs, Directors of Departments, Technical Training Institutes, private sector, trade union, and project staff, with a total of 27 participants (7 females). The committee was composed of a diverse group of experts from ILO's tripartite constituents who provide guidance and advice on ongoing project of ILO/China Partnership Programme. The committee engaged in lively discussions, offered valuable feedback and suggestions, and agreed to implement recommendations. The meeting also included a presentation on the project progress in 2022 and workplan in 2023. Overall, the committee emphasized the importance of collaboration and communication among the members. The workplan for 2023 was endorsed and the Committee looked forward to continuing their work and making a positive impact for decent work in Cambodia.



## 2.5 Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting in Lao PDR

The ILO/China Partnership Programme and Tripartite Constituents of Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MOLSW) of Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI) and Lao Federation of Trade Unions (LFTU) jointly organized the face-to-face and online Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting on 14 March 2023, Vientiane, Lao PDR. A total of 45 representatives (16 females) from MOLSW, LNCCI, LFTU, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao Women Union, Lao Youth Union, Skill development Institute, Department of Employment, TVET and colleague from ILO Vientiane Office reviewed the project implementation in 2022 and deliberated on project workplan in 2023.

H.E. Mr. Phongsaysack Inthalath, Vice Minister of Labour and Social Welfare of Laos, H.E. Mr. Vilay Vongkhaseum, Vice President of Lao Federation of Trade Unions, H.E. Mr. Xaybandith Rasaphone, Vice President of Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Yutong LIU, Project Manager and Coordinator of ILO/China Partnership Programme for Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar addressed the meeting in the opening session.

The main purpose of the workshop was for stakeholders to deliberate on workplan for 2023-2025. This three-year workplan demonstrates the strong relations between Lao tripartite constitute and ILO/China SSTC Programme. Participants provided insights and guidance on the designing and implementation of project activities. The overall work-plan

and the 2023 annual work-plan were deliberated and endorsed at the PAC Meeting.



### **Project as a Platform of Policy Advisee:**

#### **2.6 Private Sectors Provide Input on the Draft TVET Law in Cambodia**

The Cambodia Federation of Employers and Business Association (CAMFEBA), the leading private sector association and one of ILO tripartite partners, has organized a consultation workshop to discuss and collect input from its members on the draft TVET Law which was drafted by the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MLVT). A total of 70 participants (17 females), representing MLVT/DGTVET, Sector Skills Council, Private sectors and ILO have met together and discussed on this draft law on 1 June 2023. The representatives from MLVT were invited to present this draft during the workshop. This draft law consisted of 12 Chapters and 68 articles which aimed to define a comprehensive and unified system of TVET in order to develop competent human resources on occupational and professional skills to contribute to the improvement of people's livelihood and socio-economic status.

Supported by ILO/China Partnership Programme, this workshop was a good opportunity for the private sectors to engage in a law legislation process which was led by the government. The comments and input from private sectors who represent employers in various fields were collected and CAMFEBA would make a position paper of employer prospective on this draft TVET Law to the ministry.





## 2.7 Consultation Workshop to develop Skills Development Law in Lao PDR

ILO/China Partnership Programme, in close collaboration with Skills Development Institute, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare of Lao PDR organized a Consultation Workshop to discussion and review the draft of Skills Development Law. The consultation workshop was organized at the Thavisouk Hotel, Vangvieng District, Vientiane Province from 01-03 September 2023.

A total of 53 Participants (15 females) attended this workshop. Represented entities encompassed Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Lao Federation of Trade Union, Ministry of Education and Sport, Ministry of Justice, National Assembly and Skill Development Centers.

Participants exchanged opinions and went through the draft of the law paragraph by paragraph. The draft of Skill Development Law was revised based on the recommendation of tripartite constituents and policies makers. After the workshop, the draft of Law was shared with ILO expertise for comments.



## 2.8 Consultation Workshops to develop Employment Law in Lao PDR

Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare of Lao PDR organized the meeting on the comprehensive review of draft on employment law consented in the 5<sup>th</sup> session of the 9<sup>th</sup> National Assembly at Thavisouk Hotel, Vangvieng, Vientiane Province from 3-4 August 2023.

A total of 53 participants (21 females) attended this workshop, representing Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao Federation of Trade Union, Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Lao National Assembly, Ministry of Finance, President's office, and Ministry of Foreign Affair and Prime Minister Office.

Participants discussed and revised the draft of employment law chapter by chapter based on the recommendation of policy makers committee. The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare will continue to revise the law based on the recommendation from the Lao National Assembly. Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare expected the law to be endorsed and published in 2023.



## 2.9 Employment Services is expanded to TVET Schools in Cambodia

With support from ILO/China Partnership Programme, Directorate General of Technical Vocational Education and Training (DGTVET) of Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training has organized TOT trainings to operationalize the employment services manual and rights at work modules, which aims to enhance the capacity of TVET institutes, the National Employment Agency, and the Job Center, ultimately improving the deliverable of public employment services and rights and responsibility of youth at work promotion among Cambodian youth in 2023.

Two TOT trainings were conducted in Kampong Cham and Battambang provinces by Department of Labour Market Information of DGTVET, with technical and financial support from ILO. A total of 90 participants (16 females) from Technical Training Institutes, National Employment Agency, Job Center, and other relevant entities

underwent training on the employment services and rights at work manual. The training topic covered the information dissemination of career and employment and TVET, TVET orientation, internship programme, labour Market Information, and youth rights at work. Following the TOT trainings, four career guidance orientation workshops were organized in these two provinces. A total of 213 students (101 females) have received the information on employment services and Technical and Vocational Training through these orientation workshops which organized by the focal person who attended the TOT trainings. All students have better knowledge on TVET and study pathways for their career. They also have learnt a method to determine their occupations that match their personalities to study.



## **2.10 Dissemination Employment Skills Need Survey Report, in Lao PDR**

The ILO/China Partnership Programme and Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI) of Lao People Democratic Republic jointly organized the dissemination of Employment Skills Needs Survey workshop on 6 October 2023.

A total of 70 people participated in this workshop. Representatives were from Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao Federation of Trade Union, Ministry of Education and Sport, NCCI, MOLSW, MOEs, EDC Enterprise association, Skills Development providers, Business Associations, and private sectors.

The main objective of this workshop was to share and update situations of the enterprises, employment and employers' skills needed for the post-COVID-19 business recovery and provide recommendations to the employment service operations of the LNCCI, and extended stakeholders while providing necessary support to the employers and displaced workers as long as skills needs, and employment is concerned.



## 2.11 Successful First Job Fair in Preah Sihanouk Province Provided Over 1,000 Job Vacancies

With support from ILO/China Partnership Programme, 752 job seekers from across Preah Sihanouk Province, Cambodia, have gathered to be exposed to over 1,000 job vacancies in a job fair and pre-employment training from experts and private sector practitioners. The fair, organized by the National Employment Agency (NEA) of Cambodia on 26 April 2023, aims to promote the employability and job opportunities for current and future of supply and demand in the labour market to all stakeholders, especially to employers and job seekers. It also provided both visual and virtual platform for employers, training providers, and job seekers to meet and discuss the current and near-future employment and skills development opportunities.

The one-day fair attracted more than 700 participants who could fill out application forms for jobs over 1,000 vacancies from 15 counters of well-known enterprises that have been set up for the fair. Employers from a wide range of industries were in attendance, including banking, microfinance, tourism and hospitality, healthcare, real estate, and construction. Representatives from each company were on hand to provide information about their open positions and to speak with potential candidates as 256 CV were received, and 104 participants have improved their knowledge on how to prepare for the world of work.



## 2.12 Job Fair in Phnom Penh Opens Doors to 4,500 Opportunities

In response to the growing demand for a skilled workforce in Cambodia's expanding economy, the National Employment Agency (NEA) of Cambodia and the ILO/China Partnership Programme joined forces to host a two-day job fair in Phnom Penh. This collaborative effort aimed to bridge the gap between job seekers and potential employers. With 3,230 eager job seekers in attendance, the event promised to be a significant milestone in connecting individuals with opportunities in various industries.

The job fair showcased more than 25 companies spanning sectors such as technology, finance, hospitality, healthcare, and manufacturing. These employers offered a diverse range of positions, from entry-level roles to senior management positions, totalling 4,500 vacancies. The fair attracted 2,845 applications, leading to 318 interviews and ultimately resulting in 236 successful job placements. This success highlights the event's effectiveness in addressing the employment needs of both job seekers and employers in Phnom Penh.

Beyond job placement, the two-day event included workshops, seminars, and career counselling sessions, engaging a total of 711 students and job seekers. This emphasis on capacity-building aligns with the broader objectives of NEA and the ILO/China Partnership Programme, reflecting their commitment to enhancing employability and creating a workforce capable of adapting to the evolving demands of the job market. As the job fair gains momentum, it not only serves as a beacon of hope for individuals seeking employment but also contributes to the development of a dynamic and prosperous job market in Cambodia. The event underscores the significance of public-private partnerships in addressing employment challenges and harnessing the potential of Cambodia's human capital.



## 2.13 National Career Fair 10 -11 November 2023

The ILO/China Partnership Programme supported the National Employment Agency (NEA) of Cambodia to organize National Career and Productivity Fair in a successful manner. This event was organized in Phnom Penh on 10 and 11 November 2023 which aimed to promote the employability and job opportunities for current and future of supply and demand in the labour market to all stakeholders, especially to employers and job seekers as well as to provide both visual and virtual platform for employers, training

providers, and job seekers to meet and discuss the current and near-future employment and skills development opportunities.

The two-day National Career and Productivity Fair attracted more than 34,821 participants who could fill out application forms for jobs over 21,531 vacancies from 150 counters of well-known enterprises that have been set up for the fairs. Some of the industries on display include banking, microfinance, insurance, retail and wholesale, tourism and hospitality, real estate, construction, telecommunications, and information technology. This career fair also attracted many visitors which 22,192 CVs were received, and 637 job seekers got the job on the event day.



#### **2.14 ILO/China Partnership Programme Paves the Way for Income Recovery of Trade Union Members in Cambodia**

The National Trade Union of Cambodia (NTUC) took proactive measures to enhance skill development, employment services, and advocate for youth rights at work by organizing a workshop in collaboration with the ILO/China Partnership Programme. The two-day event, held in Phnom Penh on September 4 and 5, 2023, engaged 60 participants, including 10 females, representing various NTUC members, secretariat members, ILO, and the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training. The workshop aimed to empower NTUC in addressing the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on skill development, employment opportunities, and advocating for the rights of youth workers. Renowned experts from the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training and ILO played a pivotal role in the workshop, delivering insightful presentations and facilitating interactive discussions. The participants gained valuable insights into key areas crucial for navigating the post-pandemic job market effectively. Following the workshop's conclusion, NTUC members are poised to share the knowledge and insights acquired during the sessions through various channels, including internal monthly meetings, social media platforms like Facebook, and other communication channels. The dissemination will cover essential topics such as skill development, Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), youth rights at work, and job opportunities.

In a forward-looking move, NTUC plans to establish a robust mechanism for collecting information from its members regarding their employment and skill development needs. This data-driven approach aims to provide NTUC with a comprehensive understanding of the specific challenges faced by its members, enabling them to tailor support services accordingly. This initiative signifies a significant stride toward ensuring that every NTUC

member has access to the resources necessary to thrive in the evolving job market shaped by the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. The workshop not only strengthens NTUC's capacity but also underscores the critical role of collaboration between trade unions and international organizations like the ILO in fostering a resilient and empowered labour force in Cambodia.



## **2.15 Develop Website to promote the employment in Lao People's Democratic Republic**

ILO/China Partnership Programme and Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MOLSW) of Lao People Democratic Republic jointly organized two consultation workshops to develop website for Department of Employment.

First workshop was organized on 7 September 2023. A total of 10 participants attended the workshop. Representatives came from Division of Domestic Employment, Division of Policy and Planning, Division of Labour Market Information, Division of Self Employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, DECOM Company and ILO/China Partnership Programme.

Second workshop was organized on 28 September 2023. A total of 10 participants attended the workshop. Representatives came from Division of Domestic Employment, Division of Policy and Planning, Division of Labour Market Information, Division of Self Employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and DECOM Company.

The objectives of developing this website included promoting employment service website ([www.doe.gov.la](http://www.doe.gov.la)) to publish law and regulations relevant to employment in a more responsive and user-friendly manner. It also aimed to develop a system for integrate Labour Market Information such as data from Labour Market databases, unemployment register, job post, labour working oversea, foreigner working in Laos, indicators on employment etc. Furthermore, the goals encompassed promoting activities of the employment service enterprises under control of Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and disseminate information to public for easy and up-to-date access to employment services in line with the changing situation.

The website was updated based on the feedback from participants. The user-friendly interface needs further revision. The main page needs to be rearranged and incorporate information from five division under the Department. The website needs to link to the LMI. The Department of Employment expects the website to be publicly accessible by

December 2023.

## **2.16 Transformation of Digital Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in construction sector in Cambodia**

Joint with other ILO projects in Cambodia, ILO/China Partnership Programme supported the National Polytechnic Institute of Cambodia (NPIC) to implement the project titled "Transformation of Digital Recognition of Prior Learning in the Construction Sector in Cambodia." The primary objective of this initiative was to enhance the efficacy of online and blended vocational education and training programs by incorporating innovative digital technologies. The target beneficiaries, comprising 500 students and workers, accessed the eRPL program directly to upgrade their skills.

NPIC has achieved on various key outputs. These included the digitalization of a qualified assessment package for eRPL, introducing the concept of green Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), establishing a robust digital platform for eRPL, capacity building for NPIC assessors and officials to implement eRPL, and conducting awareness workshops, surveys, and consultations with workers. The successful pilot implementation of eRPL with partnered companies led to the enrolment of 500 participants (25 Female), both men and women migrant workers, and vulnerable groups, who upgraded their skills in alignment with the Cambodian Qualifications Framework (CQF). The project involved redesigning and adapting various skills, such as masonry, formwork, plumbing, and welding, for the eRPL platform, awaiting finalization from the Department of Standard and Curriculum (DSC) for some Competency Assessment Packages (CAP). Overall, the successful implementation of this project signifies a significant step toward advancing digital education in the construction sector in Cambodia.

## **2.17 Development of eLearning Learning Facility and Introduction of eLearning at NPIA**

The ILO/China Partnership Programme collaborated with other ILO projects in Cambodia support the National Polytechnic Institute of Angkor (NPIA) on the development of eLearning facilities and the introduction of eLearning. The primary goals were to enhance the efficacy of online and blended vocational education and training programs at NPIA through innovative blended learning initiatives and to integrate the concept of green Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) into the existing provisions.

NPIA successfully developed and upgraded the curriculum of plumbing and masonry in construction sector, incorporating topics on Green Construction. This included the design of a 4-month certificate course specifically focusing on Green Construction, integrating both theoretical and practical sessions, and incorporating Recognition of Prior Learning (eRPL) for skills assessment and certification. The curriculum was then digitized to introduce a blended program. The project also involved the creation of a web-based application system to facilitate the upload of the curriculum and the delivery of online classes. Additionally, the project addressed the training needs by designing a TOT course and training NPIA staffs on the curriculum and online training methods.

The ongoing efforts to be completed by mid-2024 include the finalization of the digitized curriculum, the web-based application system, and the establishment of mechanisms for



curriculum review and progress monitoring, all contributing to the continuous enhancement of the NPIA's online and blended vocational education and training program for 500 students (200 students for eRPL and 300 students for Blended TVET program on Masonry and Plumbing). The project's impact is poised to create a more advanced and accessible learning environment, fostering a transformative shift in vocational education at NPIA.

## **2.18 National Skills Competition, Lao People's Democratic Republic**

ILO/China Partnership Programme, in close collaboration with Skills Development Institute, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare of Lao PDR jointly organized National Skills Competition in the sector of Electrical Installation on 8-10 May 2023.

A total of 80 participants (16 females) contested in this national skills event, representing Skills Development Institute, Lao-German Technical College, Vocational Education and Development Institute, Lao-Hanoi Technical Vocational College, Pakpasak Technical College, Manosin and Design Institute and Vientiane Skills Development Center.

The skills competition of Lao PDR covered five sectors, including Electrical Installation, Fashion Technology, Web Design, Graphic Design and Cooking. There were 10 outstanding contestants, who were selected to be representatives of Lao PDR to compete in 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Skills Competition in Singapore.



## **2.19 ICT curriculum development in Lao PDR**

ILO/China Partnership Programme, in close collaboration with Champasak Provincial Skills Development Center and Skills Development Institute, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare of Lao PDR jointly organized two consultation workshops on the development of ICT curriculum from Level 1- Level 4.

The first workshop was organized from 28-30 March 2023. A total of 23 trainers (7 females) attended the workshop, representing Skills Development Institute, Champasak Skills Development Center, Savannakhet Skills Development Center, Attapue Skills Development Center, ICT association of Lao PDR and ILO/China Partnership Project.

The second workshop was organized from 8-9 June 2023 at Pakse District, Champasak

Province, Lao PDR. A total of 22 officials and experts (8 females) attended the workshop, representing Skills Development Institute, MOLSW, Champasak Skills Development Center, Savannakhet Skills Development Center, Attapue Skills Development Center, ICT Companies.

The objective of this workshop was to refine curriculum on ICT level 1-Level 4 by using the Skills Standard Guideline of the MOLSW. Key topics were covered at this workshop, including: (i) the structure of Computer Maintenance; (ii) Operation System Level; (iii) Network System; and (iv) Graphics and Website Design & Video Editing.

Participants reviewed the ICT curriculum and together with all the modules, such as Microsoft Office competence for Level 1, Operating System for Level 2, Network System Competence for Level 3 and Design & Video Editing for Level 4 based on the guidelines and recommendation by Skills Development Institute, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. The ICT curriculum was endorsed for Champasak Provincial Skills Development Center.



## **2.20 Pilot Skills Training Programme on ICT in Lao PDR**

ILO/China Partnership Programme and Champasak Provincial Skill Development Center of Lao People's Democratic Republic organized a pilot Skills Training Programme on ICT from 9-23 June 2023.

A total of 30 students (19 females), including job seekers and returned migrants respectively participated the training courses on ICT. Champasak Provincial Skills Development Center of MOLSW piloted the training manual during the course.

As a public-private partnership initiative, these programmes invited ICT association to the Programmes for potential employment and apprenticeship opportunities for trainees. Champasak Skill Development Center also provided the certification for each trainee after they successfully completed their training course.



## **2.21 Strengthen the capacity of Skills Providers in Lao PDR to develop skills training curriculum for the ICT Sector**

ILO/China Partnership Programme, in close collaboration with Skills Development Institute, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare jointly organized the workshop to strengthen the capacity of skills providers to develop skills training curriculum on ICT from 28-29 November 2023.

A total of 24 participants (8 females) attended this programme. Representatives came from the Skills Development Institute, Information and Cultural Institute, Vientiane Skills Development Center, Lao Trade Development Institute, Vetsaphong Skills Development Center, BIS Institute, Vientiane-Hanoi Technical college, Vientiane Capital Skills Development Institute, Lao Telecom Company, and the ILO/China Partnership Programme.

Participants were divided into five groups to discuss and exchange knowledges about developing of software development, computer network maintenance, website development, database development and computer maintenance.

This workshop helped build the capacity of 22 skills providers, private sector, and institutions to develop skills training curricula for ICT sectors. The advanced knowledge that trainees learn from this workshop will help them identify the topic, objectives, tasks, learning hours, etc. Teachers will be better equipped to design models and training manuals with quality for skill centers.



## **2.22 Strengthen the capacity of Skills Providers in Lao PDR to develop skills training curriculum for the Automotive Sector**

ILO/China Partnership Programme, in close collaboration with Skills Development Institute, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare jointly organized the workshop to strengthen the capacity of skills providers to develop skills training curriculum on Automotive from 11-12 December 2023.

A total of 22 participants attended this programme. Representatives came from the Skills Development Institute, Vientiane Skills Development Center, Champasak Provincial Skills Development Center, Attapue Skills Development Center, Savannakhet Skills Development Center, Representative from vehicle association, and Vehicle Companies.

Participants were divided into four groups to discuss and exchange knowledges on General Maintenance Technician, Brake Technician, Suspension/Steering Technician, and Engine Performance Technician.

This workshop strengthened the capacity of 22 skills providers at central and provincial level, private sector, and institutions to develop skills training curricula for Automotive sectors. The advanced knowledge that skills providers gained from this workshop will help them identify the topic, objectives, learning hours, etc. Teachers will be better equipped to design training material and training manuals of quality for skill centers and will be able train their students more effectively in the future.



## **2.23 Training of Trainers Workshop for master trainers and skills assessors in Lao PDR**

ILO/China Partnership Programme, together with Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare of Lao PDR, organized a Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop for master trainers and skills assessors on 13-15 September 2023.

A total of 42 participants (7 females), included Skill Development Institute, Vientiane Capital Skill Development Center, Vetsaphong Skill Testing and Development Center, Bokeo Skill Development Center, Oudomxay Skill Development Center, Champasak Skill Development Center, Attapue Skill Development Center, Savannakhet Skill Development Center, LNCCI, LFTU and related divisions of MOLSW shared their knowledges and experiences in conducting skills assessment and certification.

The TOT focused on National Guideline of Skills Testing and Certification for Electric Installation, Construction and Welding. The TOT workshop also concluded plans to continue drafting skill testing manual in electric installation, Welding and bricklayer for skills testing in in Lao PDR.

After this workshop, committee team for three sectors prepared the manual, reviewed the questions for testing and arranged the locations for skills testing, which is scheduled to be organized in October 2023.

## **2.24 Re-starting Skills Assessment and Certification Practice in Lao PDR**

ILO/China Partnership Programme supported Skills Development Institute, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare of Lao People's Democratic Republic jointly organized a total of 3 skills Assessment and Certification Programmes for Electrician Installation, Bricklaying and Welding level 3 from 2-6 October 2023.

A total of 120 participants (15 females) from Skills Development Institute, Lao-German Technical College, Vientiane Skills Development Center, Construction Company, Electric Company and representative from ILO/China attended the testing workshop.

A total of 80 test takers (2 females) completed their skill assessment, including 56 applicants for electric installation at level 3, and 28 applicants for bricklaying at level 3, and 63 applicants for computer repairing at level 3.

The Director of Skills Development Institute recommended that test takers use their

certificates to apply for jobs, propose to the company to upgrade their positions and continue their studies.



## **2.25 South-South Cooperation Skills Development Network was promoted at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative Seminar on promotion of high-quality employment from 19-20 October 2023, Beijing, China**

ILO/China Partnership Programme, in close collaboration with Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare of Lao PDR and Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training of Cambodia preparing for promoting the SSTC at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative Seminar on promotion of high-quality employment form 19-20 October 2023 in Beijing, China.

The objective of the seminar was to review the cooperation in the field of labour governance among Chinese Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS), International Labour Organization (ILO) and ASEAN member states (AMS) over the ten years since the BRI was launched in 2013, recalling ILO/China Memorandum of Understanding under the framework of Belt and Road Initiative signed in 2019.

On the 19<sup>th</sup>, the representatives from Cambodia and Lao PDR, along with representatives from ILO/China Partnership Programme, participated in a panel discussion on the related topic of improving employment services to promote the recovery of labour market and expanding South-South Cooperation in skills development network to promote human resources development.

The special session highlighted the importance of the cooperation between SSCT and TVETs on TOT training to build capacity for institutes, Curriculum development and the exchange of knowledge. The programme also shared the plans to expand our South-South Network for Skills Development to promote human resources development.

## **2.26 Networking in Knowledge-sharing is Power: Member TVETs of South-South Cooperation Skills Development Network organize the bilateral Meeting.**

With the support from ILO/China SSTC Programme there were 12 bilateral workshops and exchange programmes during 2023.

- (1) Skills Development Institute of Lao PDR and Yunnan Technician College organized the exchange programme to share knowledge on skills competition training on cooking and electrical installation and discussed the cooperation plan for 2024 in Yunnan, China from 18-22 June 2023.
- (2) Vocational Education Development Institute of Lao PDR and Hangzhou Technician College of China organized two bilateral meetings to discuss and prepare for the training course for New Energy Vehicle. Both parties organized the opening training workshop on 13 March 2023 and the certificate award ceremony for trainees on 13 June 2023.
- (3) Champasak Provincial Skills Development Center of Lao PDR and Guangxi Industrial Technician College of China organized two bilateral workshops to discuss the training programme on Website Design Technology. The opening training workshop was organized on 10 July 2023 and the certificate award ceremony was organized on 19 July 2023.
- (4) Champasak Provincial Skills Development Center of Lao PDR and Guangxi Industrial Technician College of China organized two bilateral workshops to discuss the training programme on Automotive maintenance. The opening training workshop was organized on 18 September 2023 and the certificate award ceremony was organized on 23 September 2023.
- (5) Vetsaphong Skill Development and Testing Center of Lao PDR and Baoshan Technician College of China organized a knowledge exchange eventing Yunnan, China from 4-8 September 2023 and signed the second MOU on 5 September 2023 extending the partnership for five years and agreed to launch training programmes on cuisine and hospitality at the center.
- (6) Lao-German Technical College of Lao PDR and Yunnan Advanced Technical School of Electronic Information of China organized three bilateral workshops to discuss the training programme on Electronic Information. The first consultation workshop to prepare for the training was organized on 11 October 2023. The second opening training workshop was organized on 13 November 2023 and the Certificate Award Ceremony was organized on 18 November 2023.
- (7) Lao Women Union Training Center and Dongguan Technician College organized a bilateral workshop to discuss how to carry out the next step of cooperation for 2024 in vocational training under the South-South Cooperation Network for Skills Development on 19 December 2023.

## **2.27 SSC Skills Development Network gets much Strengthened: TOT Programmes by South-South Cooperation Skills Development Network**

ILO/China Partnership Programme facilitated the SSC Skills Development Network in organizing 11 TOT Programmes to build capacity of TVETs in Cambodia and Lao PDR:

### **(1) TOT on Mechatronics by National Polytechnic Institute of Angkor and Hainan Technician College**

In a remarkable collaboration aimed at fostering technological advancement and empowering the next generation of innovators, the ILO/China Partnership Programme

and the esteemed Hainan Technician College joined forces to provide comprehensive Mechatronics training to 22 teachers and students, including 5 female participants, from the National Polytechnic Institute of Angkor.

Held online over five intensive weeks from June to July 2023, this ground-breaking initiative sought to equip participants with a solid foundation in Mechatronics, covering crucial areas such as pneumatic systems, electropneumatic technology, sensor integration, drive systems, and Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) technology.

Throughout the five-week program, participants embarked on a journey of exploration and hands-on learning, guided by renowned industry experts and experienced instructors from World Skills expert. By equipping teachers and students with a comprehensive understanding of Mechatronics principles, this training initiative has unlocked exciting opportunities for the participants to lead Cambodia's technological revolution.

The ILO/China Partnership Programme and members of South-South Cooperation Skills Development Network will continue to redefine the possibilities of technical education, empowering individuals to thrive in an increasingly interconnected and automated world.



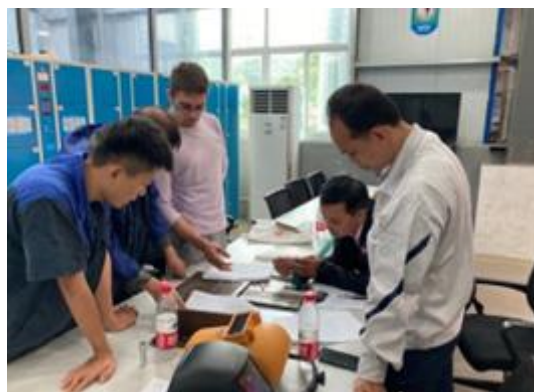
## (2) Cambodian Skills Competition Experts Successfully Complete Capacity Building Program at Hainan Technician College

As a significant step toward strengthening skills development and promoting collaboration, six Cambodian skills experts have successfully completed a capacity-building program in the field of web design, graphic design, and welding at Hainan Technician College in Hainan, China, which is a member of South-South Cooperation Skills Development Network.

The program, which included intensive training and knowledge exchange, served as a testament to the commitment of Cambodia and China to advance their skills development agendas and foster international cooperation, under ILO/China Partnership Programme support and coordination. The intensive program featured workshops, and hands-on training sessions designed to enhance the experts' knowledge, skills, and teaching techniques. The main objective of the programme was to providing insights to Cambodia Skills Competition Experts into the latest teaching methodologies and curriculum development strategies, with a focus on international skills competitions.



This initiative, aligned with the Belt and Road Initiative, promoted South-South Cooperation in skills development, strengthening the collaboration between Cambodia and China in vocational education. The Cambodian experts are now better equipped to contribute to the development of Cambodia's skills development ecosystem, aligning with the nation's vision for a highly skilled workforce that can excel in both domestic and global job markets.



### **(3) Cambodian Skills Competition Experts train in Guangzhou**

Under the support of ILO-China Partnership Programme, six skilled trainers from Cambodia have successfully completed an intensive one-week capacity building training program at Guangzhou Industry and Trade Technician College in China. The training, which focused on IT Solution for Business, Mobile Robotic, and CAD Mechanical Design, took place from December 10 to 18, 2023, marking a significant step forward in enhancing Cambodia's technical education landscape.

The training program, hosted by Guangzhou Industry and Trade Technician College, a renowned institution in technical education, aimed to equip Cambodian trainers from Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training and National Polytechnic Institute of Cambodia with cutting-edge knowledge and skills in Information Technology, Robotics, and Computer-Aided Design. This initiative, under South-South Cooperation Network for Skills Development, aligns with the broader goals of fostering international collaborations and enhancing technical expertise to meet the demands of the evolving global workforce.

Throughout the week-long training, the Cambodian trainers delved into advanced concepts and practical applications in IT Solution for Business, Mobile Robotic technology, and CAD Mechanical Design. The curriculum, designed by experts at Guangzhou Industry and Trade Technician College, provided a comprehensive understanding of the latest industry trends and best practices.

The successful completion of this capacity building program not only signifies the professional growth of the Cambodian trainers but also strengthens the collaboration between technical education institutions in Cambodia and China. Such initiatives contribute to the broader efforts in building a skilled and competitive workforce, which is essential for the sustainable development of both nations in fostering international partnerships and elevating the quality of technical education.



#### **(4) National Polytechnic Institute of Angkor Delegation Embarks on Collaborative Visit to Hainan Technician College of China**

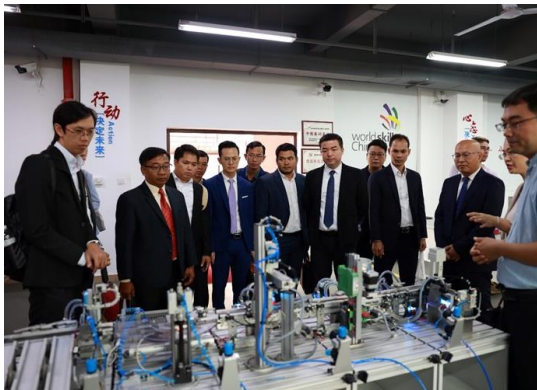
With the coordination and support from ILO/China Partnership Programme, the National Polytechnic Institute of Angkor (NPIA) was delighted to make a fruitful visit to Hainan Technician College in China, marking the beginning of a promising vocational training partnership between the two institutions.

The delegation from NPIA, led by Mr. Rath Rattanak, Deputy Director, engaged in insightful discussions and exploration of mutual collaboration opportunities with Mr. Li Huicheng, president of Hainan Technical College, and Ms. Keovanlay Phanthavong, OIC Programme Manager of ILO/China Partnership Programme. The visit, which took place from 22 to 25 October 2023, witnessed extensive meetings and exchanges between NPIA and Hainan Technician College. The core agenda centered around establishing partnerships, sharing best practices, and strengthening the vocational training and management capabilities of both institutions.

During the visit, the NPIA delegates were scheduled to participate in a range of collaborative activities, including discussions, campus tours, and study visit to leading enterprises in China such as China Unicom Mobile Phone and an electrical supply factory. The focus areas of these interactions encompassed curriculum development, skills competition, and pedagogical strategies, all of which are instrumental in enhancing the quality of technical education.

One of the key highlights of the visit was the exploration of mutual areas of interest and cooperation in the field of technical education. The NPIA delegation and Hainan Technician College were set to engage in productive discussions on curriculum development, teacher training, and the sharing of best practices.

This visit symbolized a new chapter in the partnership between the NPIA and Hainan Technician College, offering opportunities for knowledge transfer, fostering innovation in technical education, and reinforcing the importance of global collaboration in advancing vocational training standards.



### **(5) Enhancing Cambodia-China Skills Development Cooperation Under the South-South Cooperation Skills Development Network**

In close cooperation with ILO-China Partnership Programme, Guangzhou Industry and Trade Technician College (GZITTC) hosted a three-day South-South Cooperation Skills Development network exchange and cooperation event for Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training and the National Polytechnic Institute of Cambodia (NPIC) from 10 to 13 December 2023. Facilitated under this South-South Cooperation initiative, the event aimed to foster skills development exchanges, strengthen the bond between the two nations, and contribute to the shared development goals.

The visit included a tour of the college's achievements, the World Skills Competition training bases, and practical training venues. Industry-education integration centers and collaborative efforts between enterprises and educational institutions were also examined. The exchange included special lectures from experts in skills development, such as Zhang Lifang, Dean of the Guangzhou Vocational and Technical Education Research Institute, and Mr. Enn Vuthy, Deputy Director of the Standards and Curriculum Department of the Cambodian Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training. These lectures aimed to align talent training models with international standards. The college extended the exchange to industry visits, including Guangzhou High Genius Dynamics Co., Ltd., demonstrating its commitment to the "school-enterprise dual system" education model in AI and Mobile Robot.

GZITTC expressed its commitment to strengthen cooperation with the ILO and the Cambodian Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training and NPIC. The aim is to contribute industry and trade expertise to the South-South cooperation skills development network under south-south cooperation framework and foster a China-Cambodia community with a shared future in the new era. The collaboration sets the stage for future initiatives and further deepening bilateral ties in skills development.



**(6) TOT Online Website Design Technology Programme by Champasak Provincial Skills Development Center of Lao PDR and Guangxi Industrial Technician College of China.**

ILO/China Partnership Programme, in close collaboration with Champasak Provincial Skills Development Center of Lao PDR and Guangxi Industrial Technician College of China jointly organized the TOT Programme on Website Design Technology on 10-18 July 2023.

A total of 20 participants attended this programme. Representatives came from Champasak Provincial Skills Development Center of Lao PDR, Guangxi Industrial Technician College of China, Attapeu Skills Development Center and ILO/China Partnership Programme.

The TOT Online Website Design Technology course lasted for more than a week, 10-18 July 2023, covering a wide range of topics such as, structure of HTML, basics of CSS style, CSS selectors, programming of navigation bar, HTML5+CSS3 Layout and Production of enterprise websites etc.

The TOT helped build capacity of 11 trainers from Champasak Provincial Skills Development Center and Attapeu Provincial Skills Development Center for advanced knowledge about Website Design Technology. Trainers were expected to apply their learned skills to train their students who are currently studying ICT course in the center.

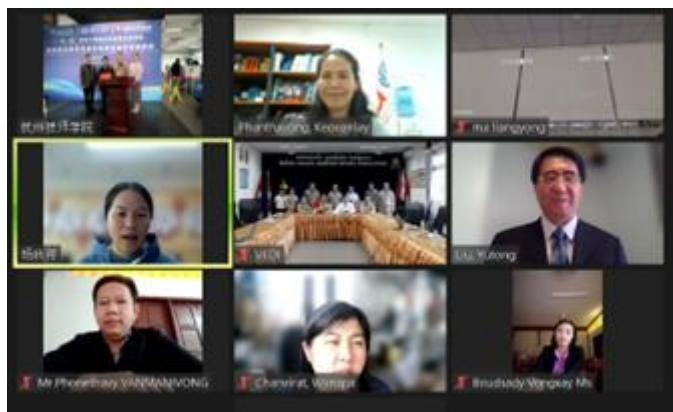


### **(7) TOT Online New Energy Vehicle Programme by Vocational Education Development Institute of Lao PDR and Hangzhou Technician College of China**

The Programme collaborated with Vocational Education Development Institute, Ministry of Education and Sports of Lao PDR and Hangzhou Technician College of China jointly organized TOT Online New Energy Vehicle from 13 March-13 June 2023.

The TOT Programme covered a wide range of topics, including cognition and tool use of electricity, Electronics foundation and control, Common electrical components and working principle, Common electronic control methods and so on.

A total of 10 participants/trainers from Vocational Education Development Institute of Lao PDR completed this New Energy Vehicle Programme with dedication and success. After completing the training, participants/trainers plan to share their knowledge and skills with their students at Vocational Education Development Institute.



### **(8) TOT On Automotive Maintenance by Champasak Provincial Skills Development Center of Lao PDR and Guangxi Industrial Technician College of China.**

ILO/China Partnership Programme, in close collaboration with Guangxi Industrial Technician College of China and Champasak Provincial Skills Development Center of Lao PDR jointly organized the TOT Programme on Automotive Maintenance from 18 -22 October 2023.

A total of 20 representatives came from Champasak Provincial Skills Development Center of Lao PDR, Guangxi Industrial Technician College of China and ILO/China Partnership Programme.

The TOT Automotive Maintenance course started from 18-22 October 2023, covering a wide range of topics such as, inspection and maintenance of battery, lubrication system inspection and maintenance, cooling system inspection and maintenance, tire removal and wheel dynamic balancing etc.

The TOT helped build capacity of teachers from Champasak Provincial Skills Development Center for advanced knowledge about Automotive Maintenance. Teachers were expected to apply their learned skills to train their students who are currently

studying Automotive maintenance course in the center.

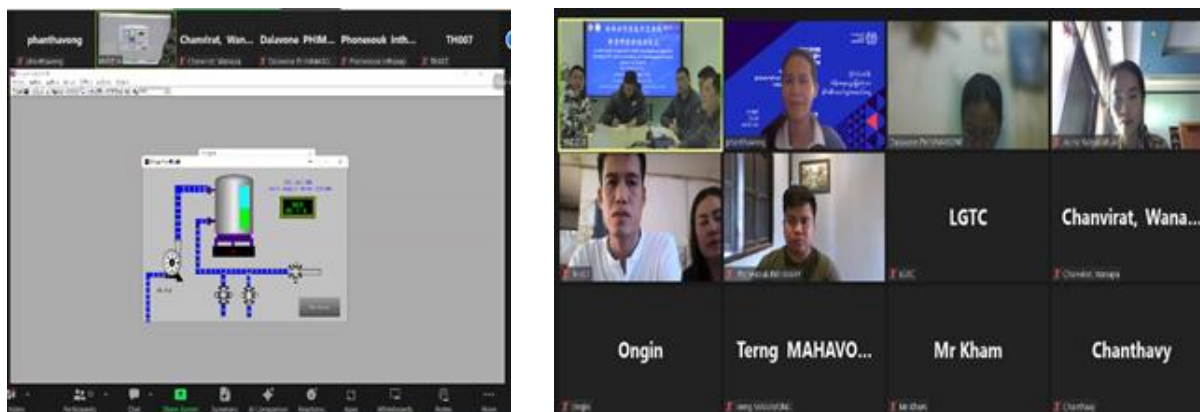


**(9) TOT on Digital Video Technology Training Programme by Vetsaphong Skill Development and Testing Center of Lao PDR and Baoshan Technician College of China**

ILO/China Partnership Programme supported Vetsaphong Skill Development and Testing Center and Baoshan Technician College, in organizing TOT Digital Video Technology course from 1 January 2023 to 7 November 2023. A total of 17 participants from Vetsaphong Skill Development and Testing Center completed this Digital Video Technology Programme with dedication and success.

**(10) TOT Online Electrical Engineer Programme by Yunnan Advanced Technical School of Electronic Information of China and Lao-German Technical of Lao PDR**

ILO/China Partnership Programme, in close collaboration with Yunnan Advanced Technical School of Electronic Information of China and Lao-German Technical College, organized a TOT Online Electrical Engineer Programme from 13-18 November 2023. A total of 12 representatives came from Lao-German Technical College of Lao PDR and Yunnan Advanced Technical School of Electronic Information of China and ILO/China Partnership Programme. The TOT Electrical Engineer course covered a wide range of topics such as, Introduction of PLC, S7-200 Smart programming software installation, S7-200 Smart Basic Programming, Timer and Counter Usage, S7-200 Smart Transformation Star Delta Step-down Start Relay Control Circuit, Simple Application of Connection Monitoring between MCGS and S7-200 Smart PLC, MCGS Simple Script Programming and S-200 Smart Comprehensive Application. There were five teachers completed the training and received certificate. Teachers would continue train students and teachers in Lao-German Technical College in the following month.



### **(11) TOT on Installation and Maintenance of Refrigeration and Air-conditioning system and Chinese Cooking by Guangxi Industrial Technician College of China and Champasak Provincial Skills Development Center of Lao PDR**

The ILO-China Partnership Programme, in close collaboration with the Guangxi Industrial Technician College of China and the Champasak Provincial Skills Development Center of Lao PDR, jointly organized the training of trainer's programme on the Installation and Maintenance of Refrigeration and Air-conditioning System and Chinese Cooking during 23-28 December 2023.

A total of 25 participants attended this programme. Representatives came from the Champasak Provincial Skills Development Center of Lao PDR, the Guangxi Industrial Technician College of China, and the ILO-China Partnership Programme.

From theoretical knowledge to practical operation, the week-long installation and maintenance course provided trainees with comprehensive training based on seven subjects, including theoretical basis of refrigeration technology, operation of well-cooled air conditioning, installation of split-type air conditioning, relocation of split-air conditioning, maintenance of air conditioning power supply and execution parts, replacement of air conditioning universal board, and operation of small central air conditioning.

The training for the cooking course also covered intensive instructions in Chinese common dishes and traditional famous snacks production, such as Jewelry soup, sweet and sour chrysanthemum fish, tea scented shrimp, steamed tilapia with peacock shaped design, arhat dongpo braised meat, sweet and sour pork with pineapple, crispy quail with pepper salt, steamed pork wrapped in lotus leaf, Jinfu dumpling, mugwort rice cakes, elephant shaped hedgehog buns, elephant shaped walnut buns, etc.

The training has enhanced the capabilities of six teachers from the Champasak Provincial Skills Development Center with advanced knowledge about the installation and maintenance of refrigeration and air-conditioning systems as well as Chinese cooking. These teachers are expected to apply their acquired skills to effectively instruct and guide their students who are studying at the center.



## 2.28 Progress summary

The ILO/China Partnership Programme supported tripartism constitute to organize more than 47 workshops. These included a dozen of TOT programmes on the subjects of website designing, cloud computing, mechatronics, carpentry, elevator maintenance, digital movie production, Chinese cuisine and cooking, air-conditioner maintenance, computer repairing, welding, New Energy Vehicle, and mobile robot etc. The SSC Skills Development Network has become fully fledged with a total of 9 MOUs signed between 18 member TVETs of the Network/Alliance. Peer-to-Peer cooperation relations were thus formed. As a result, more than 10 workshops of these bilateral partners were organized on the topics of TVET management, quality assurance of TVET institutions, digitalization of TVETs, digital skills training, poverty alleviation through TVETs etc. The Network had also its first annual meeting in Vangviane of Lao PDR to review its fruitful cooperation. This annual meeting mechanism will continue in the whole cycle of ILO/China SSTC Programme.

The ILO/China Programme supported SSC Network for Skills Development from Cambodia and Lao PDR to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative Seminar from 19-20 October 2023 in Beijing, China. Participants engaged in discussion on Improving employment services to promote the recovery of labour market and expanding South-South cooperation in skills development network to promote human resources development.

The ILO/China Partnership Programme was well on track in 2023 for its policy advice and institutional capacity to project stakeholders. The Skills Development Law of Lao PDR and the TVET Law of Cambodia are reasonably expected to be submitted to their legislature for approval. The SSC Skills Development Network has become a brand which will expect further extension in the Asia and the Pacific Region.