

Press Release

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ETLog Health EnviroTech & Logistics GmbH processes waste-management project in Lao

by Andrea Schuster

Berlin/Vientiane. ETLog Health EnviroTech & Logistics GmbH is part of the project team engaged in Health Care Waste Management in Lao since July 2008 until November 2008. The client of ETLog Health EnviroTech & Logistics GmbH is the Danish company Grontmij | CarlBro. The project was initiated by the Government of Lao PDR and is funded by the World Bank, other donors and technical agencies.

Some 33 per cent of its 5.7 million inhabitants of Lao live below the poverty line. The main causes of poverty remain the deficiencies in many mountain regions, poor roads and a poor education and health system and inefficiencies in the administration [source: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development].

Although the last reported outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Lao PDR was in March 2004, there is speculation that other outbreaks have occurred, and it is thought that there may also have been human cases which were not reported or investigated [Source: World Bank].

The Government of Lao PDR has developed a national plan on HPAI infection control and preparedness. The Avian and Human Influenza Control and Preparedness Project – which is funded by the World Bank, other donors and technical agencies – will support implementation of this plan. This project address the healthcare waste (HCW) management issues under Component 3: Human Health-Curative Services”, which is implemented by the Department of Curative Services of the Ministry of Health.

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen management of HCW at seven hospitals designated to receive HPAI-infected patients. The specific objectives are to develop HCW management plans for the seven hospitals and train the hospital personnel to implement these plans, and to treat sewage from isolation rooms (receiving HPAI-infected or potentially HPAI-infected patients) at these hospitals.

ETLog Health's EnviroTech & Logistics GmbH main tasks are:

- Compare the cost of upgrading the existing incinerator with the cost of investment cost for a new incineration system of equivalent capacity;
- Visit the incinerator site at the Setthathirath Hospital (in Vientiane) to assess the design and operating characteristics of this incinerator;
- Prepare technical specifications for the recommended HCW treatment/destruction equipment at each visited hospital;
- Evaluate alternative technologies for the treatment, destruction, or disposal of selected HCW categories for the seven hospitals (e.g. for the infectious wastes and for sharps);

- For each of the seven hospitals, in collaboration with the Setthathirath Hospital's training group, ETLog Health EnviroTech & Logistics GmbH prepare a detailed HCW management training program for the target groups in each of the seven hospitals ("training of trainers – seminar" and the three workshops);
- Deliver the training program to the different target groups;
- Deliver a training of trainers seminar in Vientiane for dedicated executives and central hospital staff;

ETLog Health EnviroTech & Logistics GmbH is a specialist provider in the healthcare system. The Berlin-based firm acts worldwide as an advisor to clinics, institutions and ministries regarding the disposal of hospital waste, waste management technology, waste water and aids prevention.

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