



IMPACT STORY

IVET TEACHER

“I love working on the project because it develops my English language skills. It motivates me to grow in order to contribute more and ensure the success of both the project and our school.”

- Singkham Santivong



Image: Singkham Santivong Credit: Swisscontact

Mr. Singkham Santivong is in charge of administration and organisation at the Integrated Vocational Education Training (IVET) School at Oudomxay Province. The school has collaborated with several organizations and businesses in the province and has always worked closely with the provincial Chamber of Commerce—particularly for the development of a database for businesses that collaborate with the school for internships and graduate employment.

“It is challenging to mobilize the businesses, but it is very rewarding once you get them on board. Developing and keeping a good working relationship with them is very important. It helps us to match trainees and businesses to find internship places and maybe even job opportunities. It’s important that the trainees can apply what they learned at the school and get work experience,” he explained.

The IVET School collaborates with Swisscontact’s Vocational Training and Employment Support Services (VTESS) project for which Santivong is assigned as the school’s Project Coordinator.

Santivong explained that working with any project presents numerous challenges, particularly during the pilot stage where things develop.

As I work for the school’s administration and organization, I must also be available for the project’s activities besides my other tasks. The job is sometimes demanding, but I am a person who enjoys challenges and is eager to learn new things.”

Santivong also shared that he loves working with the project as it gives him the chance to furtherly develop his English language skills. ***“It motivates me to grow in order to contribute more and ensure the success of both the project and our school,”*** he said cheerfully.



Image: Santivong presenting during a workshop. Credit: Swisscontact

COVID-19 had quite an impact on project and general school activities causing delays because the school had to follow the prevention measures established by the Provincial COVID Task Force.

Because of the long breaks, Santivong and his colleagues also adapted their teaching and other activities to be completed online as much as possible.

"It was extremely difficult, but we managed to keep going. We are now attempting to recover – in particular motivating students to return and participate in training. We are hoping for the best," he said.

Image: Singkham with coaches during the workshop Credit: Swisscontact



Inception phase: August 2019 - March 2020

Project duration: (4 years) August 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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