

Business

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VIS celebrates over 25 years of learning and teaching in Vientiane

Advertorial Desk

Vientiane International School (VIS) will continue to build on the quality of its education by providing world-class facilities in response to stronger competition in the education business in Laos, according to the Director of VIS.

Over 25 years ago, VIS was the Vientiane Learning Centre before its rise in status to Vientiane International School following the efforts of a volunteer group of expatriate families who wanted to form a school for their children, a teacher said.

They then found additional classroom space at the Swedish Guest House, home of the Swedish School.

School Director Ms Jane McGee granted an interview to Vientiane Times on Saturday to explain the school's development and the success it enjoys today, as part of an event to celebrate the school's 26th anniversary.

She said a large number of Lao families send their children to the school, with about 20 percent of students coming from the local community. They participate in the school's international programme and will then choose either to stay in Laos or go overseas depending on what their families want them to do.

This year the school has adopted a new mission statement – “to challenge, to inspire and empower our students”. What is really appreciated is all the support the school gets from the various communities here in Laos, Ms McGee said.

The school provides an international education through the International Baccalaureate programme so that students have the qualifications they need to attend universities around the world, she added.



School administrators.

“Students also play music and engage in the performing arts, visual arts, and physical education as well,” she said.

School Board Chair, Ms Sandra Seastedt, said “We teach Lao language among many other subjects. This school is very social, everybody is very friendly and it's a community-based school. We welcome diversity and offer many opportunities to students to be able to go to universities all around the world.”

A parent from Austria, Ms Holmes, said she was very lucky to be in Laos and to be able to send her children to such a good school with a nice programme, great diversity, and very dedicated staff.

“My older son will graduate next year and my younger son is also studying at VIS. They are very happy to be prepared for any university they choose to go to later on and will have the doors all opened after this school,” she added.

The school originally opened in 1991 as the “Vientiane Learning Centre” in a building near Vat Simeuang.

By 1995, the school moved to Ban Sapanthong Tai which is now the campus of Kiettisack High School. VIS is the only accredited school in the Lao PDR and one of only a small selection of international schools in Asia accredited by both CIS and WASC.

The school first received dual accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the Council of International Schools (CIS) in 2001 with reaccreditation granted in 2011 for a further 10 years.

In 2004, VIS added Grades 11 & 12 to complete the High School programme offered to families and in 2005 the first two students graduated with a VIS High School Diploma.

In 2006, VIS broke ground at the site of the new campus on Phonesavanh Road, with the modern facilities being completed in 2008.

In the same year, the International Baccalaureate Organisation granted accreditation to VIS to deliver their world renowned Diploma Programme.

2012 saw the opening of a new secondary wing complete with specialised

teaching areas for performing arts, design and visual arts and in 2013 added a 25-metre, 8-lane pool and fitness centre.



Records of the school's achievements over the past 25 years.



Visitors to VIS's 25-year celebration read about the school's development.



A performance by VIS secondary students.



VIS administration board and teachers.

Exchange Rate		
as of January 29, 2018		
Foreign Currencies	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	8,262	8,299
Vietnamese Dong	0.3660	0.3733
Thai Baht	263.88	265.86
Euro	10,267	10,319
Renminbi Yuan	1,247	1,271

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