



A group photograph taken at the Lao-Singapore Training Centre during the closing ceremony of the ICT skills for the public sector course.

Singapore offers training on private enterprise and ICT

Times Reporters

The Singaporean Ministry of Foreign Affairs recently funded two training courses on private sector growth and the use of ICT in the public sector for Lao government officials in Vientiane.

Two training courses including the Private Sector Growth and Attracting Foreign Direct Investments and the ICT Skills for the Public Sector courses were held at the Lao-Singapore Training Centre at the end of last month.

Speaking at the training courses were Mr Benny Gan of Globolab Pte Ltd, who had prior experience working on the Singapore-Vietnam Industrial Park and Mr Ashok Kumar Seetharaman of the Singapore E-Government Leadership Centre.

The courses sought to provide an overview of factors that contributed

to the growth of the private sector and inflow of Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs), focusing in particular on the role of the economic agencies, policy making and bilateral and free trade agreements.

The same ICT Skills for the Public Sector course focused on how the public sector could leverage the use of ICT to boost the performance of public service functions and reduce operational costs, using Singapore's experiences as a case study.

Singapore Ambassador Dominic Goh congratulated the participants at the ICT course's closing ceremony, noting that e-Government and IT solutions are becoming increasingly important in the delivery of government services and urged those attendees to see how they could implement such solutions at their respective workplaces.

He reiterated that Singapore remains committed to helping the Lao PDR's development by providing targeted training in key areas, especially in the run up to Lao PDR's Chairmanship of Asean in 2016.

The courses were conducted pursuant to the Initiative for Asean Integration (IAI). Under the IAI, Singapore conducts 25 to 30 courses a year at the Lao-Singapore Training Centre, focusing on areas of public governance, finance, urban management, hospitality and tourism, civil aviation, as well as IT skills and the English Language.

About 600 Lao officials are trained each year and more than 10,000 Lao government officials have benefited from the Ministry's various training programmes under the Singapore Cooperation Programme since 1993.