

## **Microfinance staff boost management skills**

About 20 microfinance staff from the Bank of the Laos PDR and its provincial branches are gathering at the Lao Women's Union in Vientiane this week to improve their skills in managing financial institutions. According to the bank the number of financial institutions is increasing. Its Financial Institution Supervision Department therefore has to ensure that its own staff understand the principle of on-site examinations to solve various issues and questions that arise.

Most of the participants are from Vientiane and Oudomxay, Luang Prabang, Savannakhet and Champassack provinces. After the five day training course from December 13-17 participants will understand more about licensing, planning, examination procedures, report writing, exit meetings and on-site examination exercises.

The knowledge will instill a confident approach to the management of institutions among department staff, said department Acting Director Dr. Akhom Praseuth said. He said each financial institution may have issues that the department staff should expect to solve for the sustainability of that institution.

If the department and different institutions don't take responsibility for an issue the problem may become more difficult for management in the future. Since 2008, the number of financial institutions has increased, so supervision must increase.

"The financial institution Supervision Department must take responsibility for the sector this year," he said. The training was supported by microfinance Rural Areas-Access to Finance for the poor project and GTZ, and was organized by the Specialists in Economic Business ICT EBIT Consultancy.