

Dear Dr. Umaly,

MOST URGENT

Here please find the report of the on-going arrangements for Laos visit. It hasn't gone far yet as Dr. Pongchan kept changing things. PLEASE be patient I will try to summarize. Hope you will not be confused.

1. You had mentioned the appropriate duration of the visit should be during Dec. 13-15 if Dr. Tassanee agreed.
2. Later Dr. Pongchan decided to change to Dec 14-16 as he was afraid to finish the Thai Tech very late on the night of 12 th. The flight to Laos leaves Bangkok at 8 something in the morning which is too early for him.
3. I then informed NUOL of those dates. So far we have not heard a reply from them.
4. Meanwhile I submitted a memo requesting an official approval from University to send the three delegates (Drs. Pongchan, Tassanee and yourself) to Laos.
5. Friday late afternoon Dr. Pongchan called me and mentioned that there should be another faculty from the Inst. of Agri. Tech. To join the delegation. He said he would talk to Dr. Terd or somebody from BioTech.
6. Today is Monday..He was in Bangkok and might talk to the Rector about another delegate from Agri.
- * * 7. However it seems to be very likely that they will change the duration of the visit again- back to Dec 13-15 because Drs. Pongchan & Tassanee will have to be in a very important academic seminar on Dec 16. They are now thinking to travel by car from Korat while you

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fly from Bangkok and the group will meet in Vientianne. This sounds a good option but a lot of arrangements need to be made such as the driver's passport which needs a lot of days and an official approval from the Ministry of Lao Transportation which may take more than 2 days...based on info from the Lao Embassy.

8. I am thinking that it may be possible for NUOL to arrange a transportation to pick them up at somewhere which needs to be discussed with NUOL. I am sending a fax to Mr. Sengsomphone asking if they can provide the transportation for four SUT delegates on our own expenses. I do not expect a prompt answer from him. It may take at least 1-2 days. By then I may hear from Dr. Pongchan if there will be somebody from Agri. to join the group. I just hope s/he has an official passport. (If all of them have passports, it will be easier because they do not need visa application). For your visa application, PLEASE do not worry Tukta has been aware of this. She has just been waiting for the official approval.

I will keep you informed of the progress of the arrangements.

Best regards,

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