

VIP ISSUE

Pha Tad Ke Botanical Garden

Newsletter Nr. 10 - July 2013

PHA TAD KE

THE CLIFF TO UNTIE AND RESOLVE

This is our special 10th edition Newsletter to take you behind the scenes where the Pha Tad Ke staff with their hard work, day after day in the sun and the rain make it all possible.

Rik Gadella, General Director

Content

- 3 Introduction *by Rik Gadella*
- 4 Friends of Pha Tad Ke *by Phetsamone Manolo*
- 5-18 Staff of Pha Tad Ke *by Suzy Young*
- 19-21 Consultants of Pha Tad Ke
- 22-25 New Publications of Pha Tad Ke
- 26-35 Pha Tad Ke @ Project Space • Luang Prabang

***With a big thank you for Suzy Young
and her continuous enthusiastic support !***

*The Pha Tad Ke Newsletter is distributed 3 times a year via e-mail.
Big thanks to our volunteer collaborators, and if anyone is interested to
writing articles or help us with occasional translations please let us know.
© Pha Tad Ke & the authors, 2013. Subscription at www.pha-tad-ke.com*



INTRODUCTION

In 2008 when I first visited Laos I fell in love with Luang Prabang, its nature and its people and after having worked for over 20 years in the artworld decided to dedicate myself to this new project - the creation of a Botanical Garden just outside Luang Prabang - Pha Tad Ke.

For the last 4 years we have worked on the masterplan, the opening of the land, the constitution of a Laos team of gardeners and botanists and developing contacts with botanical institutions around the world and our local partners.

Pha Tad Ke Botanical Garden is currently under construction in Luang Prabang and it will open to the public in 2016. It is the only Botanical Garden in Laos, with extensive connections to international institutions as well as a member of BGCI and the SE Asian Botanic Gardens Network. We have good relationships with national and local government as well as local NGOs.

Pha Tad Ke is a non-profit organization supported by the Friends of Pha Tad Ke Associations in France, the Netherlands and Laos as well as the Luang Prabang Fund for Culture and Conservation, an American non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

When the garden opens to the public in 2016 it will benefit from international tourist visitors to generate income to sustain itself and organize educational actions and research to help the local population to raise their ecological awareness, put in place the necessary measures to preserve the bio-diversity of Laos and develop sustainable tools of agro-economic development.

The coming months are exciting because we hope to finally secure the needed funds to advance with our important second phase construction works for an opening in 3 years !

FRIENDS ASSOCIATIONS In January 2010 the Friends of Pha Tad Ke Association was created in France followed in July 2011 by a new chapter in the Netherlands and September 2011 in Laos. Each of these non-profit associations helps the creation of the Pha Tad Ke Botanical Garden with scientific support, fund raising efforts and educational projects. In addition the Luang Prabang Fund for Culture and Conservation that was created in 2011 in the USA accepts donations that are tax-deductible for the benefit of Pha Tad Ke Botanical Garden or other cultural and conservation projects in the Lao PDR.

Helping the Friends of Pha Tad Ke will allow you to follow the day-to-day evolution of the garden, look behind the scenes of its operations and participate in our adventure !

Information:

www.friends-pha-tad-ke.com



Somdy Oudomsack (30) is Head Gardener and has been at PTK since the very beginning 5 years ago, he comes naturally to the job as he is from the market garden area of nearby Xieng Ngeun. With a diploma in agriculture, he says he loves plants and enjoys the teamwork at PTK. *“It is good to have your own job to do but I enjoy the way we can share ideas and learn from each other.”* Now that he has learned so much from his education and from his experience he wants to study more, learn more. He is looking forward to the day when the garden will open to the public and he can share with the visitors all the hard work of these years.



Prasith Seng Amphone (27), Garden Manager, has been at Pha Tad Ke for more than 3 years. He's from a tiny riverside town of Tai Lue people, called Naxane, in Oudomxai Province, where his father was the village chief and his brother the schoolteacher. He's been a monk and a waiter and thought he would go on to be a teacher, but now he has found his niche here at PTK, managing the staff. He uses his excellent language skills to serve as liaison between staff and Rik. Sith says that he knew nothing about ecology when he first came here.

"I would cut down a tree without a second thought, but now I understand that we need to preserve and protect the natural world. So this is more than a job, it's important work for me. And not just for me, but for my country and for the world." Asked about whether he saw this experience as valuable for his future, he said simply, *"This is it. This is my life."*





Insavai Sitthivohane (26), Office Manager is from the western province of Sayaboury studied at Souphanouvong University and has been at PTK for 3 years. He enjoys working in the breezy, outdoor office under a canopy of huge trees at the centre of the garden. Outgoing and welcoming, with good language skills, he is a capable spokesman for the garden. His father was a market gardener, but understood his desire for knowledge and gave him the choice of working on the family farm or studying plant science. He says he loves the natural environment and he knew from the beginning that he would also love working here. He enjoys seeing the place grow and progress and hopes to grow with the garden and move into research and more 'green work'. He feels it's important to be an example for others, *"like picking up plastic and non-biodegradable rubbish."*



Botanists: Kittisak Phouttavong (25) & Keoudone Souvannakhoummane (24)

from Vientiane are both Botanists and graduated from National University of Laos 3 years ago.

Done studied biodiversity and taxonomy at university and now one of his jobs is to go into the many small villages in the countryside around the area and talk to people about ecology and conservation. *“Some listen,” he says, “and some laugh.”* he says with a smile.

He wishes that there were more funding for teaching children about ecology. He’s occupied also with the vital task of identifying plants, but also enjoys graphic design and computers. Bee is working to develop PTK’s Herbarium, assists the Head Gardener with choices for plants and helps the gardeners to identify plants. He’s busy collecting information on the medicinal plants, putting together a book on their uses and interviewing the old people in villages about these plants and their role in daily life. He is looking forward to seeing the herbarium come into being and says he loves seeing the science behind the lush beauty of plants.





Vongchan Inthilath (28)

is Senior Gardener in charge of the Orchid collections in PTK.

Originally from Vientiane Nang Njai joined PTK 3 years ago after working for 3 years in the Orchid nursery of National University of Laos with Prof. Bouakhaykhone Svengsuksa.

“I love plants, especially the orchids that I’m working with and I would like to promote the conservation of native orchids more and more in Laos.”

Viphakone Sisavat, came to PTK two years ago when he joined his wife Nang Njai our Orchid Lady and their baby. He is 27 and worked before in Vientiane on construction jobs with his friends. Now he is in charge of installation and maintenance of all pathways and small construction projects in the garden.



Kongngeun Sengdy (26) & Veo Dalavong (23) met at PTK, where he is a botanical illustrator and she a gardener. Sin is from Vientiane where he graduated from Art teachers training college. *“At first I thought I’d be a policeman, but that didn’t use my training.”*

He loves the environment, the clean air and wants the world to come to see PTK.

Veo, who works as a gardener, agrees, saying, *“Laos has many things to see, like nature and culture, traditions and customs so I would like to tell all to visit Laos.”*

She adds that she loves plants and enjoys the family feeling at PTK. She is a graduate of the Northern Agricultural and Forestry College and comes from a farming family. Veo wants to *“be someone who helps our country to protect our plants.”*





Saisamone Inthavhong is a 24 year-old who knows what he likes and that is butterflies. He comes from nearby Xieng Ngeun and studied at Northern Agriculture and Forestry College. He says he likes to be free and independent, as butterflies are. He aims to be the local expert on these beautiful creatures because he wants people to understand and appreciate them. His job is to study them and work toward the setting up of the butterfly house at PTK. *“They are beautiful and special and not dangerous. In fact they are useful, and necessary for pollination of plants. They are very important for flowers and I love to study their interesting life cycle.”*



Khamphat Thongchan (21) is a third-year student at the Faculty of Forestry at Souphanouvong University in Luang Prabang, he loves to draw and is a budding garden designer. He comes from a nearby village and started as a gardener at PTK. He began to see what plants thrived together and what looked good. He's seen a few books about gardens but is otherwise totally self-taught.

Behind his quiet demeanor and shy smile there is a real passion for his art and for nature.

"I like to see them grow and to move them to the place where they will grow best. You need to care for them and find what they need and how to put them together."





**Vilasit Kunlavut (Toui) &
Bounsi Khamkhoueng (Noi)**

are both 23 and both in their fourth year at Souphanouvong University, studying agriculture. They have been gardeners at PTK for 3 years and agree that sometimes the work is hard, but they say that's fine, because they love being in nature. *"It feels good to be here,"* says Toui. The boys love the friendships they have found here and say that they feel they are very lucky to be at PTK.

"It's good because what we do for work, is what we learn at University so we get a chance to practice what we learn, and we understand better. And we can use what we've learned here in the future." adds Noi.

Gardeners - These young people have found that working at PTK is more than just a job. Mo has been at PTK for just 6 months, after graduating from NAFC where she studied with a PTK grant, and says she came for the job but now finds she has a passion for growing plants. She is a pretty, poised young woman who would not look out of place as a smartly dressed hotel receptionist, but loves being here, close to the earth, and enjoys many things about the garden, but especially all the good friends she has found here. Somphone echoes this feeling, saying that he likes the feeling of family here and says he is learning something new every day so it's not just a job. Somphanh has worked at PTK for 3 years. He comes from the far north of Laos from a Hmong family of 17 children and is a quiet, shy young man who thinks for a long time before he speaks. After listening to the others, he says he wants to learn more about the botany and science of plants and that he is very happy to be there because he has such good friends here. Chan Phan and Maidoua joined the garden 1-year ago as junior gardeners and are still shy but again, their smiles say more than they do.



**Somphone Khamphavong (24), Somphanh Cheryiasong (26),
Chan Phan Vongthavichit (26), Maidoua Nammavong (18), Mo Souksavath (21)**



Maintenance Boys

**Houmpheang Chantaviphone,
Sengsulin Xomoulailuck
and Sai Vongprasit**

are all 24 years old and are local lads from Ban Chan Tai village who studied at the technical college together. Seng is electrician, Sai is carpenter, while Lek is occupied with plumbing and irrigation. They all love the friendships and teamwork that they have developed at PTK, and the sense of connection they have with each other. They see it as a place to develop their skills where they receive more training and say that their friends are jealous of their jobs here.

Groundkeepers - Undoubtedly the backbone of PTK is this group of local people, many of whom have been working here since the very beginning, their lined faces and thoughtful remarks reflecting the feelings of Lao villagers everywhere. Lung means uncle and Bpa aunty, this is their world and they know the plants well, but they are delighted to see the changes and even to learn more from their experiences here. They do everything; from making the traditional flowers bouquets from the dok sampi flowers to cleaning and the tougher work in plant collection and clearing the bush for garden. Lung Somchit, team leader speaks for the group: *“I thought from the first that this would be good for the village”*. He says he wants the villagers to learn from what is being done here. Like many Lao people, he loves plants and growing things. He adds that it’s hard work, but important work. Lung Xiangdi and Lung Pheng nod and add that they want the world to know about what they are doing, and to understand how important trees are. Bpa Chanpheng, Bpa Noy and Bpa Keo giggle and smile shyly, but finally say that they enjoy working here and look forward to the people coming so they can show off the natural beauty of Laos.



Tchanpheng Ratsamy (Lung Pheng), Keo Ratsamy (Bpa Keo), Somchit Kammadith (Lung Chit), Bouachan Xomoulailuck (Bpa Mai), Xiangdy (Lung Xiang), and Bpa Chanpheng.

Groundkeepers - This group of cheerful lads are mainly locals, except for Oun, the boat driver from the far northern province of Houaphan. He enjoys meeting guests and ferrying them across the Mekong River. These young men drive tractors, dig the soil, move rocks and perform a myriad other hard, dirty jobs in the tropical heat, but they are all very proud to work here and say that they look forward to the day when PTK is open to the world, so people can come and see and learn. Pheng agrees with Oun who says, *“There is nothing else like it, it’s the only one ! People should come and see.”* Sinmani who is still studying at the Northern Agriculture and Forestry College, echoes the feeling, adding, *“It is unique, and it will be great and will be a good way for people to learn about ecology.”* He is eager to learn more about plant identification, collection and conservation. Asked about their work here, they all say that it’s more than a job because they learn a lot working at PTK. Houmphan, came here to be a carpenter and he found that he really loved the garden and wants *“to know more and learn more.”* Some who joined recently like Joy and Si are quieter than others, but their smiles speak for them.



**Si Vilaiphone (18), Joy Ratsamy (18), Houmphan Phounsavat (21),
Houmpheng Soudaphone (25), Ounkham Houengthavisai (24)**

Phetsamone Manolo (38)
Coordinator of the Laos Friends of
Pha Tad Ke Association

has been working for the garden for 2,5 years. She's from Vientiane but has lived in Luang Prabang since 2005. She brings her natural drive and energy, coupled with an impressive array of studies including nursing and business degrees, to the task of promoting local awareness of PTK.

"I heard about the garden, and when I saw it I said 'Wow! I love it!'"

She says that she knew right away that she could help. Phetsamon handles interaction with government authorities and organizes the school outreach program working with teachers and children via schools and libraries.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bouakhaykhone Svengsuksa is the scientific advisor of PTK and a distinguished botanist with a PhD from the National Museum of Natural History in Paris, France. From 1996 till 2005 she was Dean of the Faculty of Science, NUoL, Member of National University Council and Senior Lecturer.

Author of many publications we would like to mention the *“Field guide of wild Orchids of Lao PDR”* (2005) and *“The Dipterocarp of Lao”* (1995). Now that she is retired she is busier than ever as head of several research projects and an invaluable advisor to Pha Tad Ke.



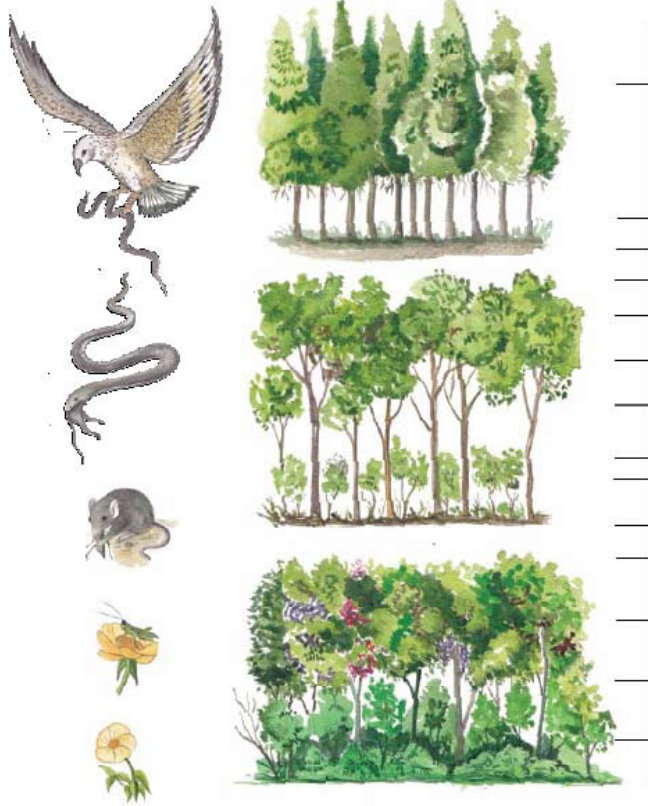
Nithakhong Somsanith is cultural advisor

for PTK and was born in Luang Prabang. He graduated from the National School of Medicine in Vientiane, Laos, before leaving his homeland in 1985 to continue his higher education in France. He received his Master's degree from the Institute of Visual Arts at the University of Orleans, and his PhD in Psychology from the Sorbonne. In 2005 he returned to Laos where he now devotes his time predominantly to his art and education programs for the community with the mission to preserve, promote, and transmit the cultural and artistic heritage of Laos. Somsanith is also known as an international embroidery artist with his contemporary creations rooted in the traditions of his youth. In the last ten years he has exhibited his works in France, Germany, England, Italy, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands and the USA.



Jean-Pierre Dovat is artistic advisor of PTK. A regular visitor to China and Southeast Asia since 1976, he has developed a keen interest in Asian culture. In 2004, a trip down the Mekong River took him to Luang Prabang. He immediately fell under the spell of this ancient town and decided to move there. With his associate Khamphanh Inthavong, he has set up a company called Inthado, with the aim of building a collection of long-term rental houses in a style that respects the town's UNESCO protected Lao colonial architecture. In 2010 he opened Project Space a multifunction non-profit space for producing exhibitions and events.





ນິເວດວິທະຍາພັນຖານ

ໂດຍ ຕຸລາໜອນ ແກ້ວແກ້ນ
ແຕ່ມໂດຍ ກິງເງິນ ແສງດີ

Pha Tad Ke Botanical Garden - Luang Prabang

we are very proud to present our latest publication

Ecology and Biodiversity in Laos *Toulaphone Keokene*

*This book was published in the framework of the program:
Fonds Social du Developpement from the French Embassy in Vientiane
for the Friends of Pha Tad Ke Association.*

*With generous support from: The Samdhana Institute
TABI - The Agro-Biodiversity Initiative, www.tabi.la
and with additional support from
SURAFCO and the US Embassy in Vientiane.*



it can be downloaded for free at:

<http://pha-tad-ke.com/english/publication.html>



ພືດເປັນຢາຢູ່ອ້ອມຕົວເຮົາ

ໂດຍ **ສິມສະນິດ ບົວມະຫິວິງ**
ແຕ້ມໂດຍ **ກິງຕິນ ແສງດີ & ຄຳພາດ ກອງຈັນ**

Pha Tad Ke Botanical Garden - Luang Prabang

we are very proud to present the latest publication in our series of Laos children books

Medicinal Plants *Somsanith Bouamanivong*

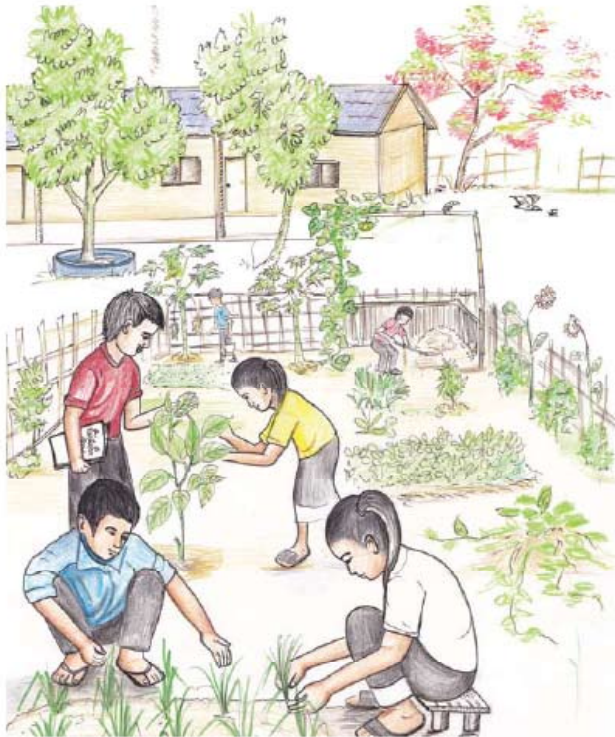
*This book was published in the framework of the program:
Fonds Social du Developpement from the French Embassy in Vientiane
for the Friends of Pha Tad Ke Association
With generous support from:
TABI - The Agro-Biodiversity Initiative, www.tabi.la*



it can be downloaded for free at:
<http://pha-tad-ke.com/english/publication.html>

Teacher's Manual Primary School Garden

Mary Oakley Strasser, Florian Obermeier & Pasith Seng Amphone
Illustrations by: Kongngern Sengdee



Pha Tad Ke Botanical Garden - Luang Prabang - 2013

*we are very proud to present our first publication
in the series of Practical Teacher's Manuals*

Primary School Garden

*Mary Oakley Strasser, Florian Obermeier
& Prasith Seng Amphone*

*This manual was published in the framework of the program:
Fonds Social du Developpement from the French Embassy in Vientiane
for the Friends of Pha Tad Ke Association*



*With support from The Princeton in Asia Carrie Gordon Fellowship
and thanks to Pencils of Promise and the Food and Agricultural
Organization of the United Nations for the information in this manual*

it can be downloaded for free at:

<http://pha-tad-ke.com/english/publication.html>

ປຶ້ມຄູ່ມືພືດສະໝຸນໄພ ເຫຼັ້ມ 1
Medicinal Plants Manual Vol. 1

ກິດຕິສັກ ພຸດທະວົງ ແລະ ແກ້ວອຸດອນ ສຸວັນນະກູມມານ

Pha Tad Ke Botanical Garden - Luang Prabang - 2013

*we are very proud to present our second publication
in the series of Practical Teacher's Manuals*

Medicinal Plants

Keooudone Souvannakhoummane & Kithisak Phathavong

*This manual was published in the framework of the program:
Fonds Social du Developpement from the French Embassy in Vientiane
for the Friends of Pha Tad Ke Association*



With additional support from Northern Agriculture and Forestry College



it can be downloaded for free at:

<http://pha-tad-ke.com/english/publication.html>

SOME BOOKS AND OTHER AFFAIRS WE LOVE

FLORE PHOTOGRAPHIQUE DU CAMBODGE

*Mathieu LETI, Sovanmoly HUL, Jean-Gabriel FOUCHÉ,
Sun Kaing CHENG, Bruno DAVID*

17 x 24 cm 592pp, 2.000 plus photos, 44,50€

ISBN : 978-2-7089-5919-4

Fruit du travail de l'équipe du Laboratoire commun de phytochimie de la faculté de pharmacie de Phnom Penh (université des sciences de la santé du Cambodge), cet ouvrage permet pour la première fois aux botanistes, touristes et amoureux du monde végétal d'appréhender les trésors méconnus de la flore cambodgienne et d'en apprendre les usages locaux. Au moyen de descriptions précises et de plus de 2 000 photographies prises sur le terrain, 524 espèces du royaume khmer sont présentées. 2 sont nouvellement décrites et 6 sont signalées pour la première fois dans le pays. De par son ampleur et la rigueur des identifications réalisées en collaboration avec les spécialistes des plus grands herbiers mondiaux, ce travail d'inventaire exceptionnel fait de la Flore Photographique du Cambodge un ouvrage de référence.

Biographies

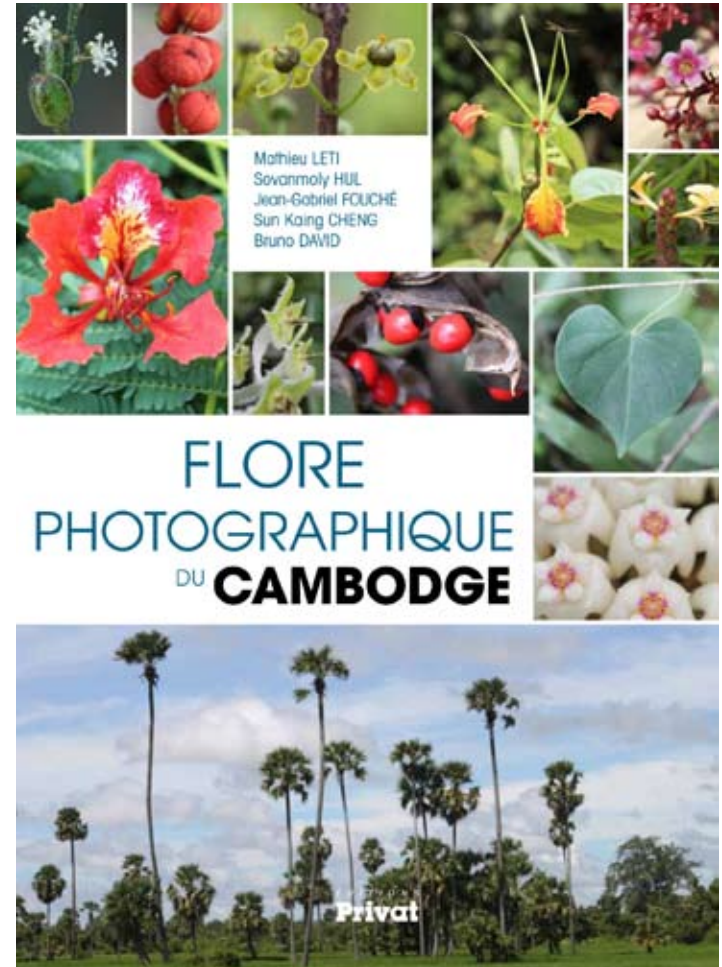
Mathieu LETI : responsable du Laboratoire commun de phytochimie de Phnom Penh, puis chercheur au sein de l'Institut de recherche Pierre Fabre à Toulouse.

Sovanmoly HUL : botaniste spécialiste de la flore de l'Asie du Sud-Est au Muséum national d'histoire naturelle à Paris.

Jean-Gabriel FOUCHÉ : directeur du Conservatoire botanique Pierre Fabre.

Sun Kaing CHENG : professeur de botanique et de pharmacognosie à la faculté de pharmacie de Phnom Penh.

Bruno DAVID : directeur de la botanique et des approvisionnements végétaux à l'Institut de recherche Pierre Fabre.



Du mardi 24
septembre au
vendredi 25
octobre 2013

Sipsongpana

ou le royaume oublié



Ce travail photographique se veut un hommage aux hommes et aux femmes qui habitent cette région, au raffinement de leur culture et à la splendeur de ses paysages, un hommage secrètement murmuré à la beauté, la paix et l'harmonie de ce royaume oublié.

Cette exposition est proposée par le photographe Frédéric Dupont.

Contacts :
namchaig@fres.fr
www.fredericdupont-photographe.com



Galerie du Pôle des
langues et civilisations



Laos

Edwin Dupont



Laos

Edwin Dupont



Laos

Edwin Dupont



Project Space • Luang Prabang

Project Space • Luang Prabang is a multifunction nonprofit space for producing exhibitions and events. The building with three floors, and a rooftop terrace with stunning views, is in the centre of Luang Prabang and will host several exhibitions per year and collaborate with other cultural institutions in Luang Prabang and elsewhere, on joint events and projects.

Project Space • Luang Prabang is an initiative of Jean-Pierre Dovat and Rik Gadella.

Project Space • Luang Prabang

Kitsalat Road 6 (Opposite Dara Market)

Luang Prabang, Lao PDR

Tel: + 856 71 21309

www.projectspace-luangprabang.com

PHA TAD KE BOTANICAL GARDEN



PROJECT SPACE • LUANG PRABANG



May 27th - June 30th 2013 / ສະແດງງານ 27 ພຶດສະພາ - 30 ມິຖຸນາ 2013
Opening on Sunday May 26th at 5pm / ເປີດງານ ຮ້າງອາທິດ 26 ພຶດສະພາ ເວລາ 5 ໂມງແລງ

ຄົ້ນພົບການເຮັດວຽກ ແລະ ຄວາມຄືບໜ້າຂອງ ສວນພັກສາຂາດ ຜາຕັດແກ້ ໂດຍການຮ່ວມມືຈາກ:
Discover the work in progress at Pha Tad Ke Botanical Garden with collaborations by:
Jean-Pierre Dovat, Albin Duzer, Alain Menoni, Rintala Eggertson Architects
Nithakone Somsanith, Somdi Oudomsack & Khamphat Thongchan, Ka Xiong

ເປີດທຸກມື້ ເວລາ 9 ໂມງເຊົ້າ ເຖິງ 6 ໂມງແລງ / Open Every day from 9am till 6pm
ຈະຕິນ ກິດສະຈາດ (ກິດສະຈາດຕາເວັນຕົກ) Kitsalat Road 8, (opposite Dara Market) - www.projectspace-luangprabang.com

Exhibition: May 26th till June 30th, 2013

PHA TAD KE @ PROJECT SPACE

For one month Pha Tad Ke showed its work and progress to the general public in Luang Prabang at Project Space and introduce the work of the Friends of Pha Tad Ke Associations with a series of events for schools. Over 200 school children visited the exhibition with their teachers.

ຄົ້ນພົບການເຮັດວຽກ ແລະ ຄວາມຄືບໜ້າຂອງ ສວນພັກສາຂາດ ຜາຕັດແກ້
ໂດຍການຮ່ວມມືຈາກ:

Discover the work in progress at Pha Tad Ke with collaborations by:

**Jean-Pierre Dovat, Albin Duzer, Alain Menoni,
Rintala Eggertson Architects, Nithakone Somsanith,
Somdi Oudomsack & Khamphat Thongchan, Ka Xiong**

Download the full catalogue here



On June 27 and 28 we received over 200 school children at Project Space to introduce the work of the Laos Friends of Pha Tad Ke Association

With our special thanks to Phetsamone Manolo the coordinator of the association and the Luang Prabang Children Cultural Center





PHU-TAD-KE JEAN PIERRE DOVAT 2015



