





## General

### Universal Health Coverage Partnership Programme launched

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From left, Dr Fleischl, Dr Eksavang and Ms Gomes

(KPL) Representatives from the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization, the European Union and the Government of Luxembourg attended the official launch and signing ceremony for the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Partnership Programme, also known as the “Partnership,” at the Don Chan Palace Hotel on the 19th of November.

Minister of Health Eksavang Vongvichit inked the official document to mark the MOH partnership with EU-LUX-WHO. He thanked the development partners for their continued support; as Lao People Democratic Republic becomes the 20th country to benefit from the Partnership and the 6th country to be funded by the Government of Luxembourg.

Dr Juliet Fleischl, WHO Representative to Lao PDR, explained that “For UHC to work well, it has to be supported by a strong, efficient, well-run health system, a system for financing health services; provide access to essential medicines and technology and have a sufficient capacity of well-trained, motivated health workers.

Universal Health Coverage is the hallmark of the government’s commitment to improve the wellbeing of all its citizens.”

The event was also attended by Ms Natacha Gomes, Officer in Charge of Health and Multilateral Cooperation in Luxembourg among others.

This partnership programme is expected to continue for the next five years with the overall objective of improving the health sector results in the country with a special emphasis placed on support for Human Resources for Health and Health Financing.

The UHC Partnership started in October 2011 with 7 priority countries and has now been expanded to twenty priority countries and has enabled many countries to understand the implications of national health and health financing strategies by providing clear and timely support. Many have successfully integrated free healthcare policies within their overall health financing strategy as part of their health sector reforms. Laos joined the partnership in August of this year.

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