

# Innovative percussion concert a hit

PHOONSAB THEVONGSA

Twelve talented musicians from around the world struck a blow for creativity at the International Percussion Music Festival Cracking Bamboo, held at the National Culture Hall last Wednesday.

The concert was an exciting blend of contemporary European and traditional Asian styles, fused in an experimental melting pot.

The show began with the 12 artists combining their unique musical styles using the traditional percussion instruments of their native countries to produce a fresh and exciting sound.

The opening number was followed by a series of solos from each of the artists, enhanced by special effects such as dramatic lighting and dry ice, before they reappeared to play again as an ensemble at the end of the show. Their enthusiasm and creativity brought a standing ovation from the audience.

The director of the show, Prof Bernhard Wulff, said "Many contemporary percussion instruments in European music have their roots in Asian cultures. Twentieth century composers have developed a wide variety of positions in terms of their understanding and handling of percussion instruments from other cultures."

He explained that Cracking Bamboo was a concept that aimed for closer exchanges and encounters between



Artists perform in the closing number that included all 12 musicians.

Southeast Asian and European music. The connecting link was percussion instruments, he said, which offered, more so than other instruments, possible reference points for occidental music to relate to traditional non-European music.

The show was the culmination of a series of international workshops, master classes and music festivals, which began in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The scope of the project was not limited to Vietnam but was intended to provide stimulation for possible future projects and network building in countries such as Indonesia, Laos and Cambodia.

The tutors for the programme were Uday Mazumdar (India, tabla), Pierre Stephane Meugé (France, saxophone), Murat

Coskun (Germany/Turkey, hand drum), Françoise Vanhecke (Belgium, voice), S.Badamkhorol (Mongolia, voice), Wu Wei (China, sheng) and from Vietnam Vu Nhut Tan (composer, bamboo flute and live electronics) and Kim Ngoc (composer).

Participating musicians from various European countries included the Freiburg Percussion Ensemble (members from Germany, Japan, Korea and UK), the SISU Ensemble from Oslo (members from Norway and Sweden) and an "EU" Quartet Ensemble composed of individual participants from Italy, France, Netherlands and Denmark.

Five small percussion ensembles came from South East Asia: two from Hanoi,

one from Saigon, one from Indonesia and one from Cambodia.

In addition, six soloists from Asia (China, Laos, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) were also invited to join the project.

The project is a joint initiative from the Asia-Europe Foundation through its music programme IMPULSE, the Goethe-Institut Vietnam and the Vietnam Academy of Music. Cracking Bamboo is supported in Vietnam by L'Espace Centre Culturel Français de Hanoi, the ULTIMA Oslo Contemporary Music Festival and the Conservatory of Music in Ho Chi Minh City; in Indonesia by the Goethe-Institut Jakarta; in Laos by the Centre de Langue Française; and in Cambodia by Metahouse and Art+Foundation.

# Vientiane women compete for beauty title

PHOONSAB THEVONGSA

Organisers of the Miss Apone Lao 2008 beauty pageant last week selected 15 Vientiane residents to compete in the next round of the event on October 13.

The event took place at the Lao Women's Union Training Centre on Thursday and was attended by 36 competitors, the judging panel, media representatives and families and friends of the contestants.

This is the third beauty pageant contest jointly organised by the Lao Women's Union and the K&C Company with the aim of selecting the most attractive young women to represent and promote Lao traditions and culture both domestically and internationally.

The pageant, which aims to encourage young women to appreciate Lao culture and traditional dress, is the largest such contest ever held in Laos and the first involving the government.

K&C Company Director Ms Panita Pankham said further contests will be held to select contestants from Luang Prabang, Champassak and Savannakhet provinces.

"The judging panel selected the finalists based on appearance, attitude, characteristics and their general knowledge, including their English language skills," Ms Panita said. "The 15 finalists from Vientiane will be announced on October 3, through radio, newspapers and TV before competing in the next round on October 13."



Contestants pose in Vientiane during the first round of the Miss Apone Lao beauty pageant.

she said. "In this round many contestants scored highly in one category, but poorly in others, so they will not continue in their quest for the title. It is about finding the best all-round contestant."

After all the preliminary rounds have been held, the judging panel will select 18 contestants to compete in the final round, which will take place on December 20.

The winner will receive a

crown worth 15 million kip, 30 million kip in cash, jewellery and a sash. The winner will represent Laos and become an ambassador for Lao culture and traditions both domestically and internationally.

## POSITIONS OPENING Kerberos Security Co. Ltd.

Kerberos Co. Ltd. professional security system integrator and solution provider in Lao PDR. Representing industry leader manufacturer and services. Kerberos Security is now expanding its product range, services and opening the following position for motivated locally recruited staff (Lao nationals only):

### Assistant for director

Requirements: Fluent in English, good knowledge of computer softwares as user, "A/B" cat. driving license

### Sales manager

Requirements: Fluent in English, general knowledge of basic physics and electronic, ability to use world processing and mailing softwares (word, mail)

### Architect (University students are welcome in part-time)

Requirements: Fluent in English, general knowledge of basic physics and electronic, good knowledge of world processing, mailing and specific softwares (word, mail, CAD)

### Electric engineer

Requirements: Fluent in English, ability to use world processing and mailing softwares (word, mail)

### Electrician

Requirements: Basic English, "A" category driving license

### Carpenter

Requirements: Basic English, "A" category driving license  
Please send you CV, copy of ID card and certificates by email to office@kerberossecurity.com or by fax to 021 217441 or 030 5259929

## What's On

### Exhibitions and Shows

**The Embassy of the Republic of Poland to Laos and the Lao Journalists' Association** are presenting a month long free art exhibition entitled 'Humour as a Part of Life', commencing September 26 at the Lao Journalists' Association function room on Sethathirath Road in Vientiane.

### Silk Pain'ag Exhibition

"Painted Memories" is open for the public at T'Shop Lai behind Inpeng temple in Chanthabouly district. The exhibition will run until the end of this month.

### Joma Bakery cafe and JCFC

present "Coffee Close-up", a photo exhibition by Sarah Williams. The exhibition is open to the public from August 1 to September 30 at Joma (Nam Phou).

### The Sinxay Cultural Club

is seeking 100 young female applicants for the Miss SEA Games 2009 beauty pageant.

### Lao Japan Centre

Exhibitions of Japanese culture and Lao cultural events at the Centre, at the National University of Laos (Dongdok Campus). Open Mon-Fri: 8:30-19:30, Sat: 8:30-17:30

### Contact: lccenter@laopdr.com

**Permanent UXO exhibition** and the provision of artificial limbs for victims COPE Visitor Centre, Khou Vieng Road, opposite the Green Park Hotel. Mon-Fri: 9am-4pm. Free entry.

**Photo Exhibition** at Sinouk Coffee Factory, Thadeua Road, Sisattanak district. Mon-Fri, from 8.30am.

### Museums

**Kaysone Phomvihane Museum**

The museum at Km 6 is open from Tuesday to Sunday during normal office hours. Entry is free.

### Lao National Museum

The museum is on Samsenthai Road opposite the National Culture Hall and is open every day. From Mon-Fri it is open during normal office hours and on the weekend from 9am to 4pm.

### Horphakeo Museum

On Sethathirath Road opposite Vat Sisakhet. Open Mon-Sun during normal office hours.

### Social Activities

**The Women's International Group** is a volunteer group. If you would like to get in touch and learn more about what WIG does call Andrea Stadel 021-314721, 020-6773555

### Meditation at Vat Sokpaluang

every Saturday, 4-5.30pm. Contact Venerable Mr Khuan or Venerable Ms Keo at the temple, on 021-231938

### English Language Church

Service every Sunday 10am at the ARDA Language Centre (near Novotel). For more information call (021) 261441 or visit <http://www.the-chs.org>

### Sports

**The Lao Elephants Australian Rules Football Club** trains on Wednesdays and Sundays in Vientiane and plays occasional international tournaments. Contact Wil (020 7848543) or see [www.laolephants.com](http://www.laolephants.com) for more information

### Body Language at Vientiane

Accueil, Khouvieng Rd. Class includes stretching and respiratory exercises with an oriental touch. Tuesday and Thursday, from 5.30-8.30pm. Contact 020 5612107.

### Aerobics at Sokpaluang

swimming pool, Sisattanak district. Open every day from 6am-8pm

### Vientiane Hash House

### Harriers

Meet at Nam Phu Fountain every Saturday for travel to out-of-town runs. Mixed Hash, register at 3.45pm and depart 4pm. Monday, VHS, family Hash. 3 runs - short, medium and long. Meet at 5pm at advertised venue. Phones: 223867, 217493, mobile 020 5511293, 5514669

### Vientiane Rugby Club

The Vientiane Buffalos RUFC is a men's adult and junior rugby club. Training is every Tuesday and Thursday from 7.30pm at the Polytechnic in Ban Saphanthong. Everyone is welcome. For more information contact us on 020-2212411 or visit [www.buffalos-rufc.com](http://www.buffalos-rufc.com)

### The Vientiane Lions is a women's rugby club

which trains every Tuesday and Thursday from 7pm at the Polytechnic in Ban Saphanthong. For more information contact Mouk on 020-5654090 or Elena on 020-7901601. All levels welcome.

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