

Japan supports agroforestry development in Houaphanh



Ms. Junko Yokota, Ambassador of Japan to the Lao P.D.R (right) shakes hands with Mr. Kohichi Furusawa, Chief Director of NPO Green Forum.

(KPL) The Government of Japan decided to provide grant assistance worth 48,932US dollars for the NPO Green Forum, a Japanese NGO, to carry out the project for Livelihood Improvement by agroforestry in rural areas of Houaphanh province under the Grant Assistance Scheme for Japanese NGOs' Projects.

The grant agreement of the above project was signed on January 12 2011 at the Embassy of Japan in the Lao P.D.R between H.E. Ms. Junko Yokota, Ambassador of Japan to the Lao P.D.R, and Mr. Kohichi Fu-

rusawa, Chief Director of NPO Green Forum, which has been working in Laos mainly in the area of agriculture and forestry industry.

Under this project, planting of benzoic trees and high-value fruit tree species such as mulberries will be conducted and also the promotion of beekeeping with Apis Cerana will be conducted under the co-operation of the Bee Research & Development Centre (BRDC) in Vietnam. NPO Green Forum's counterpart in conducting all the project activities is the Agriculture and For-

estry Office of Houaphanh Province (PAFO).

The NPO Green Forum has been working in Houaphanh Province since 2007. Last year the Green Forum planted 10,000 *Cunninghamia obtusa* in target villages of three districts. In addition, this organisation has been working for installation of micro small hydroelectric generator in Viengsay district this year.

The Grant Assistance Scheme for Japanese NGOs' Projects is to support projects proposed by Japanese NGOs working in Laos. The Embassy of Japan has offered Grant

Assistance to meet various needs of Japanese NGOs since 2002.

At the moment, 6 Japanese NGOs are implementing their project in Laos under this scheme, such as AAR Japan (Association for Aid and Relief Japan) implements the project for "Assistance for the Survivors of Cluster Munitions and Other UXOs" in Xiengkhouang province; IV-JAPAN (International Volunteers Association of Japan) implements the project for "Vocational Training for Income Generation for Women and Youth" in Vientiane Capital; JCPF (Japan Cleft Palate Foundation) implements the project for "Donation of Secondhand Medical Equipment and Operation Related Apparatus to University of Health Science in the Lao PDR"; the JMAS (Japan Mine Action Service) implements the project for "UXO Clearance in Pek and Other seven districts" in Xiengkhouang province; the JVC (Japan International Volunteers Centre) implements the project for "Livelihood Improvement through Sustainable Agriculture in Savannakhet province"; and SVA (Shanti Volunteer Association) implements the project for "Quality Improvement of Primary Education" in Saravane province.