

# Educators get lessons on Fit for School project



Education officials gather during the learning exchange meeting held in Khammuan province this week.

## Times Reporters

Education officials from six provinces attended a learning exchange meeting on the Fit for School Programme in Thakhaek district, Khammuan province, from April 3-4.

The regional Fit for School Programme is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, as part of the German Development Cooperation and Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation's Regional Centre for Educational Innovation and Technology in the Philippines, Laos, Cambodia and Indonesia.

This week's meeting was organised by the Ministry of Education and Sports to

enable provincial education officials to share their ideas about the Fit for School Programme which focuses on daily hand washing with soap, daily tooth brushing with fluoride toothpaste, and bi-annual deworming.

Participants came from the provinces of Khammuan, Borikhamxay, Bokeo, Champassak and Oudomxay and from Vientiane. Educators from Kampot province in Cambodia also attended.

The exchange focused on experiences and challenges in implementing the programme, recognising that health status and school performance are closely related.

Discussions revolved around the question of how to effectively manage the limited resources in the education

sector in order to establish routines in hygiene that lead to behaviour change in children. Group activities are one way to address logistical challenges like short break times.

According to GIZ, the programme has been supporting the Ministry of Education and Sports since December 2011. The programme began in 22 public primary schools in Vientiane. This number has now increased to over 400 schools nationwide, benefitting over 42,000 children.

Fit for School model schools have been established in all provinces of Laos and serve as good practice examples for other primary schools in their district and province.