

Govt, ILO partner to strengthen occupational safety and health

Times Reporters

The government has agreed with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to implement the Occupational Safety and Health in Laos Supply Chains project, which aims to protect workers.

A Memorandum of Cooperation Agreement on the project was signed in Vientiane on Tuesday between the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the ILO.

The agreement was signed by Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Mr Bounkhong Lasoukan and ILO Country Director for Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos, Mr Graeme Buckley at the signing ceremony in Vientiane on Tuesday.

The event was attended by EU Ambassador to the Lao PDR, Mr Leo Faber, Global Programme Manager of the Vision Zero Fund, Mr Ockert Dupper, and government officials.

The project is supported by the Vision Zero Fund and will take place over 24 months.

The project will help prevent and reduce the unacceptable number of



Mr Bounkhong Lasoukan (*right*) shakes hands with Mr Graeme Buckley at the signing ceremony in Vientiane on Tuesday.

workplace-related deaths, injuries and occupational diseases.

It will support increased access to adequate compensation mechanisms to mitigate the losses suffered by victims and their families as a result of work-related accidents, injuries and diseases.

The project will build capacity in coordination between the sectors involved in occupational safety and health. Speaking at the agreement signing ceremony, Mr Bounkhong said "Occupational safety and health is important for the operation of the

business sector, especially by ensuring the safety and health of workers."

"The government is paying close attention to the management of labour in Laos. It has assigned the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and other sectors involved to better manage the workforce and reduce the number of accidents and occupational diseases."

"Last year, 106 people in 18 provinces had accidents in the workplace. Thirty people were disabled, eight died and some people suffered from illness," Mr Bounkhong said.