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Exciting future for IPOs in Laos

Lao Securities Exchange Commission and Lao stock exchange officials last week joined DFDL Mekong Legal and Tax Advisers (DFDL Mekong) at a foreign investors' conference in Singapore.



Mr Dethphouvang Moularat delivers the keynote address.

DFDL Mekong hosted the first ever conference on the Lao Stock Exchange with the title of "The New Stock Exchanges in Laos and Cambodia: Foreign Investors Conference" on May 20.

DFDL Mekong is the region's preeminent international law firm specialising in emerging markets.

Country Managing Director for DFDL Mekong Lao PDR William D. Greenlee, Jr, and Senior Tax Manager for DFDL Mekong Lao PDR Jack Sheehan presented a thorough outlook on the Lao Stock Exchange (LSX), along with fellow panelists from the Lao Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the LSX.

According to a press release from DFDL Mekong, discussion topics included how to structure IPOs and investment in Laos. On the agenda were key legal, tax and accounting issues and international holding structures considered to be the most efficient for Lao investors.

"There is an exciting future for IPOs in Laos," Mr Greenlee said.

The conference was an ideal forum to educate and get prospective international investors excited about Laos and the promising companies that have listed, and will soon list, on the Lao Stock Exchange.

Because 12 members of the SEC and LSX attended the conference, international investors were able to also ask the securities regulators questions and gain confidence in the LSX.

This was further encouraged by Acting Secretary General of the SEC Ms Vathana Dalaloy and Chairman & CEO of the LSX Mr Dethphouvang Moularat participating in a panel discussion. Mr Dethphouvang also presented the keynote address at the conference.

More than 150 people attended the foreign investors' conference including principals from high profile investment firms, Temasek, Dragon Capital Group Limited, Lucky Market Group Ltd., Morgan Stanley Global Capital Markets, Pinetree Capital Partners Pte Ltd and Royal Group Cambodia.

In partnership with DFDL Mekong in presenting the conference were ANZ Royal, CBRE, VinaCapital, Victory Capital and Stephenson Harwood. Supporting DFDL Mekong in presenting the conference were SEC, LSX, Singapore Business Federation and International Enterprise Singapore.

Established in 1994, DFDL Mekong is the first leading international law firm specialised in emerging markets with a pan regional tax and legal expertise developed throughout the Mekong region (Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam) and Singapore.

With a team of more than 250 foreign and local lawyers, advisers and support staff working closely together within a network of nine offices in the region, DFDL Mekong provides personalised and cost-effective legal, tax and consulting services.

(Latest Update May 27, 2011)

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