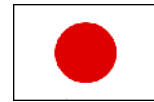




Press Release
Embassy of Japan in the Lao PDR



29 January 2016

**“Vientiane Performing Arts Festival 2016” held
to Celebrate the Lao PDR’s taking the ASEAN Chair and Introduce
Japan–Laos and Japan–ASEAN Cultural Exchange and Cooperation**

Serving as a perfect opportunity to celebrate the beginning of the Lao PDR’s taking the ASEAN Chair and to introduce the Japan–Laos and Japan–ASEAN cultural exchange, the “Vientiane Performing Arts Festival 2016” was held on the premises of the Lao National Cultural Hall in Vientiane Capital from 29 to 31 January and in Luang Prabang from 1 to 4 February. The Festival was organized by the Khao Niew Theatre group, with the support of the Japan Foundation Asia Center and the Embassy of Japan in the Lao PDR.

This is the second time that a festival focusing on the performing arts in a comprehensive manner has been held in the Lao PDR. 18 Lao performance groups, 5 Japanese artists and 19 ASEAN artists in their own style attracted a large audience during the week by presenting street performances, traditional songs and dances, contemporary dances, a circus, a musical, a shadow puppet show, etc. In the opening session, for example, a puppet show from Myanmar, a circus from Cambodia, and a musical from Vietnam were performed and Japanese artists, namely MANSUKE Theater, ASANUMA Chizuko and OKUDA Masashi, presented their wonderful performances.

H.E. Dr Pommek Dalaloy, President of the Lao–Japan Friendship Association and H.E. Mr. Takeshi Hikihara, Ambassador of Japan to the Lao PDR participated in the opening ceremony. Mr. Saythong Keodouangdy, Vice mayor of the Vientiane Capital, Mr. Hiroshi Uchida, the Director of the Japan Foundation Asia Center Vientiane Liaison Office, and Mr. Lattanakone INSISIENGMAI, the President of the Khao Niew Theatre group, gave speeches. Other Lao Government officials, ambassadors, and representatives of international organizations also attended. Many events took place at the festival, enjoyed by both children and others from a wide range of generations.

