



**Press Release**  
Embassy of Japan in Lao PDR



3 November 2019

**2019 Autumn Conferment of Decoration**  
**H.E. Dr. Phankham Viphavanh, Vice President of the Lao PDR**

On November 3, 2019, the Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2019 Autumn Imperial Decorations. H.E. Dr. Phankham Viphavanh, Vice President of the Lao PDR, is among this year's foreign recipients and in recognition of his significant contributions to strengthening bilateral relations and promoting friendship between Japan and the Lao PDR, he will be awarded the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun. The award ceremony will be held at the Imperial Palace, in Tokyo, on November 7, 2019.

- DECORATION: Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun.
- SERVICE: Contributed to strengthening bilateral relations and promoting friendship between Japan and the Lao PDR.
- NATIONALITY: Lao.

H.E. Dr. Phankham Viphavanh, Vice President of the Lao PDR, was born in Huaphan Province in 1951. Earning his doctorate in the Soviet Union before returning to the Lao PDR, he made significant contributions to the fields of education and sports. His many achievements have led him to serve in numerous high-level positions, such as the Minister of Education and Sports from 2010 to 2014; the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education and Sports from 2014 to 2016; and most notably as the Vice President of the Lao PDR, from 2016 to this day.

While serving as the Minister of Education and Sports H.E. Dr. Phankham Viphavanh cooperated greatly with Japan in the area of education and sports, as well as supporting Japan in many tasks. For instance, the Lao PDR was the first country in Asia to give prompt support to Tokyo, as the host of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. From the moment H.E. Dr. Phankham Viphavanh became Vice President, and Japan and Lao celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their diplomatic relations in 2015, he has contributed hugely by deepening and promoting bilateral ties and friendship between the two leaders and two countries.

(end)