

High-level Meeting Strengthens Lao, Bulgarian Cooperation



Mr Bounnhang Vorachit greets Ms Margarita Popova at the Presidential Office in the capital.

-- Photo Sangkhomxay

Laos and Bulgaria have vowed to continue exchange visits of delegates to discuss economic, trade, education, investment and tourism cooperation between the two countries.

The proposal was raised during a bilateral meeting between high-ranking officials from the two countries yesterday in Vientiane led by the deputy heads of state.

Vice President of Bulgaria Ms Margarita Popova and her high-ranking delegation visited Laos from November 29 to 30 at the invitation of Vice President Bounnhang Vorachit to strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

The two sides highly valued the cooperative relations of past years in both bilateral and multi-lateral frameworks.

Mr Bounnhang said he appreciated the long-standing friendship ties of more than 50 years since the two countries established diplomatic relations on October 14, 1962.

He reminded his guests about the highly valued attendance of Bulgarian President Rosen Plevneliev at the 9th Asem Summit in Vientiane in 2012, during which the two sides discussed issues on enhancing bilateral cooperation ties including the fields of agriculture, water management, energy and pharmacology.

Mr Bounnhang, representing the Lao government and people, thanked Bulgaria for their assistance in the past, especially in human resource development.

The Lao Vice President said although Laos and Bulgaria had no embassy in each other's country, their relationship had been persistent with high-ranking leaders sending messages and best wishes on important occasions for the two countries.

Moreover, the two sides had exchanged views on international issues and supported each other on the world stage.

Laos supported Bulgaria's candidature as a member of the United Nations Economic and Social Council for 2011-2013, member of the International Telecommunication Union for 2011-2014, and judge at the International Court of Justice from 2012-2020.

At yesterday's meeting, Vice President Bounnhang proposed for the Bulgarian government to support Laos in various forms of development heading into the Asean Economic Community . People-to-people relations were also raised at the meeting with the number of Bulgarians visiting Laos being small and the figures have not expanded.

Mr Bounnhang also proposed the appointment of honorary consulates by both sides in each other's country to facilitate coordination between the two nations.

During the visit, Vice President Popova also paid courtesy visits to President Choummaly Sayasone at the Presidential Office, Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong at the Government Office and National Assembly (NA) President Ms Pany Yathotou at the NA Office.

“The visit to Laos of the Bulgarian delegation is an important event in the cooperation between Laos and Bulgaria,” a press release from the President's Office said.

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