Govt partners in study on use of electric motorbikes

The government is partnering with the British Embassy in Vientiane and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) to conduct a pre-feasibility study on a battery swapping system for electric motorbikes.

The study will contribute to the fulfillment of the government’s target of 30 per cent of new electric vehicle use by 2030.

The study is being funded under a grant that was signed in Vientiane on Wednesday between the British Embassy and GGGI by Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment Mr Vangvichit Vongvongpheng and GGGI Deputy Director General Mr Phoummong Luangkaydee, and the British Ambassador to Laos, Mr John Pearson.

The study will examine the financial viability and environmental sustainability of implementing a battery swapping system for electric two-wheelers in Vientiane.

Deputy Director General of the Planning Department, Mr Ousana Dounbounalom, said the collaboration will significantly contribute to the implementation of the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan, the National Green Growth Strategy and the Paris Agreement in climate change.

It will also support the realization of the National Agenda on Economic and Financial Affairs by reducing the reliance on final fuel imports and thereby improving economic sustainability.

Ambassador John Pearson said that electrification of the transport sector makes perfect sense in the Laos context, as the country would be able to benefit from untapped, low-cost domestic renewable energy resources, while at present it has to import all petroleum fuels.

Deputy Country Representative of GGGI Laos, Mr Christoph Arvieux, said “Lao, being a global market leader such as Dojiba, we are observing a rapid development of battery swapping systems as the adequate solution to accelerate the transition to mobility in the 2-wheelers segment, which is the prime mode of transport in Laos.”

The results of the pre-feasibility study will be consolidated into a final report and findings that will be presented to key stakeholders by the end of March. Prime Minister Phamkham Viphavath recently approved a new policy on promoting use of electric vehicles to minimize fuel imports and reduce harmful greenhouse gases.

This includes promoting the use of clean energy in the transport sector as part of measures to transition the government’s policy into an action plan until 2035, a strategy for 2030, and a vision for 2050.

The policy is part of efforts to fulfill the national goal on achieving a carbon-neutral country by 2060.

The project aims not only to reduce the dependency on final fuel imports but also to improve economic sustainability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The project is expected to significantly contribute to the country’s economic and financial sustainability, mainly through tax revenue and reduced spending on fuel importation of fuel-inefficient vehicles and providing the use of electric vehicles.

Phosphory Sengpaeseuth

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will continue its cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to strengthen the skills of agricultural experts on ways to combat African swine fever and emerging livestock diseases.

This was the message from the Deputy Director of the Ministry’s Department of Livestock and Fisheries, Dr Phanomvong Vongsavath, who addressed a workshop on a new project entitled Strengthening Capacity to Combat African Swine Fever and other Transboundary Animal Diseases in Laos.

The aim of the project is to further mitigate the potential risks for the additional introduction and spread, as well as the impacts of African swine fever and other high morbidity and mortality animal diseases. The project aims to develop and implement strategies and strengthen measures to prevent the spread of and combat African swine fever at the national provincial and community level and strengthen the national livestock capacity to detect the disease.

The FAO’s support to the Laos government in strengthening capacity in the animal health sector to respond and respond to African swine fever in the pig population.

FAO Representative to Laos, Mr Nadur Hatay, expressed his concern about African swine fever in the Lao pig population.

There are vaccination available against the disease and there is no case one animals is infected, prevention through increased biosecurity measures will not be easy. Together, FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will ensure to further build skills on how to combat African swine fever and emerging livestock diseases.

The project is expected to significantly contribute to the country’s economic and financial sustainability, mainly through tax revenue and reduced spending on fuel importation of fuel-efficient vehicles and providing the use of electric vehicles.

Dr Phanomvong Vongsavath (right)

Agriculture ministry beefs up vigilance against livestock diseases

Laos undergoes....