



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre releases Ethnography Study of Tai Daeng in Laos

Luang Prabang, Laos
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The Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre (TAEC) announces the first book in the TAEC Ethnography Series, the English translation of *The Tai Daeng of Hua Phan Province, Lao People's Democratic Republic*, by Sumitr Pitiphat. Translated from Thai by Linda S. McIntosh, Southeast Asia researcher the book gives historical background as well as documenting the contemporary lives of the Tai Daeng in Laos. McIntosh received her Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her PhD from Simon Fraser University, studying the peoples and cultures of Southeast Asia since 1996.

In celebration of the release of the English translation, the TAEC Boutique on the main street Luang Prabang will host a reception on Friday, 23 January from 4 – 6 PM. During the reception, the book will be available for 120,000 kip, a discount of 40% from the regular price.

About the release TAEC Co-director, Tara Gujadar says, “We are pleased that through this publication, TAEC can contribute to the documentation and preservation of cultural diversity in Laos. Translation of this book into English brings information about the Tai Daeng in Laos to a larger audience and we hope will build greater understanding of the rapid change facing ethnic groups in Laos.”

The book chronicles the Tai Daeng ethnic group in Hua Phan Province including religious beliefs, textiles, traditional knowledge, and changes in Tai Daeng identity. Professor Sumitr Pitiphat, a former director of the Thai Khai Institute and a trained anthropologist has conducted extensive research on the Tai peoples, traveling throughout northeast Laos, northern Vietnam, and southwest China to document their cultures.

For this book McIntosh says, “Sumitr and his research team examined this group’s traditional belief system and changes that have occurred, mainly conversion to Buddhism. The researchers also explored contemporary handwoven textile production, especially external factors that have led to changes.” A Lao-American McIntosh has curated exhibitions and published numerous articles on Southeast Asian textiles, arts, history, and culture.

The Henry Luce Foundation and Translation Project Group/AAS Southeast Asia Council and private donors supported the translation and publication of this first book in the TAEC Ethnography Series.

Founded in 2006, the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre is dedicated to preserving the cultural diversity of Laos. The TAEC Boutique in Ban Vat Sene in Luang Prabang brings together handicrafts from 12 ethnic groups from across Laos and features the Heirloom Collection. Master artisans, respected in their communities, create exquisite, original pieces for sale as part of this exclusive collection. In addition to ongoing work with villages and artisans, TAEC operates a museum in Luang Prabang with permanent and temporary exhibitions showcasing the cultures and traditions of Laos.

Learn more about more about TAEC at www.taec Laos.org.

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