



TRADITIONAL ARTS & ETHNOLOGY CENTRE

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On Thursday, 5 July 2007, the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR will hold its official opening. The Governor of Luang Prabang is expected to perform the ribbon cutting, and guests such as Mr. Houmphan Rattanavong, the former Director of the Institute for Cultural Research, and Mr. William Booth, Managing Director of Jim Thompson Thai Silk Company, will be in attendance.

The Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre is a new private museum and tourist attraction in Luang Prabang, featuring dynamic exhibits of cultural artefacts, a museum shop, and the Patio Café, run by the famous L'Elephant Restaurant. As the first exhibition space in Luang Prabang dedicated to the survival and transmission of the cultural heritage of Laos, the Centre's mission is to help locals and foreigners learn about the different ethnic groups of northern Laos.

The Centre is the brainchild of Tara Gujadhur and Thongkhoun Souththivilay. Tara Gujadhur is an American who worked as an advisor to the Luang Prabang Tourism Office for 3 years before starting this project. Thongkhoun Souththivilay has been working at the Luang Prabang National Museum for over 6 years, and is currently the Collection Manager, with experience from the Netherlands, Japan, and Thailand. Together they began work on TAEC over one year ago, finding and renovating a heritage building, researching and working with ethnic communities, and building a collection. They hope that the Centre will be a resource for anyone wanting to appreciate and preserve the cultural diversity of Laos.

For more information please contact:

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