



Members of BBGL hand over more than 11 million kip to Luang Prabang Solidarity Canteen, a non-profit lunch service, to help support employees impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The UK Ambassador to Laos, Mr John Pearson (third from left), witnessed the handover with others.

BBGL supports hospitality and tourism sector impacted by Covid-19

Times Reporters

The British Business Group Laos (BBGL) has extended support to people in the hospitality and tourism sector of Laos who have been seriously impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The BBGL organised a networking event in Vientiane on Wednesday and put the spotlight on difficulties faced by this sector by inviting owners of hotels and restaurants to give short testimonies about the impact of the pandemic and how they see the future.

The group wanted to show solidarity with people working in the hospitality and tourism sector, who have been hit by reduced or absent salaries. In some cases, people don't have enough money to feed their families.

As part of the BBGL's efforts to support this sector, its members donated more than 11 million kip to the Solidarity Canteen in Luang Prabang province, and Andrew Mullins of the Spirit House, a member of BBGL, is actively supporting work on the ground in the

province.

Due to the pandemic, members of many families lost their jobs and can hardly sustain their day-to-day lives, especially those from rural areas.

The Solidarity Canteen was founded to provide food assistance and lessen hunger in these tough times. Every day, the non-profit serves lunch to people at the Institut Français du Laos à Luang Prabang from 11 am to 1 pm.

Several speakers at Wednesday's event highlighted new initiatives working in this area. Mr Inthy Deuansavanh of the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI) spoke about efforts to boost the "Lao Thiao Lao" (Lao visit Laos) campaign.

Mr Lee Sheridan from the "Skills for Tourism" project talked about key elements in building capacity within the tourism sector and Mr Phouthasinh Keoka explained how the Lao Airlines' "Fly Eat Travel" campaign is playing a crucial role in promoting the "Lao Thiao Lao" project.

The BBGL represents and supports the commercial interests of its British, Lao and international members by acting as a platform to create and promote business opportunities within the working community.

It encourages trade and investment between Laos and the United Kingdom, regularly sharing relevant content from both countries.

In his keynote address at the event, the UK Ambassador to Laos, Mr John Pearson, said the British government's effort is to support British nationals in Laos.

Mr Pearson also spoke on the UK's relationship with Asean, the direction that Britain is taking with the World Trade Organisation, and its work in developing a vaccine and ensuring its fair distribution globally.

The Chairman of BBGL, Mr John Cockcroft, thanked key sponsors for food and drinks and the space for organising the event, including Mandala Hotel, Doi Ka Noi Restaurant, Le Padaek Restaurant, BHI, Lao Brewery Company (Beer Lao) and the Spirit House.