After the successful launch of the Training of Master Trainers Programme in Lao PDR in December 2015, the first module of the training on adult learning and adult teaching was organised by the DVV Regional Office and the Department of Non-Formal Education (DNFE) in Lao PDR, in collaboration with RMIT University (Australia), ASPBAE, and UNESCO Bangkok.

Ounpheng Khammong, Deputy Director, DNFE, inaugurated the module on Adult Learning and Adult Teaching and Somsy Southivong, Director, Non-formal Education Development Center (NFEDC), welcomed participants to the training which was based on Curriculum globALE, the competency-based curriculum framework for adult educators worldwide.

The training on the first module was designed as a comprehensive learning process on adult education theories. Content areas covered adult learning theories, adult learning as compared to conventional learning in schools, motivation for learning, and barriers to learning. Various experiential learning methods were used to further the understanding on these concepts for enhanced and effective learning.

A significant aspect of the training was that key points from the discussions and questions raised by the participants during sessions were employed as ‘live’ examples to contextualise various aspects of adult learning, e.g. barriers to learning, enhancing motivation, priority of topics for adult education by donor organisations, discrimination towards women and ethnic minority groups in accessing learning opportunities, amongst others. A conceptual framework for the innovative training of master trainers and the evaluation and monitoring framework were also developed during this module.

The role of the collaborating organisations was to provide technical and mentoring support to the local trainer-facilitators as well as provide inputs on certain concepts during the training.

The participants and the training team were invited to join the Lao New Year celebrations at the NFEDC and DVV Regional office in Vientiane. The traditional rituals and festivities gave a glimpse of the culture and hospitality of Lao people.

The next training module on adult education methods is scheduled for the last week of May 2016.