



Delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic visits Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow



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On August 17, Ms. Inlavan Keobounphan, a member of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and deputy chairman of the Lao Front for National Development visited the Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow. Earlier, she took part in the 2nd International Buddhist Forum 'Traditional Buddhism and Modern Challenges' held in Ulan-Ude, the Republic of Buryatia, Russia, on August 12-14.

She was accompanied by Mr. Vongvilay Thiphalangsy, chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the Russian Federation; Mr. Phasuk Nanthalangsy, first secretary of the Embassy; Mr. Vankham Pretpraivan, third secretary of the Embassy; H.E. Siviengphet Phetvorasak, the former Ambassador of Laos to Russia; and Aloma Sithavong, assistant to the vice- president of the Lao Front for National Development.

At the Christ the Savior Cathedral, the delegation was greeted by archpriest Nikolai Lishchenyuk,

deputy chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, and Ms. Yelena A. Shlineva, head of the Department for Relations with Compatriots and Historical and Memorial Work of Rossotrudnichestvo.

The Lao delegation had a sightseeing tour that included a visit to the upper church, the refectory chambers, the Patriarchal Hall, the Hall of Church Councils, and the observation deck.

After the excursion, the participants discussed issues of cooperation, including the state registration of the community of the Russian Orthodox Church in Laos.

The head of the Lao delegation thanked the Russian side for the opportunity to visit the Cathedral of Christ the Savior and emphasized that the visit brought another evidence of the traditionally friendly Laos-Russia relations, and expressed willingness to further the establishment of the Russian Orthodox community in Laos.

At the end of the meeting, the parties exchanged souvenirs.

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