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## World Environment Day celebrated in Attapeu

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FOOTBALL, films and fun were all part of the World Environment Day celebrations in southern province, Attapeu, on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2005. Attapeu is the demonstration site for the Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Programme in Laos.

The celebrations were officially opened by the Deputy Provincial Governor, Sinay Mieanglavanh, with the District Governor Watsadi Kheumphetsavong. World Environment Day is usually celebrated on June 5 every year but this year's celebrations coincided with International Children's Day and Arbor Day. The event was attended by over 200 community members and officials.

Games were organised promoting World Environment Day and the Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Programme (MWBP).

"The World Environment Day is a great way for the community to come together. The celebrations have been organised to be fun, but also promote the importance of the environment, especially the wetlands," said Chief of the provincial Science, Technology and Environment. Educational entertainment included a film on environmental awareness followed by a quiz and other activities such as sack racing, tug-of-war, tree planting and a celebrity football match.

Also in attendance were 30 participants from 15 government departments, all of

who completed the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) training hosted by MWBP. The training, May 30-June 3, focused on hydropower; participants were involved in case studies and field visits.

"The Environment Impact Assessment training coinciding with the World Environment Day celebrations provides a great opportunity for government officials to attend the activities and celebrate with the community", said MWBP Wetlands Technical Advisor Mark Dubois.

"MWBP is doing very interesting and relevant work in the province. It is fantastic for everyone to be involved," added Mark.