

## Nam Phou project approved after sixth design

Authorities have finally given the go ahead to plans for the development of Nam Phou in central Vientiane after the design was finalized at a meeting last week.



Vice Mayor of Vientiane Mr Anouphab Tounalom said that we made the decision after the meeting and our authorities have finally agreed to the project design, which is the designed Asia Investment and Service Company as a developer.

Although the authorities have now approved the design of the restaurant to be built in the square, the developer will need to address several issues to avoid adversely affecting the appearance and amenities of the popular public space.

**The sixth modification to the design of the Nam Phou development project has finally been approved by Vientiane authorities.**

The authorities stipulated that the redevelopment should not encroach too far into the open space surrounding the fountain and the area should be beautified by planting more shrubs and trees.

According to the agreement reached at the meeting, the developer must provide all the necessary rubbish collection facilities, adequate waste water and drainage systems, and take any other environmental issues into account. They will also be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the area, to ensure it remains clean and tidy and will also be required to install lighting that affords passers-by a view of the lit up fountain, rather than merely accommodating restaurant patrons.

Mr Anouphab said construction can now go ahead and the project should be finished before the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit, which will take place in Vientiane in November. Construction of the project has been started since December 2011, and after the completion, it will change the face of one of Vientiane's oldest and most popular public spaces and will feature a new restaurant which is hoped that visitors will enjoy.

The fountain was built by city authorities many years ago, to serve as a focal point of the city and a meeting place for local residents.

The Lao Embassy in Washington, DC, January 20, 2012