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# Human Capital, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Micro and Small Businesses in Laos

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survey of manufacturing SMEs in Vientiane in 2016. The results indicate that owner education at the university and higher levels increases the probability of innovation and that a combination of augmented human capital and innovation tend to enhance successful entrepreneurship. The findings shed more light on the importance of human capital, and innovation and entrepreneurship promotion in economic development. It gives rise to the quality and appropriateness of education and training for entrepreneurs, if the target of the government policy is to foster successful innovation and entrepreneurship and to promote SME development as part of socio-economic development.

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- 2. Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) is the former name of GIZ, the German Technical Cooperation Agency.
- 3. LAK (Lao Kip) is the unit of the local currency of Laos. The official exchange rate to the US dollar for 2016 is  $8129 \text{ LAK} = 1.00 \text{ USD (ADB } \underline{2017}$ ).
- 4. Some of the figures reported in this section are extracted from the Economic Census 2013, while the figures in Table <u>5.1</u> are summaised for five-year periods from a different source. Hence, there exist some discrepancies in the information.

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University of Hyogo, Kobe, Japan

Souksavanh Vixathep

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