

Asian American Press

"BUILDING COMMUNITY WITHIN DIVERSITY"

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Philippine Day



March 9, 2008, 12 - 4 pm
Landmark Center
75 - 5th Street, St. Paul



Asian Pacific
Cultural Center



2008 Dragon Festival



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Western Union funds Hmong Cultural Center programs



By Tom LaVenture

ST. PAUL (February 26, 2008) – The main classroom of Hmong Cultural Center (HCC) was full of new American Hmong and other guests last Tuesday. They were interested to learn about the Western Union Sponsorship of the HCC

ESL and Citizenship classes and to hear their presentation on new reduced rates for Western Union transactions to Laos.

Miss Huong Giang Phan, a Western Union Marketing Specialist - USOB to Asia Emerging Markets, came from Hayward, California to present Mr. Txong Pao Lee, executive director, HCC, with a \$5,000 grant that will be used to beef up their already full classes. Phan said they partnered with HCC, because they have a solid program growing, and a reputation for excellent community outreach and participation in their programs.

"We are honored to recognize and to financially support the HCC through a sponsorship the ESL program developed by the Hmong Cultural Center to help newly arrived Laotian and Hmong immigrants gain skills that will move them toward to achieving their American dreams," said Phan, who noted that Western Union believes a company must look beyond building a business.

"We believe that with the power of success comes the power to serve and give back to the community," she added. "The Laos and Hmong communities are very important to Western Union and we strive to be part of the your community by sponsoring various programs that are beneficial and meaningful to the Laos and Hmong communities."

The grant is part of Western Union's "Our World, Our Family" program that began in 2007, with a pledge of \$50 million over five years to a worldwide corporate citizenship initiative. The program concentrates efforts in areas that have a tremendous potential for long-term impact. It focuses on programs designed to empower families through education and economic opportunity that help them stay connected, overcome barriers, and accomplish their dreams.

The program benefits comparatively marginalized communities in the developing world. It provides tools to support language acquisition and basic financial literacy, and includes innovative family scholarships. In the interest of supporting self-sufficiency, the program works with volunteer mentors, employees and Agents to provide small business and personal finance guidance at community centers and Agent locations.

Phan identified emerging markets as Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian, Thao, Korean and Pacific Islander communities around the country. Western Union first Lao/Hmong sponsorship of an ESL program began last year in Fresno, California. She will be looking around the country to identify communities with similar needs.

Txong Pao Lee said that their ESL and Citizenship classes at HCC are ongoing, and designed for the beginner level students. The HCC Adult Basic Education instructors include Nara Chea, Xai Lor and Thai Vang.

These beginner students have the most need for first-language support, along with the comfort of learning in a familiar environment. When they reach a level that they are ready to prepare for the Citizenship Test or their GED, then they can go on to mainstream

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Classified Ads



Community Calendar

(Calendar) (Send Announcements)

COMMUNITY

Burma Multi-Ethnic Culture Show
You can help the Asian Pacific Cultural Center effort
Young life lost to tragic accident
Western Union funds Hmong Cultural Center programs
Judy Wong wins 2008 Women's Bassmaster Tour Championship

ARTS

Sandakadapahana Musical Show
William Yang's - Shadows
A conversation with Fil-American poet Patrick Rosal
Musicians for Minneapolis

BOOKS

A Person of Interest
The World Is a Poem - New Translation of Japanese Classic
Tall Tales of Vishnu Sharma
Rewriting the Script in Taiwan's Drama

FILM/TV/RADIO

The Band's Visit
Kagbeni
Jon Chu makes directing debut with Step Up 2 The Streets
Rambo and the Karen take on Myanmar Junta

FOOD

Sushi and Bul Go Gi makes for great buffet
Supatra's Thai Cuisine reopens

EDUCATION

U of M lecture on Social Entrepreneurship in Asia
Ananya Dance Theatre at Macalester
APIA academic achievement forum
St. Paul to dedicate new Gordon Parks High School
Hamline Language Immersion Summer Camp
Hmong Heroines on Radio
Believing in free will keep us honest

HEALTH

Hmong girl therapeutic group
Rate of uninsured stabilizes following earlier increases
Meditation: Peace of Mind
Immune Function: Better Yours with Herbal Remedies
Identifying Eating Disorders

BUSINESS

Hmong Chamber of Commerce Banquet

formal instruction in the English language, then they are referred to the Hubbs Center for Learning or other local classes.

Phan went on to say that Western Union, in their effort to reach emerging market communities that often want to find safe and secure ways to send money back home to relatives; is also recognizing that these clients are also new Americans in need of support. The need for English language proficiency is critical in their transition to self-sufficiency and citizenship and to reach their American dream for which they have suffered and sacrificed for so long.

“We hope that our services and the ESL program brings a great value of benefits to your community,” Phan added.

Following the presentation, Phan went on to tell the group about Western Union’s money transfer services to Laos that began in 2002. they currently have over 90 branch locations across 17 provinces, and networks, including Agents at Laos Development Bank, Bank of Ayuoehya, Laos Saikhong Trading Company, Laos Post, and Phongsavanh Bank.

She explained the importance of affordable and secure transactions, and that by letting their relatives on the other end know the Money Transfer Control Number, they can track the funds all the way to Laos, where their relatives won’t have any additional fees when they pick up their money. (For more information, consumers may call toll free customer service at 1-800-325-6000).

The Hmong Cultural Center, Inc. is located at 995 University Avenue West Suite 214, St. Paul, MN 55104. For more information on programs call 651-917-9937 or visit online at www.hmongcc.org.

Posted on 28 Feb 2008 by [Tlaventure](#)

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