

Monday, February 6, 2006

My Dear Friends,

Onwards on the road from Luang Prabang to Vientiane which is the capital of Laos. In every corner there is another Buddha and place of worship. I engaged in conversation with some Monks. Imagine me standing with our younger touring friends observing the respect and awesome sight of hundreds of monks collecting food for the day as they cannot eat after 8 a.m. Every city, village and dwelling place is very reverent and its effect on the surroundings is amazing.

Visiting the Royal Palace and the riches that have been collected here for centuries only explains how the people needed the social revolution in order to advance their situation in life. Slowly we are beginning to understand the thinking of the local people even though they accept the social democratic government. Since the Communists opened their doors to the West, prosperity reigns high and you can see how welcoming the people are in every way, on every corner and in every store, as they greet you politely and with kindness. The war has been forgotten -- I understand they do not even teach about it in the schools. Tomorrow we are visiting the Museum of the Revolution along with the rest of the city's charming and colourful religious places. Good food is also one of the main attractions and we can not get enough of Lao spicy food and dining. Until later, I am as always grateful for this time away.

*Beny*