



Lao Business People do Tiger Farming for Export

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Laos has wild tigers in a small number and they will become extinct if large past of forests are destroyed. However, I am proud of seeing Lao business people breeding tigers for export in the future. This activity not only benefits the investors but also makes our country famous in tiger farming since this tiger farm will become a place for producing tigers for many zoos in Asian countries in the future.

Ms Vina Xayavong, Vinasakhone, a manager of wildlife and aquatic animal farm complex located on Nongbouanoy, Hinboun district, Khammouane province, disclosed

information recently to Target Magazine that the tiger farming business has started since 2004 by bringing about 20 tigers from Taiwan province, Taipei, the People's Republic of China. Today, the farm has a total of 254 tigers, including 54 for breeding. There are two species such as Siberian and Bengal. Everyday about 700-800 kilogrammes of chickens are brought to feed the tigers. *↳ not indochinese*

Answer to the question: "Does tiger farming dangerous to an owner and staff?"

Special attention is paid to the tiger farming since tigers are fierce animals. Especially, they are extremely fierce, when they give birth. Feeders are trained to be familiar with giving food to tigers and look after their health in order to ensure safety.

Has a tiger attacked people?

Since the tiger farming began, there has been no one attacked by a tiger since the special attention is paid to entry and exit. We do not allow outsiders to view tigers since we worry that the animals will catch

diseases.

Did the farm export tigers?

A female tiger gives birth twice a year and each time it gives birth to 3-5 cubs. At present, the farm does not export tigers since baby tigers are still small. Tigers, which are to export, should be 6-7 years old. Previously,

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foreign business people came here to view tigers at the farm but they did not decide to buy since tigers are not big enough for export. There are many prices of tigers, varying from 25 million kip to 150 million kip, depending on the size of a tiger.

What is a challenge of the tiger farming?

The challenge is that tigers are the first-kind animals in the endangered wildlife list. If tigers are categorised into the second-kind animal list, the tiger farming business will be more convenient. ASEAN member countries' conference will be held in 2010 to discuss and adopt categorisation of tigers into the domestic animal list. To do so, the tiger farming business will expand rapidly.

What is the future target of your business?

I am very proud of this farm with many tigers, which is only one in Laos and it is regarded as a farm with many tigers in the Asian countries. In the future I would like to raise tigers for acrobatic performances and make the farm to be a zoo, which the public can visit as in foreign countries. Economic development is carried out in Khammouane province and more foreign tourists will come to the province after the construction of Mekong River Bridge is completed. ○