

## **Recent explorations of the Northern Lao-European Cave Project (2012-2014)**

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In 2011 the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of annual expeditions to northern Laos organized by the Northern Lao-European Cave Project ([www.laoscaveproject.de](http://www.laoscaveproject.de)) yielded over 100 km of mapped and fully published underground passages from 196 caves. This presentation covers the most recent expeditions of the Project since then, resulting in 184 new caves with a total of 53 km of passages from the provinces of Luang Prabang and Houaphan. Several promising new caving areas were investigated with Tham Doun Mai (3,745 m long) being the most important cave yet known in Luang Prabang province. In Houaphan several major caves were surveyed, including Tham Nam Oogh (3,315 m), Tham Houay Ngot (2,750 m), and Tham Giga, yielding the largest cave passage found so far in northern Laos (90 m wide and 50 m high in places). Many exciting hydrological systems in Houaphan await exploration in the future. Our cave documentation projects were awarded EuroSpeleo Projects in 2013 and 2014. This presentations provides a complete overview about the last 3 years of exploration in northern Laos and also informs about the general karst and cave potential of this SE Asian country.