

# LPPE NEWSLETTER

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## The 4<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee at Xayaburi

The 4th technical committee was held in Xayabouri on 14 February 2013 chaired by Madam Keobang A Keola, Director General of Department of Pollution Control, MONRE. Approximately 70 people participated including Lao officials, JICA experts, LPP Office staff, the media and others. All the progress made in these 6 months was confirmed and actions to be made in the next 6 months were clarified. Representatives from three pilot cities gave presentations on the current issues to be conquered and shared their experiences gained so far.



## Launch of the Pilot Projects

A number of pilot projects are planned for 3Rs, waste discharge and collection, final disposal, healthcare waste management and institutional improvement in the three cities. Some of them have had a head start as reported below.

### **3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycling) and Waste Discharge/Collection**

Either in the 3Rs or waste discharge, the central player is the individual residents. When something becomes unusable for him/her, it is totally up to him/her whether to reuse or recycle it or how to discharge it. Every resident must be sensible enough to make a better decision.

Therefore, we have been paying a particular attention to the interest and



*Waste dumping at the old quarry*

consciousness of waste issues of residents during the planning stage of the pilot project for 3Rs and waste discharge improvement.

### **From Editor**

This newsletter is the 4th issue from LPPE, Laos Pilot Program for Narrowing the Development Gap towards ASEAN Integration, Environmental Management Component. We are now at the turning point of LPPE, which is moving from the planning stage to the implementation stage. The newsletter will report the launch of some of the LPPE's pilot projects whereby solid waste management in the pilot three cities, namely Vientiane Capital (VTE), Luang Prabang (LBP) and Xayabouri (XYB) will be improved. In case you have questions or need any further information, please feel free to contact us at LPPEenv@windowslive.com or lppepcdteam@hotmail.com. The back numbers of the newsletter and other related documents are available at <http://bit.ly/zBcoML>.

In VTEL, we decided to select one district, from which pilot villages would be chosen, in order to effectively concentrate the human resources of LPPE to a limited area and to enable close communication with the residents. After the continuous discussion, Xaysettha district was selected taking account of several criteria such as (i) it is covered by the waste collection service, (ii) enough space is generally available for households to implement waste com-

posting, and (iii) the district office has highly concerned with waste management.

There were a number of villages in Xaysettha district that showed interest in waste management. The LPPE's Lao counterpart members and Japanese experts visited those villages and carried out interview surveys to select pilot villages. Finally, four villages were selected including None Savang, Hougsouphab, Nonsavanh and Amone.

Village None Savang tried waste composting before, but it faded out without continuous support. The villagers are now willing to challenge waste composting again. Villages Hougsouphab, Nonsavanh, and Amone have an old quarry in their middle area, and it has been serving as a temporal dump site for the nearby residents without an access to the waste collection service. The improvement of the waste collection service and the proper instruction to the residents about waste discharge will prevent illegal waste littering. In these four villages, the pilot project of

3Rs and waste discharge/collection improvement will be implemented.

Those villages already nominated village volunteers, who will play very important roles in promoting the projects. The villagers, Lao counterparts and LPPE Japanese experts will work closely to make the villages clean, green and beautiful.

In LPB and XYB, we also selected pilot villages as below. Each of the pilot project will be customized to fit different conditions of these villages.

Pilot project	LPB	XYB
3Rs pilot projects	Vat Thath Pongvane	Thinh Phapoun Na Tor Noi
Waste discharge/ collection improvement pilot projects	Hua Xieng A Phai Thad Bosoth	Simuangkhoun Done Mai Boung Kaeng Na Tor Noi

## Healthcare Waste Management

JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) procured two incinerators for infectious healthcare waste to VTE and LPB. The incinerators are such a type as developed by Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, and the incinerators of the same type are used at hospitals individually in Vietnam. Unlike in Vietnam, LPPE aims to develop a centralized treatment system that serves for two or more hospitals.

The development of the centralized treatment system necessitates a fee collection system to cover the necessary cost for operation and a separate collection system of infectious waste.

In VTE, a truck specially-equipped to transport infectious waste was provided by a Japan's grant aid in 1997. Since then, a separate collection service of infectious waste has been provided to large hospitals in the capital and it was disposed of at an isolated pit in the KM32 final disposal site. As the incinerator is installed at the KM32 final disposal site, the waste transportation cost will not be

changed. But the incineration treatment is more costly than the disposal at the isolated pit and therefore the fee must be increased. VUDAA (Vientiane Urban Development Administration Authority), the relevant hospitals, MONRE (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment), MOH (Ministry of Health) and DONRE (Department of Natural Resources and Environment) gathered several times to discuss this matter, and in February 2013, the new fee was finally agreed.

In March, LPPE also hold a seminar on healthcare waste management at Mahosot Hospital. More than 100 people attended the seminar, such as nurses and hospital staff dealing with waste management from different medical institutions. By clarifying the practical details and contract agreement, the new system will take off.

In LPB, there has been no particular system to collect and dispose of infectious waste. The incinerator provided by JICA was installed at the premises of the Provincial Hospital, and at present, infectious waste gen-



Special pit for the disposal of healthcare waste under construction in XYB

erated at the Provincial Hospital is incinerated twice a week. Our next task is to establish the first collection system in LPB of infectious waste from different hospitals. UDAA of LPB aims to develop the centralized treatment system that receives infectious waste from about 18 public and



Healthcare waste found at the final disposal site in XYB

private hospitals.

In XYB, we will also introduce a new collection system of infectious waste for its separate disposal. A special pit is already ready at the final disposal site



Improvement of access road at KM32 in VTE

### Final Disposal Improvement

The final disposal site is the last destination of solid waste collected from households. If its operation has a trouble, it can also affect waste collection. Therefore, although it is not familiar to the general public, the final disposal site is a highly important facility for solid waste management. The final disposal sites of the three pilot cities face common and serious problems such as disor-

ganized waste dumping and poor condition of the access road during the rainy season.

Accordingly, various engineering works have been taking place in the three final disposal sites depending on their conditions, including asphalt pavement of the access roads, construction of drainage, establishment of green buffers and installation of a weighbridge. These works will be completed in March 2013 and followed by field-based technology transfer of site operation.

Furthermore, LPPE will improve the work conditions of the waste pickers. The waste pickers are those who collect salable material from waste for their livelihood. Their waste recovering activities are good for the environment and should be respected, but they are at risk of accidents with heavy equipment that is working at the final disposal site. Their health is also threatened with diseases and injuries due to the unsafe and unsanitary work condition. Therefore, we will prepare a waste picking rule, which will specify the time and place for waste picking and instruct them to wear gloves and boots.

### Institutional Improvement

The change of a solid waste management system must be accompanied with institutional reform and the redefinition of responsibilities. We will prepare official documents that will be necessary to systematically continue what we have implemented in the pilot projects. For instance, in LPB, the Agreement of Provincial Governor was already issued to respond to the proposal from DONRE of LPB in regard to healthcare waste management. In VTE, the fee collection system for healthcare waste incineration will be stipulated in contracts to be signed by the hospitals and VUDAA.

## 1st Workshop on Environmental Sustainable Cities Guidelines



Group work to develop ESC visions

In Issue 2 of the newsletter, we reported about our elaboration to develop the Environmental Sustainable Cities Guidelines (ESC\_GL). It was finally drafted in English and Lao as one of the major outputs to be produced by LPPE. However, the development of the guidelines is not a goal but just a start for the movement towards ESC promotion and the start should be made by its wide use. Therefore, in order to encourage the use of the ESC\_GL, workshops were

planned to be held during the year 2013 with participation of all the provinces of the country. MONRE expects that all the provincial capitals of the country develop their own ESC Visions by following the instructions given by the guidelines.

The first workshop was held from 4 to 6 of March, 2013, in Oudomxay with participants from eight Northern provinces, including Bokeo, Luang Namtha, Phongsali, Hua Phan, Xieng Khouang, and LPPE's pilot areas of

Luang Prabang, and Xayabouri. From each province, about 10 or more participants were attended from the provincial cabinet office, Provincial DONRE, Provincial Department of Public Works and Transport, and UDAA. and established goals and strategies of those sub-sectors. In Part III, all the provinces gave presentations of their ESC Visions and recognized their achievements in the workshop.

The workshop program was composed of three parts. Part I was a series of classroom lectures where fundamentals of the ESC\_GL and the experiences of the ESC Vision development in Luang Prabang and Xayabouri were presented. Part II was practical group works. The participants from the same province worked together for hours to review the environmental conditions of their province, identified important environmental sub-sectors

<b>Improvement of final disposal sites of the three cities</b>	
<b>KM32 in Vientiane Capital</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site clearing</li> <li>• Asphalt pavement of 1,200-meter access road</li> <li>• Installation of drainage pipes</li> <li>• Tree planting in the 200-meter buffer zone</li> <li>• Upgrading of waste weighting and recording system</li> </ul>	
<b>KM8 in Luang Prabang</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asphalt pavement of 800-meter access road</li> <li>• 470-meter earth drain</li> <li>• 400-meter embankment</li> <li>• Installation of drainage pipes</li> <li>• Installation of waste weighting and recording system (weight bridge, platform, control house and computing system)</li> <li>• Replacement of the gate</li> <li>• Leachate collection and re-circulation system</li> </ul>	
<b>KM9 in Xayabouri</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of an administration office</li> <li>• Installation of a new gate</li> <li>• Healthcare waste discharge pit and access road</li> </ul>	



*Leachate collection pipe installed at KM8 in Luang Prabang. Leachate is highly polluted water that generates from waste dumps. This will be the first-ever leachate treatment system in Laos.*

### **LPPE on Air**

Have you seen us on the TV? From December 2012, Lao National TV has been broadcasting the activities of LPPE and other LPP's components. Don't miss out and keep up with us!