

Farewell of Mr. Yasutoshi YAMADA, JICA Expert

First of all, I would like to thank all of you for your kind cooperation in implementing PAREDD Project during my duty period from October 2012 to this month. In addition to DOF, DAEC, PAFO LPB, DAFO PSY, and DAFO XGN, my special thanks go to village heads, members of LFMCS, members of livestock/fish raising groups, VVS Volunteers, and other villagers, all of whom are in Houay Khing Village Cluster in Phonsay District. I could have many great experiences with you, I could learn a lot from you as well.

My last comment to you is concerned with sustainability of what we have been building for 5 years. The sustainability of PAREDD's outcomes will depend on you. Particularly, the organizations established through PAREDD's activities in villages, such as LFMCS, Forest Patrol Units, Activity Groups for livelihood improvements, VDF Management Units, and VVS, need to be strengthened more and more for your continual progress. Your experiences of confronting problems, trying to solve them by yourselves, and coordinating with various outer organizations for technical supports will be invaluable for such sustainability of your village development.

Furthermore, I would like to leave the key to success in the village development to you: "Never Give Up! Keep Trying!!" Once you give up, you become a failure. However, you can earn success someday, as far as you keep trying and learning even from mistakes. I sincerely wish all of you prosperity and happiness. Good luck to you!!

Yasutoshi Yamada, JICA Expert



Farewell of Mr. Makoto DAIMON, JICA Expert See you again

I am Makoto DAIMON, Chief advisor of PAREDD. On 22 August I leave to Japan after completing my task in Lao P.D.R. I worked in Luang Prabang Province for three years supported by people in Xiengung district, Phonsay district, Luang Prabang province, Vientiane Capital and so on. Here I would like to express my deepest thanks to Lao people.

In the first bulletin of May 2012, I wrote that mountainous communities which protect forests shall be rewarded in economic condition, because forests also benefit people in cities, while people in mountainous communities receive restrictions in their economic activities to protect forests. Based on the belief, I worked in mountainous areas in northern parts of Lao P.D.R to promote proper land use, livelihood improvement and good living condition. Thanks to all who are involved in PAREDD project, good impacts of our project have been observed in rural communities step by step. It is my great pleasure.

PAREDD project continues one more year (from 2014 to 2015) to firm sustainable activities for reducing deforestation in Lao P.D.R. I would like to ask all people concerned to support PAREDD project on and on. Finally I wish to see you once again, and many, many thanks to you.



PAREDD

Bulletin of July-Aug 2014 27th



**The Participatory Land
and Forest Management
Project for Reducing
Deforestation**



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Progress of Village Development Fund of Houaykhing village, Phonesay district



Through the implementation of livelihood improvement activities supported by PAREDD Project, the revolving fund has been progressed.

On 20th August 2014, Houaykhing village organized a meeting for handing over the reimbursements from loan-takers to the Village Development Fund (VDF). The handover ceremony was attended by Phonesay District Agriculture and Forestry Office, Village authorities and Village cluster head as first witnesses.

This is the paid back from Poultry raising group from 5 households out of 19 households, totaling amount of paid back is: 3,075,000 kip (loan principal and interest).

Therefore, the Village Development Fund plans to present the principle loan to the new household who are interested in taking the loans from VDF in order to reach out to all villagers.

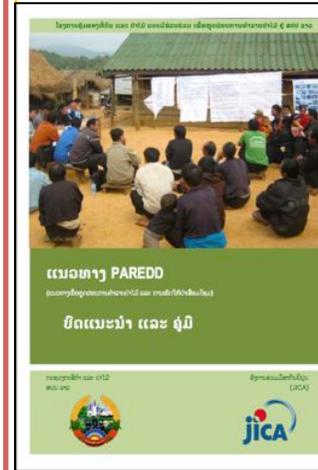
Official closing ceremony of PAREDD project and summarized results of the implementation

On 28 July 2014, PAREDD held a meeting to summarize the overall results of 5-year project implementation in 4 target villages, and closed the project officially. The meeting was held in Houaykhot village and chaired by Xiengngeun District Governor. Participants attended the ceremony were the project steering committee at provincial level, as well as project's counterparts, village authorities, land and forest management committee of 4 target villages.



In the meeting, each target village presented the results of implementation of PAREDD project for five years. In summary, we could see that the implementation of PAREDD project in Xiengngeun district was successful evidencing by the improved conditions of livelihoods of the villagers through the income generating activities, and step by step the forest has been restored comparing before and after the project.

Extension period for PAREDD Project



Coming extension period, the Project concentrates on working at PSY sites to build monitoring system under the sustaining stage of the PAREDD Approach. All inputs and investments at PSY sites were completed until now.

And we are going to raise such seeds with people in the sites by careful monitoring and extension services to reap the harvest.

Also, the Project plans to conduct the impact studies on socio-economic status and forest cover change/ land use status at PSY site coming dry season. Besides, we are going to introduce the PAREDD Approach to other districts in Luang Prabang with obvious impacts of the Approach derived by above impact studies.

