



# CIEDII Newsletter

Community Initiative for Education  
Development Project Phase 2

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Vol.1



## JICA backs Education Development at District Level!

Community Initiatives for Education Development project (CIED), which finished in December, 2011, returns to Laos to support 4 southern provinces as Community Initiatives for Education Development Project phase 2 (CIEDII).

### What is CIEDII?

The Government of the Lao PDR is striving to achieve the target of Education for All (EFA) by 2015 through improving equitable access, quality and relevance, and effective management of education. While the Net Enrolment Rate has risen to 95.2% in 2011, a high Repetition Rate of 10.5% and a high Dropout Rate of 7.1% lead to the low Completion Rate of only 67.2%. Furthermore, the educational disparity between urban, rural and remote areas still remains.

In the CIED Project, JICA supported 90 target schools in 6 districts in 3 southern provinces, Salavan, Sekong and Attapeu. Net Enrollment Rates were quite low, and for 4 years from 2007 the project improved the education environment of primary schools that faced a lack of education infrastructure, materials and quality of teachers through communities' effort.

The project introduced and promoted a cycle of planning, implementing, reviewing and evaluation of School Development Plans (SDP) through community initiatives. At the completion of the CIED Project, school environment and education statistics in target schools have been improved dramatically.

As a next step, the CIED II Project aims to improve the access and quality of primary education in the southern 4 provinces through strengthening the capacity of education administration - both at central and local levels - to support all schools in the target area to be "self-developing school with quality".

### What is the Aim of CIEDII?

As advocated in the Education Sector Development Plan, EFA and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the goal and policy of the Lao government/CIEDII is that "All Lao children in our villages, districts, provinces and the country enroll and complete at least primary education". There are still many children not being enrolled in schools and students not completing primary education. This may not only be a result of school

issues but also family and community issues as well. We strongly believe the commitment of each community and their school for education is necessary to encourage enrollment and to minimize dropout rates.

Local administration plays an important role to support analyzing and solving various education problems differ from family and village to another. CIEDII Project aims to build strong local governmental officials capable to support each school's needs based on each circumstances.

### Main Activities of CIEDII

CIEDII Project conducts 3 main activities to achieve the above purposes.

1. Develop and establish various training modules and systems from the central to the school level.
2. Provide on the job training for the above training modules and systems to Provincial Education and Sports Services (PES) and District Education and Sports Bureaus (DEB).
3. Provide necessary trainings for prioritized schools.

## Target area of CIEDII

CIEDII Project targets 10 districts in 4 provinces in the south.



1. Champasack Province
  - Champasack District
  - Soukhouma District
  - Mounlapamok District
  - Khong District
2. Savannakhet Province
  - Artsaphangthong District
  - Songkhone District
  - Xaybouly District
3. Salavan Province
  - Lakhonpheng District
  - Khongxedon District
4. Sekong Province
  - Lamam District

## Official Launch Meeting was held

The official launch meeting of the project was held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012 in Pakse, Champasack Province and included 47 participants as follows: Mr. Lytou BOUAPAO, Vice Minister of Education and Sports (MoES), Mr. Masato TOGAWA, Chief representative of JICA, provincial and district representatives from target areas, Directors of 4 PESs and 10 DEBs, members from related departments in MoES, such as Department of Pre-school and Primary Education (DPPE), Department of Planning (DP), Department of Finance (DoF), Department of Inspection (DoI), Department of Teacher Training (DTT), Education Standard and Quality Assurance Center (ESQAC), and Education Statistics and IT Center (ESITC).

In the meeting, the overall concept, purpose and schedule of the CIEDII project were introduced by DPPE, and responsibilities assigned. Also, the DP announced that the project prioritizes

schools with low educational statistics and allocated necessary budget to achieve the project purpose, through clearly mentioning the situation and concrete solutions into the Annual Provincial and District Education Development Plan. A participant pointed out that “the foremost concern is low Completion Rate and Survival Rate of primary schools. Survival Rate of 70% is far from the project purpose of 95%. DEB and Village Education Development Committees (VEDCs) will be a key player to achieve the purpose with micro-level influences”.

Speaking at the meeting, Mr. TOGAWA said “I strongly believe that CIEDII Project contributes to the Lao government to achieve EFA and MDGs by strengthening the capacity of central, provincial, and district levels as well as to the VEDCs”. Vice Minister BOUAPAO also encouraged participants and said “many parents still do not understand the importance of education for their children and many students drop out of school to help around the house and paddy fields. Without receiving basic education, job prospects are limited because it will not be possible to make a living only from natural resources anymore. VEDC will be a key mechanism to raise parents’ awareness of the importance of education, and it is a responsibility of the DEB to encourage VEDCs to work on it. CIEDII project is an important project that supports the realization of policy based on a rich experience from CIEDI Project. I have high hopes that new target districts will learn more from the project and will successfully achieve the purposes.” he said.



## Visits to 4 PESs and 10 DEBs

After the Official Launch Meeting, project experts visited 4 PESs and 10 DEBs in the beginning of December 2012 for more detailed explanation of the project.

Five members from Pre-school and Primary Education Division, Teacher Development Division, Statistic and Planning Division, Finance Division, and Personnel Division were assigned as trainers for the PESs. At the same time, seven members from Pre-school and Primary Education Unit, Teacher Development Unit, Statistic and Planning Unit, Finance Unit, Personnel Unit, and 2 Pedagogical Advisors were assigned as trainers for the DEBs. For the future, these same people will serve as provincial/ district trainers to train school principals, teachers, and VEDC members to make schools to be “self-development schools”.

The visits also revealed noticeable local characteristics and issues to us. PESs concerned that the districts - except the 56 Education Poorest Districts - tend to be neglected from attention and support by the government and donors. The CIEDII project will select schools with serious problems and support the schools as a priority in the target districts which are not in Education Poorest Districts.



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