



CIED II Newsletter

Community Initiatives for Education

Development Project Phase2

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In Laos, school year starts in September and government budget year starts in October. Plan and budget report are submitted from District Education and Sports Bureau (DESB) to Provincial Education and Sports Service (PESS) at the end of November as it usually takes time for central government offices to form their agreement. Therefore, On-the-Job Training (OJT) for making district education development program has started in October.

The purpose of this OJT is as follows;

- Improve the District Education Development Plan to more effectively address the main educational problems in the district and allocate resource more efficiently according to their main educational problems,

- Improve the District Education Development Report and Plan to be more consistent with the principle of Result-Based Management,
- Improve the District Education Development Plan to be more consistent with School Development Plan/ Village Education Development Plan.

CIED II project aims at strengthening the educational administration that can address the school problems. We have carried out the school management training for schools to be able to develop their own School Development Plan (SDP). Furthermore, for the schools which have some problems, we offered the workshop until August 2014, which is to develop SDP together with village education development committee (VEDC).

As the next step we travel around each district for one week and conduct a workshop so that DESB can take necessary action to address the problems raised by SDP. On May and

June in this year we carried out OJT of situation analysis and education development planning. Now that SDP has been submitted to DESB, DESB should consider for which school they should support and what kind of support is to be offered. As a consequence, DESB activities are to be planned and budget is to be allocated.



On the OJT, firstly we begin to study SDP gathered from each school. Approximately 60-70 percent of the primary schools in the district have submitted the SDP. We summarized the points that each school did not understand and the points that require additional explanation and support

while DESB staff go to monitoring to the school.

The next step is to check the latest statistic information submitted from each school. This is a MUST task because, in case that information is not correct DESB may make a wrong judgment on the lower performing schools. In addition, that incorrect information will lead the national data to be untruthful. From the whole district statistics information, we can see the likelihood that it will be very hard to achieve national target of Five-Year Plan 2011-2015.

Having that plan achieved is one of the policy goals in Laos. We want DESB to understand the policy goal of especially repetition ratio, dropout ratio and survival ratio in grade 5 will not be achieved rather than access indicators and DESB should put higher priority on the improving education quality in their resource allocation. After DESB gets certain understanding of the real situation, we proceed to the drafting of DESB activities and measures.



We were supposed to identify what we could carry out and could not carry out based on the budget approved by the National Assembly this year. However as it took long time for the national budget to be finalized, the budget information didn't reach us before we had started OJT. The good news is that Department of Finance in Ministry of Education and Sports: (MoES) is now starting to understand the importance of the budgets for things such as OJT training and monitoring. The expectations for securing recurrent cost for the quality improvement are increasing.

As is often happened, DESB/PSS may realize that their normal budget might

not be enough to implement all the necessary activities required in SDP. Therefore, DESB prioritized the activities according to the 5 criteria such as relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability and wrote project proposals according to the Government' format.

Major issues found in the district planning

All CIED II 10 target districts had the problem of high repetition and dropout rates and low survival rate. There are many causes of the high repetition and dropout rate, but major causes are the low teaching technique of teachers and low understanding of students' parents about the importance of education as well as the living condition, such as children going with parents who work outside of the village, and sometimes go to Thailand. DESB got the detail causes of the problems and needs from schools from SDP.

Then, we found that all DESB has not planned technical promotion plan such as training since long. All the trainings have been centrally planned these years, and DESB does not have enough budget as well. Training needs are somewhat among districts. Some districts need VEDC training a lot, and some districts needs in-service teacher training. Small number of districts still has the problem of wrong statistics from the schools and DESB also do not understand about statistics well, so the training on statistics are needed. Through this OJT, each DESB discussed the causes of problems and could plan solutions by their ownership. It is desirable that DESB can have the budget for technical promotion more than previous years.

Introduction of CIED2 Trainers

MoES, Planning Division (DP)

Mr. Sithong Sikhao

“Until now, many DESB and PSS wrote their plan as “we want to do this

and that etc.” without explanation of reasons and rationale. I want DESB and PSS to be able to describe those rationales. If the rationales are not clear, MoES also does not have enough rational to allocate our limited budget. Budget should be allocated based on the plan. We, PSS and DESB are learning through CIED II project in discussing planning and budgeting together.”

Mr. Oudom Kongsengdala

“Through this OJT we got many knowledge and experiences. DESB trainers were very pleased at this OJT as they have never had enough experiences for making proposal and budget before. I am still struggling to make the OJT meet their needs. We would like to support PSS and DESB in making their planning.”



Ms. Bouavanh Chanthanongdeth

“This OJT was the first time for me to attend. In the beginning I felt nervous. But eventually I could overcome my nervousness then able to understand the concept.

Throughout the OJT being based on the real education statistics and SDP, we could make necessary plan for each district and I am sure that this OJT was quite helpful to each district.

CONTACT

Waiting for your comments!

Masako IWASHINA(Chief Advisor)

Office in MoES

Email:m-iwashina@icons.co.jp

Yudai NISHIYAMA

Office in Champasack PSS

Email: nishiyama@intemjapan.co.jp