



# CIED Project Newsletter



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Community Initiatives for Education Development (CIED) Project

CIED Pakse Office

CIED Project is the shorten name of "Supporting Community Initiatives for Primary Education Development in the Southern Provinces", which is the Project of Ministry of Education, Lao P.D.R. supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

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## EXPERIENCE EXCHANGE WORKSHOP AMONG THREE PROVINCES WAS HELD

One year has already been passed since CIED Project officially started since December 21, 2007, and target schools experienced one cycle of planning of School Improvement Plan (SIP), implementation and review of their activities for their further improvement planning. To review the outcomes in the first year, exchange experiences among three provinces and collect ideas of all the stakeholders for the Project Planning for 2009, CIED Project organized Experience Exchange Workshop from February 10-12, 2009 with 79 participants. The participants were all the trainers from 6 districts and 3 provinces, representatives of Village Education Development Committee (VEDC) and representatives of principals from 6 districts, staff members from 3 NGOs, core trainers of MOE and Japanese Volunteers who are stationed in PES and TTS. The summary of their presentation and ideas exchanged are as follows;

### Activities which were implemented in this year

- Participatory Planning Workshop for VEDC
- School Management Workshop for principals and leading teachers
- Procurement and delivery of materials and organizing workshop which were proposed in SIP
- Review Workshop for VEDC

### Outcomes in this year

#### A. Three provinces in common

- VEDC were set-up in all the target schools and approved officially by District Governors in many districts.
- VEDC organized dissemination meeting for whole villagers to encourage children's schooling and to explain SIP which leads to the improvement in villager's understanding toward children's education and improvement in community's support to school.
- Net enrollment ratios were increased from the last year.

#### B. Sekong Province

- Average Net Enrollment Ratio of 30 target schools has been greatly improved from 75% in 2007-08 to 90% in 2008-09.
- In average of 30 target schools, about 90% of activities planned in SIP were implemented, even though those percentages are different from 65% to 100% among target schools.

#### C. Saravane Province

- Villagers started implementing activities which can be done by only villagers in SIP even though SIP has just been approved on 20 January 2009. 16-79% of activities in SIP were already completed.

### Lesson learned in this year

- The people who implement project in all levels must understand correctly the policy, strategy, contents and philosophy of project and coordinate well to achieve the purpose and targets of project.
- VEDC is a key to develop education at local level effectively. Therefore, VEDC is needed to be informed and trained clearly about their roles and responsibilities in the education at local level with participatory methods to enable VEDC to function effectively.
- Collecting clear and detailed information and statistics are one of the most important inputs for education planning in service areas for all children to enroll schools.
- Education development with quality and sustainability must start from the needs of community and implementation of community by themselves.

### Request

- Training for VEDC on information /statistics collection again, and organize training on recording, Child's Rights and gender issues.
- Teacher training on teaching methods and internal supervision, and how Pedagogical Advisor can check and the teaching methods of school teachers.
- PES, DEB and NGO should plan monitoring of target schools together.
- Experience Exchange Workshop among all target schools in district or in province.
- Training for PES and DEB staff about the usage of computers.

Participants visited good example schools and not-so-good example schools in Experience Exchange Workshop.



## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS OF SARAVANE PROVINCE WERE APPROVED AND REVIEW WORKSHOP WERE HELD

Saravane Province was organized Participatory Planning Workshop from 28 July to 19 August 2009, and organized SIP Meeting from 1 to 3 October with the representatives of VEDC and principals from each target school to examine the validity of planned activities and detail budget.

In SIP Meeting, CIED Project asked each village how the planned activities will contribute for the problem solving of each school. SIP Meeting became good opportunity for each village to exchange ideas and understand more deeply which makes SIP more deeply considered.

The planned activities in SIP are as follows;

- Conduct meeting to disseminate the Decree on primary education within the village
- Collect statistics of children
- VEDC talks with parents whose children do not go to school or absent from school often



Fence making with villagers' participation

- Organize meeting to open school at the end of August
- Request DEB and PES to increase teachers
- Internal supervision activities
- Ask PA to supervise
- Provide textbook and teaching guide
- Organize excellent students contest in school group
- Organize sport and art activities
- Conduct extra teaching to slow learners
- Repair tables and benches
- Request black board from DEB
- Make information board
- Repair school building
- Make or renovate of school fence
- Make or renovate of school placard
- Make or repair national flag pole
- Organize the school compound clean
- Plant trees and flowers
- Encourage children to drink clean water (set-up filter for the water resources)

After Participatory Planning Workshop, VEDC started implementing activities which villagers can do by themselves without external assistance with the encouragement from Village Focus International (VFI), contracting NGO for the implementation in Saravane Province. For example, villagers finished preparing fence wood early, and making school fence was completed on the day CIED Project delivered barbed wire to target school.

To provide information on villager's implementation of activities to the Experience Exchange Workshop mentioned above, Saravane Province held Review Workshop from the end of January to the beginning of February. In the Review Workshop, VEDC considered their achievement, problems and solutions. Examples of problems and solutions which VEDC found by themselves are as follows;

- Regarding the problems that children sell their labor to factory, VEDC negotiated with the company and made agreement between village and company not to hire children.
- Some villages make agreement between VEDC and each family in the village to assure children's schooling.
- Naphengnoi Village found that students were absent often in the first semester because students could not cross small river, and decided to make small bridge by themselves.

In Review Workshop, VEDC could recognize by themselves how much they made efforts for children's schooling and increased self-confidence.

## PROJECT CONSULTATION STUDY TEAM VISITED THE PROJECT

Since one year has already passed, Project Consultation Study Team from JICA Headquarter visited CIED Project to review the progress and consult measures to be taken for the improvement of the Project.

The outcomes confirmed are (1) VEDCs are functioning, and (2) ownership of MOE, PES and DEB is high. Measures to be taken for improvement are (1) Direct School Support can be increased in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year and decrease in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year to extract community initiatives more and increase sustainability, (2) promote dissemination in school group, (3) exploring approached for further dissemination and (4) improvement the writing of Project Design Matrix.



Interview in Attapeu PES

Attapeu PES plans to organize School Management Workshop with the trainers of CIED Project trained by provincial budget.

**“We look forward to your questions and comments on our project.”**

“Supporting Community Initiatives for Primary Education Development in the Southern Provinces (hereinafter called “CIED Project”).”

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