

**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**  
**PEACE INDEPENDENT DEMOCRACY UNITY AND PROSPERITY**

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**COUNTRY REPORT**  
**(Inception Report)**

**For**

**The Group Training on**

**“Leadership Development of Persons with Disabilities”**

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**Submitted by:**

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- XX. Attach here with a brochure or and annual report of your organization if any 2OE2 your activities in your organization

**XXI. Describe any other working experience with person with disabilities That you have other than above mentioned organization**

**XXII. If you don't mind, please share your personal experiences related**

**Of your disabilities. And please describe how you feel about the**

**Position of person with disabilities in your country.(this question is**

**Not compulsory and also it will not be in the selection procedure.)**



## ❖ Geography and General information of Lao PDR

### 1. Location:

Lao is location in Southeastern Asia, which is bordered by many countries as Burma, Cambodia, China north east of Thailand, west of Vietnam, Lao is a land locking country that cover 236.800 sq Km. The population is about 6.363.481 and all most of people working as farmer.

### 2. Ethnic groups:

Lao Loum (lowland), Lao Theng (upland), Lao Soung (highland), including the Hmong and the Yao , ethnic Vietnamese / Chinese

### 3. Religions:

Buddhist, animist and other (including Christian denominations)

### 4. Languages:

Lao (official), French, English, and ethnic group languages

### 5. Economy

Laos is a land locking country with a primitive infrastructure. It has no railroads, a rudimentary road system, and limited external and internal telecommunications. Electricity is available in only a few urban areas. Subsistence agriculture accounts for

half of GDP and provides 80% of total employment. The predominant crop is glutinous rice. In non drought years, Laos is self sufficient over all in food, but each year flood, pests, and localized drought cause shortages in various parts of the country. For the foreseeable future the economy will continue to depend on aid from the IMF and other international sources, Japan is currently the largest bilateral aid donor, aid from the USSR/ Eastern

Europe has been cut sharply. As in many developing countries, deforestation and soil will hamper efforts to regain a high rate of GDP growth.

## **6. Communications**

Service to general public is poor but improving, the government relies on a radiotelephone network to communicate with remote areas

## **7. Transportation**

Airports ☺ with paved runways

Airports ☺ with unpaved runways

### **❖ The Activities moment of Decade of P W Ds in Lao PDR**

The movement of disabled persons, there are only design codes and guidelines for general construction and maintenance work. As such, disabled persons cannot easily access public buildings, state buildings, hospitals, schools and roads which are deemed difficult and dangerous for persons in wheelchairs or using crutches.

The Government of the Lao people's Democratic republic has set up a national committee for Disabled persons headed by the Minister of the Ministry of Labor and social welfare. Committee Board members include the vice ☺ Ministers of the Ministry of Health, Education and Foreign Affair, as well as staff from related ministries.

All government ministries and concerned organizations have implemented these measures according to their respective authority and responsibility. They also coordinate and work with each other to implement the measures.

The government of Lao PDR has cooperated with international organizations and NGOs to handle activities to prevent the causes of disability by:

- a. a national immunization program
- b. a mother and child health care and protection program
- c. treatment of eye diseases
- d. a demining program
- e. Community ☺ based rehabilitation (CBR) and primary health care (PHC) program.

Besides, the programs to prevent traffic accidents issues related to narcotics and alcohol abuse have also addressed.

### **❖ The policy of prevention of disabilities.**

The National committee pursues measures similar to the Government % acute;s policy for the country % acute;s disabled persons, including the prevention, of the causes of disability, free medical care and medical rehabilitation, as well as free professional, social and educational rehabilitation services.

#### **1) There are many vaccination projects.**

The MOH handles the following duties to prevent disabilities

- Carry out an ammunition program for children
- Provide basic health and sanitation
- Provide a water supply and potable water
- Carry out an environmental health protection campaign
- Prevent and combat malaria
- Prevent and provide tuberculosis treatment
- Check and provide dermatology and venerology treatment

- Provide treatment for ear / eye / nasal / oral cavity
- Provide mother and child care
- Arrange for HIV prevention
- The promotion of protecting accident on the road “Road Safety project”

## 2) UXO program.

To date, there are two surveys available in Lao regarding persons with disabilities; one by

The Ministry of Health and Prosthetic and Orthotic worldwide Education and relief (POWER) investigating the number of PWDs in 1996,

the Ministry of Labor and social welfare and Handicap International surveying the social and economic impact of UXO in Laos in 1997. However, the data regarding persons with disabilities was unsatisfactory.

The survey by the Ministry of health and Prosthetic and Orthotic worldwide Education and Relief (POWER) was carried out nationwide, approaching almost every town and village in the country. The objective of this survey was to determine the existing number of amputees (arm or leg), due to accident detonation of mines/unexploded ordnance as well as other accidents, diseases/infections of the bones, cancer, leprosy, or just poverty that was unrelated to UXO or mines.

The survey by the Ministry of Labor and social welfare and handicap International was the first national survey on the social Economic Impact of UXO on Lao PDR. According to the survey, there were 5,495 deceased victims; the majority of them, 4,632 cases (84%) died immediately, (11%) while being transported and 269 cases (5%) while hospitalized. The majority of those who escaped death are now living as disabled persons and are a burden for their families.

### ❖ Rehabilitation for PWDs.

The national center for Medical Rehabilitation (NCOMR), Ministry of health, is responsible for the medical rehabilitation of disabled people. The scheme of tasks includes furnishing rehabilitation technical support to central, provincial service / hospitals and provincial community CE based rehabilitation (CBR) program.

Training technical staff and extending the rehabilitation network to 16 provinces and 6 districts throughout the country have been undertaken.

Difficulties of rehabilitation services in Laos are as follow:

- Some families do not believe that rehabilitation is helpful
- The state rehabilitation network for disabled persons has not been able to reach out to the grassroots level yet; so far, it has only been able to perform at the provincial level
- Living in remote areas makes it impossible to access rehabilitation
- Some families think that it is wrong to force a child to take rehabilitation
- Due to poverty, the parents are unable to send a child for treatment and / or long term rehabilitation
- Due to poverty, family members must devote their time to supporting the family which limits their time for a disabled person

A parent does not know how to assist and train his/her child about basic self CE help and rehabilitation (basic physiotherapy).

USAID, World vision and Power have provided support for assistive devices for disabled persons such as prosthesis and rehabilitation, and artificial limbs for amputees.

❖ **Education for PWDs.**

Due to the increased number of PWDs in society and though a higher enrolment of disabled students in regular schools, teachers can better understand the need for providing accessible classrooms, toilets, and other facilities. Courses on designing accessible buildings have been conducted at the university's architecture faculty. Moreover, issues on accessibility, CBR, and integrated education were raised and discussed by provincial authorities, village leaders and teachers.

The MOE is responsible for compulsory education of both non OE disabled and disabled children nationwide. As per the MOE's authority, all kindergartens, pre OE school center and primary schools must be informed that disabled children are to be enrolled.

❖ **Vocational Training for PWDs**

The government approved the establishment of a multi OE discipline vocational training center in Vientiane Prefecture, which may increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities. In order to provide job placements that match the skill of persons with disabilities, the Ministry of Labor and social welfare has also developed a curriculum of tailoring arts and paper manufacturing handicrafts. A vocational training center soon to be completed will be run by the sisters of St. Paul De Charter of Thailand. Training courses include computer, accounting, the English language, agriculture, animal husbandry, tailoring and handicrafts. The National center of Medical Rehabilitation (NCRM) envisages having a multi OE discipline vocational training center for deaf persons and providing carpentry, blacksmith, etc. training center if there is foreign financial support.

❖ **The problems of developing self help group of PWDs in Lao PDR**

Difficulty to living in daily life, Economic situation is not very good and low income  
The organization of self help group of PWDs is not strengthening that we need to improve with 3 main steps as:

- Developing Human Resource
- Developing the system of implementation and coordination
- Materials support and budget plan.

❖ **Classified by type of disability**

**Classified by type of disabilities is has many**

No	Classified	Number	Number of %
1	Amputees	14.347	25.04%
2	Deaf, Speech problem moderate hearing loss	22.265	38.86%
3	Blind	15.453	26.97%
4	Deformities (leg, foot)	4.200	7.33%
5	Paralysis	660	1.15%
6	Burns	369	0.65%
<b>Total</b>		<b>57294</b>	<b>100%</b>

**1. Age of people with disabilities**

No	Age	Number of %
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1	00E15 year	13%
2	60E12 year	28.87%
3	130E18 year	27.57%
4	190E35 year	13.33%
5	360E60 year	12.02%
6	600EUP year	4.24%
Total		99.03%

## 2. People with disabilities from reason

Sickness = 41%

At birth = 36%

Accident = 12%

War = 8%

Other = 2%

UXO = 1%

### ❖ Major laws and regulations concerned with person with disabilities, if any (Name / title, registered year, decryptions)

Law and regulations related to disable person

The government of the Lao people's Democratic Republic has no specific legislation to protect the right of people with disabilities entire Lao population, disable persons have equal rights as other citizens, rights of Lao citizens set in the national legislation decree No. 18 / PMO by Prime Minister, date 27/January / 1995.

### ❖ Financial assistance for person with disabilities, if any

Take care and give the scholarship rent dormitory to them for disabilities from province.

### ❖ Disability – related organization and their activities

Give chance to disabilities scholarship study free at Quest College and their activities is study and learn how to do craft at Quest

### ❖ Description of your organization

Develop handicapped people come to get a high knowledge and know about IT

### ❖ Name of your organization

Name of my organization is L D P A and work Quest College

### ❖ Type of your organization (government , non OE governmental, Private)

L D P A is non government, Quest College is Private

### ❖ Background, mission, vision, activities, organization chart

I'm a handicapped person, I'm a member of L D P A is send me come to do work at Quest College

## 1. Mission

2001 I'm a Secretary

2003 I'm a Assistant Manager

2006 I'm a Special Education Manager

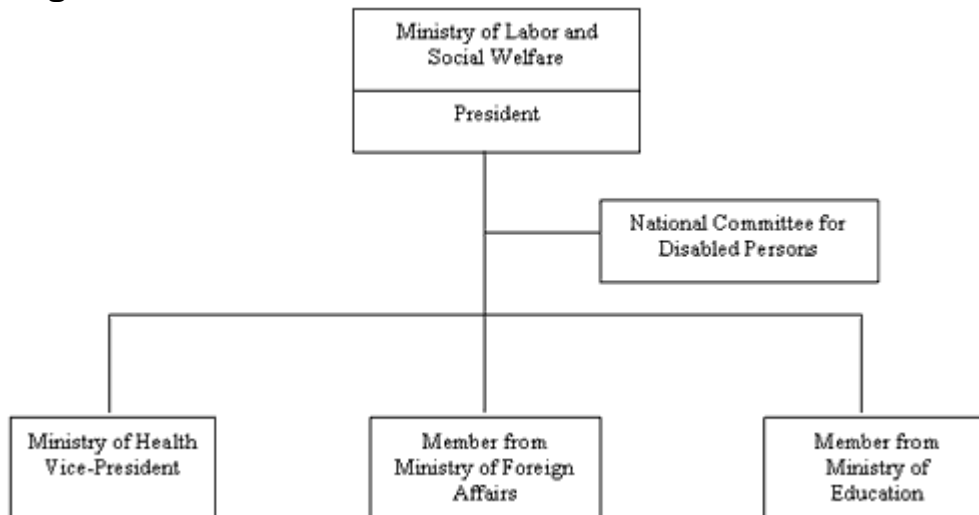
## 2. Vision

Develop handicapped people to get high knowledge and get a good job in their life when they are finish from here

## 3. Activities

Do handicraft (recycle things) and some time play wheelchair basket ball

## 4. Organization chart



### ❖ Staff and volunteers ( number, paid or non paid , with out disabilities , type of disabilities)

Quest College is not good finance cal

Total number About 10 staff

With out disabilities have 8 staff, disabilities have 2 staff

But in here have Creative hands room for handicapped students worker when they are have a free time is total number 14 students worker we pay them per our.

### ❖ Registered members (individuals / organization, number, membership fee)

### ❖ Financial resources of your organization

Low in come

### ❖ Weakness and strength of your organization

#### 1. weakness

Not many students and not good managements

#### 2. Strength

Good school for study, good environments

### ❖ Attach here with a brochure or and annual report of your organization if any 20E2 your activities in your organization

#### 1. Your job title

My job is Special Education Manager

#### 2. Describe the detail of activities that you are responsible for

I'm a special Education Manager, I work with handicapped people, and I'm responsible for

- 1 Creative hands

- 2 Scholarship students
- 3 SED ( Special Education Department)

**3. Explain why and when you started working in this organization**

I'm a member ship of LDPA

Quest College need a handicapped person staff, they are call to LDPA, and LDPA sent me come to work in here, because Quest College has Scholarship for handicapped people by in comes from Normal students Come to pay fee, 10 normal students can get 1 handicapped person come To study for free in here, I start work in Here on 2 /July/ 2001.

**4. Explain problem or difficulties that you face in your Activities and how you solve them.**

The problem is have many handicapped people need to study by Scholarship but the Quest College is doesn't have enough for Scholarship right now, I try to looking for who can support them More, because Quest College is doesn't have normal students Come to pay fee.

**5. State your opinion on how to improve your activities or your Organization and why.**

My opinion, Knowledge is important first, if possible I need some (NGO) from JICA come to help them because when I survey from LDPA and province is had almost of number for handicapped people need to study and want to get a good job in the future when they are finish from Quest College.

**6. Describe what kind of role you would like to take in this process And how.**

I want to be a good leader for handicapped people, I would like to learn Experience from your organization how to go, how to help them a right way How to give education to them and how to teach them can living by them self.

**❖ Describe any other working experience with person with disabilities That you have other than above mentioned organization**

I have experience with handicrafts, I teach some crafts (recycle paper, candle, and sewing) to disable people.

**❖ If you don't mind, please share your personal experiences related**

**Of your disabilities. And please describe how you feel about the**

**Position of person with disabilities in your country.(this question is**

**Not compulsory and also it will not be in the selection procedure.)**

I'm feeling sad about disabilities first and feeling shy first; don't brave to enjoin Normal friends in society, if not my best Friends, because I'm care of friends Teach me, (looking of me walk, and call my name Flow my disabilities)

I'm feeling sad if I see the normal person to be disabilities, because I don't  
Want to see normal person or baby be come to a person with disabilities in my  
Country, but I can't say that when is person disabilities come from where,  
Almost is accident from on the street right now.