

Final Report

JICA connecting Lao visual impairment to the world



IT workshop of Lao Disabled People

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1. Problem Analysis for Blind

After come back from the training course of Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment promotion. I had done researching the current situation of blinds people in Lao PDR. And found and understand the situation as below:

Education for Blind in general is limited in Laos. There is two schools for the blind which is located inside of National Rehabilitation Center and one is located in Thong pong (Eyes treatment hospital) in Vientiane Capital. Students from age 10 years to 25 years are learning each subject by sharing text books in Braille. Educational Environment and method are not so sophisticated and not well-managed, and even their Braille text books are very old and used for long time. Textbooks are sometime unreadable. However children who are visually impaired are to utilize those damaged textbooks without any choice. No mobility training are conducted there, and teachers are lack of awareness about those situations. This is a very critical condition for persons who are visually impaired not only educationally but also socially.



Even today, some inclusive public schools include blind people but they do not have any text book for those blind students. The students who are blind have to ask their sighted friends to read the text book for them, line by line.

And when it's the Computer class, the people with visually impaired have to go home with out any choice. They can not attend the computer class at public school.

Another problem most of PWD's in Laos especially for the blind people are far away from opportunity. They never get any opportunity from society or community and government is also not aware about employment PWD's especially for the blind. I believe advocacy and awareness are the most important approach to solve this problem.

Government, Society and community also think that the blind people can do nothing for society. They don't know that blind people have difference kind of ability. If they are given the opportunity, they can contribute to the society like the

non-disabled people. Therefore we had setup a training course of Information Technology **for the blind in our own IT workshop since August, 01/ 2006 last year.**



Because of the challenges that we have mentioned above, the Lao disabled IT team has the bright idea to help the blind people to show their abilities to society, and thus "IT improvement for the disabled" was created with an aim to provide the blind people with experience and skills. **Eventually** after six months IT training for BLIND, we encouraged them to make their own Braille textbooks to contribute their own school and including inclusive public school for Blind and improve their educational environment. This would be the very encouraging and **appealing** project to young blind and also Laos Government.

2. Goal for the next one year.

- TO DISPART BLIND IT INSTRUCTORS TO PUBLIC IN CLUSIVE SCHOOL.
- TO ESTABLISH IT WORKSHOP.
- TO HELP THE BLIND ASSOCIATION OF LAOS TO SETUP A BRAILLE LIBRARY.

3. Objectives.

- Develop their IT abilities and motivate PWDs to enhance their IT vocational Skills in using computer.
- Help the blind who have completed training to find jobs. (in gernverment sector and they can be the trainers for the other blinds).
 - Help the blinds keep up to date with the digital age.

4. Training Course programs.

To meet the objective, we provide three training courses as the following Programs below.

1. Basic Computer.

- Computer Equipment.
- Hardware (Braille Printer “Embosser”).
- Software (JAWS, Win Braille, Duxbury)

2. Microsoft Office.

- Notepad.
- Microsoft Office Word.

3. Internet.

- How to access to internet.
- How to send and receive email.



5. Time Frame

01-August- 2006

We start teaching two blinds. Who are selected by our IT Workshop

- Mr. Keo is a student of from Phiavat School in Vientiane.
- Mr. Vilayphone (Jot) works for a massage clinic in Vientiane



The training course is six months and the lesson is covered curriculum below:

	No	Description
Microsoft Word 2003		
The Fundamentals		
	1	Introduction to Menus Bar
	2	Keystroke
	3	Closing a Document, Creating a New Document, and Entering Text
	4	Inserting and Deleting Text
	5	Selecting and Replacing Text
	6	Opening a Document
	7	Saving a Document
	8	Printing and Previewing a Document and Exiting Word
Working with and Editing Text		
	1	Saving a Document with a Different Name
	2	Cutting and Pasting Text
	3	Copying and Pasting Text
	4	Finding and Replacing Text
	5	Correcting Your Spelling and Grammar
	6	Using Undo, Redo, and Repeat
	7	File Management
Formatting Characters and Paragraphs		
	1	Using the Font Dialog Box
	2	Using the Bullets and Numbering Dialog Box
Internet Using (Time)		
	1	Introduction to Internet
	2	Working with Hotmail.com
	3	Working with Yahoo.com
	4	Yahoo and Hotmail Account registration
	5	Sending and Receiving Email.

The out come after six months training of two blinds is quite well. From never touch Computer and do not know anything about computers. Today, they can do many things in computer: Internet-Email, Text editing and Sound recording.

10-January- 2007

- c. The course is ended.
- d. We prepare first IT Seminar for blinds



We are discussing about a bout how to organize IT Seminar with ADDP, Lecturers and Trainers. At Lao Disabled IT Workshop.

22 & 23-January-2007

We IT workshop hold the big seminar.

- A trainer from Thailand Mr. Bee Songkran comes to assist this Seminar as a trainer.
- Keiko NAKATANI and Aiko baba from JSRPD Japan also come to observe.

- Mr. Yamaguchi the president of International Blind Association Japan gives lecture.
- Mr. Tanaka the presidents of Japan Braille libraries gives lecture.

This seminar is supported by ADDP and JICA Laos and organized by the Ministry of Labor and Social welfare and LDPA (Lao Disabled People's Association)



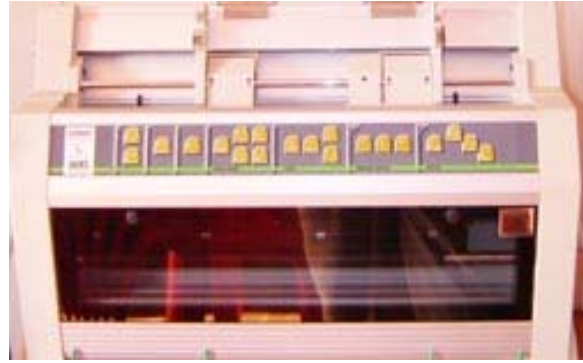
* *The place for interim IT seminar is provided by Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare.*

6. Future perspective

- After training, they will be able to be IT instructor.
- They can communicate with people around independently.
- Unemployment rate of PWD's will be reduced.
- PWD's can be able to contribute to the national economy of Laos.

Appendix **Special Training for Blind and IT workshop.**

We IT workshop is supported Computers, Room equipment, High speed Internet and Embosser (Braille Printer) by Mr. Tanaka the presidents of Japan Braille Libraries.



Also, all of IT workshop members were trained how to use Embosser and the software of Braille production.



We all have got certificate after training.