

National Rehabilitation Center
Lao People's Democratic Republic

Overview

- Workplace: National Rehabilitation Center
- Organization: Government, under Ministry of Public Health, 140 employees, 20 disabilities
- Job: Instructor of wheelchair workshop
- Responsibility: Manage the production work of wheelchairs workshop, assess people with disabilities who request wheelchairs, distribute wheelchairs to disabilities residence

Major programs

- Prosthetics & Orthotics Service
 - Supported by Cooperative Orthotic & Prosthetic Enterprise (COPE)
- Wheelchair Service
 - Supported by Association for Aid & Relief (AAR)
- Medical Rehabilitation (Mainly physiotherapy services)
- Community Based Rehabilitation (Vientiane and Savanakheth province)
 - Supported by Handicap International (HI)
- School for Blind and Deaf students
- Vocational Training for people with disabilities (Sikeud Vocational Training School)

Major problems and obstacles

- The education level of the disabled staff is low, and sometimes difficult to teach students about the work.
- The technical skill of disabled staff is low, so it is difficult to improve overall technical level of workshop.
- The weakness is that the center has a lack in budget.

Strength of organization

- Strength is that the center is managed by the Lao government, and the Lao government takes the initiative to support people with disabilities. The center has a branch in all provinces, so there is a network to support people in all provinces.

Disability Environment in Laos

- Disability population: 500,000 (8% of total population) (2005 statistics)
- Training situation is limited to people with abilities who has certain level of education.
- Difficult to find job after the training (not many job opportunities for the disabilities)
- Disabilities have job potential in IT sector, handicraft, and self employed.

Future Plan

- Conduct workshop for wheelchair workshop staff to share experience from this training program.
- Improve the wheelchair manufacturing skills for the workers
- Increase production capacity to cater for the demand of wheelchairs
- Develop continuous improvement concept for the employees
- Conduct training on technical skills for disabilities

Thank You