



LAO DISABLED PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

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Lao Disabled People's Association (LDPA)

I. Introduction to the Lao Disabled People's Association.

A. Organization

1. The Lao Disabled People's Association is a civil society organization. It represents rights, interests, dignity and equality of people with all types of disability. It has been established by the willingness and voluntary of a group of disabled people themselves and it functions in accordance with the constitution of the Lao P.D.R.

2. The organization functions in compliance with the by-law of the LDPA, members committee have been elected in the National Election Meeting.

3. There are three main factors to support the foundation of the LDPA as follows:

- The government's proper policy and guidance to recognize equality and dignity of all classes of people;
- The willingness and commitment of disabled people themselves; they would like to become solidarity among people with all types of disability in order to develop themselves;
- The cooperation from other Non-government organizations and international non-government organizations.

4. The government has become a signatory state for the Declaration of UNESCAP, to recognize the importance of rehabilitation and development and protect the rights, interests and social equality for disabled people.

5. The LDPA was constituted on 20 July 2001, in Vientiane Capital, Laos. Since the establishment until present time, the LDPA has eleven its provincial branch offices,

forming 140 cell groups of disabled members. There are currently over 5000 disabled members registered in organizational database.

6.The LDPA’s mission is to protect the interests and rights of people with disability, to empower them fulfill their own achievement and having better livelihood.

B. Promotion and Protection of Human rights

7. The LDPA is invited to contribute comments for the adjustment of laws such as the new adjustment of Law on Construction and Education.

8. LDPA media unit has produced a variety of informative tools such as news letters, brochures, posters, T-shirts, news articles on newspaper both Lao language and English, booklets, human and disability rights manual and medium size banners. These media tools used to raise awareness on disability rights.

9. The LDPA has its radio programme named “Friendship or Peer of Disabled People”. It has been weekly on air in the National Radio Station. Problems, needs of disabled people and other issues relating to disability will be produced as a radio programme.

10.The LDPA also has its TV programme which is similar to the radio programme and it has been weekly broadcasted in the Lao National TV Station.

11.The LDPA conducted series of training on the rights and education of people with disability for disabled members and government officials both at central and local level.

12.In 2007, the LDPA drafted a Prime Minister Decree on Disability with the involvement of Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare.

13.In 2007, the LDPA organized seminars and workshops to raise awareness on rights and development of people with disability for 120 government officials from different government Ministries (this included technical and high ranking officials).

14.In 2008, the LDPA organized series of seminars to raise awareness on rights and development of people with disability for 140 government officials at central level

from seven government Ministries: Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Work, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Information and Culture and Ministry of Public Health.

15. In 2009, the LDPA organized consultation workshops on development of Ministerial Disability Action Plans, government line ministries and local government involved in this work.

16. The LDPA cell groups of disabled members have been conducting income generation activities such as fish raising, frog raising, chickens, goats and souvenir and handicrafts.

II. Achievements and challenges

A. Achievements obtained

- Disabled members have better access to information.
- Disability rights awareness has been broadly raised among government officials and in society.
- LDPA gained strong support from the government.
- LDPA has become a leading advocator on disability rights.
- Be able to expand provincial branch offices up to eleven branches.
- The organizational management has been significantly strengthened.

B. Roles of the government

- the LDPA by-law has been official approved by the government in 2001.
- Prime ministerial Decree resolution 18 on National Commission for Disabled People.
- Drafted Prime ministerial Decree on Disability, to be presented at Government Conference by the end of 2009.
- On 15 January 2008, signed for UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- On 25 September 2009, ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- New Prime ministerial Decree resolution 061 on the establishment and role of the National Committee for Disabled People. (this Decree replaced the Prime Ministerial Decree resolution 18 on the National Commission for Disabled People).
- The Prime ministerial Decree resolution 115 on the management of the Civil Society Organization.

C. Challenges

- no accurate or precise data collection on disability nationwide.
- the LDPA is very much dependent on foreign funding, the staffs are mainly project based staff.
- there's a big different gap on knowledge, awareness and education among disabled members who live in the city and local.

D. Future Ideas of LDPA

- Strengthen the LDPA Management and its Provincial Branch Offices to be sustainable.
- Establishment of new provincial branch offices.
- Continue raising awareness on disability rights among government agencies and private sectors.
- Promote self-employed activity or income generation activity of disabled members' group.
- Improve/ restore Database programs.