

ISLAND PROJECT



Report

ON INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES NEED TO FACE DISASTER PROJECT



I. INTRODUCTION

The Lao National Mekong Committee Secretariat (LNMCS) through its Line Agencies Concerned and in collaboration with the Information System for Local Authorities Need to Face Disaster Project (ISLAND Project) has been implementing the project in 2005. The goal of this project is to reduce the vulnerability of communities in Laos, especially into higher-than-normal annual floods and other disasters. This goal will be met by providing timely flood warnings to the population in flood-vulnerable communities at three villages, Champasack District, Champasack Province.

During 2005-2007, the Phase of project was implemented by ISLAND, LNMCS and District. This project resulted in support some early warning equipments and capacity building for local people communities such as District and Villages with flood preparedness planning and response through the use of flood information products by ISLAND tools.

II. PROGRESS FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

2.1: Vientiane

The orientation and introduction meeting of the ISLAND Project was organized in Vientiane on 15 March 2005 at MRCS Meeting Room. The project had selected 5 villages at Champasack District, together with implementing and taking advantage of the on-going OFDA-EWS project "Provision of Flood Early Warning to Flood-vulnerable Communities in the Lower Mekong River Basin, Phase 1: Cambodia and Lao PDR" (but OFDA-EWS project of MRCS not yet been done due to some issue with time delay for implementation). The ISLAND project becomes also a part of the FMMP Policy and FMM Programme of the MRC.



Workshop in MRC Secretariat, Vientiane, chaired by MRC CEO Dr Olivier Cogels and ISLAND project manager Jean Brunot de Rouvre

2.2: Champasack District

- ISLAND project was shared the first travelled by the excellent cooperation with the OFDA-EWS from Vientiane to Pakse on 09-12 January 2007, comprising staff of ISLAND project (1); MRCS(3); LNMCS (2) ; line agency concerned (2), and District staff (3).
 - ❖ On Monday 10 January 2005, the delegations were met with officers in Champasack Province such as World Vision Office, Lao Red Cross Champasack Office, Labour Social and Welfare Office, Division of Communication Transport Post and Construction, and District governor as V-Governor Sisaway ARCHKHAWONGS.
 - ❖ On Tuesday 11 January 2005, visits to 4 villages (*ban*), including meetings with the population and the chief of villages at the *Wat's* meeting hall (village pagode) which is always above the highest flood level. The typical population ranges from 250 to 400 and the agriculture suffers both from floods and from droughts.
 - The 4 villages were located along the Mekong river: *Ban Tha Deua*, *Ban Tha Teng*, *Ban Hai* and *Ban Houay He* (in Champasak District).



Debriefing with Champasak district vice-governor Sisavay Akhchavongs, with LNMCS (Sourasay Phoumavong) and MRCS (Thanongdeth and

Meeting the inhabitants and village chief in the Vat of Ban Tha Deua, Champasak district, Lao PDR.)

- **Field survey:**

- ❖ 25-19 April 2005, field trip to Parkse and Champasack District for getting basic data from line agencies with flood concerned. This mission were formal meeting with sectors concerned such as Administration Waterway Section, Labour Social and Welfare Division, Lao Red Cross, World Vision, CTPC Division, Agriculture and Forestry Office. Basic data is as follow to collect:
 - How many Hydrological stations (water levels on mainstream) in Champasack Province?
 - The information flows from hydrological stations are sent to Central in Vientiane. Information from stations is not issued every day to the Waterway Section at Pakse District but every month and Station staff does not have the means to transmit water level information to Waterway Section every day (no phone, no money for transport facilities).
 - Role and mandate of each offices/divisions/sections
 - To get data information from three villages such as general information, agriculture, climate, disasters (what kind of disaster impact), disaster management, communication network and what kind of information needed from villages.
- ❖ 04-08 July 2005, to get more details data from target villages and line agencies concerned, as follow:
 - The most information to get by people is from radio, TV, telephone and letter, but is not every day.
 - Lack of information flow from central and global information and local authority.
 - To meet the target groups of people in the villages such as chief of village, deputy chief, teachers, farmers, woman union, young union, VDMC (village disaster management committee).
 - Information needs from villages (mobile phone is main communication, information board is daily information and loudspeakers is main for disaster early warning). The mobile phone more successful to all villages (signal is very good)
 - Interview with people in different levels about 15 families (poor, medium and rich)
- ❖ 28-29 November 2005, mission in Champassak District for equipment hand over to district and target villages, and computer training for Local Authorities' staff in Champassak district for two days.



Coordir



From left to right: Mr. Chanthavong Saignasith, DG of LNMC; Mr. Jean Brunot Devouvre, Project Manager and Mr. Savay, Vice Governor of Champasack District.
and

Training session on Computer Basic for local staff

- The Objectives of the field trip are to visit local authorities involved in disaster management at the provincial and district level, to present the IT project of two electronic wide screens, as alert distant terminals; to discuss with all local authorities about the information content and shape to be broadcast by the terminals, to choose the location of these terminals, and to decide the public authority responsible for the data entry and management; and to organize a computer training for 6 local authorities staffs at Champassak district, about Internet and email use.

2.3 TOUR IN EUROPE COUNTRY

- On April 2006, the ISLAND Project was organized tour in Europe Country for sharing and exchange experience and information to partners and line agencies concerned.

2.4 LNMCS Office and Seminar

- 29 June 2006, the ISLAND Project was orientation a new Project Manager at the LNMCS office for preparing continues implementation the project in last quarterly activities to be done by the project.
- 31 January - 01 February 2007, was participated to the Seminar on Demonstration Prototype held at MICA in Hanoi.
- Communicate with MICA and ISLAND Project for purchase and order loudspeakers to support the three villages and training on prototype for Laos as discussed the first seminar in Hanoi.
- LNMCS has sent invoice to project by email on April and the project had transfer money to the LNMCS account, but not yet received it (I am checking on Wednesday 09 May 2007 at 15:30pm). For details actions will discuss on Final Seminar on 14-15 May 2007 at MICA in Hanoi.
- Will attend the Final Seminar to be held in MICA, Hanoi on 14-15 May 2007.

III. PENDING ISSUE

The pending issue of this project can be resolved in last quarterly plan in 2007. The loudspeakers and bill board are able supported by ISLAND Project. The money for loudspeakers has transfer to LNMC Account on 12 April 2007. Now we have waiting for purchase the loudspeakers for three villages and to find out the time for loudspeakers installation, maybe in June 2007 before flood coming in this year.

The Prototype for Laos, we have agreed to fix the date for organizing one day meeting on Demonstration Prototype in Vientiane during 21-25 May 2007. Now ongoing to prepare and last discussion will take during the final seminar in Hanoi.

The all equipments were support by ISLAND Project we will use equipment for purpose of Disaster Early Warning and some daily working, as expectation using are follows:

- **Computers Desktop:**
 - Are able to connect internet for follow up information on flood and weather forecasting and communicate to each other by email
 - For increasing the volume of information between public authority and global information.
 - For daily using as typing documents.
- **Printers:**
 - For connecting with computer and printing documents from computer
- **Mobile phone:**
 - For improving communication with all line concerned and other disaster such as to extend contact opportunities of villages.
 - To call asking for helping when disasters come and contact with central flood forecasting.
 - Privately using.
- **Loudspeakers:**
 - For take sound alarm information (in case early warning and disaster preparedness).
 - Developing public information within the villages and may used for national traditional ceremony at Wat/temple (pagode).
- **Bill board:**
 - For display many kind of information for the communities and social.
 - With update information on daily basic and warning.
 - To develop public information within the community and villages

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ The people needed support by project again in term of training for communities on flood preparedness plan, including curriculum design for teaching in primary school.
- ❖ For sustainable development and relief after flooding, one issue is very importance for local communities to decrease them poverty is small reservoir construction. (Because community needs water for the second crops after flooding for their areas).
- ❖ The difficult questions to be addressed are:
 - How to tailor the information to the needs of the vulnerable communities?

- How to help these communities make their own risk and vulnerability assessment to express their needs?
- How to give them access to reliable and understandable information from relevant sources?
- How to ensure their local ownership of the information chain through appropriate ITC tools?
- ❖ Should be extension to other flood plain areas for network established between communities with communities; communities with district; communities with NGOs, and with central.

V. PLAN AFTER PROJECT FINISHED

- Should be established a small team for continue take care all equipments supported by ISLAND Project and activities for themselves in future.
- Conduct small training on using Loudspeakers with their maintenance
- Conduct one day Training on flood preparedness plan for three villages.
- To check and communicate with those villages and district for strengthening net work system on Flood Forecasting
- Flood data and other information (put on prototype)
- Draft Project Proposal for capacity building for asking fund from donors in the next future.