



Seminar on Gender Mainstreaming Policies for Government Officers  
JICA Kyushu International Center  
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# Country Report and Action Plan on Gender Mainstreaming in Lao PDR

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## Presentation Outline

- I. Introduction of Lao PDR
- II. Japan's Experiences
- II. Situation Analysis on Gender Mainstreaming
- III. Action Plan

# Laos is situated in South East Asia

*Landlocked country  
Has its border with  
China,  
Myanmar,  
Thailand,  
Cambodia  
and Vietnam*



# Lao People's Democratic Republic



- Founded on December 2<sup>nd</sup> , 1975
- Former known as *LaoXang Kingdom* (the Land of Million Elephants)
- Capital City : **Vientiane**



# National Flower is "*Dok Champa*" (Plumeria)



■ ***Dok Champa*** is the National flower and official symbol of Laos. It has variety of colors.

***Dok Champa*** represents sincerity and joy in life.

***It*** uses for decorating ceremonies and welcome guest. ***It*** blooms every seasons and last long.

# Lao People's Democratic Republic

- *Official language is Lao, almost all ethnic groups have their own dialect, although not always in a written form*

*English/French/Russian language is used for a diplomatic purpose*

- **Religion : Buddhism**
- **Rich Culture ( Lao cuisine, Lao costumes & Lao tradition dance**



# World Heritage Site

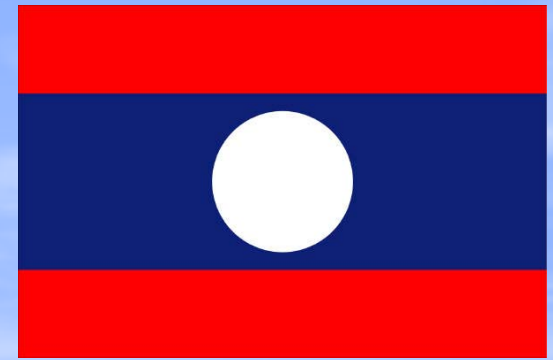


- ( 1991) Town of *Luangprabang*
- ( 2001) *Wat Phou* and Associates settlements within *Champasack* Landscape

Lao Population is about 5.6 million  
in which 50,2% are women



# Political Structure



- Led by Lao People's Revolutionary Party under a one party System
- Governing and Managing of the Country is carried under the Constitution and Laws
- First Constitution adopted 1991
- 2003 the National Assembly adopted an amended Constitution
- 44 laws and hundreds of decrees & Regulations
- 2004 adopted Law on Development & Protection of women rights

# Lao National Commission for the Advancement of Women



- LaoNCAW is a national machinery for gender mainstreaming in Lao PDR
- Established 1 April 2003

# Key Achievements of LaoNCAW

- National Strategy for Advancement of Women ( 2006-2007)endorsed (Jan2006)
- Receives direct budget Allocation from the Office of Prime Minister (June 2006)
- LaoNCAW establish at National Level, SubCAWs at ministerial/provincial level
- Finalized a combined 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> CEDAW report of LaoPDR
- First ASEAN high level Meeting on Good Practices in CEDAW Reporting and Follow up

# Japan's Experiences



#Economic Prosperity

#Cultural: food, language, people,  
etc...

#Creativity

# II. Situation Analysis on Gender Mainstreaming (1)

## Economics Factors

Poverty

Geographical regions where they live

Early Marriage

Access to Education

Access to Health care service

## Social-Cultural Factors

Gender inequalities also intersect by others modifiers of inequality such as class, ethnicity, language, location etc..

## II. Situation Analysis on Gender Mainstreaming (2)

- ❑ LaoNCAW as a newly established mechanism is still encountered some problems as follows:
  - Limited awareness, understanding and capacity to apply the mainstreaming gender approach to policies and programs
  - Limited capacity of LaoNCAW to promote the gender mainstreaming approach throughout the lines ministries/local authorities
  - Limited motivation for policy makers, administrators and implementers to actively participate in gender mainstreaming process

## III. Action Plan

### 1. Action Plan's Title :

"Capacity Building of selected Sub-CAWs to effectively mainstreaming gender into policy, planning and development activities"

### 2. Action Plan's Objective:

To develop strong capacity of ministerial and provincial SubCAWs members devoted to the facilitation of gender mainstreaming process in Lao PDR

## III. Action Plan (3)

### 4. Duration :

Period for the Implementation of this Action Plan is two years

From February 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 –January 31<sup>st</sup> 2011

### 5. Expected Budget :

- Government allocation partially
- Plus Donors contribution



LaoNCAW

## Action Plan (4)

# 6. Proposed Activities & 10. its indicators

### Activity 6.1:

Training on gender mainstreaming concepts and gender budgeting for key LaoNCAW and SubCAWs members ( 4 sectors and 6 provinces), this will include the dissemination of the role and function of LaoNCAW and its National Strategy for the Advancement of Women ( 4-6 trainings/ one training for each quarter)

### Indicator 6.1:

60% of members of SubCAWs from 4 ministries ( Education, Health, Agriculture & Transport) and six provinces are trained in the advancement of women including gender mainstreaming, gender budgeting, analysis and planning



## II. Action Plan (5)

### 6. Proposed Activities & 10. its indicators

#### Activity 6.2:

- 6.2.1. Ministries /provincial policies, strategies, action plans and budget are analyzed and commented from a gender perspective
- 6.2.2. Conduct in dept studies on gender and development issues and relevant policies for informing decision makers

#### Indicator 6.2:

- 6.2.1. At least one selected legal and policy document related to women are reviewed by SubCAWs in their respective ministry/province
- 6.2.2. Policy recommendations are given on ministry/provincial policies, strategy, action plan and budget from a gender perspective



# Action Plan (6)

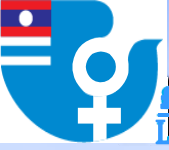
## 6. Proposed Activities & 10. its indicators

### Activity 6.3:

- 6.3.1. Mapping available gender statistics in concerned ministries, Statistics Department and Research Institutions
- 6.3.2. Consultation meeting with the Statistics Department (Ministry of Planning & Investment) and line ministries to improve data collection format for gender indicators.
- 6.3.3. Promotion training on gender disaggregated data collection for sector and provincial level

### Indicator 6.3:

- 6.3.1 & 6.3.2. SubCAWs members trained in gender specific data collection ( at least 50 participants – of whom 40 % are women)
- 6.3.3. SubCAWs have developed sector specific sets of indicators for tracking progress on gender equality, gender-sensitive policies and changes in gender relations over time, in place and in use



## Action Plan (7)

# 6. Proposed Activities & 10. its indicators

### Activity 6.4:

Develop High quality materials to disseminate role and functions of LaoNCAW and SubCAWs

### Indicator 6.4:

IECs materials to explain the roles and functions of LaoNCAW and SubCAWs is printed and disseminated

### Activity 6.5:

Attend International/regional seminar and training course related to gender mainstreaming, Gender analysis, Budgeting , governance, etc...

### Indicator 6.5:

LaoNCAW & SubCAWs members, and stakeholders have attended one –two International Seminar to build its capacity



## Action Plan (8)

### 7. LaoNCAW-Secretariat roles

- Being an implementing agency responsible for the whole process of implementing, monitoring and evaluating this Action Plan
- Continue its cooperation and collaboration with Key development Partners & civil society to effectively implement this Action Plan

## III. Action Plan (9)

### 8. Foreseen Obstacles

- ❖ Lack of human capacity to carry out gender mainstreaming
- ❖ Lack of accurate sex-disaggregated data to support policy making
- ❖ Limited budget and resources to support gender mainstreaming process
- ❖ Poor coordination of gender mainstreaming activities among government ministries, International development partners, INGOs



## Action Plan (10)

### 9. Measures to tackle the Obstacles

- LaoNCAW will work and cooperates closely with all concerned government sectors
- Also it will work closely with others government entities such as: Department of Statistics, as well as others National Legislature Bodies: such as National Assembly, the People Supreme Court, and the Public Prosecutor General's office
- Made efforts to link with some Gender Working Group and a number of International Partner agencies and INGOs

### iii. Action Plan (11)

## 11. Expected Outcome :

- Strengthened Capacity of selected Sub-CAWs to effectively mainstreaming gender into policy, planning and development activities in general, in particular on gender specific data collection
- Awareness raising of LaoNCAW and SubCAWs members and the public on the roles and Functions of LaoNCAW ( Training, Publicatin/ IECs materials)

# *KopChai*

Arigatou gozaimasu

