

## Minutes of the Meeting

### Final Review Meeting of the Khoun Community Radio Support Project

#### Local Programme Appraisal Committee meeting for the Community Participation and Communication Support Programme

Date: 20 December 2010, at 08:30 - 12:30

Venue: Don Chan Palace Hotel, Vientiane Capital

#### Opening:

##### Mr. Bosengkham Vongdara, Vice Minister of Ministry of Information and Culture

- Community radio plays an important part in community development and achieving the MDGs and therefore makes a contribution to the NSEDP
- Community radio reaches rural and more remote areas that are not covered by national radio; Community Radios will reach the "blind spots"
- 5 community radios have received support from MoIC
- Next step will be to expand community radio network in Laos
- MoIC will continue to work in cooperation with UNDP

##### Mr Dirk Wagener, Deputy Resident Representative a.i., UNDP

- Two purposes to the meeting: to review Khoun Community Radio Support Project and use the lessons learned to appraise the new Community Participation and Communication Programme.
- MoIC is UNDP's partner in both projects
- Community radio is an important information mechanism since it uses local language – not only local ethnic languages but concepts that people use.
- It involves people in the programme production, making them active agents of their own development- contribute to MDGs and the NSEDP
- Impact assessment shows positive development impacts of the radio
- Lessons learned and peer support can be used in the next phase when more community radios are supported – Khoun can become a resource centre for other CRs
- UNDP has committed 400,000 USD and Oxfam Novib 400,000 USD for the new programme.

#### PROJECT REVIEW 2006 - 2010 – Khoun Community Radio for Development Project

##### Mr. Vongsone Oudomsouk, Project Manager

#### Khoun Community Radio achievements:

- 47 volunteers working in the station
- People contribute what they can to the station
- 47 Magazine programmes by the communities
- 75 Short dramas by the community
- 80% of Khoun district population consider the radio as primary source of information
- Vaccination rates have risen 50% in the area due to the health programmes in CR
- 60-70% more women use health facilities when pregnant
- Many other development impacts
- Khoun community radio station is a member of regional network AMARC

#### Lessons learned:

- Community radio is always unique – i.e community radio in Khoun is different than CRs in other countries.
- Community radio should not be used for activities that might be harmful for the community
- Quality of programmes need to be improved through training of volunteers
- Community radio needs to serve the needs of the people in the community
- CR needs to support the community to set a vision for themselves

**LOCAL PROGRAMME APPRAISAL COMMITTEE – Community Participation and Communication Support Programme**

**Mr. Dy Sisombath, Deputy General Director, Department of Mass Media**

- Access to information has improved in Lao PDR, however access to local information needs to be further improved.
- Community Radio programmes are very popular especially ethnic language programmes
- Community Participation and Communication Programme will focus especially on vulnerable groups in remote areas including, women and youth
- Lessons learned from Khoun will be used in scaling up the community radio to four new districts
- Strong leadership is required from the district level to make this programme successful – Community needs to lead the project
- UNDP and Oxfam Novib have committed funds (800,000 USD) – possible other development partners will contribute as well
- Programmes will take a harmonised approach according to the Vientiane Declaration of Aid Effectiveness and will mainstream gender in all activities

**DISCUSSION:**

Purpose of Community radio:

- Local knowledge can be shared through the CR – media law applies to CR as well
- Community radios are in line with the governments plan
- Community radios are different in all communities – need to support the variety of Lao culture
- Community radios can support poverty reduction efforts through sharing local knowledge
- Youth should be the focus of the community radio – many youth programmes produced i.e. in Khoun
- Community radio should be demand driven; community ownership important
- Many new districts would benefit from CRs

Sustainability of Community Radios in Lao PDR

- How can we secure the sustainability of community radios in Laos? i.e local government should allocate budget for the CRs?
- Should community radio rely on government funding? What about long term funding?
- Should community radios seek support from companies, individuals or volunteers?
- Community radio long-term sustainability will come from multiple partnerships: development projects, companies, individuals, government etc
- However, according to the code of conduct CR cannot advertise products that are harmful to the society
- Community media centre/internet cafe could be one option for radio stations to accumulate income
- Khoun community radio will seek to become a service provider association and sustain itself by providing expertise to other stations
- Sustainability of technical equipment is a worry for the communities

Partnerships:

- UNICEF and National Radio has worked in partnership on youth radio programmes – some methods can be used in community level; lessons can be shared; many cooperation possibilities
- Local Committee including representatives from all stakeholders should to support the radio station
- Partnership with commercial entities can be made without compromising the values of the community.

Technical aspects:

- Transmission techniques and transmission coverage needs to take into account cost effectiveness
- Khoun CR: 25W - low transmission (150km)

Civil Society:

- Decree on Associations in place since 2009 – associations to register with PACSA
- Community radios can partner with civil society associations
- Some community radios may seek to register as civil society associations in the future

Comments on programme document:

- MoIC is responsible in the central level – who will be responsible in the provincial level?
- Date when the prodoc is signed needs to be the starting date of the project
- Is there a need for so many consultants since the budget is limited?
- The need for consultants will be decided during the implementation of the project according to the local needs in each radio station.
- UNV Learning Specialist will be actively collecting lessons learned and sharing them among all CRs in the country

**CLOSING REMARKS:**

**Mr Dirk Wagener, Deputy Resident Representative a.i. UNDP:**

- Prodoc will be improved based on the discussion and comments in the meeting today
- Final draft will be sent to DIC for approval
- Sustainability is a major question of the programme and will be approached in multiple ways
- Cooperation with development partners and other stakeholders will be strengthened
- Support structure for the programme will be clarified with DIC and MoIC
- Programme brings together CRs in Xieng Khouang and Sekong and later Oudomxay under one umbrella

**Mr. Pinpatthana Phanthamaly, Director General Department of Mass Media, MoIC:**

- Community Radio is an option for community, however does not represent all means of media
- Blind spots are a priority but not excluding other areas which are interested of CRs
- Community radio has to be owned by the community – the proposal for support needs to come from the community
- Each station needs to fit the local situation, therefore when programme is formulated comments from local level are needed
- Partners from all levels need to be brought together, including civil society associations
- Community radio is different from national radio since it is owned by the community and produces local information.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm

List of Participants:

1. Mr. Bosengkham Vongdara, Vice Minister of Ministry of Information and Culture
2. Mr Dirk Wagener, Deputy Resident Representative a.i. UNDP:
3. Mr. Pinpatthana Phanthamaly, Director General Department of Mass Media, MoIC
4. Mr. Dy Sisombath, Deputy General Director, Department of Mass Media
5. Mr. Lieup KHAMPHOUNE, Vice Governor of Sekong Province.
6. Mr. Bouaso MINGKHAMDENG, Acting head of Xiengkhouang DIC.
7. Mr. Bouathong MUNGNORMEK, Vice Governor of Khoun District.
8. Mr. Bounthong NOLA, Head of Information & Culture Office of Khoun District.
9. Mr. Viengxay, Station Manager of KCR.
10. Mr. Yealong YANG, Head of Information & Culture Office of Nonghet District,
11. Mr. Bounchan KORAKOT, Technician of KCR
12. Miss. Vanthong KONGPHANE, Volunteer from KCR.
13. Miss. Xai XONG, Volunteer from KCR.
14. Mr. Lotkeo PHENPHOUNSAVATH, Vice Governor of Thateng District.

15. Dr. Sayamung VONGSAK, Vice President of LFNC.
16. Miss. Virachit, UNDP
17. Mr. Phiphob LOUNGSIVILAY, PA from UNDP.
18. Mr. Vongsone OUDOMSOUK, PM of KCRSP.
19. Mr. Morakot VONGSAY, Director of UN System MPI/DIC.
20. Mr. Sipha NONGLATH, Director of LNR.
21. Mr. Vixay PHOUMMATHEP, Communication officer VFI Project.
22. Mr. Somvang KHAMMAVONG, GPAR Sekong,
23. Mr. Bountong, NA
24. Ms. Xaysophaphone, NA.
25. Ms Bounpheng BOUALAPHA, head of Sekong DIC.
26. Mr. Nuphet UNTHAMATH, Vice Governor of Duckcheung.
27. Mr. Sengma, head of Information & Culture office , Duckcheung .
28. Mr. Khampha THUMMAVONE, Vice Governor of Nonghet.
29. Mr. Somphong, Station Manager of Thateng CR.
30. Mr. Leesone, head of Information & Culture office , Thateng,
31. Miss. Phouangphayom, KPL News
32. Mr. Ounkeo, National Radio Host.
33. Mr. Viengsamai VONGKHAMSAO, Head of WSP-WB.
34. Mr. Bounoum, journalist
35. Mr. Phonxaiyo, Reporter from Lao star,
36. Mr. Phonesay, reporter from LNR,
37. Mr. Sonxay SENGDAK, reporter from Vientiane time
38. Mr. Thephavongsone, Reporter from Vientiane Radio,
39. Ms. Sonchanh, Journalist from Sunday Newspaper.



**Mr. Bosengkham Vongdara**  
**Vice Minister**  
**Ministry of Information and Culture**

**Mr Dirk Wagener**  
**Deputy Resident Representative a.i.**  
**UNDP**