



Annual Programme Review Meeting 2011
Community Participation and Communication Support
Programme (CPCSP)
Minutes of the Meeting



Date: 20 February 2012

Venue: Don Chan Palace, Vientiane Capital, Laos

OPENING:

H.E Mr. Savanekhone Razmouny, Vice Minister of MICT (Chair):

- CPCSP is a cooperation between MICT (an implementing partner), and UNDP and Oxfam Novib (donors)
- CPCSP will support: the wider civil society in Lao PDR through supporting community organisations and helping to scale up community media, strengthening understanding of the equality of women and men and enhancing a positive and non discriminatory portrayal of women.
- It will also develop local capacity to sustain community media in the long term.
- As a result, communities will enjoy better access to information and bottom-up communication channels, allowing them to take informed decisions, express their views, share knowledge and validate their cultures and traditions.
- Furthermore the programme will support the sustainability of community organisations especially community media organisations. The programme approach has been adopted along the lines of Vientiane Declaration on Aid Effectiveness to ensure better coordination and harmonisation of civil society initiatives in Lao PDR. The purpose is to deepen government - civil society partnership in the line of Accra Agenda for Action, to achieve the MDGs.
- In 2011, CPCSP had achieved many targets. However, many issues still need to be addressed in 2012.

Mr. Dirk Wagener, UNDP Officer in charge, Assistant Resident Representative, Head of Governance Unit (Co-chair):

- The CPCSP was launched in the beginning of 2011 with an ambitious work plan.
- Khoun and Thateng community radios are fully functional and providing support for other community radios; Dakcheung CR will be soon equipped and ready to operate; Nong Het CR will be constructed soon. By the end of 2012 it is expected that 4 community radios are fully functional.
- The strength of these community radios is that they are owned by their communities and serving their communities, with the effort of the community.
- Sustainability and impact of these radios will depend on the commitment from the communities. Community radios contribute to the overall development of Laos, to the targets of the National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDPP).
- Community radios also contribute to the Breakthrough strategy of Lao PDR by developing human resources and changing the mindset of people so that they will become active participants in the poverty reduction efforts.



- Each station has strongly committed volunteers and more are expected join.
- Different ethnic groups, women and youth are encouraged to take part in all activities.
- Also youth are involved through various programmes. Community radios can address youth issues and provide them a forum to participate.
- Khoun and Thateng CRs have already reviewed their partnership strategy. They are also preparing to establish themselves as associations to get more partnerships and seek funding in the future.
- In-country community radio knowledge and skills have been developed, e.g. training of trainers.
- CRs in Laos also share their knowledge and experience with other countries in the region by sending delegations to attend the workshop/forum in other countries such as Thailand and Cambodia. Lao community radio is considered an example in the region.
- Some stations will apply to become independent associations in the future.
- More challenges in the years to come, but with experienced staff, these can be tackled.
- USD 300,000 additional budget has been mobilized through Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund for youth center project, which will be a component of the CPCSP.
- Thanks to Oxfam Novib who has been the partner in the programme from the beginning. Oxfam Novib has contributed 400,000 USD between 2011-12.

PROGRAMME REVIEW 2011

Mr. Bounhap Souligno, Deputy Director General, MMD, MICT (also a new PM of CPCSP)

- Some key achievements in 2011 by CPCSP: local authorities in Nong Het and Dakcheung were introduced to the concept of community radio; volunteers received training in basic radio production; vision and mission for a new station have been revised; broadcast equipment for each station has been procured; Exchange of volunteers between stations; some volunteers attended the workshop/forum overseas to share their knowledge and experience with other community radios in the region.
- Strengths: sufficient fund; good cooperation from authorities at all levels.
- Challenges: the programme implementation started almost 3 months later than originally anticipated, thus 100% of all activities planned could not be implemented; Challenging weather and road conditions; Station board commitment; Technical problems and equipment breakdown; leadership experience of station managers.
- Lessons learnt: increasing awareness of local authorities about community media is important; a station manager should be selected by community itself; working with other partners will help to sustain the station; volunteers need more training.
- Proposed solutions: continue to mobilize funds for all activities planned; authorities at all levels should continue their support; station managers are to be coached; a group of trainers in radio production and technical area are to be trained

[For detail of the presentation, please refer to the Powerpoint]



DISCUSSION:

Mr. Somvang Khammavong, Head of Sekong PICT

- Good that local authorities have been invited to the meeting in order to understand better the role of community radio and to contribute to the discussion.
- Community radio programme is in line with the government and party policy and contributes towards the NSEDP. It is clear that it benefits the local communities.
- Some difficulties faced by Thateng CR: a problem with a transmitter; inexperienced volunteers; lack of funding.
- For Dakcheung: a bad road; majority of people do not understand Lao Loum; they have been waiting for their community radio to be functional to know what is going on outside their communities.
- Good collaboration with Khoun and Thateng community radios.
- The government should support in order for community radios to be sustainable.

H.E Mr. Savanekhone Razmouny, Vice Minister of MICT

- Community radio has a crucial role in order to reach national development goals since the Lao National Radio cannot cover all areas in Laos. Furthermore, local people know what is going on in their communities more than outsiders do.
- The main purpose of community radio is really to provide an opportunity for people to be part of development.
- Community radio is not only for rural areas. Can be useful also for urban areas.
- Ta Oy and Samoi district also have community run radios.

Mr. Dirk Wagener, UNDP Officer-in-Charge, Assistant Resident Representative, Head of Governance Unit

- Training of station managers is important to secure the sustainability of the radios.
- Procurement of expensive equipment can be borne by investors; running costs, which are relatively low, should try to cover by the station itself.
- Explore possibility to use a network of experts in situations where equipment breaks.

Mr. Morakot Vongxay, Director of the UN System Division, MPI

- Based on a spot check, CPCSP needs to improve its filing system; a newly recruited finance officer should attend the specific trainings organized by DIC.
- What is the resource mobilization strategy for the un-funded budget?

Mr. Vilaykham Lasasimma, Programme Analyst, Governance Unit, UNDP

- The spot check report has been shared in monthly meetings and issues have been addressed.
- Oxfam Novib has expressed their willingness to continue support for the programme beyond 2012.

Mr. Pineprathana Phanthamaly, Director General, MMD, MICT (also a newly-appointed chair of programme board)

- Programme will concentrate on providing more training for station managers.



- Donors and the government will help communities with starting up the community radios. However, running costs of the radios should be the responsibility of the local communities and local government should contribute towards them.
- Technical issue is not unique for community radios in Laos but for all radios in Laos. Technical equipment should fit to the circumstances in Laos and supply of spare parts need to be secured.
- Review meeting with CRs will be organized with development partners to map possible partners.
- Programme team will further improve programme management issues and fully implement the spot check recommendations.

Mr. Bounpheng Sisavath, Programme and Public Relation Officer, NRA

- UXO could link up with the community radio on awareness raising activities.
- We can provide some materials, equipment and funds for UXO awareness raising activities.

Mr. Bountong Inthalath, Deputy Director General, National Assembly

- The special feature of CRs is that it reached remote ethnic groups, which do not always speak Lao language.
- Since when has CRs existed in Laos? Why only in 2 provinces? Other districts would also benefit from CRs.

Mr. Pineprathana Phanthamaly, Director General, MMD, MICT (also a newly-appointed chair of programme board)

- Khoun Radio was established in 2007. Smaller community based radio was established in 2006 in Ta Oy and Samoi districts with the support from Oxfam Australia. CPCSP supports poorest districts (as prioritized by NSEDP) to set up CRs. In case more funding is secured, programme will be expanded to other districts.
- Community members should always participate in the upkeep and monitoring of the station. Broadcasters are not required to be professional broadcasters.
- CR is a tool to bring development to the grass root level. Programmes on agricultural, health, culture, environmental issues etc.

Mr. Noupheet Chanthamath, Vice Governor of Dakcheung district, Sekong

- Dachuang district is one of the 47 poorest districts.
- Dakcheung station building completed. Training of volunteers on-going.
- The district can support the station in-kind; programme support needed for equipment and programme activities such as training.
- Equipment should be installed before the rainy season starts (before end of April).

Mr. Bounthong Nola, Head of District Office of ICT, Khoun district, Xiengkhouang

- Khoun is the poorest district in Xieng Khouang province. One of the 47 poorest districts. Khoun community radio broadcasts in 3 ethnic languages. Recently some challenges with the transmitter, which needs to be upgraded.
- To make Khoun CR a model, a small office in Khoun should be set up to provide assistance to Khoun and other community radios in north.



- Khoun volunteers are committed and prepared to take leadership. Over 300 people have been trained through Khoun since the programme started in 2006.
- Sustainability of the station is still a concern. District authorities have been asked for contributions.

CLOSING REMARKS:

[As this was the first part of the whole meeting, there were no closing remarks].

The first part of meeting was adjourned at 15:00 pm.




Mr. Savanekhone Razmounry
Vice Minister
MICT



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

List of Participants:

1. H.E Mr. Savanekhone Razmounry, Vice Minister of MICT (Chair)
2. Mr. Dirk Wagener, UNDP Officer in charge, Assistant Resident Representative, Head of Governance Unit (Co-chair)
3. Mr. Pineprathana Phanthamaly, Director General, MMD, MICT
4. Mr. Morakot Vongxay, Director of the UN System Division, MPI
5. Mr. Bountong Inthalath, Deputy Director General, National Assembly
6. Mr. Bounhap Souligno, Deputy Director General, MMD, MICT
7. Mr. Somsavath Phongsa, Deputy Director General, MMD, MICT
8. Mr. Somsack Sakoukham, Head of Mass Media Office, MMD, MICT
9. Mr. Phouvieng Synouannoy, Vice Head of Broadcast Technology Development Section, MMD, MICT
10. Mr. Khamphet Phommaduangkaisone, Head of Xiengkhouang PICT
11. Mr. Bounthong Nola, Head of District Office of ICT, Khoun district, Xiengkhouang
12. Mr. Visay Amphone, Station Manager of KCR
13. Mr. Danengxong, Volunteer, KCR
14. Mr. Tiew, Volunteer, KCR
15. Dr. Jor Lor, Vice Governor of Nong Het, Xiengkhouang
16. Mr. Thong Yang, Head of Office of ICT, Nong Het, Xiengkhouang
17. Mr. Somvang Khamvong, Head of Sekong PICT
18. Mr. Bounthong Thindonkhong, CPCSP Coordinator at a provincial level, Sekong
19. Mr. Lisone Bernthingjeung, Vice Governor of Thateng district, Sekong
20. Mr. Bounthavy, Assistant Station Manager of Thateng CR



21. Ms. Seuk Khamhou, Volunteer, Thateng CR, Sekong
22. Ms. Sert Maninta, Volunteer, Thateng CR, Sekong
23. Mr. Noupheut Chnthamath, Vice Governor of Dakcheung district, Sekong
24. Mr. Sengpha, Head of Dakcheung Office of ICT, Sekong
25. Mr. Vilaykham Lasasimma, Programme Analyst, Governance Unit, UNDP
26. Ms. Saara Frestidius, Programme Analyst, Governance Unit, UNDP
27. Ms. Oraxone Vissapra, Programme Associate, UNDP
28. Mr. Panthana Alounsavath, Head of Training Center (Doklao)
29. Mr. Bounpheng Sisavath, Programme and Public Relation Officer, NRA
30. Mr. Sisavanh Khammoungkhoun, Mine Risk Education Officer, NRA
31. Mr. Vongsone Oudomsouk, Programme Coordinator, CPCSP
32. Mr. Xaisongkham Induangchanthy, Communications Officer, CPCSP
33. Ms. Manisone Savatsady, Finance Officer, CPCSP
34. Ms. Ngiatdara, Secretary, MMD, MICT