

**Lao PDR Country Report  
for 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of Directors of  
National Libraries in Asia and  
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**Bouakhay PHENGPHACHANH**

# **Lao PDR Country Report**

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# **I. General overview of recent major developments and relationship to the government**

**1. Organization**

**2. Overview**

# Organization

- The National Library of Laos (NLL) is administratively under the Department of Publishing and Libraries within the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism.
- It is the main institution responsible for all library development and activities

# Organization (Cont.)

- The NLL responsible for the training and administration of all library staff.
- It administers and controls both copyright and the delivery of ISBN numbers.

# National Library of Laos



# Overview

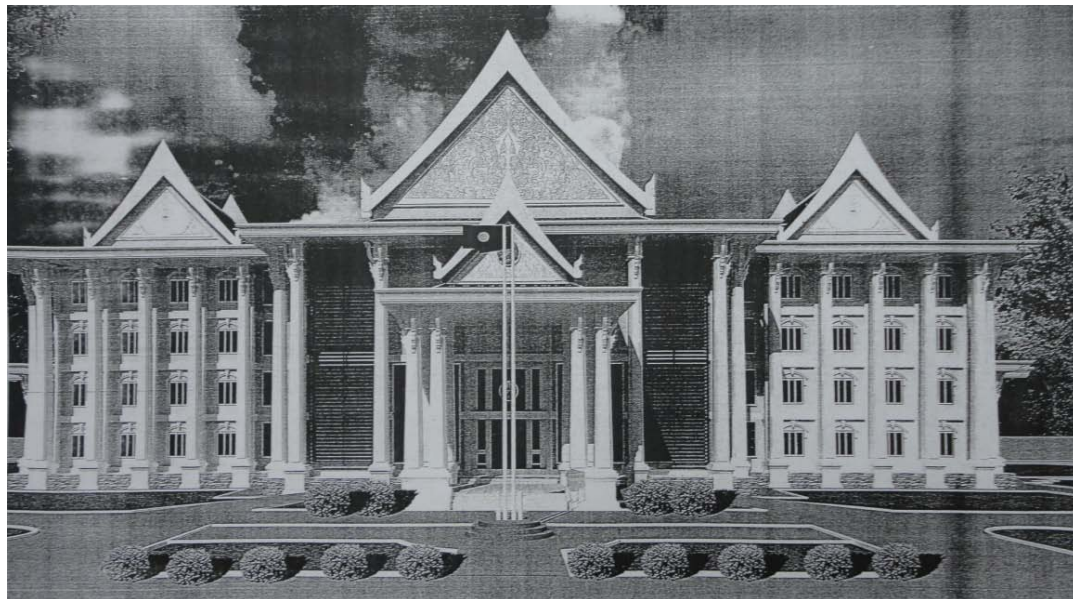
- The NLL is responsible for the building of public libraries in every province of the country and the development of its reading promotion program.
- During FY2009-2010, we developed an IT training room which has been used from 2010-2013 for training staff from Ministries within the Lao Government.
- We also renovated the Indochina Collection, which was at the same time digitally scanned, including photographs of Laos from the French colonial period.

# Overview (cont.)

- We continued and improved the second phase of the Digital Library of Lao Manuscripts project, which has made almost 12,000 primary manuscript sources from Laos available via the Internet.
- Now, the Government is building the New National Library building, and expected to be completed in 2015. Go along with a new building, the National Library cooperate with the Lao IT Development Company are working together about the whole library systems (especially in improving and developing library collections and library services) to step into the digital library.



# The New NLL Building in 2015



# **NLL Sections**

- **Administration**
- **Acquisition**
- **Cataloguing**
- **Circulation**
- **Rare Information**
- **Reading Promotion**

# NLL Sections (cont.)



## II. Key fact and figures

The total number of all types of library in Laos is 1,310 libraries, in which

41 Public libraries, including mobile libraries

40 Special Libraries

15 University and collage Libraries

1,220 School Libraries (mostly reading rooms)

10 Ecclesiastical libraries

## II. Key fact and figures (cont.)

- In 2011, the National University of Laos opens the Curriculum of Library and Information Science For Bachelor Degree. However, the training for library staff still needed and continue, especially for local library staff.
- Each year, the National Library in cooperation with the Lao Library Association conducts training programs, approximately 15 trainings for library staff in 17 provinces.

# Provincial Libraries



# III. Collections

- General collections
- Manuscript and Indochina collections
- Bibliographies and Indexes  
Published
- Audiovisual Collections
- Digital collections
- Depository Collections

# IV. LIBRARY SERVICES SITUATION

- The National Library continues to provide reading corners for information on ASEAN countries, NGOs, Women's Rights and the Lao Women's Union, and National Heritage as reference materials.



## **IV. LIBRARY SERVICES SITUATION (cont.)**

- Reading festivals are organized annually in June and October, in collaboration with many partners.
- We also have a mobile library service (bus mobile library and boat mobile library).
- Information literacy programs are conducted in local communities by the National library and the Ministry of Education, often using community libraries as the centre.

# V. COPYRIGHT AND LIBRARY LAW

- There are no copyright associations, organizations, or clearance centers to date.
- A new Library Law was established by the Department of Publishing and National Library, Ministry of Information Culture and Tourism in 2012, detailing management, staff and services. Currently we are disseminating the library law to the public.

# **VI. AFFILIATIONS, COOPERATIONS (LOCAL AND FOREIGN)**

Important cooperation projects during the past years include:

- The Lao-Vietnam-Sweden program on public library development.
- Cooperation with Japanese NGOs on reading promotion and library construction.
- Cooperation with the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin and the University of Passau on the Digital Library of Lao manuscripts.
- Cooperation with the French Government on the Indochina Archive library in training on database management of ISBN.

## **VII. THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY IN THE NEW ERA**

- National Library plays a very important role in developing countries such as Laos. As an underdeveloped country educational opportunities have been more limited in the past, particularly in the countryside. While this situation is improving, a large percent of the population has had limited access to information, education and skills development.

## **VII. THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY IN THE NEW ERA (cont.)**

- Thus an important role of the National Library system is to assist these people through libraries that function as life long learning centers where people can gain access to information and upgrade and improve their skills.
- National Library should have a strong administrative structure, and a qualified staff, prepared to lead libraries throughout the country into an expanded role for libraries.

# **VII. THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY IN THE NEW ERA (cont.)**

- The staff should have a large vision in which the National Library should play the role of developing human resources through their collections and facilities. Where access isn't available to higher education, libraries should become knowledge centers supporting the population through staff with appropriate skills and access to information. This requires an expanded role for librarians, skilled in finding and passing on the information and resources

# Exhibitions, activities in national and international important day



# Book Case





# Book Bag



# Bus Mobile Library



# Boat Mobile Library



# Puppet Show



**THANK YOU**

