Enhancing Educational Innovations in Asia and the Pacific:

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Higher Education in Lao PDR

Dr. Phonephet Boupha
Director General
Department of Higher Education
Ministry of Education and Sports
Lao PDR
I. Higher Education in Lao PDR

Launching of the National Education System Reform in 2006 for Improving the Quality of Education

1. 1erst Phase from 2006-2010:
- Reform the General Education by increasing one more year at the Lower Secondary Education Level and Reform the Content of Curriculum of the General Education.

2. 2nd Phase from 2011-2015:
- Focus on the Technical and Vocational Education and Higher Education
- Improve the Quality of Higher Education and Reform the Higher Education Curriculum
II. Issues and Challenges in HE

- Lack of Coordination between the Education Sector and Line Ministries, between each Education Level and between Institutions etc...
- Quality, Internal and External Efficiency are critical to response to the Social and Economic Development and for the Preparation of the Regional and International Integration.
- Mismatch of the Demand and Supply in terms of Human Resource Development.
II. Issues and Challenges in HE

- Lack of National Qualification Framework
- Lack of Teachers in the Public and Private Higher Education Institutions.
- Budget Constraints to ensure the Quality of Education and Training.
- Legislation and Regulatory Framework are not comprehensive.
II. Issues and Challenges in HE

- Lack of Social Awareness for the Education Reform.
- Challenges for Internationalization of Higher Education (Quality, Research, Ranking of Universities etc...)
- Cross Border of Higher Education and Problems of the Validation and Recognition of Degree
III. Higher Education Reform Agenda

1. Development of Curriculum and Textbooks
   - Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the National Curriculum Standards and Evaluation of the Quality of Teaching and Learning at the Public and Private HEIs.
   - Writing of the Textbooks in Lao Language in Different Subjects ...(Lao Language, Literature, Sciences for Engineering, Learning Skills, Research Skills, Entrepreneurial Skills and Communication Skills ... )
2. Teacher Development and Teaching Methods Improvement

- Ensure the Ratio of 1:6:3 for the Teacher Development at the University Level by the year 2015.
- All Higher Educational Institutions have to plan for the short term and long term the Teacher Development in terms of Professional and Pedagogical Training.
2. Teacher Development and Teaching Methods Improvement

Teaching Methods Improvement

- Use of ICT System in Teaching and Learning, E-library, Scientific Research, Management Information System (Reporting System, Registration, Teacher, Staff, Students Statistics, Dissemination of Research).
- Promote the Use of Distance learning.
- Develop the Website to enable the integration with the HEIs in the Country and Overseas.
- Promote the Use of Video conference.
3. Improvement and Management Change

- Finalization of Master Plan for the Development of Higher Education from now to the year 2015 and 2020.
- Finalization of the National Policy and Strategy for Research and Research Management.
3. Improvement and Management Change

Cont.

- Formulation of Legislation Framework and Regulations (Management of Higher Educational Evaluation of the learning outcomes based on the Credit System; National Entrance Examination; National Qualification Framework;)

- Establishment of the Decree on Higher Education including the Governance of Higher Education
4. Structure of HE, HEIs, Classrooms and Infrastructure,

- Define the Quality Standards: Standards for the HEIs (University, Institute, College, Center…), Standards of Teachers, Standards for Equipment Buildings etc…

- Development of Internal and External Quality Assessment Tools.

- Define the Vision of HE with the Focus on the Specialization of Delivery of Program as Comprehensive, Specialized Areas or Research.
5. Finance

6. Promotion of the Education as the Community Assets.

- Coordination with Stakeholders concerned to ensure the Relevance of Education and Training to the Labour Market and to meet the Needs for Human Resource Development.
- Career Guidance and Counseling for Higher Education.
7. International Cooperation

• Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation between the Ministry of Education and Sports and other Countries and other International Organizations such as ASEAN, SEAMEO, UNESCO, AQAN, APQCN, between Universities in the Areas of the Quality Assurance, Academic Exchange, Staff and Students Exchange, Research Collaboration and Cultural Exchange etc.
III. Measures for the Implementation of Higher Education Reform

- To disseminate to the Public and to sensitize the Awareness of the Society.
- Organize a Consultative Meeting for the Higher Education Reform.
- Issuance of the Legislation Framework for Higher Education.
IV. Possible Collaboration between Lao PDR and UNESCO Bangkok

• Establishment of the Higher Education Information Center
• Training of Higher Education Administrators and Teachers.
• Academic and Mobility Exchange, Students Exchange, Research Collaboration.
• Exchange of Information and Best Practice (Educational Literature, Teaching Aids, and Demonstration Materials as well as the Organization of Workshops and Seminars)
Thank You