

Quarterly Newsletter #2 Dec-Feb 2014

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

15/12/13 – PADETC Anniversary Fair

28-31/12/13 - Suanmailao Staff Retreat

5-14/1/14 – Environmental Education
Bus Tour

3-7/2/14– Group Formation Training in
Savannakhet

28/2/14 – Successful applicants
announced for [Economic Empowerment
Fellows Program](#)

5/14 – RECOFTC project village visits

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR: May I wish you all a Very Happy New Year, and let's work to make 2014 become a year of Friendship, Solidarity, Happiness, and Prosperity with Success and Justice!

We have produced a second edition of the newsletter which will provide an outline of some significant events and achievements on various subjects that have been made in the past quarter. Our newsletter also serves as a forum for sharing knowledge and good practices, while also promoting balanced development, in which [ESD](#) is the key concept.

Over 200 people came and joined hands together with us to celebrate PADETC's prominent achievements over the last 20 years, since its establishment in 1996. Through this event, we have gained immense support and confidence to better contribute and work on sustainable development and civil society promotion in Lao society.

As part of PADETC annual reflection event, the 2013 office retreat was organized in Vangvieng. All staff participated and actively exchanged and shared their insightful successes and learning experiences vis-a-vis the program and project implementations.

We hope you enjoy this second PADETC Quarterly Newsletter, which is now available in both English and Lao language.

Sincerely,
Mr Khamphoui Saythalat



BIODIVERSITY EDUCATION BUS TOUR: In partnership with MoNRE, ten PADETC volunteers have been supported by the Doklao and Suanmailao Learning Centres to facilitate the [GIZ-ProCEE](#) Biodiversity Education Bus Tour in Khammouane Province. The volunteers braved the cold weather and visited 14 villages reaching 9 schools, 1059 students, 36 teachers and 1,199 villagers.



Activities facilitated by the volunteers included: formation of village committees, school visits, film screenings, music, dance/drama, education/awareness, village consultations, wisdom box and action planning and brainstorming ways forward, and developing simple action plans. These took place in a first visit in November, with a second follow-up visit in December or January.

This project has increased capacity of local community and schools by helping people to effectively communicate biodiversity concerns increasing community awareness of biodiversity, as well as ownership of biodiversity action plans. This project also raised awareness about simple actions that can be taken to conserve biodiversity and shared tools to improve effective delivery of biodiversity education to a variety of audiences. The tour was expanded to another six villages in February.

THAIBAAN RESEARCH PROJECTS: PADETC, in partnership with Ministry of Education and Sports and with support from [Oxfam](#) and [Challenge Program on Water and Food](#), has initiated a program to support villagers to do research, produce communication tools, develop development plans and communicate with relevant stakeholders for support in implementation of their development plans.

Since 2013, the program has supported more than 800 villagers (420 women) in 15 villages in three districts across Champasack and Savannakhet province to become local researchers, benefitting about 18,000 villagers and 4,000 school children.

Local knowledge of 36 topics has been document in the form of mini films, leaflets, books and posters, and integrated into the local curriculum for primary and secondary schools. In addition, more than 50 village development plans have been developed by villagers with acknowledgement of local authorities.

The program is currently facilitating villagers to share the documented knowledge, ensure integration to the local curriculums and facilitating and coordinating for supports to villagers to implement their development plans.

All outputs of the programs will be made available on www.padetc.org and www.lao44.org in the near future.

More information and interest, please contact Mr. Phouthasinh Phimmachanh at phouthasinh@yahoo.com



WORLD VISION PROJECT: Since May 2013, PADETC has been undertaking a Refocussing Child Development Workers (CDWs) consultancy for [World Vision](#). The goal is to improve the ability of CDWs to effectively work in their communities.

This consultancy has included creating a 'Referral toolkit for CDWs working in the Child Sponsorship Program', reviewing the recruitment process and qualification standards for CDWs, and delivering training. PADETC trained over 90 CDWs in 4 districts across 2 provinces on team building, using the Referral Toolkit and leading activities for children. PADETC also trained World Vision staff on monitoring and follow-up for the CDWs. The consultancy will finish in March following a final PADETC follow up visit. For more information please contact Somchit Phankham at somchit@padetc.org

RECOFTC PROJECT: With the support of [RECOFTC](#), PADETC will deliver a Community Based Climate Change and [REDD+](#) Safeguard project in Luang Prabang and Houaphan Province. 20 youth volunteers will be trained to work with high school youth network members on community surveys on REDD+ implementation in 6 villages across 2 provinces. The project will begin in February with youth volunteer training, and village visits will start in May.

We wish our volunteers good luck!