

Working Report in Lao PDR

During 1-16 October 2010

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I. Big Project in Vientiane capital

- *Nong Doungthung community, Srikotthabong district (ongoing)*

Main community road is nearly finished (just only drainage and greenery are left), so by the end of November the opening's ceremony will be arranged to show-up community's capacity and invite other communities to visit.



First round of loaning for house improving (39 households) was proposed, there are some 8 houses need to be reconstructed and the left is just small improving. So these 8 houses will help to redesign by young architect which hope to make it as good example of housing improvement (cheap, well-designing, create more open space inside community)



- *Thungkhankham community, Chanthaburi district (new project)*

Basic community mapping to check the real no. of landless people was conducted,

1. There are 55 families in Gov. Land and officially divided in 7 sub-groups.
2. They stayed here since 1950 (first house)
3. Total pop. 259



Then we explain about ACCA's experience solving housing problems to community members. By this 2nd meeting we invited "Pa Oun" and "Pi Tuu: from Nong Duan Thung community to share their experiences, and how they have been developing this project. Next day community people from Thungkhankham community and representative from local authority & women group visited Nong Duang Thung community and shared experience in detail about people's management and starting from the saving group.



By this activity we hope that Thungkhankham people will go back with concrete idea and look back their community to find some point they can start with. Then on 28 October, WCEP will arrange meeting at community to form working group and start problem & solution's survey. At beginning people came to meeting very less number.

II. **Small Project in Vientiane, Luangprabang** (Organizing how to manage the budget)

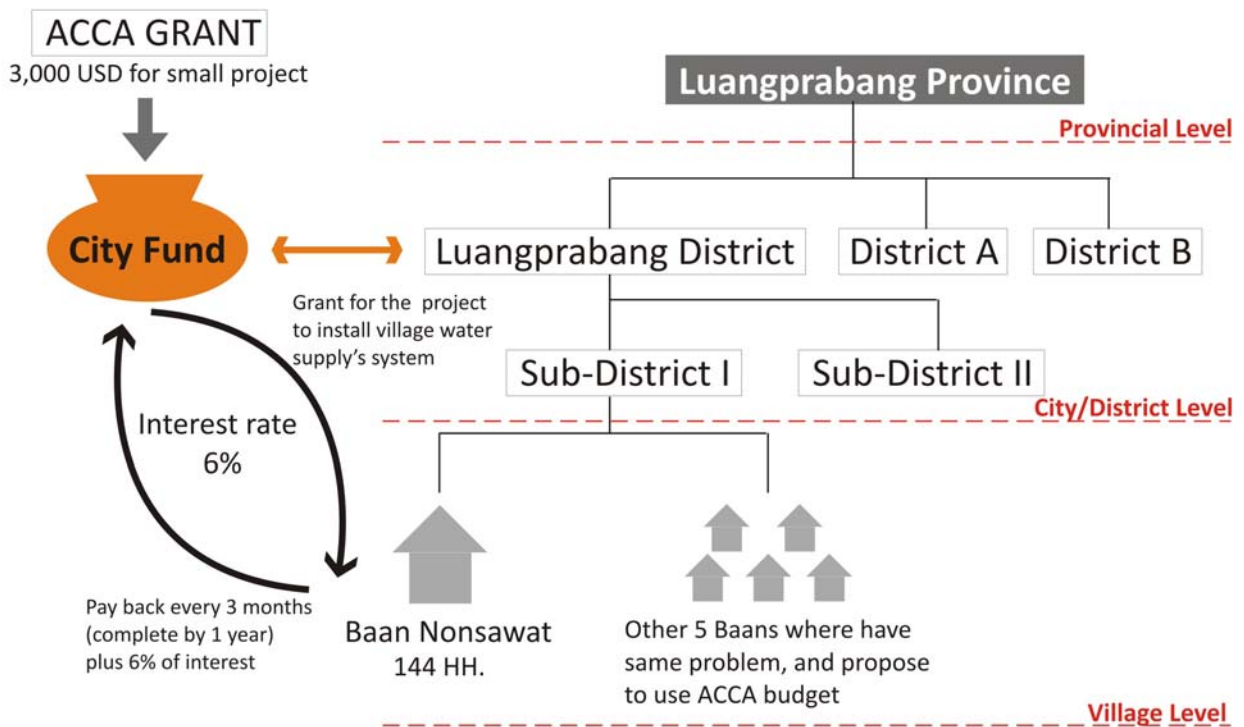
- *Community centre for producing organic fertilizer @ Baan Raitay, Sungthong district*

Community architect along with WCEP staff arranged the meeting with community committee about how to plan community centre for organic fertilizer and visit the construction site. It is important to note that this construction land belong the private owner (head of community saving group) which somehow it is risk to do, but in this community they has no common land to build and this land owner very keen to do with approved from community member. So that all the process we conduct should be opened and led everyone to have sense of the owner.



- *Mountainous water supply @ Baan Nonsawat, Luangprabang*
 WCEP organized the meeting about mountainous water supply's management in terms of financial management & cost of construction. Baan Nonsawat will be the pilot village to do as loaning the construction budget from ACCA budget at city level. So there are 10 villages purposed to implement this water source after the project at Nonsawat village completed.

This is the interesting financial management's diagram initiated by people.



Note: 6% of Interest will be divided into 3 parts;

- 2% will put back to City-Fund, to enlarge this fund
- 2% will use as administration cost for the city committee & LWU for policy advocacy
- 2% will use as administration cost at village level



III. Young community architects supporting Lao-ACCA movement

Since WCEP has formally no community architect, and ACCA movement is spreading out cover all 5 provinces of saving network. Moreover the MOU between ACHR and Faculty of Architecture of NLU, which aim to build-up YPs supporting WCEP works, does not reach its aim and take very long process to achieve. So that this time I and WCEP team, again, find other solution to support YPs and build-up this team working closely with ACCA movement.

Maykham "Lord" will work fulltime with WCEP. Her role is to collect all information about ACCA and prepare ACCA report, and in position holistic knows everything about ACCA process. And Sitthichai "Thing" working on Thungkhankham community and Phuvone "Vone" working on Nongduanthung community, both will work as volunteer and be supported by community architect seed fund for 1 year. And all community architect team will work with Ngen "field staff in Vientiane" by guiding from "Pan".

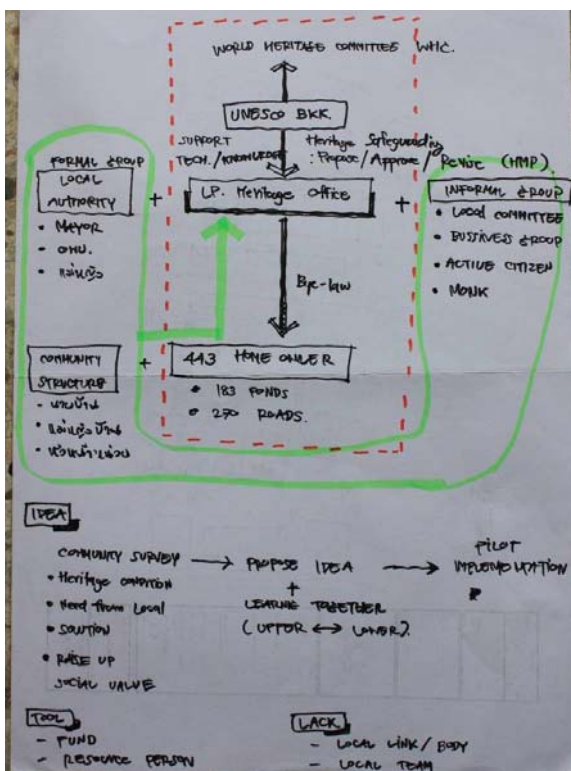


IV. Study trip of Penang's community architect to Vientiane

Ng Hooi Seam "Ji", community architect from Penang who working with Penang Heritage Trust (PHT) and try to organize the Heritage for People workshop in George Town, came to visited & learned about community project in Vientiane and role of community architect facilitating people process. See her write-up in attached file.

V. Possibility of Heritage for People's initiative in Luangprabang

- Working Agency & its Structur



As my notice, if we can propose as the alternative solution of how the poor house can match with conservation regulation (443 houses is listed as heritage building), and make existing regulation more loose. It will help the poor in heritage area to meet their need and improve their house matching with heritage's regulation in which somewhat heritage office can not cop with. During discussion with heritage office, I explain about role of ACHR and idea of ACCA project in Laos. So they quite interesting, especially about idea of city fund for conservation.

- **Contact person in Luangprabang**

This is the list of whom I discussed and learnt with during I was in LP.

1. Mrs. Amphone Sivilaysack (Head of women's union Luangprabang Province)
Mobile: 856-20-5670106, 856-20-2350550
2. Mr. Saisamone Charivong (Deputy-Mayor of Luangprabang Province)
Mobile: 856-20-55570660
3. Mr. Bounhang Phongphichit (Director of Heritage Office of LP.)
Mobile: 856-20-2350089
Email: dpl.lpb.heritage@gmail.com, bounhang_ph@hotmail.com
4. Mrs. Vandala Amphayphone (Chamber of Commerce & Industry of LP. / President of LP. Handicraft Association)
Mobile: 856-20-55408133 Email: vandara1@hotmail.com, Banvanvisa@gmail.com
5. Mr. Saveuy (Deputy of Heritage Office / Head of Architect Unit)
Mobile: 856-02-55571599
6. Ceelia Leong (who working on GIS mapping with heritage office at LP.)
Email: ceelialeong@yahoo.co.uk

- **Some Idea for following -up**

1. Through the channel of women's union and deputy mayor, we can start with an idea of small project's initiative. It is safe to begin with this channel rather than directly link to heritage office due to we do not know much about them. It may need the city-wide survey process to make us link with each *Baan* so that we can survey in depth about the need, who want to improve their house and how? As my observation, the greening & ECO aspects may suite with LP. context and it is soft way to step (such EM. Training, organic fertilizer, garbage centre, water treatment). Later on, linking with heritage office will make more sense.

2. From basic information got from 1st survey, we can organize workshop about House Upgrading. If we can collect 10 cases about its solution and social value to show heritage office so I hope it will create solid answer to help them work with people.

3. We should invite some official stakeholder to Penang workshop.

VI. Seminar & retreat of WCEP at Sumnuen province

- **Learning trip about Laos' Independence movement**



"During that time our enemy are very clear that is the US, but today it is too blur"



Aunty Sommay said during visiting historic cave she used to stay during the wartime. During the trip Aunt Sommay explained to us about history of Lao during fighting for freedom.

- ***SEMINAR: 10 year's success VS. the next 10 years***

Khun Somsak & Khun Wuttiphan helped to facilitate the seminar of WCEP team. All thing used to unclear was getting clearer especially the role of ACHR's coordinator & each WCEP staff and the needs.



VII. Next step & following-up (December)

- Work with YPs in Vientiane
 1. 1st set of Housing Upgrading @ Nong Doung Thung community
 2. Participatory Planning @ Thung Khankham community
- Plan for City-Wide Surveying in Vientiane Capital
- Initiative the possibility of small project & survey in Luangprabang