

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Ministry of Health
National Institute of Public Health

Mid term review
of the Third Five Year Health Research Master Plan
(2002-2004)

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Table of contents

1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. OBJECTIVES	4
3. METHOD	4
4. RESULTS	4
4.1 The mid term assessment of the implementation of the health research master plan (2002-2004)	4
4.2 Strategies for Strengthening Research Capacity	12
4.3 Income generation for NIOPH	15
4.4 Tools for exchanging ideas and promoting research	16
4.5 National and international partnership on health research	16
4.6 Attending International Sciences seminars/conferences	17
4.7 National Ethical Committee for Health research	18
4.8 Dissemination of research results and translation it into action	20
4.9 Incentive system	22
5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	22
5.1 Conclusions	22
5.2 Recommendations	23
6. REFERENCES	25

List of tables	Page number
Table 1: The implementation of the health research projects by work plan in and outside of the third five year health research master plan	3
Table 2: The implementation of proposed health research in the master plan responsible by the diseases prevention and health promotion work plan	9
Table 3: The implementation of health research that not included in the master plan conducted by the diseases prevention and health promotion work plan	10
Table 4: The implementation of the health research projects conducted by Curative care and rehabilitation work plan	14
Table 5: The implementation of the health research projects related to consumers protection and essential drug supply work plan	14
Table 6: The implementation of the health research projects conducted by the National Institute of Public health	15
Table 7: The implementation of the health research projects related to health economic and administration work plan	16
Table 8: Completed plan for strengthening health research capacity short-term and long term by time/year	16
Table 9: Long term training of resources for research	19
Table 10: Attending International Sciences seminars/conferences by years and conferences	22
Table 11: List of submitted research proposals to NECHR 2002-2004	23
Table 12: National conference to promote research dissemination and utilization	25
Table 13: Regional conferences to promote research dissemination and utilization	25
Table 14: International conferences to promote research dissemination and utilization	25

1. INTRODUCTION

Health research activity is one of the nine national health work plan in the past and currently became one of the six health work plan under direct responsibility of the National Institute of Public Health and the Council of Medical Sciences of the Ministry of health¹.

Under financial and technical support from the International Development Research Center, Canada (IDRC-Canada) through the former Ministry of Sciences and Technology, the first five year health research master plan was established (1992-1996) with aiming to built capacity of health research in Lao PDR². The end of 1996, the evaluation of the implementation of the first five year health research master plan was conducted and get basic data³ for development of the second five year health research master plan (1997-2001) by the six health work plan of the Ministry of Health⁴, with aiming to continue on building and strengthening of health research capacity at the end of the year 2001.

Under technical and financial support of the European Union through Regional Malaria Control Program in Cambodia, Vietnam, and Lao, the evaluation of the second five year health research master plan⁵ was conducted as a pave to develop the third five year health research master plan (2002-2006), with aiming to develop health research capacity along with new mission stated at the statement of the international conference held in Bangkok in the year 2000⁷, which fostered the health research process around the world to review the implementation of health research plan globally by concentrating to solve the 10/90 gaps (stated in the 1990 by the committee of health research for development)

Therefore, the World Health organization, Health Research Council for Development supported by the Ministry of Health Mexico, the World Ministerial Summit was officially organized in December 16-20, 2004 in Mexico City, then the Mexico statement⁸ had been produced for the government of the countries around the world for reviewing the implementation of the health research plan in their own country.

Therefore, in order to prepare for the meeting to review the implementation of the third five year health research master plan in Lao PDR to be held in June 2005, as basement for preparing a

long term strategic plan that will be supported by the Council of Health Research for Development and Public Health School of New South Wales University, Australia⁹, thus the mid term review of the implementation of the health research master plan was essential.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 General objective

To assess the implementation of proposed health research projects and strengthening health research capacity according to the master plan during year 2002 to year 2004.

2.2 Specific objectives

1. To assess the implementation of the proposed health research projects in the third five year HRMP by national health work plan
2. To review the proposed research projects had been submit through the National Ethic Committee for Health Research for ethical review
3. To assess the numbers of tools for health research and health research findings have been produced and disseminated nationally and internationally
4. T be a pave for the international review meeting in the future as to prepare for the establishment of the long term strategic plan

3. METHOD

A questionnaire survey, telephone survey, and review documentation were used to assess the data. A questionnaire form was sending to concerned institutions, hospitals, centers whom responsible in implementing the research projects. Telephone interview was used to collect additional information concerning human resources development plan of MOH, Department of Organization and Health Personnel. Review documentation concerning activities of the national research ethics committee was conducted.

4. RESULTS

4.1 The mid term assessment of the implementation of the health research master plan (2002-2004)

The mid term assessment of the implementation of the third five-year health research master plan reveals that 21 (50.0%) projects of the total 42 projects were conducted in the various work plans and 8 research projects are being conducted counted for 23.8%. However, based on the need for research and participation in research of individuals, institutional supported by donor agencies within the country, thus, there were some additional 44 research projects counted for 104.8% that were not in the master plan had been conducted (Table 1).

Table 1: The implementation of the health research projects by work plan in and outside of the third five-year health research master plan

	Work plans		Projects conducted as planned		Ongoing projects		Projects that not in the plan		Projects to be implemented	
	No.	% of total	No.	% Within Work plan	No.	% Within work plan	No.	% Of total work plan	No.	% of work plan
Health work plan										
Work plan 1	18	42.8	6	33.3	4	22.2	29	69.0	7	44.4
Work plan 2	10	23.8	4	40.0	3	30.0	4	9.5	3	30.0
Work plan 3	4	9.6	4	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Work plan 4	1	2.4	1	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Work plan 5	7	16.6	4	57.1	-	-	7	16.6	3	42.8
Work plan 6	2	4.8	2	100.0	-	-	4	9.5	-	-
Total	42	100.0	21	50.0	7	25.0	44	104.6	14	33.3

4.1.1 The implementation of the research projects related to diseases prevention and health promotion work plan

There were 4 organizations under guidance of the diseases prevention and health promotion work plan that implemented the planned health research projects, included Center for Mother and Child Health, Center of Malaria, Parasitology, and Entomology, Center for Epidemiology and Laboratory, and the National Committee for Control of AIDS Bureau. A total of 6 research projects completed and 4 research projects are ongoing, in which the Mother and Child health Center conducted three research projects in the plan (two projects are ongoing), the Center for Malaria, Parasitology, and Entomology completed two prioritized research projects, the Center

for Epidemiology and Laboratory completed three prioritized research projects (two projects are ongoing), and the National Committee for Control of AIDS Bureau completed two prioritized research projects (Table 2).

Table 2: The implementation of health research responsible by the *diseases prevention and health promotion work plan*

Mother and child health topics	Responsible organizations	Funding agencies			
			2002	2003	2004
1. Study on prevalence of STD in women attended three central hospitals-	Mother and child health hospital, Mahosot hospital, and Sethathirath hospital	WHO Geneva			Completed
2. Health status of migration youth living in vientiane municipality	Mother and child health center	WHO Geneva			Ongoing
3 Model on integrated reproductive health service at district level, Oudomxay province	Mother and child health hospital	WHO Geneva			Ongoing
Mosquito born diseases					
4. Study on the perception of people on IBN used to prevent malaria	MPE Center	Lao EU, UN	Completed		
5. Study on resistance of mosquito to chemical substance	MPE Center	Lao EU, UN	Completed		
6. Study on drug resistance of Plasmodium Falciparum	NCLE	NAMRU	Completed	Completed	Ongoing
7. Study of outbreak potential infectious disease	NCLE				Ongoing
8. Case-control study on infectious etiology of hemorrhagic fever	NCLE				Ongoing
9. Behavioral risk survey on STD/HIV/AIDS in Lao P.D.R.	NCCA	FSI			Completed
10. AIDS Sentinel surveillance and STD Periodic study	NCCA	FSI, WHO, UNICEF			Completed

According to the need of the *diseases prevention and health promotion work plan*, additional 28 research projects had been conducted, in which the Mother and Child health Center implemented five research projects outside the plan, the Center for Malaria, Parasitology, and Entomology completed additional nine research projects, the Center for Epidemiology and

Laboratory completed additional two research projects outside the plan, and the National Committee for Control of AIDS Bureau completed additional twelve research projects outside the plan (Table 3).

Table 3: Additional health research projects conducted by the diseases prevention and health promotion work plan that not included in the master plan

Research topics	Responsible Organizations	Funding Agencies	Year		
			2002	2003	2004
1. Knowledge/practice of mothers /care taker related to the nutrition and child feeding, and parasite infection among children under three years olds in 3 provinces (Vientiane capital, Attapeu, Houaphanh)	MCHC HPD	UNICEF	Completed		
2. The effect of gender issue to the NGPES (National Growth Poverty Eradicated Strategy) in selected province	SPC, NSC, MCHC MOE LWU	UNFPA			Ongoing
3. A need assessment on adolescent reproductive health in selected area of Lao PDR	MCHC	NGO's			Completed
4. Baseline survey on reproductive health in three pilot provinces: Saravan, Attapeu, Sekong	SPC, NSC, MCHC LWU	UNFPA		Completed	
5. Baseline survey on reproductive health in Attapeu province	MCHC, PHD, Health unlimited	ICOMP	Completed		
6. Study on the efficacy of DDT, Deltamethin Permethrin	MPE Center		Completed	Ongoing	
7. Survey on the quality of the anti malaria drug ^a	MPE Center	USP	Completed	Completed	
8. Study on the efficacy of CQ, Sp, Art, Mefloquine, Lumefantrine, Artemeter (Coartem)	MPE Center	Welcome Trust	Completed	Completed	Ongoing
9. Study on knowledge, practice, and attitudes of Lavae community in Phouvong districts, Attapu province	MPE Center	WHO			Completed
10. Survey on opistorchis in Vientiane province	MPE Center	WHO	Completed	Completed	Completed
11. Study on the efficacy of Artesunate + mefloquine Artesunate + Lumefantine to the Plasmodium Falciparum	MPE Center	WHO		Completed	
12. Study on the efficacy of Sulfadoxine + Pyrimethamine, chloroquine, Mefloquine to Plasmodium Falciparum	MPE Center	JICA	Completed		
Research topics	Responsible Organizations	Funding Agencies	Year		
			2002	2003	2004
13. Evaluation on Malaria prevention across the Cambodia - Lao PDR					
14. Overall survey for malaria infection in Lao PDR	MPE Center				

15. Collaborative study on application of dipstick Dye immunoassay (DDIA) kits for Schistosomiasis in endemic areas of Schistosoma Mekongi in Lao PDR	NCLE				Completed
16. Survey on the intestinal protozoan infection among Diarrhea patients in Lao PDR	NCLE				Completed
17. Cross border migrant workers on Thai border in 8 provinces	NCCA	FHI	Completed		
18. The prevalence and risk factors for HIV infection among Lao migrants working periodically in Thailand	NCCA	John Hopkins FOGARTY AIDS	Completed		
19. Study on knowledge, attitudes and practices of Lao ethnic people on HIV/AIDS in Bokeo and Luangnamtha provinces	NCCA	GTZ	Completed		
20. People living with AIDS profiles	NCCA	FHI		Completed	
21. KAP survey among young people in youth center in Vientiane capital	NCCA	SCF-UK	Completed		
22. Trafficking in women	NCCA	CHASPPAR	Completed		
23. Assessment on risk group at Luangnamtha and Bokeo province	NCCA	FHI	Completed		
24. Cross cultural study risky situation in healthy population	NCCA	CHASPPAR	Completed		
25. Presumptive periodic treatment on STI among sex workers in Luangprabang Province	NCCA	FHI		Completed	
26. Presumptive periodic treatment on STI among sex workers in five Provinces	NCCA	GF		Completed	
27. Strengthening capacity of staff in control sexually transmitted infection in Lao PDR	NCCA			Ongoing	Ongoing
28. Young male sexuality and HIV/ Aids prevention study	NCCA				Ongoing

4.1.2 The implementation of the research projects related Curative care and rehabilitation work plan

Under guidance of the Curative care and Rehabilitation Work Plan included Curative Care Department, Mahosot hospital, Mittaphab hospital, and 18 provincial hospitals. The prioritized

research projects in this health work plan conducted mainly by Mahosot hospital. A total of six research projects were implemented and four additional out of plan were conducted (Table 4).

Table 4: The implementation of the health research projects conducted by *Curative care and rehabilitation work plan*

Research topics	Organisation	Donors	2002	2003	2004
1. Study on unexplained fever	Mahosot	Welcome Trust, Oxford Tropical Medicine			Ongoing
2. Study on causes of infection in central nervous system	Mahosot	Welcome Trust, Oxford Tropical Medicine			Ongoing
3. Efficacy of choramfenicol with tab. Offocaine in treatment of thyphoid fever	Mahosot	Welcome Trust, Oxford Tropical Medicine		Completed	
4. Efficacy of anti-malaria drug	Mahosot	Welcome Trust, Oxford Tropical Medicine		Completed	
5. Study on vit. B1 deficiency	Mahosot	Welcome Trust, Oxford Tropical Medicine			Completed
6. Study on dengue fever	Mahosot	Welcome Trust, Oxford Tropical Medicine			Ongoing
Additional Research projects conducted based on the need of the institutions					
1. Problems with drug addict	Mahosot	Cochrane	Completed		
2. Assessment of mental health in Lao P.D.R.	Mahosot	WHO		Completed	
3. Study on knowledge and practiced concerning Dengue fever case management in 10 hospitals at central and provincial levels	Mahosot	WHO		Completed	
4. Efficacy of Doxycycline 3 days / 7 days and Azithromycine in treatment of Sirub Typhus / Thuche Typhus					Ongoing

4.1.3 The implementation of the research projects related to the consumer protection and essential drug supply work plan

The Food and Drug Department was the main organization implementing prioritized health research projects in the consumer protection and essential drug supply work plan, all five research projects completed in the year 2003 during the implementation of the third phase national Drug Policy program in closed technical collaboration with National Institute of Public Health, and related concerned organizations (Table 5).

Table 5: The implementation of the health research projects related to consumers protection and essential drug supply work plan

Research topics	Organisations	Donors	Year 2003
1 Improving DTC performance in 8 hospitals, Lao P.D.R.	Mahosot hospital, CMD, Mittaphap hospital	SIDA	Completed
2 Antibiotics use as self medication for reproductive tract infections and pamphet testing for intervention among adult population in Lao P.D.R.	Sethathirath hospital, VTM health department, provincial health department	SIDA	Completed
3 Improvement the third class pharmacies in Vientiane province	NIOPH, FDD, VTM health department,	SIDA	Completed
4 Accessibility to essential drug of population in Lao P.D.R.	FDD	SIDA	Completed
5. Developing tools for drug information in Lao PDR	NIOPH	SIDA	Completed

4.1.4 The implementation of the research projects related to the human resource for health work plan

The human resource for health work plan completed one research project as planned on evaluation of family planning program in Lao P.D.R. supported by the Swedish International Development Agency and conducted by the department of organization and health personnel with related personnel from concerned institutions.

4.1.5 The implementation of the research projects related to the health research and training management work plan

The National Institute of Public Health is the main organization implementing the prioritized health research projects in the health research and training management work plan, in which four out of seven research projects in the master plan had been completed and conducted additional 7 research projects according to the internal and external needs (Table 6).

Table 6: the implementation of the health research projects conducted by the *health research and training management work plan*

Topics	Organizations	Donors	Year 2002	Year 2003	Year 2004
1 Health information system development- a model for health promotion	NIOPH	Tokai University			ongoing
2. Benefit of decentralization and integration on malaria control program	NIOPH, MPEC, IFMT	TDR, WHO Geneva			Completed
3. World health survey	NIOPH	WHO, Geneva		Completed	Ongoing
4. Health research system Analysis in Lao PDR	NIOPH NSC	WHO Geneva	Completed	Completed	Completed
Additional Research projects conducted based on the need of the institutions					
1. Midterm evaluation of the third five year health research master plan	NIOPH	NIOPH			Completed
2. Knowledge, Transfer, and Exchange					Ongoing
3. Child Health & Nutrition research assessment				Completed	
4. Health & nutrition survey on the 3 northern provinces Phongsaly, Houaphanh, and Xienkhouang				Completed	Completed
5. The Bio-Forecasting project	NIOPH Borikhamsay HD	Tokai University, Japan			Ongoing
6. Assessment of the training needs for health managers at district level	NIOPH HSPH	Atlantic Philanthropy			Completed
7. The health development study project in Lao PDR	NIOPH 3 research institutes of Japan	NIOPH 3 research institutes of Japan			Completed first year

4.1.6 The implementation of the research projects related to the Health economic management work plan

The Health economic management work plan completed one prioritized health research projects and conducted additional three outside plan research projects (Table 7).

Table 7: The implementation of research projects related to health economic work plan

Research Projects	Organizations	Donors	Year 2002	Year 2003	Year 2004
Master plan in health sector to the year 2020	Planning and budgeting work plan			Completed	
Additional Research projects conducted based on the need of the institutions					
1. Study on income-expenditures and services in hospital (case study in 16 hospitals: central, regional, provincial and district)	Planning and budgeting work plan	WHO		Completed	
2. Creating community health insurance scheme in Lao PDR (case study in Sisattanak, Nambak, Champasack)	Planning and budgeting work plan	WHO			Completed
3. Quality of reproductive health services in Vientiane capital city	Planning and budgeting work plan	UNFPA	Completed		

4.2 Strategies for Strengthening Research Capacity

To enhance research capacity strengthening at individual's level, working units, institutes, and centers, the strategies for strengthening research capacity includes: the development of human resource for research and the improvement management of health research.

4.2.1 Short term health research capacity strengthening

During year 2002, four training workshops were conducted. These included, training on epidemiology implemented by the Malaria, Parasitology, and Entomology Center supported by EC-RMCP; The research ethic development workshop was implemented by the National

Institute of Public Health supported by EC-RMCP; the planning for data analysis and the data processing and analysis workshop implemented by the National Institute of Public Health.

During 2003 one training on research report writing was conducted by the National Institute of Public Health, technically supported by the Karolinska institute, Sweden with financial supported by Swedish International Development Agencies.

During 2004, one training workshop with 23 participants was conducted in February 2004 at Vientiane Capital health department with development of 5 small-scale research projects concerned health problems in districts of Vientiane capital. The Faculty of Medical Sciences, National University of Laos together with Research Institute for Health Sciences supported by Hopkins Fogarty AIDS, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health conducted a five days course on Advanced Bioethics & FHI Research Ethics training, two members of secretariat of the national ethic review committee for health research were participated (table 8).

Table 8: Completed plan for short-term strengthening health research capacity by time/year

Short term Training of resources for research	Funding agencies	Time/Year
Training on epidemiology research	EC-RMCP	February, 2002
Training on data processing	Sida	April, 2002
Research ethic development workshop	EC-RMCP	August, 2002
Training on data processing and analysis	Sida	October, 2002
Training on report writing	Sida	April, 2003
Proposal Development	Vientiane Capital Health Department & JICA	February 2004
Advanced Bioethics & FHI Research Ethics	Hopkins Fogarty AIDS, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health	November 15-19, 2004

4.2.2 Long term health research capacity strengthening

The first health work plan:

- ✚ The Mother and child health center send one staff to Thailand for Master degree on water resource management in the year 2000
- ✚ The Malaria, Parasitology, and Entomology Center send one staff to Vietnam for Master in Public Health and one to Thailand on Master of Tropical Medicine

- ✚ The Hygiene and Prevention Department send two staffs to Thailand for Master in Public Health

The second health work plan:

- ✚ The Curative Department send one staff to Vietnam for
- ✚ Mahosot hospital send one staff to Thailand for Master in Tropical Medicine and one staff to China for Cardiologist specialist
- ✚ Sethathirath hospital send one staff to Japan for Master in Business management

The third health work plan:

- The Food and Drug Department send one staff to Sweden for Master in Public Health, one staff to Japan for Master in Medical Management, and one staff to Thailand for Master in Public Health

The fourth health work plan:

- Two staffs from Department of Organization and Human Resources for Health to Thailand for Master of Public Health

The fifth health work plan: The National Institute of Public Health

- The National Institute of Public Health send its staffs to upgrade their knowledge into Master Degree at the beginning of 2002 (one in Norway), August 2003 (one in Germany), August 2004 (AIT, Thailand), June 2004 (IFMT, Lao P.D.R.).

The sixth health work plan: The primary Health Care Program

- The primary Health Care Program of the Ministry of Health had send ten health staffs from both central and provincial levels to upgrade their Master Degree in Public Health in Mahidol University, Thailand as another indirect way of strengthening capacity of health staff to know how to conduct research.

In addition, many PhD candidates have been send overseas, included two health staffs from the Faculty of Medical Sciences to Thailand (since 2002), one from the NIOPH to Thailand (since 2004), and one from Vientiane Capital Health Department to Sweden (since 2004).

At the same time, the capacity of health staffs would be improved through in-country training:

- ◆ Completion of six post-graduated training (taught in French) during 2002-2004 included the second batch of the Master in Public Health, specialist in surgery, obstetric-gynecology, internal medicine, anesthesia - reanimatology, and pediatric (Table 11).
- ◆ The curriculum of health research methodology has included in every training curricula which purpose for developing health research capacity in both short and long term (at Faculty of medical sciences from year 4 to year 7, College of health technology for last year of bachelor students).

The long-term capacity building is activity that paved a fundament to strengthen a sustainable capacity of Lao health personnel for health research.

Table 9: Long term Training of human resources for health contributing to some research activities

Name of Post-graduated program	Implementer	Donors	Academic Year
1 Master in Public Health	NIOPH, MOH	French government	2002-2004
2 Specialist in surgery	Mahosot hospital, MOH with FMS, NUOL	French government	2002-2004
3 Specialist in obstetric- gynecology	Mahosot hospital, MOH, with FMS	French government	2002-2004
4 Specialist in pediatric	Mahosot hospital, MOH, with FMS	French government	2002-2004
5 Specialist in anesthesia-reanimatology	Mahosot hospital, MOH, with FMS	French government	2002-2004
6 Specialist in internal medicine	Mahosot hospital, MOH, with FMS	French government	2002-2004

4.3 Income generation for NIOPH

Sources of income for the National Institute of Public Health generated to assist its functioning were renting meeting rooms for training and conferences, be local consultant to assist in conducting survey and studies, in data processing-analysis, in translation documents, in writing research report, and evaluation of ongoing projects.

4.4 Tools for exchanging ideas and promoting research

The National Institute of Public Health published 500 copies of quarterly health sciences bulletin both languages Lao and English each year (2002-2003-2004), and sent to macro and micro departments around MOH and at all levels in the country, provided library for both undergraduates and post graduate students, in collaboration with Francophony Institute for Tropical Medicine in Vientiane, had freely access to the Internet network. In addition, there were more than 30 research reports presented within country and overseas.

4.5 National and international partnership on health research

4.5.1 National partnership on health research

The research projects implemented during 2002-2004 were contributed by departments, centers, hospitals, schools around MOH, and some provinces (KTE, 2003-2004); the National Statistical Center of National Planning and Cooperation Committee (World Health Survey in Lao P.D.R, 2002); the National Educational Research institute, the National Economic Research Institute, the National agricultural Research Institute, the National Sciences-Technology and Environment Research Institute (Health research system analysis 2003). At the same time, NIOPH has close collaboration with IFMT in teaching, research, and management such as join-library and information, Intra network, and utilizing classroom, conference room and computer room.

4.5.2 International partnership on health research

To promote health research capacity in the future as long-term as to promote equity and development, collaboration and coordination with international partnership is indispensable factor to stimulate effort of process development shortcut, researchers, and health research system in the country.

The NIOPH in collaboration with Kalorinska Institute of Sweden in research and training with technical and financial support from SIDA in development and implementation some health system research projects to promote National Drug Policy in Lao PDR.

The NIOPH signed a contract on collaboration in research and training with Switzerland Institute of tropical medicine, and School of Public Health of Vietnam.

The NIOPH in collaboration with the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Laos conducted Training Need Assessment (TNA) for long term training course of Master degree in Public Health in Lao language (2004) under financial support of Rockefeller foundations.

With Hanoi School of Public health (2004) under financial support from Atlantic Philanthropy, NIOPH conducted training need assessment for short-term training for district health personnel.

The NIOPH supported by JICA conducted training for provincial health managers in strategic health management (3 main courses and two TOT workshops implemented during 2003-2004).

The NIOPH in collaboration with Japan research institutions completed first phase (2003-2004) Health Development Projects in Lahanam zone, Songkhone district, Savannakhet province.

In collaboration with Health system research Institute of Thailand in exchanging experiences in health system research by attending conference (12 officers in 2002) and visiting Health system research Institute of Thailand (5 officers in 2003) supported by NIOPH's funding.

In collaboration with Mahidol University in exchanging lecturers (The Director of NIOH delivered one lecture on health system of Lao P.D.R. to international students at faculty of social sciences, Mahidol University, 2004)

4.6 Attending International Sciences seminars/conferences

There were five planned international conferences had to be participated each year by the President of the Council of Medical Sciences-Director General of the National Institute of Public Health and concerned personnel (Table 10).

Table 10: Attending International Sciences seminars/conferences by years and conferences

Planned Conferences	Funding agencies	Country (number)		
		Year 2002	Year 2003	Year 2004

1. 19 th – 20 th consultative meeting on health research system in Asian pacific region	WHO		Kuala Lumpur (1)	Kuala Lumpur (1)
2. Asian Annual meeting on health research	WHO	Kuala Lumpur (1)	Kuala Lumpur (1)	Kuala Lumpur (1)
3. HRSA strengthening workshop	WHO			New Dehli (2)
4. Global forum for health research in conjunction with World Ministerial Summit Conference on Health research	WHO Global forum Government of Mexico			Mexico (1)

4.7 National Ethical Committee for Health research

The National Ethical Committee for health research was established and functioned since March 2002 up to date have been reviewed altogether 28 research project proposals, 15 research projects in 2003 (14 projects have been approved) and 13 research projects in 2004 (10 of them had been approved) List of submitted research proposals showed in table 13.

Two meetings were held with its members. The second workshop on research ethics development in Lao P.D.R. under financial and technical support from EC-RMCP in Lao P.D.R., Vietnam, and Cambodia was held in 2002. The NIOPH is the convenor of the national ethic committee for health research and its secretary is responsible by Division of health research ethic development in the past and currently called the Ethics and Health Research Department. Five members of the ethic review committee went to study tour in Thammasat University. The standard operational plan of national research ethic review committee was set up to be effectively implement any step of reviewing, documentation, decision-making, communication, storage of information, time and process of reviewing strongly implemented in a transparent manner.

Table 11: List of submitted research proposals to NECHR 2002-2004

Year 2003		Year 2004	
Submitted		Submitted	Approved

1. Strengthening sexual transmitted infection control in Lao PDR	Approved	1. Prospective study of the causes of unexplained fever at Oudomxay provincial hospital, Lao PDR	Through FMS ethic committee
2. HIV/AIDS care & support for marginalized & mobility affected peoples in the Greater Mekong Sub-region: an operational research study	Approved	2. Situation of health care waste management in Lao PDR	Approved
3. Micro assays for detection of the new markers resistance of Plasmodium falciparum and utilization of DNA for evaluation of therapy	Approved	3. Nutrition status of minority children aged 0-59 months in Luangprabang province, Lao PDR	Approved
4. Collaborative study on application of dipstick Dye immunoassay (DDA) kits for Schistosomiasis in endemic areas of Schistosoma Mekong in Lao PDR	Approved	4. Research Project: Urbanization changing process on sanitation and disparity health spatial in Vientiane capital, Lao PDR	Through Ministry of Education
5. Food and Drug Advocacy	Adm.	5. Young male sexuality and HIV/AIDS prevention project	Approved
6. World Health survey	Approved	6. Situation analysis on immunisation service in Lao PDR	Approved
7. Women, weaving and well being: how health is socially reproduced in Lao PDR	Approved	7. Study on drug resistance to malaria in Phouvong district, Attapu province	Approved
8. Collaborative research on monitoring of malaria drug resistance in Lao PDR	Approved	8. Study on water and food borne diseases in Lao PDR	Need more discussion
9. Survey of the intestinal protozoa infections among diarrhoea patients in Lao PDR	Approved	9. Proposal for qualitative assessment of clinical IMCI in Lao PDR	Approved
10. KAP study on malaria & IBN use in Lavae community, Attapu province	Approved	10. Antimalaria drug use survey 2004 in Lao PDR	Approved
11. Risk assessment of Opisthorchis viverrini & other food borne Trematodes in Lao PDR	Approved	11. Standard operating procedures for hospital based rotavirus surveillance	Approved
12. Evaluation on malaria prevention across Cambodia-Lao border	Approved	12. Gender minority or kathoey in Lao PDR in a context of past socio-cultural changes and HIV epidemic	Approved
13. Sexually Transmitted & blood borne infection prevalence assessment in high risk population in Lao PDR	Approved	13. Asia mapping exercise project on HIV/AIDS in Lao PDR	Approved
14. Estimation of impact of counterfeit & substandard anti malaria drugs in Lao PDR	Approved		
15. Overall survey of malaria infection in Lao PDR 2003-2004	Approved		

4.8 Dissemination of research results and translation it into action

Dissemination of research results or knowledge transfer and exchanging is one important part of research process. The NIOPH with CMS organized forum for dissemination of research results of five research projects for NDP implementation in 2003 by inviting concerned individuals from public, private, government and non-government organizations (Table 12). The research findings of five research projects for NDP implementation also published as final report on HSR training and findings both in Lao and English language, each 100 copies, and distributed to all organizations concerned. The results of 12 post-graduate theses on Master of Public Health kept in NIOPH Library. Some research studies have been published in the Health Sciences Bulletin for distribution to all levels in the country.

Table 12: National conferences to promote research dissemination and utilization

Activities	Funding agencies	Year 2003	Year 2004
Workshop to disseminate research findings in country:			
1. National Drug Policy -	Sida	5 projects	
2. Effectiveness of malaria drug	Well Come Trust		
3. Assessment of the first year implementation of the Health Development Project	Three Japanese Institutions	9 presentations Savannakhet province	
4. IEC for malaria prevention	WHO		CMPE, MOH
5. Mental disorders		Mahosot hospital	

A new challenge is how to access to health research information in the country and in the world regularly, so NIOPH in collaboration with Japanese research institutions under Health development projects prepared to create potential research project Web site to maintain, enhance, improve and translate research results for national and international research community, health officers, and health staffs.

The NIOPH included in the teaching curricula on research methodology disseminate and introduce to all research institutions/units at all levels to implement as well as to manage effectively health research system in Lao PDR.

In addition, the research findings have been presented at the regional and international levels each year, these included ten presentations of the research findings to promote the quality of preventive Medicine at the first Lao-Vietnam-Cambodia Symposium health in Vientiane in December 2002 and six presentations at the second Lao-Vietnam-Cambodia symposium held in Hanoi, Vietnam in the year July 2004 (Table 13); ten presentations related to drug use in Lao P.D.R. at the ICIUM held in Chiangmai, Thailand in April 2004 and two presentations related to health research and water resources at the water resources in Mekong Basin held in Hanoi, Vietnam in December 2004 (Table 14).

Table 13: Regional conferences to promote research dissemination and utilization

Activities	Funding agencies	Year 2002	Year 2004
2. Presenting research findings at regional levels			
1. First Lao-Vietnam-Cambodia symposium hosted by NIOH and CMS, MOH, Lao PDR	MOH, Pasteur Merrier, EC-RMCP, Lao EU-MCP	10 Lao presenters	
2. Second Lao-Vietnam-Cambodia symposium hosted by NIHE, MOH of SR Vietnam	MOH, NIOPH, Global Funds, Pharmaceutical Factory No. 2		17 Lao participants, of which 6 Lao presenters

Table 14: International conferences to promote research dissemination and utilization

Activities	Funding agencies	Year 2004
Presenting research findings at international levels		
1. International Conference for the Use of Medicine	Sida	10 participants with 9 Lao presenters and 10 posters demonstration, Chiangmai, Thailand
2. International Conference on water resources management in Mekong water shed		3 participants, two Lao presenters Hanoi, Vietnam
3. World Conference on AIDS		12 participants, Bangkok, Thailand

4.9 Incentive system

As one kind of fostering researchers to actively implement research activities, the NIOPH and CMS provided opportunity to 12 health researchers going for study tour in Health system research Institute of Thailand. Giving opportunity to ten researchers to disseminate their research findings abroad on International Conference on improving the use of Medicine in Chiangmai, Thailand (April, 2004), six researchers presenting their research results at the second Vietnam-Lao-Cambodia (July, 2004), upgrading young researchers to study as Master or Doctor of philosophy, and promoting staffs in doing research and taking research as important work to solve problems facing, improving quality of work, improving their own knowledge as well as seeking fund from international committees to support small research projects that had been developed during health system research workshop.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

Due to the existing of the national policy on research, constitution and some law related to support and promote research activities in Lao PDR in general and in particular in health sector that management of research and training was one of the nine health work plan in the past and currently became one of the six health work plan. These are promoting good environment for conducting health research activities in Lao PDR, starting from establishing and implementing two national health research master plans (1992-1996) and (1997-2001). Since 2002, the third five year health research master plan (2002-2006) had been implemented. All of the mentioned activities are contributing to capacity and skills to conduct research had been lifted at level step by step that are paving research structure for strongly development research capacity in the future.

Though the implementation of the third five year health research master plan, it has seen that 21 research projects counted for 50.0% out of 42 proposed research projects had been conducted, and 44 research projects counted for 105.0% had been conducted out of the plan or implemented due to financial support from interest of the donor agencies. The National Ethic Committee for health Research had been established to act as right and benefits of the research participants.

Although, there are limited both number and quality of health researchers (39) , it is shown that the skills and research capacity both individuals and institutional were improved in all health work plans due to short term and long term strategies for research capacity strengthening. Many research results were disseminated at national and international levels in various forms; all together 57 health research topics had been published both in Lao and English languages.

In addition, production of tools is made twice per year up to 500 editions to disseminate health research finding both in Lao and English languages in the form of health science bulletin and as good organizers of various international health research symposium. International research network was growing, at the same time, the council of medical sciences of ministry of health was recognized as representative of health research at national, international, and global forum that were invited to attend all meetings related to health research at regional and world summit continuously. This is shown about value of Lao PDR in research that had been lifted at international level, however, in order to guarantee about the skills and capacity in conducting health research both qualitatively and quantitatively of researchers in Lao PDR, the following issues have to be considered.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were set up:

1. Training on research methodology for all staff in related specialized sectors is encouraging and small grant for conducting research should be provided to junior researchers for practicing, in order to develop researchers both quality and quantity
2. Government should allocate some budget as well for research activities directly for each sector or through STEA for submission based on good quality research projects
3. Each health work plan leader should concentrate and seeking funds for enable to implement their own research projects in the next two years
4. Ministry of health should encourage both mentally and financially to each health work plan in order to enable to implement the research proposed in each work plan
5. Long term strategy for research capacity strengthening should be continuously promoted
6. Supportive policy and environment for research activities and researchers is needed for advocating research culture

7. Incentive, grants, grand prix should be available for good quality of research projects in various sector
8. Research advocacy is needed for decision making in planning and management on evidence -based anticipated to social economic development plan of the nation, reducing poverty and improving quality of life of the Lao people

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