

Service Fraternel d'Entraide ~ Laos

Newsletter ~ Nov 2016



Women and men working alongside the people of Laos

Laos: a country on the move

Laos hosted the 29th ASEAN summit meeting on September 6- 8, 2016. The theme was "Transforming Vision into Reality for a Dynamic ASEAN Community. Guest of honor, President Barack Obama, joined the meetings. It is the first time that an American president has made a state visit to a country that was wounded by the Vietnam War. The visit took place several decades after an intensive campaign of secret American bombardments that occurred between 1964 to 1973.



More than 2 million tons of bombs were dropped on Laos, 30 % of which have not exploded and are still killing people today.

Another significant point: France and the ratification of the Paris Agreement on climate. On September 7, 2016, Laos became the first country of ASEAN to ratify the Paris Agreement.

Province of Attapeu: the third phase of the Community Project

The impact of the HCDP (Health Community Development Project) on 13 villages among the poorest of the Province has been quite significant. Severe malnutrition has dropped to half and chronic malnutrition from 47 % to 36 %. Intestinal parasitic diseases have been reduced by half, while the use of latrines has progressed from 3 % to 94 %. Because of these improvements, the government has nominated four of these villages as "model villages".

The September 20th closing ceremony marked the end of the second phase of this project. The request for the authorization to launch a 3rd phase for 3 years is being

examined by the provincial authorities. Aid/support in 11 villages of 2 districts in the areas of health, agriculture and water supply/sanitation will continue. The objective will be to improve food security and reduce poverty and encompass environmental protection.



Christmas project 2016 will be dedicated to this new phase in Attapeu. In order to begin this project, we will need 2 new motorbikes (2600€) and office material (computers, printers.... for about 1400€, total 4000€

Province of Sekong

Kapeu : the second phase of the Community Project

The first phase of the project is closed, and we are now awaiting the authorization from the ministry to begin the 2nd phase which will focus on food security in 12 villages of Thateng district from now until 2019. The agricultural, water and health activities that were started during the first phase will be pursued. An introduction of income-generating activities, savings groups and literacy classes into the process of development will promote the inclusion of all villagers, particularly the women. The overall targeted goal is to ensure food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture in Thateng district.





Excerpts of a letter from expats in echo to the first phase of the project: encouraging results!

« All we see in our villages encourages us to pursue the work we are doing here. When we go to these villages we are happy to notice several things: garbage is in waste holes, vegetable gardens are green, latrines are used and clean, fruit trees have solid fences, ill children are being taken to the health center, women want to consolidate their knowledge in reading, soap is available... To acknowledge their development, we marked the occasion by giving a diploma to the model families of each village. It was also a great reward for us! »



Sekong Hospital :additional personnel at last

Monika (nurse and midwife) and Arnold Probst (doctor) joined our nurse, Ruth, at the end of October. They strengthen the medical training team. There is plenty of work and in 2014, 105,200 patients could benefit from healthcare in the 3 district hospitals and the provincial hospital.



We would like to express our sincere gratitude to you for your support and thank you in the name of those that we have the privilege to serve.

With my best regards,

Saravane Province :a new project for 2017

At the request of the authorities, a new health project will be implemented in Saravane during next year. in This province is located in the North of Sekong. A team ready to take on this new challenge has already been formed. The objective is to reduce poverty. The two main lines of actions will be to :

- strengthen the health system in the hospitals of the province, the districts, and in healthcare centers
- develop community action focused on primary health-care, water and sanitation, as well as nutrition.



Province of Savannakhet :SFE's new involvement

In partnership with a Lao structure, we are participating in the support of training of young adults in various areas such as construction, hairdressing, catering...The objective is to offer professional qualifications that are adapted to the needs of young people coming from rural background and often left behind.

Philippe Klopfenstein, chairman of SFE.

SFE : <http://www.sfe-laos.org>

Correspondance : 3 route de Grand-Charmont, 25200 Montbéliard , Tel 07.81.64.16.49 Mail : france@sfe-laos.org

Compte bancaire : Service Fraternel d'Entraide ; Crédit Agricole d'Alsace – Vosges ; Agence d'Altkirch (68130)

IBAN I 7206.00550.50801830010.13 (les dons sont déductibles des impôts à hauteur de 66%)