



Building for better life and sustainable future

JMAS Chairman's visit in XKH



Through Inspection

We observed UXO Lao staff working under instruction from technical advisors. I met villagers who had to live in such a dangerous place and littered with huge numbers of UXOs. I also saw children who are observing UXO clearance activities from a distance away. I realized keenly the importance and the necessity for the sustainability of the project JMAS is tackling in XKH.

I easily imagine how worried the staff felt in the field on being so close to the UXO danger. Playing petanque after work must help relax their minds and bodies.

Mr. Hajime MASSAKI,



JMAS Director's Impression for UXO Contamination

I saw a huge number of UXOs waiting to be cleared from the paddy fields after a harvest. I was immediately struck by how many farmers must be injured and killed in these areas.

The people here have cultivated rice more than half of century under the constant fear of UXOs. We are using UXO clearance to make the shallow field free from danger, but the ground beneath could still contain other UXOs. It would take a much longer time, perhaps 300 to 1,000 years, to removing all the danger.

The fight between farmers and UXO will continue for centuries.

Mr. Masahiro Atami,



Indonesian Ambassador's Visit in XKH

Indonesian Ambassador (Mr. SUTJIPTONARDO DONOKUSUMO) during his visit to the UXO Lao team at Lek Village, Pek District on September 29, 2009

"I feel really impressed with the UXO Lao team for doing such a wonderful work to save peoples' lives. Here at Ban Lek Primary school yard, there are hundred of children studying, and playing every day without realizing that many unexploded bombs remaining under ground. I'm sure that without the UXO Lao team here, an accident could happen to the children any time. The UXO Lao team is working here to save peoples' lives, and give them long future. On this occasion I'd like to say thank you to UXO Lao provincial coordinator and his associates and to the JMAS experts who organize my visit to make my time well spent. Once again thank you to the team that let me destroy 10 bombies. It was great experience for me."



University Student, Kazuhiro's Report

I left Japan in order to grasp the reality what happens in the world, and at the moment I'm travelling in Asia as volunteer to achieve that purpose. Coincidentally when I was wandering in the national rehabilitation center, I saw a poster of COPE describing victims suffered from UXO. I felt a strong interest in UXO problems and a desire to visit the field of UXO clearance activity and I immediately contacted JMAS.

On Oct 19 I accompanied them on field activity and had an exceptional experience: I observed the search for UXOs, and the task of clearing them by setting off the explosion.

Although I stood 300m from bombies explosion, I felt a strong blast and understood the size of the danger if I had been closer. The field was near the rice paddy where villagers used to plow until quite recently. When I saw many bombies coming out of there, I immediately understood the dangerous state of Laotian life, and I was impressed in need of UXO clearance activity.

Kazuhiro Kogure

