



*Building an environment for a better life and a sustainable future*

"IN THE MIDDLE OF difficulty lies OPPORTUNITY."

## Feature Feedbacks from Readers

### LAOS

Thank you for your message and JMAS newsletter. I always appreciated the work done by JMAS (particularly in Xieng Khouang province, which is my home province), and I would be very pleased to receive regularly your newsletter.

Maligna

Laos

Thank you for your newsletter and thanks to your Organization's contribution to Laos

Lin

MAG, LAOS

### CANADA

It is excellent what you are doing in Laos.

I think it is a wonderful news letter, reading it quickly.

Wonderful to let the world know about caring Japanese people.

Good for you!!!

Bill, John and Jenny Bocock

Canada

There must be thousands of people in Laos who are in the same situation as the man who cannot work because of being injured by bombs. Your work is a bit like the story of the man who was walking along the seashore and every so often he would throw a starfish back into the ocean. Someone said there were thousands of them so there was no point in throwing just one back. The man said, "I've made a difference to that one." This is just like your work - you are making a difference to one life - one life at a time. It's such a worthwhile thing to be doing with one's one life.

Peter Heyes

Canada

### MOROCCO

I also read your Newsletter and came to my mind the unfortunate commentary which I heard today on TV in relation to the Saharui conflict with Morocco. Mines were also planted to maintain them into a restricted area near the border with Algeria,.

Luis Carlos Rodríguez Leiva

Morocco

### JAPAN

I am glad to know that the First Meeting of State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions was successfully held in November 2010. I have an impression that this is a great step towards eradication of the unexploded ordinances, as the demonstration of an explosion of bombies in the field of Xieng Khouang seems to have made a great impact on participants from foreign countries. As for me, I often carry the story of the UXO in Lao PDR in my blog with the intention of telling the story to all the people in the world.

I have a feeling that most Japanese people including Diet members don't know the present situation of the UXO in Lao PDR, as when they come to Lao PDR, it often occurs that visiting the sites of the UXO is not included in their schedule, though they visit and observe the sites of mines in Cambodia. As one of Diet members, Mr. Hisashi TOKUNAGA, came to Lao PDR to attend the 1MSP, I am convinced that the UXO in Lao PDR will be being watched with interest by much more Japanese people in the near future.

Kenji KAMIKURA

JAPAN

Thank you very much for sending me your News Letter #16 and #17. It was very nice to know that you are publishing the English News Letter. I will try to read them.

Yasuhiro Kitagawa

Japan Campaign to Ban Landmines, JAPAN

<Dynamism of Laos>

I felt special dynamism located in developing countries.

4 years has passed since my last visit in Vientiane. I imagine it must be totally same as before, but I found it wrong. Their attitude and behavior for foreigners are changed, furthermore Laos that is in the process for being developed press me with a specific dynamism.

Laos has received a lot of fund from foreign developed countries to seek and grasp better life, and then they could gain and lose good things and bad things. These changes are alive in their daily lives without being buried.

I felt the atmosphere of Vientiane is becoming a little Westernize with foreign capital and fund. Laos has been told <Unexplored Region>, which attracts many foreign travelers to visit. Those foreigners stimulate Laotian's point of value kept secret and untouchable by them.

Now Laotian seems to be too accustomed to foreigners, and is changing to lose their warmness and gentleness, I feel. I don't know whether or not its phenomena are good or bad for Laos.

However, the sunshine was still amazing as same as before, making a big and deep shadow, showing incredible beautiful red, finally going down beneath the horizon. At the dawn, I rushed to bike to the Mekong river to seek for the beauty of the sunshine. One pedal by one pedal expressed my eagerness how much I love it. Only existence of this Mekong River with this beautiful sunset should be enough for me personally away from my task as NGO staff. Finally I recognize the international volunteer work we can do here in Laos must be activities of development assistance as the importance will remained as it were.

The First Meeting of States Parties was held in Vientiane this November, which involved a big interest from the world. I'd like to keep watching how Laotian will accept, and appeal, and what will change inside and outside Laos by the meeting.

Hide TOGASHI

JAPAN