



Building an environment for a better life and a sustainable future

Topic 1: First Meeting of State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Vientiane

The First Meeting of State Parties (1MSP) to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) was held on 9-12 November 2010 at Donchan Palace Hotel in Vientiane. More than 100 states participated in this convention, including 43 that have ratified as of 26 October 2010.



JMAS had an exhibition booth at the convention center, displaying various items designed to help visitors grasp our work in Laos. We provided photographs of our activities and a video showing JMAS technical advisors working on UXO clearance in collaboration with JMAS' counterpart, UXO Lao in Xieng Khouang and Attapeu Provinces.

We still remember how the faces of three young women-- from Uganda, Sri Lanka and Nepal --showed their understanding of the need for UXO clearance in their countries. They asked us: "Please come to help us." We reaffirmed the profound weight of JMAS' mission.



Topic 2: The 1MSP concerning activities in Xieng Khuang

We were very pleased to have an excellent opportunity to show JMAS activity to Japan's Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs. H.E. Mr. Hisashi TOKUNAGA came over Laos as Vice-chairman of the 1MSP. He first saw JMAS' display in XKH, and then observed an explosion to remove a huge number of bombs in the field. Later he mentioned to Mr. Kurokawa, JMAS representative, that it was frightening to hear the sound of the big blast that followed his triggering off the demolition.

Throughout the 1MSP the many visitors from foreign countries who went to Xieng Khuang, took the opportunity to say CLEARLY: "We should remove all cluster munitions not only from Laos but also from all over the world."



Please let us have your comments. Contact details above

Representative's Determination after 1MSP

The convention of 1MSP involved more than 110 countries and international organizations, which looked like <Parade of the racial>. I recognized strongly marks of the dispute are still remained with various suffering shapes.

Most of UXO affected countries are too poor to dispose UXOs with their own government. As a result, they need a long term and continuous support and assistance by human power basically.

Mr. Junichi KUROKAWA
Representative for JMAS in Lao PDR.

UXO Shake Japanese Journalist's Heart

Members of Japan's mass media visited the UXO Clearance Program in Laos through a cooperate effort by JMAS and UXO Lao. Seeing is, indeed, believing. I can only think of the buzz of interest they expressed after visiting Phonsavan and surroundings in Xien Khouang Province for three days from 6 to 8 October, with cordial assistance of JMAS (Japan Mine Action Service) in Laos.

In the past I have been dispatched to several conflict areas, such as Bosnia, Kosovo, and Zaire where grenades, shells, land mines, and cluster bombs were everyday business. Nevertheless I never thought of their aftermath. ... I never thought of spotting so many unexploded ordinances (UXO). And indeed these UXO have kept local people vulnerable and marginalized. I was so impressed by the devoted work done by staff from UXO Lao. They work systematically and diligently. Thus, it was not surprising to see how their activities have been effective. This is made possible -- I strongly believe -- by JMAS senior experts/advisors; they are very professional and passionate in providing technical assistance. Indeed, there is a long way to go, but I am confident that JMAS and UXO Lao are surely moving toward the ultimate goal: a world without UXOs.

Mr. Takeshi FUJITANI,
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