



Building an environment for a better life and a sustainable future

Current activity of JMAS In Xiengkhouang Province

Recently JMAS TA and UXO SEOD removed a large bomb, a GPLD MK 82 500LB, which a road construction company found on Dec. 1, 2009 at Sanluang Village, Khoun District, Xiengkhouang Province.



JMAS TA and UXO Lao SEOD check the bomb fuse before removal to a demolition site

This bomb, buried during the Indochina war around 40 years ago, was likely dropped by the U.S. Air Force between 1964 and 1973. Because demolishing it where it was found would endanger the surrounding environment, including the road and houses, the bomb was first moved to the UXO demolition site that UXO Lao provided.



The fuse of bomb is separated from the body



The bomb is removed to a demolition site

Comment of Laotian Immigrating to USA

Mr. Seksan

Dec. 10, 2009

I was born in Vientiane, Lao PDR, and immigrated to the USA seven years ago. However, I had never known about UXO contamination in my country of my birth. I thank JMAS for letting me know about the real situation and problems surrounding UXO.



Young Japanese travelers' Impressions of UXO

Ms. Junko Kurata (20s),

Dec. 11, 2009

Thank you for telling the story of UXO. I didn't know of their existence in Laos before visiting the JMAS-Vientiane office. In my mind, mine clearance immediately equaled images of Cambodia.

I love travelling, which has given give me amazing experiences.

So far, I have watched UXO clearance on some TV programs. I now realized what hard problems Laos and Laotian have endured and what they must overcome. Furthermore, I feel myself to be a tiny thing who cannot do anything to ease their worries.

If possible, I would have visited the field in XKH. However, I was informed that all activities for this year have ended. I would earnestly like to go and see the UXO reality if there is another chance.



Mr. Tomoyasu Tagawa (representative of JMAS) briefs two Japanese travelers about JMAS activities on UXO

Mr. Yusuke Ito (20s),

Five months have passed since I started traveling. I entered Laos overland from China after going around East-South Asia. This travel gave me a lot of wonderful things, but I also had some hard times. However, despite the difficulties, villagers helped me with a warm heart, and offered me food and accommodation. I was welcomed everywhere, but I was sorry I couldn't give anything in return. I travel because I love doing it, but I noticed it was not enough for me, and recognized that I was not returning the thoughtfulness, kindness, and comparison I was shown. What could I do for them?

Then, coincidentally, I found JMAS in Vientiane. Visiting this office suggested the necessity of visiting the field of UXO clearance.

How are villagers spending their lives in such as terrible situation? What are their circumstances? How do they feel when they work on the ground with UXO?

I really want to know them. I suppose I might change myself and could find WHAT I can do at this moment and in the future, and expect I could go ahead.

Feedback from a reader

Thanks for the latest newsletter. When you said that the people had lived with UXOs for over 50 years it made me realize how long the danger has been around. Here we are able to walk through fields without even thinking about danger. In Laos the people must be constantly worrying, when they put their foot down, if there is a bomb underneath. The farming people must be very brave people.

Peter Heys, Canada