

Report

Workshop for the Establishment of a Group of Self-Advocates with Intellectual Disabilities in Lao PDR



12 July 2013, Mercure Vientiane Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR



Workshop for the Establishment of a Group of Self-Advocates with Intellectual Disabilities in Lao PDR

Organized by

Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW)
Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD)

in Collaboration with

Lao Disabled People's Organization (LDPA)

12 July 2013
Vientiane, Lao PDR



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BACKGROUND

Who Self-Advocates Are

Self-Advocacy means speaking up for yourself about the rights and responsibilities in your life. Persons with intellectual disabilities, autism, developmental disabilities and other disabilities who speak up for themselves are called “Self-Advocates”. Self-Advocates know their rights and speak for themselves, and make life decisions without undue influence or control by others. The motto of the Self-Advocacy movement is “Nothing About Us, Without Us”.

Why It Is Important to Have a Voice of Their Own

Everyone has got a ‘voice’ and even without a physical voice everyone can communicate in other ways. Persons with intellectual disabilities are still some of the most powerless members of society and their voices, needs and desires have often been neglected. Professionals and parents often speak on behalf of persons with intellectual disabilities.

Recently, self-advocacy groups have started to gain confidence in themselves. They learn the tools and experiences to take greater control over their lives, and how to make decisions and choices that affect their lives so they can be more independent. As a result, an increasing number of Self-Advocates have taken charge of their lives and began fighting discrimination in society.



A Discussion on Process to Establish a Group of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

Groups of Self-Advocates with Intellectual Disabilities in the Greater Mekong Sub-region



Rose Group

The “Rose Group”, the first ever self-help group of persons with intellectual disabilities in Cambodia, was established in 2011 in the “Workshop on Development of Self-Help Group Network on Intellectual Disability in Cambodia”. The significant outcome of the workshop in terms of forming the Rose Group was facilitated by the Dao Ruang Group, the Future Star Group, the Komar Pikar Foundation (KPF) and the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD).



Future Star Group

The first self-help group of persons with intellectual disabilities in Myanmar was established in the “Workshop on Intellectual Disability” which was a collaborative event between APCD and the Family Support Network Yangon in 2010. The Dao Ruang Group and APCD were resource persons and facilitators during the establishing process.



Dao Ruang Group

With support from APCD and the Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability of Thailand (APIDT), the Dao Ruang Group (the name of the flower “Marigold” in English) became the first self-advocates group on intellectual disabilities in Thailand and was successfully established in March 2009. Currently 15 group members conduct regular monthly meetings and activities.

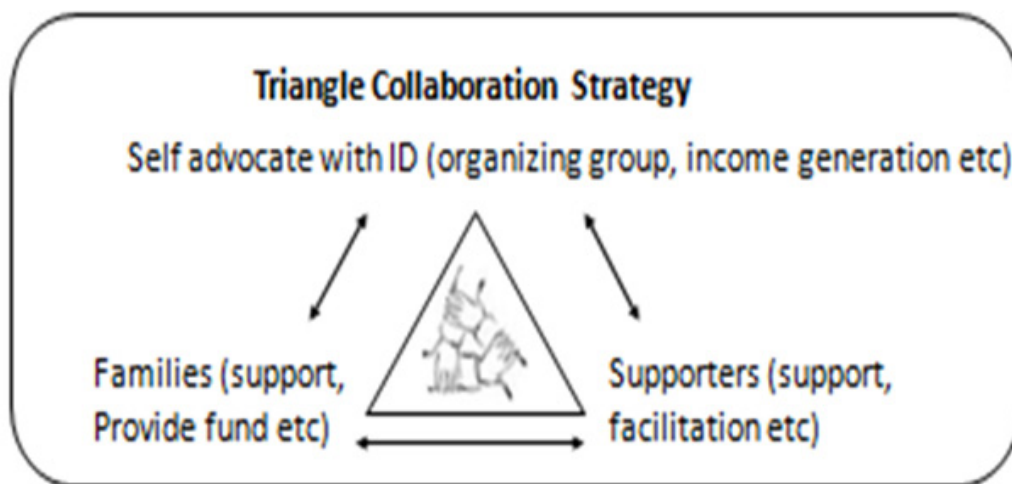


My Future Group

The “My Future Group” was established by Mrs. Ha Nguyen, who has a daughter born with Down Syndrome. My Future Group is a self-help group, operating with the parent financial contribution. The group initially had five members, but has now increased to 10 members. All the members are young adults living with an intellectual disability, aged from 20 – 33 years. My Future Group is the first group for young adults with intellectual disabilities in Ho Chi Minh City mainly. My Future Group was established on 1 January 2009.

Triangle Collaboration Strategy

APCD's key lesson learned on development of self-help group of persons with intellectual disabilities is the close collaboration among the three main partners in each countries/areas. The three main partners are as follows: group of persons with intellectual disabilities, group of family members (parents, siblings) and group of supporters (teachers, friends, professional staff, etc).



Formation of the First Self-Advocacy Group in Lao PDR

Because there was no self-advocates group of persons with intellectual disabilities in Lao PDR, it was expected that the first Group of Self-Advocates with Intellectual Disabilities in Lao PDR would be formally established as a new Self-Advocates Group of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities in the Greater Mekong Sub-region during the workshop.

Finally, the "Workshop for the Establishment of a Group of Self-Advocates with Intellectual Disabilities in Lao PDR" was organized by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) and APCD in collaboration with the Lao Disabled People's Association (LDPA) at the Mercure Vientiane Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR on Friday, 12 July 2013. The objective was to create movement on intellectual disability and to strengthen networks according to collaboration among MLSW, LDPA, relevant stakeholders in Lao PDR and APCD. The goal is to strengthen collaboration in the Mekong Sub-region.

OUTCOMES

Establishing “Talent Group”, the First Self-Advocates Group with Intellectual Disabilities in Lao PDR

Thirty-five workshop participants were fruitfully accomplished the goal of the one-day workshop for the ‘Establishment of a Group of Self-Advocates with Intellectual Disabilities in Lao PDR’, that was intended to form the first Self-Advocate Group with Intellectual Disabilities in Lao PDR, and to promote collaboration among five countries (Lao PDR, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam).



Group Photo among Participants

The opening remarks was delivered by Ms. Baykham Khatiya, Vice Minister, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao PDR. Participants included self-advocates with intellectual disabilities, family members and supporters who are expected to be the key players to carry on the group of intellectual disabilities. The workshop highlighted the model collaboration of Self-Advocates Group in the Greater Mekong Sub-region that involved activities such as meetings, field trips, community services and income generation. The model was outlined by Ms. Patcharin Sujaritwatanasak, Leader, Dao Ruang Group of Thailand. In the afternoon, the highlight was the APCD staff members facilitating the process to establish a group of persons with intellectual disabilities, the development of an agreement and an activity plan for what the Self-Advocates Group with Intellectual Disabilities and Parents Group and Supporters would like to put into action. At the end of the workshop, the participants agreed to the “Vientiane Recommendations on Intellectual Disability”.

**Name of the Newly Established Self-Advocate Group
with Intellectual Disabilities in Lao PDR**

"Talent Group"

"Talent Self-Advocacy Group with Intellectual Disabilities of Lao PDR"

Draft of the Talent Group Logo



"Talent Group" the First Self-Advocates Group with Intellectual Disabilities in Lao PDR

Objectives of the Talent Group

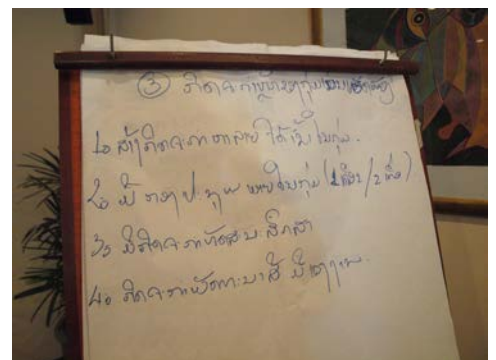
- 1) To create solidarity and harmony among persons with intellectual disabilities
- 2) To promote access to vocational training and employment for persons with intellectual disabilities
- 3) To support persons with intellectual disabilities to have their own income.

Activities

- 1) Income generating activities such as making dishwashing liquid
- 2) Meeting twice a month with persons with intellectual disabilities, parents and supporters
- 3) Study trips
- 4) Vocational skill development activities.

Officers

- 1) Leader: Mr. Tanuson Udombadith
- 2) Deputy Leader: Ms. Lanida Phalakhone
- 3) Deputy Leader: Mr. Thavathxay Vongseng
- 4) Secretary: Mr. Kietthisak Phonesavanh
- 5) Public Relations: Mr. Phouthasone Soulinthavong.



*Draft Agreements
among Members of the Talent Group*

What We Agree

- 1) Meet once a month
- 2) All members to attend the meeting. If absent, please send a representative
- 3) Switch off cell phones during the meeting
- 4) Be on time
- 5) Raise hand when wanting to share comments and/or opinions.

PROGRAM

Workshop for the Establishment of a Group of Self-Advocates with Intellectual Disabilities in Laos

Mercure Vientiane Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR

09.00-16.30, 12 July (Fri) 2013

09.00 – 09.30	Registration
09.30 – 10.30	Item 1. Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Welcome Remarks by Mr. Akiie Ninomiya, Executive Director, Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability- Opening Remarks by Mr. Bounviene Luangngot, President, Lao Disabled People's Association- Opening Remarks by Ms. Baykham Khatiya, Vice Minister, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare- Introduction of All Participants- Group Photo
10.30 – 10.45	Item 2. Model collaboration of Self-Advocate Group in the Greater Mekong Sub-region
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch
13.00 – 14.30	Item 3. Establishment of the Self-Advocates Group with Intellectual Disabilities in Lao PDR <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Leader (s) in a group- Agreements- Recommendations
14.30 – 14.45	Coffee Break
14.45 – 16.00	Item 4. Road Map of Self-Advocates Group with Intellectual Disabilities in Lao PDR <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Plan of activities
16.00 – 16.30	Item 5. Closing

OPENING REMARKS

Opening Remarks

By

H.E. Ms. Baykham Khatiya

Vice Minister, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW)

LAO PDR



*H.E. Ms. Baykham Khatiya, Vice Minister, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW)
Delivering her Opening Remarks to the Participants*

PRESENTATION

Model Collaboration of Self-Advocate Group in the Greater Mekong Sub-region

By

Ms. Patcharin Sujaritwatanasak
Leader of Dao Ruang Group, Thailand



Ms. Patcharin Sujaritwatanasak, Leader of Dao Ruang Group, Sharing her Experiences with the Participants

VIENTIANE RECOMMENDATIONS



Voice Must Be Heard in Lao PDR

Vientiane Recommendations on Intellectual Disability

We are persons with intellectual disabilities in Lao PDR. With support from our families and supporters, we met one another in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 12 July (Fri) 2013. We talked about our concerns and future visions in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) of Lao PDR, the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) and the Lao Disabled People's Association (LDPA).

Through the Workshop, we learned that good collaboration is important. We decided to establish our own group for the first time in Lao PDR. The group is called "*Talent Group*". It is great for us to exchange with other friends with intellectual disabilities through this new group.

We, persons with intellectual disabilities in Lao PDR, hope that our group will be strong enough to share our messages with more people in the future.

Agreed by the Participants of the Workshop for the Establishment of a Group of Self-Advocates
with Intellectual Disability in Lao PDR

Friday 12 July 2013, Mercure Vientiane Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR



ບັນຫາຂອງຄົນພິການທາງປັນຍາຄວນໄດ້ຮັບມີການຮັບຮູ້ ຢູ່ ສປປ ລາວ

ຄຳແນະນຳວຽງຈັນ ວ່າດ້ວຍຄົນພິການທາງປັນຍາ

ພວກເຮົາ ຄົນພິການທາງປັນຍາ ຢູ່ ສປປ ລາວ ໂດຍການສະໜັບສະໜູນຈາກຄອບຄົວ ແລະ ຜູ້ສະໜັບສະໜູນ ຂອງພວກເຮົາ ໄດ້ມີການພົບປະກັນຢູ່ນະຄອນຫລວງວຽງຈັນ, ສປປ ລາວ ໃນວັນທີ 12 ກໍລະກົດ 2013. ພວກເຮົາໄດ້ໂອ້ລົມກັນກ່ຽວກັບບັນຫາ ແລະ ວິໄສທັດຂອງພວກເຮົາ ຮ່ວມກັບ ກະຊວງແຮງງານ ແລະ ສະຫວັດດີການສັງຄົມຂອງ ສປປ ລາວ, ສູນພັດທະນາຄົນພິການປະຈຳພາກພື້ນເອເຊຍ ປະຊື່ພິກ ແລະ ສະມາຄົມຄົນພິການແຫ່ງຊາດລາວ

ຜ່ານກອງປະຊຸມດັ່ງກ່າວນີ້ ພວກເຮົາເຫັນວ່າການພົວພັນຮ່ວມມືກັນທີ່ດີແມ່ນມີຄວາມສຳຄັນ. ພວກເຮົາໄດ້ຕັດສິນໃຈສ້າງຕັ້ງກຸ່ມຊ່ວຍເຫລືອຕົນເອງ ຊຶ່ງເປັນຄັ້ງທຳອິດທີ່ມີຢູ່ ສປປ ລາວ. ກຸ່ມດັ່ງກ່າວນີ້ມີຊື່ວ່າ “ກຸ່ມພອນສະຫວັນ” ກຸ່ມທີ່ສ້າງຕັ້ງຂຶ້ນໃໝ່ນີ້ ຈະເປັນໂອກາດດີສຳລັບການແລກປ່ຽນຄວາມຮູ້ ແລະ ບົດຮຽນຮ່ວມກັນກັບຜູ້ພິການທາງປັນຍາຄົນອື່ນໆ

ພວກເຮົາ ຄົນພິການທາງປັນຍາ ຢູ່ ສປປ ລາວ, ຫວັງວ່າກຸ່ມດັ່ງກ່າວຈະມີຄວາມເຂັ້ມແຂງ ແລະ ສາມາດສະເໜີບັນຫາຕ່າງໆ ຂອງພວກເຮົາໃຫ້ຄົນອື່ນຮັບຮູ້ຫລາຍຂຶ້ນ ໃນຕໍ່ໜ້າ.

ເຫັນດີໂດຍຜູ້ເຂົ້າຮ່ວມກອງປະຊຸມສ້າງຕັ້ງກຸ່ມຊ່ວຍເຫລືອຕົນເອງຂອງຄົນພິການທາງປັນຍາ ຢູ່ ສປປ ລາວ

ວັນທີ 12 ກໍລະກົດ 2013, ໂຮງແຮມເມີຄິວ, ນະຄອນຫລວງວຽງຈັນ, ສປປ ລາວ

PHOTOS



A Drawing of the Logo for the Talent Group



Group Reading of the Vientiane Recommendations by Members of the Talent Group

Accessible for Persons with **dis**Abilities

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