

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Mission Report

Name and Position	Pauline Agatha Caspellan - Arce
Destination	Vientiane, Lao PDR
Mission period	22 - 28 July 2018 (travel included)
Purpose	(1) DRG Academic Seminar : Meeting w/ Thammasat University (2) Technical support to Lao DM Law Consultation with International Partners (3) Media, HCT and IDRL support for IFRC/LRC Resposen to Laos Dam Collapse

Summary of Activities/ People Met	Key discussion points, observations, outcomes	Recommendations/ follow up
<p>People met:</p> <p>A. DRG Academic Seminar Bangkok</p> <p>Dr. Tavid Kamolvej Incoming Dean, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University tavida.k@gmail.com</p> <p>Dr. Takashi Tsukamoto Assistant Dean for International Affairs, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University t.s.tsukamoto@gmail.com</p> <p>B. Lao PDR DM Law Consultation; Support for Dam Collapse Response</p> <p><u>INTERNATIONAL DEV'T PARTNERS</u></p> <p>Ms. Takako Morita</p>	<p>I. Meeting with Thammasat University, w/ Tiamkare Thitamthada (July 23)</p> <p>Contract</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract to be signed that week by the acting Dean (already signed as of writing) <p>Peer Review Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed adjusting the # of abstracts to be accepted – max 32 (but support for international travel max 24 pax) Dr. Tavid as the official EIC We pushed for inclusion of students in the peer reviewed journal, instead of TU's suggestion to exclude them from the peer review process. TU has suggested that the academics and professionals who submitted their papers be informed that different standards of review were applied to their papers. <p>Seminar</p>	<p>DRG Academic Seminar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email partners re their chance to have an Exhibit at TU Sept 24-25 Decide which partners can present ppt (as practitioners) Revise the Draft Agenda to reflect discussions Follow up on final shortlist Follow up on presentation template <p>Lao DM Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up on revised draft law (post-consultation) and meeting minutes from ADB (MLSW to draft and ADB to finalize)

<p>Office of General Counsel, ADB Headquarters</p> <p>Dr. Mary Picard Disaster Law Consultant, ADB mary.picard@humanitarianconsulting.com.au</p> <p>Mr. Balasubramaniam Murali UNDP Lao PDR Deputy Country Representative / UN Resident Coordinator a.i.</p> <p>Ms. Margaret Jones Williams Head, Natural Resources Management & Climate Change, UNDP Lao PDR</p> <p><u>MLSW & OTHER MINISTRIES</u></p> <p>Mr. Prasong Vonkhamchang Director General, Department of Social Welfare, MLSW prasonglao@gmail.com</p> <p>Mr. Vilayphong Sisomvang Deputy Director General Department of Social Welfare, MLSW vilayphongs@gmail.com (+856) 2022225185</p> <p>Ms. Vimala Khuonthalangsy Deputy Director of Social Welfare Lao PDR MLSW ping_khoun@yahoo.com (+856) 2022219355</p> <p>Mrs Virasaty Sombounkhan, DDG General Research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TU has agreed to lend 1 room for exhibits • Keynote speakers to be taken cared of by Dr. Tavida • TU to provide presentation template <p>Attached are the <u>meeting notes</u>, and the <u>draft Seminar Agenda</u> (to be revised by removing separate “graduate students” session, and removing sub-theme 4 since not enough papers submitted).</p> <p>II. Meeting with Mr. Prasong and Mr. Vilayphong (July 24)</p> <p>Mr. Prasong hosted a meeting with IFRC, UNDP & ADB in preparation for the international partners’ consultation the next day. His key points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provisions of the DM law should be based on the Lao context, not the context of industrialized societies; maybe we need to conduct a “situation analysis” for Lao PDR - DRM measures should always be linked to poverty alleviation at the village level - Do not write legal provisions that Lao PDR cannot implement, e.g.. due to lack of funding - We need to have a database of DRM volunteers across the country, but this is difficult - Lao PDR’s policy DM is to “decentralize” implementation. <p>I shared that one of IFRC’s priorities is to ensure the inclusion of <u>PGI</u> in the law. Also to note that providing legal basis for a DM fund in the law can catalyze the flow of funding into the country for this purpose, and that implementation of the new legal provisions may be achieved in incremental phases.</p> <p>Another important issue is the lack of coordination between MoNRE and MLSW. MoNRE is still performing DRR functions – early warning and risk assessment. *Note</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once additional funding is confirmed, coordinate w/ MLSW to see how IFRC can support other DM Law meetings • Finalize letter of parallel co-financing w/ UNDP <p>Support to IFRC/LRC response to Lao Dam Collapse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need systematic and regular status update on details of LRC’s response to affected population – important not only for PMER but also to maximize media relations • See if there is a need for further support for IDRL issues
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<p>Department, Prime Minister's Office (+856) 555 110 12 virasaty@hotmail.com</p> <p>LAO RED CROSS Ambassador Thongpachanh Sonnasinh Vice President, Lao Red Cross tpcex@hotmail.com</p> <p>Ms. Naly Pothilack International Relations, Lao Red Cross naly.ptl@laoredcross.org.la</p> <p>Ms. Thipasong Akhamountry Disaster Management Department, Lao Red Cross thipasong@gmail.com</p> <p>Other Members of the Lao PDR DM Law Drafting Committee</p> <p>IGOs/INGOs represented in the DM Law consultation</p>	<p>that the Climate Change is not even a decree yet and is losing momentum for approval. Margaret/UNDP explained to us during lunch that government might have to redo the entire consultation process for CC because it was downgraded from "law" to "decree". It <i>may</i> still be approved, but it's taking a lot of time compared to the DM Law.</p> <p>Lastly, there is a need to clarify provisions on IDRL.</p> <p>Target submission to NA is on the first NA meeting on July 2019. Latest would be in the second meeting on November 2019.</p> <p>III. Presentation at DM Law Consultation with International Dev't Partners (July 25)</p> <p>Mr. Prasong chaired the DM Law Consultation with International Development Partners. It was attended by all members of the DM Law Drafting Committee and some representatives of IGOs and INGOs (complete list to be submitted once MLSW shares meeting minutes). Majority of the participants were from Government. The meeting was funded by ADB.</p> <p>Ms. Thipasong Akhamountry attended on behalf of LRC and actively led her group in the discussions. Ms. Thipasong is an ideal representative as she is from DM and can also speak English fluently.</p> <p>Attached is the unofficial English translation of the 1st Draft DM Law and the consultation mechanics. The 1st draft is the product of the 2nd technical meeting funded by IFRC.</p> <p>MLSW will finalize the meeting minutes with ADB. I have requested a copy of this once finalized.</p> <p>IV. Support to IFRC/LRC Response to Lao Dam Collapse (July 24-27)</p>	
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	allowed entry the moment, pending the disaster assessment of Sanamxay district, Attapeu province.	
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