



VOPS
Office

ໂຄງການສົ່ງເສີມໄຟຟ້ານອກລະບົບ
Village Off-Grid Promotion & Support
“ ທຸກໆຄືນ ມີແສງສະຫວ່າງ “
“ Every night, light “

Newsletter #3 July 2007

Dear Colleagues and Stakeholders of the Village Off-Grid Project,

After a few months of silence, we are pleased to send you this third Newsletter to inform you about the progress of the Village Off-Grid Project. This will include news updates about the program, specific activities that may affect you and useful information. Please contact the VOPS Office in Vientiane with any questions or suggestions on 021 453 361.

1. Project Schedule

The Off-grid component of the Rural Electrification Program funded through an agreement between Government of Lao PDR and the World Bank is now in phase of implementation. The execution encompasses a large number of activities including better services for customers, installation of 3,750 new solar home systems, preparation of 250 additional connections using hydro resources in Xiengkhouang as a pilot province.

2. Improvement Program

Based on the conclusions of initial assessment, VOPS is executing an Improvement Program in 6 provinces of Lao PDR where 6,000 solar home systems have been installed during a first phase. Better services, replacement of faulty and broken equipment, housekeeping are some of the support that VOPS and the PESCOs are providing to the customers. This large program should be completed before the end of the year 2007.

3. Procurement of 3,750 SHS

The procurement of 3,750 solar home systems by the MEM PMU was concluded in December 2006 with the signature of a supply contract with NIDA Company Ltd. All equipment has been transported to the provinces in May 2007 and the PESCOs are now installing these systems in the villages. By end of July 3,000 systems have already been installed.

4. New procurement

VOPS and MEM/PMU are now preparing the next procurement which should include the supply of 5,250 solar home systems in two lots. The PESCOs have already started the preparation of the cluster plans.

5. New PESCOs

Since June 2006, 8 new PESCOs have been recruited. Now, we have 14 PESCOs operating in 13 Provinces of the country. All PESCOs have been trained on all

technical, managerial and financial aspects so that they can successfully fulfill their mission.

6. Collaboration with Nam Theun 2 Project

Within the social and environmental component of the Nam Theun 2 project, 100 solar home systems have been deployed in Khammouan for villages which have been targeted by the resettlement program. VOPS is assisting NT2 staff on all technical and managerial aspects of running these systems.

7. Village hydro and genset systems

General surveys in 4 Northern provinces and detailed investigations in Xiengkhouang have been made in view of installing a first batch of 5 village hydro and genset systems. A new business model is going to be tested for these installations which will provide 24h a day power.

8. Safety and awareness raising

All communication materials including a video film on safety of hydro installations are now ready and available for our instructors who will visit 350 villages in Northern Lao before the end of 2007.

9. Northern Branch

The Northern Branch of VOPS is operational in Oudomxay since January 2007 under the management of Mr. Phoumkhan Manithong.

The contact details are:

Oudomxay prefecture

Tel/fax 081 212 580

10. New Operations manager

VOPS was pleased to welcome Philippe Arnou who took his function in January 2007.