

Training on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) at Thavisouk Hotel and Resort in Vang Vieng District, Vientiane Province; During 5-8 April 2016
IFRC and Lao Red Cross Society (LRC)



Climate Change is underlined in LRC Strategic Plan 2011-2015 as a “future trend” that LRC needs to take into consideration. The Strategic Plan notes that “Climate change, in particular, not only endangers lives and undermines livelihoods, but also threatens to exacerbate the gaps between rich and poor, and amplifies the inequities between women and men. In the region, emerging and other epidemic-prone diseases pose serious public health and economic threats to Lao.” Hence, a key need identified is that “Lao Red Cross requires a stronger organization to meet new challenges in the coming years, like climate change adaptation, an increasing number of road accidents in the country, and new pandemics. There is a critical need to have trained and well-equipped emergency response teams throughout the country, and to strengthen partnerships at all levels to make communities stronger and more resilient in disaster preparedness and risk reduction”.

The opening ceremony of this CCA training course was presided over by Mr Thongphachanh SONNASINH, Vice-President of LRC and Miss Rommanee KLAEOTANONG, IFRC Bangkok CCST-Country Cluster Support Team.



Objectives:

The objectives of this training course on Basic Climate Change Adaptation is to enhance the skills of LRC staffs on the concept of climate change adaptation and mitigation and the key cross cutting related issues such as health and gender and diversity and laws with including five key concepts:

- key concepts, basic science and CCA terminology;
- impacts on weather patterns and climate change;
- impacts on health;
- ways to adapt to, and mitigate, climate change; and



- ways to educate, raise public and individual awareness and communicate with communities.



The total of 47 LRC staff/participants (male 31 , female 16) at the headquarters and provincial levels (with the team of facilitators from DDMCC (Department of Disaster Management and Climate Change), LRC and IFRC Bangkok CCST. The participants and the representatives were invited from Vientiane Capital and 17 provinces with various backgrounds. There were 15 learning sessions which presented as “adult learning process” by sharing experiences and group discussion and group exercises and games.



Moreover, the participants mentioned that the CCA training was very useful for them in applying it to the fields. All participants were active, enthusiastic in study, discussion, group work; and strictly follow training regulations.



Additionally, they also expressed that they will be able to apply and transfer their knowledge and skills gained from this class into their provinces, districts, and communities. The finding of pre and posttest (52 % vs 63%) had shown that CCA knowledge; capacities of majority of participants slightly increased and improved and are able to communicate the knowledge about CCA to their colleagues , communities and volunteers in the provinces. Facilitators and participants highlighted and agreed even though training has lot of positive aspects and well prepared for country contexts.



In summary, the training conducted smoothly according to the 4 –day set agenda and managed to reach the expectation of the participants to apply all knowledge and skills that required to be the CCA focal persons in each province. The basic CCA training proved to be very useful

to follow and provided the participants with the concepts to prepare their volunteers and communities adequately for future disasters.



However, some key concerning issues were raised for the training improvement:

- The hand out presentation should be provided before training or during the training for the participants to prepare themselves before the class.
- The documents provided should be translated into Lao language.



Next step:

Disaster Management Department, LRC will be moving forward by conducting the TOT CCA training course in June-July 2016 with the support from IFRC Bangkok CCST. The active participants from the targeted branches/ provincial level who in charge for DRR and Health and CCA focal persons which meet the TOT training criteria will be invited and supported again to take part in the said TOT CCA course.