

**Lao Higher Education**

**Ministry of Education and Sports,  
Lao PDR**

# OUTLINE

- An Overview of Lao PDR's higher education;
- three key challenges face;
- Sustainable development ideas on Higher education.

# Overview of Lao Higher Education

- There are five public universities and one private University and seven higher Education Institutions that are under the Higher Education Department, Ministry of Education and Sports, Lao PDR;
- The Higher Education Department consists of four divisions namely: Academic Division, Administrative Division, Evaluation and Monitoring Division, Scientific Management and Promotion Division and Higher Education Council's Office;
- The Higher Education Department manages the academic like curriculum development work and promote scientific work for lecturers working in the Universities;

# Overview of Lao Higher Education(cont't)

- Also, it promotes and gives advice on academic developments for the private and public higher education institutions.
- The Higher Education Department is also responsible for opening new learning programs and terminates the Higher Education Institutions that there are not students to study based on the National curriculum Standards.
- In addition, there is a project, called SSHEP which have been providing academic assistance on academic and scientific work to four public universities as well as infrastructure construction.

# Overview of Lao Higher Education(cont't)

- Higher Education in Laos cooperates with USAID in order to
  1. Explore opportunities for collaboration research and teaching method exchange initiatives;
  2. Strengthen US-Mekong digital innovation into higher education;
  3. Strengthen universities collaboration as connectivity to internationalization, students exchange and mobility.
  4. Strengthen digital transformation in the learning process and capacity building of the teachers, students, and learning management system.

# Overview of Lao Higher Education(cont't)

- Currently, there are SIX projects that are under the USAID which support Higher Education Development.
  1. Research Triangle Institute International (RTI). For example, this project has been operating in four public universities, Faculty of Economics. This project focuses on Study and Modeling of Management Capacity and system Strengthening Project;
  2. English Teaching Assistance (ETAs) and English Language Fellows (ELFs).
  3. Scholarship Fulbright. For example, supports Research and teaching
  4. U.S. Peace Corps;
  5. USAID;
  6. ELIC ( English Language Institute/ China). For example, supports English teachers as well as trainers to work with Lao teachers at universities and some colleges.

# Challenges

- A number of students study in university have been decreasing since the outbreak of Covid-19 outbreak;
- There are not students for a few programs;
- Students tend not to be interested in STEM (Higher Education);

# **Sustainable development ideas on Higher education**

- We made a legislation on STEM promotion;
- Cooperate with regional and international universities in terms of academic and research work trainings in short and long terms;
- Increase a number of quotas for students who have good performance in secondary school;
- Propose government to invest more on education more than others;
- Cooperate with industries and labor markets.



**Thank you very much for your attention**