



COPE—Helping People Move On

# COPE Newsletter

## Events this quarter. January—April 2007

The Feet First team came to visit in February

Adopt a Minefield visited and also did some training

World Vision Australia sent a delegation to visit COPE

International Mine Awareness day exhibition on the 5th of April

COPE website Launches!

COPE has new CEO

Dormitory in Pakse complete thanks to POWER UK

Shipment from Clear Path International arrives in Laos

1st edition of our newsletter!

**Next newsletter due July 2007**

## Happy New Year from all the COPE staff!!

Lao New Year is fast approaching and so it seems a good time to send our first newsletter! It has been a very busy few months! Here is what we have been up to! The Mentors have been to all of our 4 provincial centres and are all busy working on the next 5 year plan for COPE. The focus of this plan is around partnerships and continued skills development. Our visitor numbers continue to grow and we are preparing our visitor centre. By the next issue we should have news about this!

The COPE website is now up and running. If you haven't looked yet here is the link [www.copelaos.org](http://www.copelaos.org) You can keep up with all of our news there and even donate online using paypal. Let us know what you think!

[cope@laopdr.com](mailto:cope@laopdr.com)

Many thanks for all of your support so far,  
from all the staff here...

Best wishes for the New Year—2550!

**STOP PRESS! International Society Prosthetics and Orthotics** conference in Vancouver beginning on the 29th of July. Can anyone help with funding for 2 staff to attend?. If anyone is interested in assisting for this important event then please contact us directly. Offers of home stays or assistance while in Vancouver are also greatly appreciated. **Contact Ruth on [ruth@laopdr.com](mailto:ruth@laopdr.com)**

## Feet First!

The Feet First team visited us again in February this year. Fred Dietz from America, Steve Mannion and Henry Dowlen from the UK came to follow up on training that was carried out a year ago. The ponseti technique is used to treat club foot and has become an integral part of COPE's program. Club foot is a common cause of mobility disability in the developing world. In Laos COPE has good contacts with the maternity hospitals and we are seeing many babies at 1 week old. Treated then it costs just 25 dollars and has excellent results. The team also assisted our surgeons with some of the more complex club foot operations. In total they assisted with operations on 16 people. This work is so important and now our surgeons are now carrying out many of these procedures independently. The team travelled to Luang Prabang, Xieng Khuang and Pakse. Not bad for a 2 week trip! We hope to see them here again soon! Read more about one of the patients — Santar on our website. He is still at the rehabilitation centre but is almost ready to go home!



COPE  
The National Rehabilitation Centre  
PO Box 6652  
Vientiane  
Lao PDR

Phone: +856 (21) 218427  
Fax: +856 (21) 218427

### New Chief Executive joins COPE

COPE's new CEO Boulanh joined us in February. She has come at an exciting time for COPE as we move ahead with our next 5 year plan. All the partners will formally welcome her at the board meeting in April.



### Fundraising

Best of luck to Andy Hearn in running the London Marathon for COPE on the 22nd of April. You can sponsor him at [www.justgiving.co.uk/andyhearn](http://www.justgiving.co.uk/andyhearn) Thanks to Red Spokes cycle tours for bringing brilliant people like Andy to visit us!

We are issuing information about donated legs as quickly as we can. We have sold 170 legs! Thanks again to everyone for their patience!

Gift cards are now on sale at Sticky Fingers Restaurant, many thanks to them for their continued support.

**Staff profile**—Bounmy is the Chief of the P&O service. He studied in Germany for 3 years before returning to Laos and started work here in 1972. He is a fantastic resource of ideas and innovative solutions to problems!



### UXO still making an impact

Remnants from a secret war that ended in 1973 still contribute to poverty and disability throughout Laos. Of all the amputees that we fit artificial limbs (prostheses) to, 40% of these are caused by UXO. The most prevalent type of UXO in Laos is commonly known as a bomble, a type of cluster bomb. There have been 47 casualties in the last 3 months, 26 of them children. Visit our website to read about one man's encounter with a bomble—Ta's moving story is a sobering reminder of the devastating legacy of war.

## Adopt-a-minefield

[www.copelaos.org](http://www.copelaos.org)



Ed Pennington Ridge and Zach Hudson from Adopt a Minefield visited in February. They had the opportunity to spend time in the centre with the staff and also see a little of Vientiane! Ed showed our workshop staff

a new design for a prosthetic hand made from silicone. It is cheaper and much more cosmetic. We hope that Ed will be back to carry out more training with staff from the provinces included. We are also delighted to announce

that AAM will continue to fund the staff payment scheme. This is an extremely important part of COPE's program and we thank them for their continued support.

## New Dormitory opens in Pakse

Patients from remote areas who need to stay in Pakse overnight for their treatment will now stay in comfort as the new dormitory opened in February! The dormitory was funded by POWER International (our founding UK partner). A shipment of supplies from Clear Path International means that the dormitory will be fully furnished!

## Ideas for our newsletter?

We love to hear from you! What kinds of things would you like to know about COPE? Drop us a line about anything and we will get back to you. Better still, arrange to visit! Hope to see you soon! [cope@laopdr.com](mailto:cope@laopdr.com)