



COPE News

HELPING PEOPLE MOVE ON

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

About COPE

COPE works throughout Lao PDR supporting essential services to people with disabilities. COPE works in partnership with local government services enabling people to receive prosthetic, orthotic and other mobility devices. COPE is also providing an extensive rehabilitation training program.

Our vision is for a high quality, comprehensive rehabilitation service which is locally staffed and free to those who cannot afford to pay. We are working hard to put in place innovative ways of securing funding so that the service will be here long term. Be part of a global network to get us there!

Meet our staff



Soksai SENG VONGKHAM
Public Relations Officer

Previous Experience: After finishing High School in 2001 Soksai worked as an English teacher at the Youth Union Center in Borikhamxay Province. In 2003 Soksai received a scholarship to study at the National University of Laos and worked at Vientiane College as a teachers assistant.

Why Soksai enjoys working at COPE: In his home town Soksai met many people suffering from disabilities and poverty, which made him very sad.

According to Soksai, 'Working for COPE gives me an opportunity to help people have a better life. I am so happy to be working here. I am very thankful that I can play a part in supporting the development of COPE through my work in raising awareness and funds through the Visitor Centre'.

Buy a Leg for Christmas!

Having trouble thinking of a unique gift for loved ones this Christmas? Why not buy someone in Lao PDR a leg. A leg? Yes, a leg!

But its not just legs that you can buy.

You can also buy an arm, rehabilitation equipment, a special chair for a child with a disability, training for a physiotherapist or occupational therapist, treatment for club foot, English language training for staff or even a complete

treatment for a patient.

To buy a leg for a loved one this Christmas simply go to our new web site www.copelaos.org and follow the links to our donation page. Here you will find links and information about how to donate to COPE.

Fill your stocking with that warm feeling of giving this year.

For information go to...
www.copelaos.org/donate



Patient Story - Souphansa

Souphansa first attended COPE clinic when 1 month old. He was born with skeletal deformity of his right arm requiring an orthotic to correct the position of his wrist.

He continued to attend clinic to have his orthotic checked regularly by the Prosthetic & Orthotic (P&O) department to modify it as he grows. At four months old Souphansa had a full developmental check of his

physical skills in the pediatric department with the physiotherapist (PT) and occupational therapist (OT). His parents were taught how to stimulate and develop his gross and fine motor skills.



Souphansa is now 8 months old. He is a happy, curious boy eager to play with toys. He can sit and picks up toys in both hands. He will continue to have regular checks with the rehabilitation team (PT/P&O/OT).

1st Meeting of States Parties (1MSP) Vientiane, Lao PDR

On the 9th – 12th November 2010, the Government of Lao PDR hosted the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).

The meeting was attended by over 1000 people from 111 countries, including government officials, United Nations and International Committee of the Red Cross representatives, and members of the Cluster Munitions Coalition. The event was an important step in the convention process providing an opportunity to raise further awareness of the cluster munitions issue and to develop the reporting

mechanisms, which will be used by States Parties in meeting the obligations of the convention.

The treaty bans the use, production and transfer of cluster munitions. There are four main obligations of the convention. To destroy stockpiles of cluster munitions, to clear contaminated land, to provide rehabilitation services to people affected by cluster munitions and for States Parties to support affected States Parties.

Significant progress was made towards implementing the convention's obligations at the meeting in Vientiane.



COPE Launches New Website

COPE launched its new and improved web site on the 13th of December 2010. The new web site www.copelaos.org has a new beautiful design thanks to the efforts of our volunteer web site designer Cynthia from CGC Webdesign. Aside from its beautiful new look, web site content has also been updated. Current and past issues of COPE News, for example, will now be hosted on the new site.

As part of the web site redesign, a web site manual has been developed and training will be delivered to staff so that they are able to continually update and improve the site. We hope you enjoy the new design and want to thank Cynthia for her hard work designing the site and developing the web site manual.



Stand Up for COPE Concert 2010



COPE's funky fundraising and awareness raising event was held on the 16th October to great applause this year.

Lao and expatriate bands, Cells, ULUVUS, Tuxedo, KlustaFunk Temple Guys, Veska and Afternoon Blossom took to the stage while local dance troupe Lao Bang Fai displayed their hip hop skills. Despite the threat of rain on the night over 500 enthusiastic concert goers got on down to show their support for COPE.

Our friends at Sticky Fingers worked the bar and BBQ stand keeping the large crowd well hydrated and full bellied. One lucky punter won a rechargeable electric bicycle, donated to COPE by Sunlabob Renewable Energy.



The event raised much needed funds for COPE, which included a donation from Vientiane Yoga Studio on the night.

Thanks to the our big team of loyal volunteers, sponsors, staff and bands.



Gold Sponsors

Thanks to our Gold Sponsors TIGO and Vientiane College for their kind support.

Silver Sponsors

Thanks to our Silver Sponsors DFDL Mekong, Sunlabob Renewable Energy, Nam Theun 2 Power Company and Beer Lao for their kind support.



Raising Funds for COPE

Tom Kelly chose to support the work of COPE by organizing people in his local rotary group to sponsor him to walk around the Lake District National Park in the United Kingdom.

Tom battled the elements to finish the walk. First he had to avoid flooding near Elterwater and then had to buy new boots after someone accidentally took his and left a smaller pair. Despite these setbacks, Tom finished the walk and raised 2600GBP for COPE.

Thanks Tom and all the supporters who sponsored his walk.

New Exhibit in COPE Visitor Centre

To coincide with the 1MSP and the Evening Reception, COPE commissioned a new exhibition to promote the passage into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

This new exhibit shows images of important events contributing to the signing of the convention, provides information about the obligations and includes an updated list of the countries who have signed and ratified.

The exhibit is an important advocacy tool for promoting the Convention on Cluster Munitions. It provides COPE staff with a visual aid to draw attention to the importance of the convention and its status as an instrument to rid the world of dangerous cluster munitions.

Raising Funds for COPE

Rangitoto College

In 2010, a group of social studies students from Rangitoto College in Auckland raised 4000NZD for COPE. The students learnt about COPE whilst undertaking a social activism component of their social studies subject. After learning about the impact of UXOs on Lao PDR a number of students, including Charlotte Patterson-Hawes, Olivia Colemann, Amber Putnam and Leigh Meggison, organised a 'multi-day' where students were able to come dressed out of uniform if they brought a gold coin (\$1 or \$2) donation.

Thank you to all the students and staff for their kind support.

T-Shirt Design Competition

Do you have design skills? Ever wanted to have your design skills splashed all over a T-shirt? Well this is the competition for you!

COPE is looking for a funky new design to complement its range of T-shirt, which are sold through the Visitor Centre to raise funds for COPE. We are putting out a call to budding and experienced designers and artists alike to come up with a new T-shirt design. The design must be relevant to the work of COPE whilst also looking great. We want designs that have unisex appeal that can be printed on a range of T-shirt colors. If you think you are up to the task then send an e-mail to copevisitorcentre@gmail.com to register and we will send you some more information.

The best T-shirt design will have their design printed on T-shirts sold through the COPE Visitor Centre along with grateful recognition of your efforts. Awesome!

1MSP Evening Reception

During the proceedings of the 1MSP to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, COPE organized an official Evening Reception in partnership with the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC) and the Australian Government.

Over 600 delegates from the 1MSP attended the reception. Attendees both watched and participated in game of wheelchair basketball, which featured two players from the women's and men's Australian national teams (Liesl Tesch and Brad Ness), the Prince of Jordan and Thomas Nash from CMC. Attendees

also watched a special performance from Lao Bang Fai dance academy, were serenaded by local band Afternoon Blossom and had the opportunity to explore the COPE Visitor Centre exhibition and COPE workshop.

The night was an enormous success! Not only were participants thoroughly entertained they also learned more about the work of COPE and made generous contributions to COPE through donations and by purchasing items in the Visitor Centre gift shop.



New Visitor Centre Facilities

COPE has a new wheelchair accessible bathroom facility at the Visitor Centre.

Thanks to the support of the Australian Government, COPE organized an upgrade to Visitor Centre bathroom facilities. This included the construction of a new bathroom with shower that is fully accessible by wheelchair, new mensroom facilities and upgrades to our plumbing and lighting for existing facilities.

This is a welcome addition to the centre ensuring that we will be able to better accommodate the needs of the diversity of visitors and guests in the



Raising Funds for COPE

Red Spokes is a small tour company that offers people a chance to cycle through unique parts of the world. Red Spokes has been a generous supporter for COPE over the years helping to raise awareness about COPE by bringing tour groups through the Visitor Centre and encouraging its clients to donate funds to COPE.

Red Spokes recently presented COPE staff with a cheque for 4000GBP, which was raised through its Laos Village Community Fund. Thanks to Dermot and the Red Spokes team for their ongoing commitment to raising funds for COPE.

