



# COPE News

HELPING PEOPLE MOVE ON

## 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



Anouxa Phommasane (Nam) is the Marketing Officer at the COPE Visitor Centre. Nam has been working at the Visitor Centre since February 2008. Nam is responsible for coordinating activities to promote the work of COPE, by conducting tours, coordinating events and liaising within the local community.

'I love working for COPE' says Nam 'It is a rewarding job where I can help promote awareness about disability services. Many people are getting access to greater opportunities through COPE and I am happy that I can contribute. I particularly enjoy working with the rest of the COPE staff who make the job more rewarding.'

Nam worked previously as operations assistant for a travel company and supervisor at Sticky Fingers Café and Bar.

## Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) comes into force

On 1st of August 2010, the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) entered into force and activities to celebrate and further promote the banning of Cluster Munitions were held around the world.

From the 1st of August, state parties must work to implement all of the treaty's obligations. The treaty prohibits the use, production, stockpiling, and transfer of cluster munitions. State parties who have formally ratified the Convention are required to: declare and destroy stockpiled cluster munitions within 8 years, identify and clear cluster munition-contaminated areas within 10 years, and

assist affected communities and cluster munition survivors so that they can be fully included in society and enjoy their fundamental human rights.

In Vientiane, the Lao PDR Government organized a festival, which was attended by around 600 people. Organizations and individuals from the UXO sector attended the event and participated in a range of activities.

For more information on how you can get involved in the campaign visit the Cluster Munition Coalition website ([www.stopclustermunitions.org](http://www.stopclustermunitions.org)).

## Karma 4 Kids Day - Ice cream, games + more!



The COPE Visitor Centre hosted the annual Karma for Kids Day on 4th September. Children (with their parents in tow) came in car loads to enjoy the festival of fun, games and, not to forget, the ice cream. Activities included wheelchair races, muscle painting, finger casting, giant board game and puzzles.

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers for helping out on the day and making it a success.



## Lao PDR to host 1st Meeting of States Party to the CCM

On the 9th – 12th November 2010, the Government of Lao PDR will host the First Meeting of States Party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). After the CCM entered into force on the 1st of August and became obligatory international law, the next step in the process is the first meeting of governments that have ratified or signed the Convention.

The meeting will be held in Vientiane, Lao PDR and attended by government officials from all over the world, United Nations and International Committee of the Red Cross representatives, and members of the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC - of which COPE is an active member).

This is an important opportunity to raise further awareness of the cluster munitions

issue worldwide and an important opportunity for COPE to raise awareness about the situation in Lao PDR and the work undertaken by COPE to raise awareness and provide rehabilitation services.

As part of the meeting's proceedings, COPE will be hosting a formal reception for all meeting delegates and attendees at the COPE Visitor Centre in partnership with the Australian Government and the CMC. The event will include a photo exhibition, a wheelchair basketball demonstration and provide an important opportunity to demonstrate the positive results that arise when governments and civil society work together to address the cluster munitions issue.

## Mike Boddington Awarded MBE



The founder of COPE, Mike Boddington, was awarded an MBE last month in recognition of his decades of work to improve services for people with disabilities around the world. Mike was presented with his medal by the British Ambassador for Thailand, on behalf of the Queen of England, in a ceremony in Vientiane.

Congratulations Mike – a well deserved award!

## Raising Funds for COPE

In July 2010, staff and students associated with the NSW Ambulance Service in Australia donated an amazing \$1484.15AU to COPE. The money was raised by donations collected by Tonya Flower and Pip Lyndon-James who work in the NSW Ambulance Service as Paramedics.

Tonya and Pip were inspired to raise money for COPE after travelling through northern Laos for a month in November 2009. During their trip Tonya and Pip learnt about the UXO issue from meeting people associated with the Mines Action Group (MAG) and by coming to the COPE Visitor Centre. Along with making personal donations to COPE, Tonya and Pip committed themselves to raising more money once they returned to Australia.

Thank you Tonya, Pip and all those from the NSW Ambulance Service who donated to COPE.

## Funding to develop the COPE Visitor Centre

COPE is the first recipient of the French Embassy's new Social Development Fund aimed at supporting the growth of civil society in Lao PDR.

On 20th September, COPE staff attended the signing ceremony at the residence of the French Ambassador. This project will see a mentor continue to work with the staff in the Visitor Centre into 2011 and to develop a number of materials for the coming conference of governments who have signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions, including a photo book and exhibition to be displayed at the conference that illustrates the humanitarian consequences of cluster munitions.

We thank the French Embassy for the support for this aspect of our project!



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

## Stand Up for COPE Concert - 7PM 16<sup>th</sup> OCT

Clear your schedule and get ready to rock out! COPE's annual funky fundraising event is almost upon us.

Lao and expatriate bands, such as ULUVUS, Cells, Lao Bang Fai, Tuxedo, KlustaFunk and Veska, will be taking to the stage to raise awareness and funds for COPE.

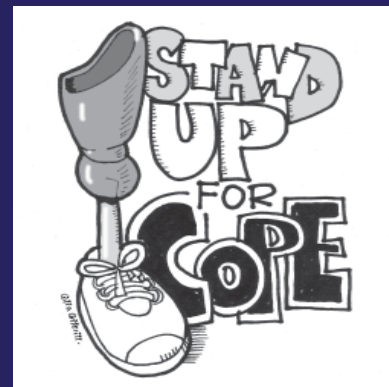
The event is being held at the National Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) next to the COPE Visitor Centre on Khou Vieng Road.

There will be a raffle of a renewable electric bicycle, food, drink and a range of stalls.

Tickets for the event are on sale at Phimphone Minimarket,

Sticky Fingers Café, COPE Visitor Centre and at the event on the night for only 30 000 Kip.

Thanks to our Gold Sponsors ANZV, Vientiane College, Tigo, and our Silver Sponsors Beer Lao, Sunlabob Renewable Energy, Nam Theun 2 Power Company and DFDL Mekong for their support.



## Thanks and Farewell to Jo Pereira

After over four years of invaluable commitment to the programme, Jo Pereira has resigned as COPE Project Coordinator. Jo was on 12 months leave from her position and has decided to continue pursuing other opportunities in Lao PDR. Her vision and passion for rehabilitation care and her work establishing the COPE Visitor Centre have made a remarkable contribution to COPE. COPE would like to take this opportunity to thank Jo for her energy, time and creativity, which has built COPE into what it is today.

Jo will continue to be involved in the project and support the work of COPE in the future.



## New Staff / Staff Changes

Kerryn Clarke, who has been working as the COPE Public Relations Mentor since March, has been appointed as the new COPE Project Coordinator.

Brendon Radford will be replacing Kerryn Clarke as the Public Relations Mentor at the COPE Visitor Centre.

Conny Fuchs will be working with the COPE Visitor Centre team and the Cluster Munition Coalition in Lao PDR to manage activities for the 1st State Party Meeting on the Convention on Cluster Muniton in November.

COPE/National Rehabilitation Centre  
Khouvieng Rd, Vientiane, Lao PDR  
+856 21 218427  
[cope@laopdr.com](mailto:cope@laopdr.com)