



COPE Newsletter December 2014

Latest news

New Center in LuangPrabang

Thanks to support to COPE from AusAID, the LuangPrabang Provincial Rehabilitation Center (PRC) now has a bespoke new building to house their prosthetic and orthotic workshop. The opening ceremony for the new building took place 30 October with representatives from the provincial hospital, provincial health authorities, the Center of Medical Rehabilitation (CMR) and COPE. The construction of the new building was made possible as part of a three year grant to COPE which was completed in 2014, and was cost-shared with the LuangPrabang Provincial Planning and Investment Department. As a result, LuangPrabang PRC now has a great place where it can continue its important services to patients with physical rehabilitation needs in the northern provinces.



COPE is...

The Cooperative Orthotic and Prosthetic Enterprise. We are a local not for profit organisation that provides support to the Government of Laos' orthotic, prosthetic, and rehabilitation services throughout the country. COPE also supports patients who come to the rehabilitation centers. COPE advocates for survivors of bomb accidents and people with disabilities in Laos.

FAST FACTS

Over 1,000

Patients supported by COPE throughout the year 2014.

20,215

Visitors to the Visitor Center throughout the year 2014!

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COPE Services

Renewed focus on quality

How do we ensure the best possible quality management of physical rehabilitation services in Laos? This was the key question asked at a seminar conducted in November at the Center of Medical Rehabilitation (CMR). The meeting, which was a follow-up of a first quality control seminar held in 2013, was organized by COPE and co-sponsored by USAID and the ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled (SFD). The 50 participants included staff of the CMR and the provincial rehabilitation centers (PRCs), in addition to specialists from Handicap International, World Education, ICRC-SFD, Mobility India, VietCOT, the University of Health Sciences and COPE.

During the seminar, steps were taken towards quality management of physical rehabilitation services by identifying key areas that influence quality and recognizing the need for a shift from a product based to a patient based approach. Concrete points that could form part of a future internal policy were identified



and will now be the basis for an action plan towards better quality in the physical rehabilitation services. Each center will be visited by a COPE/CMR audit team so that all relevant staff can contribute to the follow-up process.

Surgery training

A workshop/symposium in orthopedic surgery and clinical conditions was conducted in Vientiane and LuangPrabang. The event was led by Dr. Steve Mannion, a British consultant supported by CBM, one of COPE’s main donors.



During these two weeks, a diverse range of complicated orthopedic conditions were discussed. Apart from being a training experience, around 50 children benefited directly by the clinical services and surgical intervention through this workshop.

Patient story

Bun is a 49 year old manual worker. He is married with two children and lives in Somepeuy village, Naxaythong district in

Vientiane. He was fitted with his third prosthesis on December 4th, 2014. Due to wear and tear, patients usually need to have their devices replaced every two years.

Bun lost his leg due to a bomb explosion in 2000 while he was working in his rice paddy in Huapan province. It happened when he tried to remove a tree stump from his land but unfortunately his digging tool hit a bomb which was underneath and caused the UXO to explode. He got seriously injured and he was transferred to the local hospital. One of his legs was so damaged that the local hospital needed to transfer him to Mittapharb hospital in Vientiane where he later had to amputate the leg.

“The prosthesis is very useful for my daily life as I can move around in comfort and can do some housework. It also makes me feel more confident to join in social activities like normal people,” said Bun.

On behalf of the rehabilitation team and Bun, we would like to thank you very much for your kind support. The support is important for the continuation of our project and enables more people with disabilities like Bun to participate in a normal and active life.



What’s going on at the Visitor Center?

Special guests galore!

The year 2014 is finishing very quickly and this last quarter of the year we were pleased to welcome a number of special guests and visitors to the center including:

Prince Joachim of Denmark



His Royal Highness Prince Joachim of Denmark visited COPE in November. He also visited the Center of Medical Rehabilitation (CMR) to learn more about how prosthetic and orthotic devices are produced and the achievements and challenges in providing high quality rehabilitation services to people with disabilities in Laos. The Prince is patron for CARE Denmark and the visit was part of a larger visit to CARE International in Lao PDR.

Michaëlle Jean and Philip Calvert

Her Excellency Michaëlle Jean, Former Governor General of Canada and Ambassador of Canada Philip Calvert. The Former Governor General Michaëlle Jean was very interested to learn about COPE’s work and the challenges of clusters munitions survivors and other people with physical disabilities in Laos.



In her departing notes in the COPE visitor's book she wrote that she was speechless to hear about the devastating and on-going effects from the US-made and deployed bombs over Laos during the Vietnam War.

Reuben Levermore and Andrea Beadle

New Zealand Ambassador Reuben Levermore and Second Secretary Andrea Beadle. Ambassador Levermore handed over a donation raised from a Book Fair held by a group of New Zealand government officials who were inspired by COPE's work during a visit to the center last year. Many thanks to everyone who participated in the book fair and to Ambassador Levermore for the visit.



COPE STAFF

Public Relations Officer



Mee received her bachelor degree from Rattana College, Vientiane in 2012, majoring in business and administration. She started with COPE in early 2013. What made her interested in joining COPE were the many people she had met who suffered from disabilities and poverty in the society, which made her very sad. According to Mee, "working for COPE gives me an opportunity to help disabled 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 Center."

Correction

The last edition of the newsletter contained an error in referring to Jo Pereira as the founder of the COPE Visitor Center, while in fact Jo was a core part of the creative team.

And special thanks to all the individuals, visitors and local businesses who generously support us throughout the year!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Having trouble thinking of a unique gift for loved ones this Christmas or New Year? COPE can help you provide one of the best presents anyone could imagine. By making a donation or buying a donation card (from yourself or on behalf of someone else) you can help people with disabilities in Laos change their lives through improved mobility. Simply go to our web site <http://copelaos.org/> and follow the links to our donation page. Here you will find links and information about how to donate to COPE. Or go to: www.copelaos.org/donate. We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Many thanks to our supporters...



Australian Government
AusAID



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