

**Maha Khampeuy Vannasopha**

**Policies and tasks**

## Policies and tasks



The Lao Front For National Construction.

**Maha Khamphuey Vannasopha**

Bounthavy Phonethasine

**Religious Affairs  
in Lao P.D.R.**

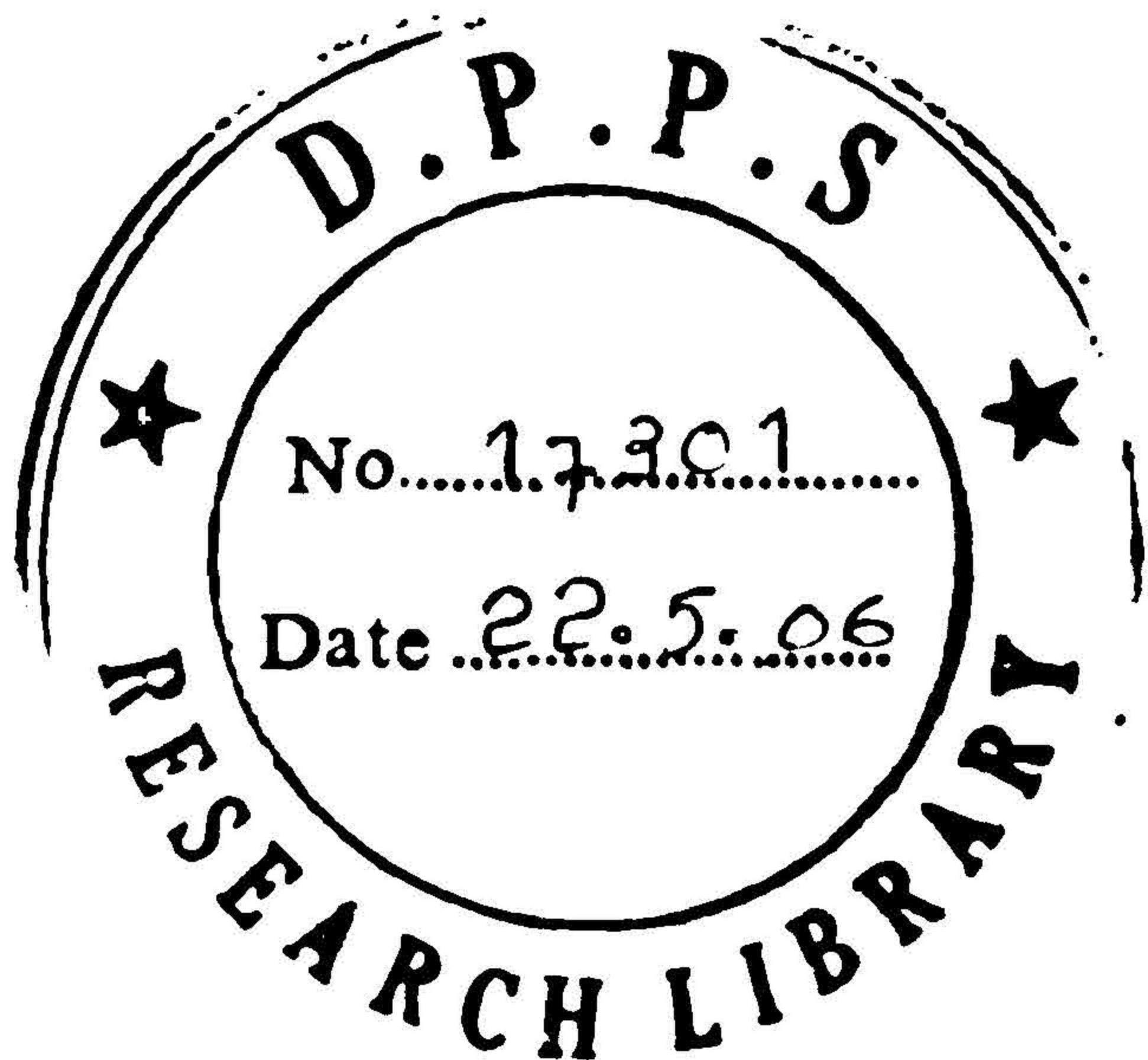
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**Policies and Tasks**



**Maha Khampheuy VANNASOPHA**

# **Religious Affairs in Lao P.D.R.**



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**Maha Khampheuy VANNASOPHA**

# **Religious Affairs in Lao P.D.R.**

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Lao Front for National Construction,  
Central Committee

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## **Six Structures of Each Religion**

1.     **Religious Founder**  
      The first person who founded the religion
2.     **Religious Teachings**  
      The specific teachings, beliefs, and symbols of the religion
3.     **Religious Leaders**  
      Monks, bishops, pastors, etc.
4.     **Religious Followers and Adehe-  
          rents**
5.     **Religious Places and Symbols of  
          Worship** Sacred places
6.     **Religious Ceremonies or Activities**

# Introduction

Our government respects the freedom of belief or non-belief of citizens as an individual right. Religions have played an important role in disseminating the fine national traditions of Lao P.D.R.

- Actively implementing policies, laws and regulations of the government
- Strengthening solidarity between social strata
- Promoting the causes of national defense and socio-economic development
- Progressively upgrading the quality of life
- Contributing to the ethical and moral teachings of Buddhism
- Promoting social harmony and peace
- Processing traditional medicines
- Taking part in HIV/AIDS prevention and control
- Working on AIDS campaigns and fighting drugs

Our government is satisfied with many activities of religions. Lao Buddhist Fellowship



Organization is a member of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace. It has contributed actively in the global movement for complete disarmament of nuclear weapons, in order to cooperate in strengthening traditional ties with religious and non-religious organizations that are working for peace and security.

Religious issues, from our point of view, have been our major concern of conflict. This is not an antagonist conflict, but one which could be resolved by a peaceful path. In a multi-ethnic society with outside interference and many religions, such issues can easily lead to many problems. These issues can be misused for political and economic interests, with religious problems becoming the main reason for violence. We consider such problems to be domestic, but there is often interference from outside. Our government always tries to solve our own problems without outside or military intervention. We believe that religious problems are delicate and complex. We try to avoid the violence of military intervention, which can increase the tensions of these crucial issues.

Our government has given great attention to establishing policies and tasks regarding religious issues since 1992, and to the management and protection of religious activities in the Lao P.D.R. (5.7.2002). To provide readers with an insight into Lao religious issues, this book presents the policies and tasks, with a project proposal for its announcement and implementation. I hope to receive all of your points of view and opinions for help in the further promoting and republishing of this book.

With gratitude  
September 11, 2005  
Khampheuy Vannasopha



# **I. Organization of Religious Affairs in Lao P.D.R.**

Over the course of many years of revolution and construction, the Lao people have established an extremely broad and patriotic united front led by the Lao People's Revolutionary Party. It is an important means of implementing the Lao P.D.R political system. It is also an important organization for mobilizing and gathering solidarity and concord, forming union among organizations of different ethnicity, social strata, religion, age and gender.

The Lao Front for National Construction is a large socio-political organization in this country and was founded in the period of national democratic revolution. Since its formation, it has made historical contributions to the liberation of the motherland. It has also contributed to safeguarding the peace, solidarity and security in our country.

The Lao Front for National Construction functions primarily by means of plenary sessions. The Central Committee is composed of the president, vice-presidents and



committee members. These members are each selected for a term of five years.

There are four directorial departments and one cabinet—Department of Religious Affairs, Department of Ethnic Affairs, Department of Propaganda and Information, and Department of Social Strata. There are also committee members representing the provinces, municipalities, districts, and villages.

### **Role and Functions of the Lao Front for National Construction (LFNC)**

According to the modified rule of the LFNC, this is an organization which inherits the historical deeds and glorious traditions of the Lao Liberal Front, founded on August 13, 1950. The names of the organization have changed in different periods—from Lao Patriotic Front on June 1, 1956, to Lao Front for National Construction at the congress of February 17-20, 1979. During each of these periods, the National Front has praised the spirit of patriotism and has enhanced the sense of unity, integrity and concord among all Lao



ethnic groups and social strata to fulfill the cause of national liberation and usher in the stage of defense and development.

The LFNC is a part of the political system of the People's Democracy. This system consists of four main components:

- The Lao People's Revolutionary Party
- The National Assembly
- The Government of the Lao P.D.R.
- The Lao Front for National Construction

It is a broad political alliance. It is a federation of voluntary political organizations, social organizations, and individuals who represent the social classes and strata, ethnic groups, and religions, including Lao expatriates.

The LFNC policy is one of enhancing the tradition of patriotism, loving the new regime, making people proud of the nation, creating the spirit of self-reliance and self-autonomy, and enhancing unity among the entire Lao population, including Lao expatriates with no discrimination of social classes,



ethnicities and religions. The only condition is one of agreement with the cause of renovation of the People's Revolutionary Party in implementing the two strategic tasks, namely the national defense and development—to ensure peace, independence, democracy, unity and prosperity for the country, and to contribute actively to the cause of peace and independence of the nation, and democracy and social progress in the international arena.

The LFNC is the political base of the People's Democratic Authority, assuming the ideology and aspirations of the people in the following ways.

- Enhancing the strength of solid unity, promoting mastery rights of the people, and consulting and coordinating in unanimity with all allied organizations in practical functioning.
- Promoting and enhancing the political and ideological unanimity of the



entire community and mobilizing and encouraging people to exercise their mastery rights over the country.

- Strictly implementing the constitution and state laws, and participating in the state socio-economic development plan.
- Controlling the functioning of state machinery and the members of the National Assembly.
- Accumulating the ideas and views of the people to put forward to the Party and State
- Participating in the preservation and building of the People's Administrative Authority.
- Cooperating with the State to protect legitimate interests of the people. Taking part in the promotion of friendly relations and cooperation between



the Lao people and nations in the region and in the world.

From 1950 until now, the LFNC has achieved great historical progress, having a profound impact both at home and abroad. In the future, the LFNC will attempt to fulfill its tasks and make further contributions to invigorating the Lao P.D.R. and unifying its plurality of ethnic people in one motherland.

### **Alliance of the LFNC:**

The Alliance of the LFNC at each level is comprised of political organizations, socio-political organizations and individuals who represent the social classes, strata, ethnicities and religions, and Lao expatriates who are in agreement with the Rule and Action Plan of the LFNC and are approved by the LFNC committee at that level.

### **Organizational and Functional Principles:**

The LFNC is organized on voluntary principles of democracy, close coordination, and unanimity in all movements. When working in cooperation for unanimity in the move-



ment, the allied organizations shall implement in accordance with the rule of the LFNC and, at the same time, shall preserve the character of independence of its own organization.

### **Organizational Apparatus:**

There are four levels of apparatus in the LFNC:

- Central level
- Provincial, prefecture and special zone level
- District level
- Village level

### **Congress:**

The Congress of the LFNC delegates from each of the levels convenes every five years for supreme coordination of the different levels. The village level Congress convenes on a two-and-a-half-year cycle.





Lao Front For National Construction  
Central Committee .



## **II. Abstract**

### **The Party's Policy and State's Rules and Laws on Religious Activities; the Instructions of the Lao Front for National Construction and the program for disclosing the Prime Minister's Decree No. 92 / PM**

The party and the state have consistently convened and concentrated on religious activities, especially since the national liberation and the establishment of the Lao P.D.R.

The government of the Lao P.D.R. has issued The Policy and Laws on Religious Activities in Lao P.D.R., and the Lao Front for National Construction has also delivered the Instructions and launched the program for disclosing those documents throughout the country.

On March 30, 1992, the Resolution of the party's Central Committee on Religious Issues was approved and signed by the former President of the party, Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane.

On August 15, 1991, the first consti-



tution of the Lao P.D.R. was approved and officially declared to be implemented. It contained two articles concerning religion, Articles 9 and 30, and Articles 9 and 43 have since been added.

On July 5, 2002, the Prime Minister's Decree on Religious Activities Management and Protection in Lao P.D.R. was issued.

To implement and bring about the Party's policy and the State's laws on religion, the Lao Front for National Construction has delivered a number of Instructions to the provincial LFNC, Vientiane City, and the special zone LFNC, so that the authorities concerned would be required to carry out those policies and laws with the entire population at both local and grassroots levels throughout the country.

Instruction No. 207 / LFNC on organization and implementation of the Prime Minister's Decree No. 92 / PM, and Instruction No. 001 / LFNC on the registration and organization of religions and sects in Lao P.D.R. have also been delivered. In addition, the Department of Religious Affairs, which is a religious technical department affiliated



with the Lao Front for National Construction, has also launched the program for disclosing Decree No. 92 / PM throughout the country, for the purpose of organizing and supervising religions in Lao P.D.R.

### **III. The Resolution of the Party**

#### **Religious Issues**

Hundreds of years ago, religions had expanded across Laos and a very important task pulled the nation together in the past. In addition to the fact that Buddhism contributed the greatest benefit for the preservation and the development of the national cultural foundation of our country, temples used to play a partial role for teaching. The temple was the place to educate the public to behave themselves in Dharma, to be kind and hospitable towards each other, and to avoid bad behavior. Therefore, most of the ethnic groups of Laos, especially the Lao Loum, believe in Buddhism.

Under the light of the revolution, the Monks and Buddhists have strictly behaved by the Dharma principles of Buddha; they



have joined in the nationalism process, contending with imperialism and colonialism for national liberation.

Over the past twenty-six years, the Buddhist priests have strengthened the patriotic tradition as they have united for the protection and the development of the country. They have played a part in the propagation of party and government policies and have protected and renovated places of worship, temples, and valuable ancient items. They have also participated in education, public health and other community activities, contributing to peace activities and security in the world.

In addition to the existence of Buddhism in our country, there are other religions such as Christians, Bahai Faith, Islamic and Mahayana Buddhist sects. These religions have undertaken different activities, especially the Christian religion involving both the Catholics and Protestants, which are currently expanding.

Some religious organizations have acted correctly and some incorrectly by the laws of the country to which they have been



exposed. Some try to discriminate between people who believe and those who do not believe in religion. Some establish Churches without obtaining permission from the concerned authorities. Some allure and attract people to go to their Church by incorrect procedures, making their own decisions to send people overseas to study without seeking permission from the concerned authorities. There are many other similar affairs.

We have now observed that, in reference to an appropriate policy of the Party towards religious affairs, we have managed to record most of the religious priests and fellowships. Buddhism has played a part in the general national duties. These duties have been a good base point that needed to be expanded. Unfortunately, we have not been able to manage the activities of all the various religious organizations correctly by the laws to ensure the rights of the people of Laos to be able to believe or not believe as stated in the Lao Constitution.



## **Policies and Tasks Concerning Religious Affairs**

### **Policies**

- Respect the freedom and rights of the people by allowing them to believe or not believe in religions; not allow activities that force or bribe citizens to believe in various religions.
- Respect and protect the law-abiding activities of religious organizations; promote activities and encourage monks and other religious priests to play a role in activities that will benefit the nation and public. Prohibit any affairs that discriminate against a religion and its laymen.
- All religious followers have equal rights and obligations of solidarity in protecting and developing the country.
- Emphasize the upgrading of the natural sciences and social science knowledge for all ethnic groups of people, to encourage the public to gradually



discard the old undeveloped customs that have a negative effect on solidarity or production, including the living conditions of all ethnic groups of people, as well as the nation. Create a model civilization for the public, step by step.

## **Tasks**

- Improve the education of all party members and the public, to ensure that they fully understand and abide by the policy guidelines of the party and its laws concerning religions. Also, make everybody aware of the stratagem of the enemies who take advantage of religious affairs in order to contravene our current government regime. Based on the described issue, the public needs to have common sense to strengthen the rights and obligations of the citizens.

The propaganda will be promoted by the training of the Central Party Committee and Lao Front for National Construction, who are as-



signed to cooperate in establishing the contents and education methods that can instruct all sectors at all levels in its correct implementation.

- Improve the responsibility of religious affairs within the Lao Front for National Construction very firmly and strongly through sufficient management of policy for implementation of direct guidelines from the party and government on religious affairs, and act as the direct coordination officer for the party and other religious organizations. We must establish plans to improve the ability of personnel in charge of the religions to study and research the policies concerning the religions, and to lead the implementation of those policies.

The Party Central Organization and Lao Front for National Construction are assigned to cooperate in planning the implementation of this religious affair.



- To quickly research and announce provisions detailing the management of the government concerning religions and activities of such organizations, including all those religions that are currently active in our country, thus ensuring that those organizations abide by the law.

The Lao Front for National Construction is assigned to cooperate with the Ministry of Justice in laying down the provisions concerning these religious affairs.

- Preserve and renovate the temples and places of worship, especially those that are significant to the nation, by encouraging contributions from religious people and from the government, as appropriate

Research and collect religious bundle writings, palm leafs and historical books in order to preserve and publicize our very precious cultural heritage to the nation and the public.



The Lao Front for National Construction is assigned to cooperate with the Ministry of Information and Culture and the Social Science Organization for implementation of these religious affairs.

**Vientiane, March 30, 1992**  
**Party's Central Committee President**

**Mr. Kaysone PHOMVIHANE**



# **Constitution of Lao P.D.R.**

## **IV. Some Articles Concerning Religious Affairs**

### **Constitution of Lao People's Demo- cratic Republic, printed in 2003**

#### **Chapter I, Article 9:**

The state respects and protects legitimate activities of Buddhists and believers of any religion, and promotes the participation of monks, novices and other religious priests playing a role in various activities that will benefit the nation and the public. The state prohibits any affairs that discriminate against religions and their laymen.

#### **Chapter IV, Article 43:**

All Lao citizens are equal before the law of religious belief or non-belief.



# **V. Lao People's Democratic Republic**

**Peace, Independence, Democracy  
Unity, Prosperity**

**Prime Minister's Decree No. 92/PM**

## **Decree**

### **Management and Protection of Religious Activities in the Lao PDR**

- Based on Article 9 of the Constitution, Number 01/PSA, dated August 15, 1991
- Based on the Law on Government Number 01/95 NA, dated March 8, 1995
- Based on the proposal of the President of the Central Committee of the Lao Front for National Construction, Number 46/CCLC, dated February 13, 2001
- Based on the resolution of the government meeting on November 26-27



**Prime Minister Issues Decree**  
**Section I**  
**General Provision**

**Article 1.** This decree defines principles and rules concerning the management and protection of religious activities in the Lao P.D.R., with the aim of making religious activities conform to laws and regulations, and ensuring the exercise of the right of Lao people to believe or not to believe.

**Article 2.** Various religions existing in the Lao P.D.R. have been established with the consent of believers without any coercion or bribing from any political institutions or individuals from outside or inside the country. The goal of activities of whatever small or big religions in the Lao P.D.R. is based on and aimed at serving the development of the country and at educating the population of various strata to follow the progressive teachings of their religion such as:

- avoiding bad behavior, doing good and having a pure heart;
- teaching people in the spirit of soli-



- darity, mutual assistance and love;
- assisting people in the spirit of equality, justice and peace.

**Article 3.** The State respects and protects legitimate activities of believers. All Lao citizens are equal before the law in believing or not believing religions as provided by the Constitution and laws of the Lao P.D.R.

**Article 4.** Lao citizens, aliens, stateless persons and foreigners in the Lao P.D.R. have the right to participate in or organize religious ceremonies where their monasteries or churches are located.

**Article 5.** Believers of all religions in the Lao P.D.R. shall implement the Constitution and laws of the Lao P.D.R. and preserve and expand historic traditions, cultural heritage and Lao national unity.

**Article 6.** Individuals and religious organizations in the Lao P.D.R. shall provide and be authenticated by the following documents:

- Organizations of each religion shall establish a register;



- Monks, novices, clergymen in white clothes, and nuns shall have an identity card;
- Organization members, priests and religious teachers shall be provided with a certificate of their religious organization;
- Movable and immovable properties of each religion shall be registered and put on a specific inventory.

## **Section II**

### **Religious Organizations and Religious Management**

**Article 7.** Any religion in the Lao P.D.R. intending to be registered and to establish its organization shall provide a comprehensive set of documents required by regulation and submit them to the Central Committee of the Lao Front for National Construction through the concerned local administrative authorities. Regulations related to the registration and composition of organizations are provided separately by the Central Committee of the Lao Front



for National Construction.

**Article 8.** Staff which will be selected or nominated to the administrative committee of various levels of each religion which has been duly registered in the Lao P.D.R. shall be known to the administrative authorities and the Lao Front for National Construction's organ at that level.

**Article 9.** Monks, novices, clergymen in white clothes, nuns, priests, believers or organizational members of each religion in Lao P.D.R. who will be selected or granted any status, and who will accept any title or honorific distinction from a foreign country, shall seek approval from the Central Competent organ for approval.

**Article 10.** The Central Committee of the Lao Front for National Construction has the right and duty to manage, promote theology and give instructions, report to, give opinions on or submit to administrative authorities of each level concerning the activities of each religion in order that



such activities are in conformity with its own principles and with laws and regulations of the Lao P.D.R.

### **Section III**

#### **Activities**

**Article 11.** Religious organizations and believers of each religion in the Lao P.D.R. have the right to organize meetings of their own believers for the purpose of delivering sermons, disseminating religious teachings, conducting religious ceremonies, organizing festivals or praying on normal important days of each religion where its own monastery or church is located.

**Article 12.** Congregations of Lao believers or individuals of any religion have the right to preach or disseminate their religious teachings in villages or districts where inhabited and will be approved by the village Lao Front for National Construction, the head of that village, the district Lao Front for National Construction,, or the head of that district.



The governor, mayor, or head of special zone shall approve relevant activities conducted outside the district, through the approval of the Lao Front for National Construction of that level. In cases where these activities will be conducted outside the province, they shall be approved by the Central Committee of the Lao Front for National Construction.

**Article 13.** Believers of any religion in Lao P.D.R., disclosing or participating in disclosure of State secrecy to other persons residing inside or outside the country, conducting activities against Lao People's Democratic Republic regime, and dividing ethnic groups or religions in order to cause social disorder, will be punished in conformity with laws and regulations of the Lao P.D.R.

**Article 14.** The printing of books, documents for dissemination, signs and various plates related to religion shall be authorized by the Ministry of Information and Culture with the approval of the Cen-



tral Committee of the Lao Front for National Construction.

It is forbidden for believers in the Lao P.D.R. to publish or possess books, documents, photographs, signs, video cassettes, VCD, films or other media having characteristics of superstitions, pornography, distortions of truth, and slander or obstruction of the progress of the nation or the production and duties of citizens towards the country.

**Article 15.** Believers of various religions in the Lao P.D.R. have the duty to preserve sacred sites, artifacts of historical heritage, and the Lao national culture, customs and traditions. The repair or destruction of these sacred sites or artifacts for renovation shall be authorized by the relevant responsible organ with the approval of the Lao Front for National Construction and the local administrative authority of that level.

**Article 16.** Building of new monasteries, churches, Dharma council halls, offices or



dormitories of each religion shall be approved by the governor of the province, the mayor of the prefecture or the head of the special zone with the approval of the Lao Front for National Construction of the province, prefecture or special zone and of the concerned local administrative authority. The building of Buddhist temples shall be approved by the Prime Minister with the approval of the President of the Central Committee of the Lao Front for National Construction.

**Article 17.** Believers of each religion have the right to communicate with foreign organizations, religious agencies, believers and individuals. These communications shall be in conformity with foreign policy, laws and regulations and shall be approved by the Central Committee of the Lao Front for National Construction.

**Article 18.** Religious organizations, monks, novices, clergymen in white clothes, nuns, clergymen or believers of all religions in the Lao P.D.R. desirous of participation in meetings, seminars, training, study tours, friendship visits or religious festivals abroad by their own resources, their organization resources



or by forcing resources, must seek approval from the Central Committee of the Lao Front for National Construction through the different relevant levels of administrative authorities.

Studies abroad in theological matters shall be approved by the Ministry of Education.

**Article 19.** Religious organizations or individuals in the Lao P.D.R. desirous of inviting foreign religious delegates for friendship visits, exchange of experience, or participation in religious festivals shall seek approval from the Central Committee of the Lao Front for National Construction and the concerned organ.

**Article 20.** The acceptance of assistance from foreign religious agencies, believers or international organizations shall be in conformity with policy and management regulations of the Lao P.D.R.

Religious organizations and individuals in the Lao P.D.R. intending to request or accept assistance from foreign religious agencies, believers or from international organizations, or intending to give assistance to other



religious individuals or organizations, must seek approval from the Central Committee of the Lao Front for National Construction. Every handover of properties for assistance shall be undertaken in the presence of representatives of concerned Lao Front for National Construction and local administrative authorities.

## **Section IV**

### **Financial Provisions**

**Article 21.** The Central Committee of the Lao Front for National Construction has the duty to implement this decree.

All State agencies, mass organizations, social organizations, religious organizations, believers and multi-ethnic Lao people shall acknowledge and implement strictly this decree.

**Article 22.** This decree takes effect from the day of its signature. Any provisions contradicting this decree shall be cancelled.

Vientiane, Dele July, 5, 2002

Prime Minister

Signed and sealed

Bounnhang VOLACHITH



Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Peace, Independence, Democracy,  
Unity, Prosperity

Office of the Lao Front      No. 207/LFNC  
for National Construction      Vientiane  
Tel: 213758, 213754      Date: 30/07/02

## **VI. Instruction of the President of the Lao Front for National Construction**

To: Provincial, Vientiane City and special  
zone chair persons of the LFNC  
Subject: Organization and Implementation  
of Prime Minister's Decree  
No. 92/PM, dated July 05, 2002

Many religions have co-existed with great harmony and solidarity in the Lao P.D.R. for a long time, especially during the period of independence resistance to both old and neo-colonialism. All ethnic Lao people, regardless of status, cast system, or religion, have taken part in a grand way in the struggle for national salvation. Since the completion



of national liberation for the whole country and the establishment of the Lao P.D.R., all religions in Laos have attentively carried out their noble tasks by teaching and training people of all ethnic groups to do good deeds and prevent bad behavior, and to purify minds to be righteous, just and moral. In addition, religions in Laos have made a considerable contribution to the cause of socio-economic development. At the same time, there are some religious workers, priests and lay devotees who act in ways that are not consistent with their religious principles, and some of them have even infringed on the rules and laws of the Lao P.D.R., creating sabotage and destroying harmony among Lao ethnic people. To ensure religious activities that are consistent with the laws and their religious principles, and to ensure the rights of Lao citizens, foreigners and guests who reside in Lao to believe or not believe, the President of the Lao Front for National Construction has issued the Instruction on the organization and implementation of the Prime Minister's Decree No. 92/PM, dated July 5, 2002, on religious activities, management and protection



in Lao P.D.R. as follows:

1. The meaning and importance of the Decree: The said Decree is a judicial document which defines the principles and rules for the management and protection of religious activities in Lao P.D.R. Its aim is to ensure the implementation of the right to believe or not believe in religions, and also to ensure that religious practices do not create disharmony and break the solidarity of the national family.

2. The objectives of the Decree:

- To explain that the policy of the government of the Lao P.D.R. is correct and just.
- To allow priests, monks, religious workers and lay devotees to carry out their activities consistent with the context prescribed by this Decree.
- All religions should create harmony and solidarity among people in the nation and take considerable part in the noble tasks of national safeguarding and development.



3. The Decree context:

- Perceive precisely the party and government conception of religious activities management and protection in the Lao P.D.R.
- All priests, monks and religious workers should understand well the principles, rules and regulations regarding the actual activities of all religions, as prescribed by this Decree, so as to prevent the infringement of laws and religious morals.
- Lao Front for National Construction authorities at all levels should coordinate their efforts with administrative and other authorities concerned at the same level to encourage that activities of all religions are conducted in compliance with the context prescribed by this Decree.

4. The organization and implementation

Target:

All governmental organizations, Lao



Front for National Construction organizations, mass organizations, social organizations, religious organizations, religious workers, and the entire population of Lao P.D.R. should participate actively in the organization and implementation of this Decree.

5. How to organize and implement the Decree

- Chairpersons of the Lao Front National Construction at all levels should work in coordination with Party organs, administrative bodies, mass organizations, religious organizations, and religious workers at the same level, in order to discuss and formulate a plan for disclosing this Decree in due time.
- To ensure that all organizations concerned perceive this Decree accurately, chairpersons of the LFNC of provinces, Vientiane City, and the special zone should be responsible for delivering and disclosing this Decree. They should also lead discussions of



all problems concerned and respond to all questions put by members of the seminar. This should be done in due time.

- The Lao Front for National Construction organizations at each level should take responsibility for encouraging and following up on the organization and implementation of the Decree. They should then report periodically to the Headquarters of the LFNC.

Central Board of the LFNC, President

Sisavath KEOBOUNPHANH



Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Peace, Independence, Democracy,  
Unity, Prosperity

Headquarters of the Lao Front for  
National Construction      No. 001/LF  
Tel: 213758, 213754      Vientiane, 24-3-2004

## **VII. Instructions of the Central Committee of the Lao Front for National Construction on Registra- tion and Formulation of Religious Organization, Sect and Religious Committees in Lao P.D.R.**

The Central Committee of the Lao Front for National Construction issued instructions to notify the Standing Committee of the Lao Front for National Construction at the provincial, capital city and special zone levels that over a year has lapsed since the Government has issued the Prime Minister's Decree No. 92 / PM. This Decree is the Management and Protection of Religious



Activities which came into effect July 5, 2002. The Government has assigned responsibility for implementing this Decree to the Lao Front for National Construction, based on Article 21 of that Decree.

To ensure the Decree's effective implementation, the Lao Front for National Construction, at both central and local levels, has instructed the Technical Department to collaborate with concerned organizations to disseminate the essence of the Decree to all groups: staff, government officials and all ethnic groups nationwide. These groups include monks, novices, priests, religious leaders and teachers and lay devotees. In addition, the essence of the Decree is to be disseminated to international organizations and friendly countries in a timely and flexible manner. As a result of this dissemination over the past year, religious problems have been addressed and solved step by step. Religious leaders, lay devotees and international organizations have been able to witness the government policy on religious affairs materialize and understand its purpose. They have witnessed, as well, the untiring efforts and positive



results in various locales. Nonetheless, religious matters are complex and need to be handled with delicacy. In the midst of this there are wrongful people and those who use religion as a tool to oppose and destroy our new regime as well as government and party policies. These people use religious difficulties and inadequate understanding of lay devotees in the genuine moral teachings of various religions to break down unity and divide religions as well as followers and non-followers. This leads people to misunderstand each other. There was an event at Ban Lea-Nam Phan Village, Khoon District of Xiengkhaung Province which illustrates this potential problem. In order to curb a delicate and complex matter, the Lao Front for National Construction provided the following instruction for handling that situation:

1. Inspect and follow-up any activities of a wrongful element who uses religion as a tool to serve private purposes.

- Determine whether the religious activity is consistent with the genuine



moral teachings of the Lord Buddha or God.

- Determine whether the religious activity is consistent with the principles of the functioning state, in particular, whether it is in line with the Prime Minister Decree No. 92/PM.
- Determine whether the religious activity is consistent with general rules and principles of the international community as well as those of human kind.
- Determine whether the religious activity brings about material and spiritual benefits to the devotees and/or human kind.

2. It is strictly forbidden to formulate any religious organization, sect or religious committee without authorization. Any religion, sect or religious committee wishing to establish or conduct religious activity in Lao P.D.R. must follow Article 7 of Decree No. 92/PM. The proposed



religion or group can conduct only those activities which have been officially acknowledged and sanctioned by the Lao government. If two religions have the same beliefs, the one having been longest in the locale will be given priority. This is to prevent a new religious organization, sect or committee from pulling devotees from the more established religion, thereby causing potential conflict and insecurity and problems for the government organization, administrative authorities, officers and for other religions as well. Here is an example: A number of Evangelical followers left their church to join another religion which, in reality, believed in the same God.

3. Several religions are officially acknowledged by the Lao P.D.R. Government:
  - Buddhist religion or Buddhism
  - Christian religions who believe in Jesus Christ. Catholic (four dioceses in Lao).



Protestant (which are the Evangelical church and the Seventh-Day Adventist church)

- Bahai or Spiritual Assembly of the Bahais in Lao P.D.R.
- Islam (followers are called Muslims)

4. In solving religious matters, organizations, agencies of the Party and Government will use caution and tact. At the same time, there must be supervision by higher authorities who are implementing the policy of the Party and legal provisions of the Government on religious activities. Research and implementation of various religious principles held by the international and regional communities is done with caution, flexibility and effectiveness.

Central Committee of the Lao Front for  
National Construction

President

Sisavath KEOBOUNPHANH



# **VIII. Project Proposal for Announcing Decree No. 92/PM on Management and Protection of Religious Activities in the Lao P.D.R.**

## **Project Proposal Situation and Rational for Project**

Religions registered in Lao P.D.R.

- **Buddhism.** The Theravada Buddhism came to Lao 650 years ago. Currently there are 4,937 temples and 22,172 monks in Lao PDR. Approximately seventy-five percent of throughout the country.
- **Christianity.** There are two Christian religions in Lao P.D.R, Roman Catholic and Protestant.
- **Catholics.** The French brought Roman Catholicism into Laos one hundred years ago. Today there are four administrative areas: Luang Prabang, Vientiane Capital, Bolikhamsay, Savannakhet and Champasack. Country-wide, there are 95



Roman Catholic churches 129 Christians ( 114-nuns ) and 41,746 Catholic followers in Lao PDR.

- Protestants. This religion came to Lao around 1900 and today consists of two different churches: Lao Evangelical and Seventh-Day Adventist. There are 221 Lao Evangelical churches in Lao PDR with church membership concentrated in 17 provinces, including LuangNamtha, Oudomxay, Borkeo and Saisomboun Special zone. There are 171 teachers and 60,000 adherents in the country.
- Seventh-Day Adventist. This church came to Lao later than 1900 and is concentrated in 4 provinces: Vientiane Municipality, LuangNamtha, Champasack and Attapeu. There are 14 teachers and 700 religious adherents.
- BahaÔ Faith. This religion came to Lao in 1957 through Iranian language teachers. There are 9 Spiritual Halls in 9 provinces: Luang Prabang, Vientiane Municipality,



Vientiane, Khammuane Xiengkhuang, Oudomxay, Savannakhet and Champasack. This group of make up of 595 families and 8,537 adherents. .

- Islam. There are 400 Muslims who have practiced their religion in Lao PDR since about 1975.

\* Non-registered religions. Mahayana Buddhism is practiced by Vietnamese in Lao P.D.R. There are 8 Mahayana Buddhist Pagodas, 4 in Vientiane Municipality and 4 in Savannakhet and Champasack. This religion appeared before the country's liberation. Chao-Mer-Kouan-Im, another religion, appeared in Lao in 1999.

- Current status of religious freedom in Lao P.D.R.

After the country's proclamation of independence, the Lao Government opened up the policies in NEM and promulgated the constitution and law. All religions which appeared before independence have since re-educated



their membership. These religions have been participating in national defense and socio-economic development. Religious organizations and their teachers, monks, and Buddhists are actively implementing state policies and rules of law. At the same time, there are wrongful persons who try to use religion in the wrong ways, violating the Lao PDR law, causing difficulty for both the government and the people. Historically, some local administrators have not clearly understood Party and Government policies toward religion. Sometimes this lack of understanding has caused religions to criticize the Lao Government. On July 5, 2002, the government issued the 92/PM Decree. After that Lao Front for the National Construction in each province disseminated the Decree which facilitated cooperation between monks and religious teachers and the Lao Front for the National Construction in religious activities. However, the Decree failed to reach district and village levels due to lack of budget, transportation and other facilities. This project has been designed to solve these problems through cooperation with international organizations and foreign countries.



## **Goals of the Project**

- Prepare important documents related to religious activities. These documents are designed to re-educate people, implement Lao Government policies and the rule of laws regarding religious practice. Finally, these documents alert people to their obligation to carry out their religious practices according to their rights and duties.
- Ensure that the Lao people in the 141 districts understand Decree 92/PM on the management and protection of religious practice.
- Improve the solidarity and religious activity of the Lao people.
- Protect and administer activities of all religions in Lao PDR, both in theory and practice.
- Ensure tranquility of society and politics which includes counter attacking those who attempt to use religion in a way that negatively impacts society.
- Build correct understanding of government policies toward religion.
- Ensure that the psychology and activities of private, community, and religious or-



ganizations are unanimously in line with Lao government policy and law.

- Promote freedom to believe or not to believe in religions in Lao P.D.R.
- Make international organizations in foreign countries understand the facts about religion in Lao P.D.R. To show the activity of the Lao government and concerned organizations in protection and administration of religions.
- To obtain more assistance from international organizations and foreign countries.

### **Activities to be Completed**

- Gather religious information at district and village levels.
- Conduct training courses for religious officers in the 141 districts.
- Conduct seminars for concerned government officers, community and religious leaders in the 141 districts.
- Conduct religious dissemination activities in the target districts.
- Distribute the following support handbooks to trainers in levels 2, 3 and 4: “The



Religion in Social Life,” and the Decree on the Administration and Protection of Religious Practice in Lao P.D.R.

- Participate in local problem solving regarding the proposal of the Religious Department.
- Any sub-projects will have objectives similar to those of the main project and should coordinate with other activities. For example, if the religious dissemination activity is useful for the project, funds and other facilities will be supported by the main project in the following ways:
  - Trainer support
  - Handbooks
  - Per diem payment for the trainer (ticket fees, accommodations, and other related expenses). All of these payments will be paid by the project (unless the proposal to the Project Committee is for cooperation only).

## **Project Team**

- Project Leaders
  - Director
  - Deputy Director and Manager



- o Coordinator
  - o Consultant
- Technical Officer Team
  - o Accountant-Computer1 position
  - o Cashier 1 position

## **Funds**

The funds for the project come from the government organization, international organizations, private and religious organizations from within country and overseas. Funds are received under government guidelines and accounts are established in the National Budget in Dollars Account. The project manager regularly reports the Cooperation and Investment Committee in the Prime Minister's office.

Donations and payments are allowed in agreement with the Project Committee. The project deposits and withdraws money in and from local banks for their activities. Withdrawals are approved by the Project Committee. At the completion of each project, results are reported to the project manager, concerned organizations, and donors in order to continue with their support.



# **Project Monitoring and Evaluation**

- **Project Monitoring**

The project manager is responsible for monitoring the project from its beginning to end. Monitoring begins with information gathering, evaluating the project's operational abilities, any disastrous results as well as benefits. Reports are submitted regularly, every three months, six months and at the end of each year.

- Project evaluation is an important method of project administration. The technical committee regularly audits, inspects and submits reports. Each evaluation should guarantee the quality and success of each period of the project. Weaknesses are eliminated and strengths promoted so the project improves each period.

The evaluation invokes project objectives in determining the project's success. The evaluation budget is used in examining real outcomes of the program and the results of the evaluation allow the continuation of the program. The evalua-



tion period is as follows:

Evaluation over three years will be done at district and province levels.

Five-year long term evaluation is conducted at the central level. Positive results will allow the project to continue for a second period. Negative results will cancel the project or cause it to be revised. Permission to continue the project or to cancel it is given by Lao Front for National Construction. Project committees with good performance will be rewarded. Those producing negative results will be punished according to the laws.

## **The Stamp of the Project**

In order to follow the rule of laws, each project has its own stamp. In the beginning, the project is temporarily assigned the stamp of the Religious Department.

Vientiane ...../...../2005

Project Manager \_\_\_\_\_



## **IX. Contributions of the Lao Religious Organization to Social Development, Peace and Security.**

All religious organizations in the Lao People's Democratic Republic have set forth their programs of action:

- To promote the dissemination and realization of all religious teachings for peace, equality and human dignity.
- To oppose all forms of terrorism and to eliminate social injustice.
- To preserve and develop a fine culture, tradition and heritage.
- To educate the youth in the spirit of peace.
- To develop harmony, mutual understanding and trust between nations and across the world community.
- To cooperate with other religious and non-religious organizations and movements in striving for peace, justice and human dignity.



These programs of action have been expressed in speeches by leaders in Lao religious organizations. Following are examples:

**SPEECH:**

**The most venerable Dr. Vichit SINGHARAJ, President of the Lao Buddhist Fellowship Organization to the Third Buddhist Summit in the Kingdom of Cambodia:**

My homage to Triple Gem, Esteemed the Presidium, distinguished delegates and guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure and honor to deliver a speech to the International Conference on behalf of the Lao Buddhist Delegation as well as the Lao Buddhist Fellowship Organization of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Allow me to express my sincere thanks to the Organizing Committee of the Third Buddhist Summit, especially to the Most Venerable Dr. Kyuse Enshinijoh, President of Maha Bodhi Society of India, the Founder of the Nenbutsu Buddhist Sect of Japan who invited us to this important conference being held in the King-



dom of Cambodia, the glorious Angora's land, dwelling with rich culture in the land of Cambodia.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to express my best wishes and warmest congratulations to all eminent participants of this significant conference.

The conference is taking place at a time when the world and the regional situation has undergone complicated changes due to the scourge of terrorism and at a time when people are facing economic and financial crises as well as racial conflict in many regions of the world. However, there have been trends towards world peace and cooperation among nations based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

Esteemed the Presidium,

This conference is a remarkable event in the history of Buddhism because it is the gathering of the top Buddhist leaders for the purpose of exchanging views on how to bring Lord Buddha's teachings into wide propagation to the people of the world in order to promote peace, friendship, brotherhood and solidarity. We are also met to review the imple-



mentation of the spirit of the previous conference.

Concerning the propagation of Buddhism in Lao P.D.R., venerable monks are carrying out their daily routines by preaching and training the Dharma (Buddhist doctrines) to lay devotees on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> day of each month. This is especially true on Buddhist holy days such as Magha-Puja, Visakha-Puja celebration, Lao Lunar New Year, Buddhist Lent, the End of Buddhist Lent, Khaopadupdin (Alms Offering for the Soul), Khaosalak (Alms Offering by Slot), Vessanta Rajataka Festival, That-Luang Festival and other festivals, particularly during the Buddhist Lent. According to the Lao tradition, lay devotees come to monasteries to observe Five Precepts and listen to venerable monks preach of Dharma, for example, on the morals of the household. They also preach the Four Objectives of Sympathy and Four Qualities of the Significance of Divine Human Beings. In addition, venerable monks have preached Dharma on radio, television, newspapers, and journals. Further, they have organized meditation training camps where



venerable monks, novices and lay devotees come to practice meditation.

To promote Lao Buddhist monks' traditional role in the propagation of Buddhism and social welfare, the Lao Buddhist Fellowship Organization has set up the MettaDharma Project to help prevent AIDS. This project has been authorized by the Lao Government and is financially supported by UNICEF. The MettaDharma Committee has convened a seminar on the prevention of AIDS based on Five Precepts, Four-Way of Destruction, and Eight Noble Paths. Attending this seminar has been venerable monks, novices and lay devotees. Through this seminar and training course, attendees have learned the dangers of HIV/AIDS the four ways of destruction, drug abuse, and obstacles to economic and cultural development. In addition to the thinking gained through this seminar, venerable monks and novices have turned their attention to the renovation and maintenance of monasteries and other Buddhist holy places. Further, they have rendered free medicine. Finally, they have planted fruit trees, medicinal plants and herbs, and industrial trees for environmental



protection.

The next step of Buddhist propagation is to continue holding meditation training courses out in the provinces for venerable monks, novices and lay devotees, and to continue to preach Dharma to the young and old on Buddhist holy days through the media described earlier.

Respected chairman and participants, the Third World Buddhist Summit is a very significant event since all the top Buddhist leaders from many countries come together to exchange views on propagation of Buddhism and its culture to the world, all in accord with the resolution of the Second World Buddhist Summit.

In order to fulfill the Conference Objectives, we will continue to give sermons to the people on Lord Buddha's teachings so people can understand deeply the Dharma. This will help them restrain from evil deeds, cultivate good deeds, purify their minds, hold to the Five Precepts, the Four Qualities of the Significance of Divine Human Beings, the good morals of households, and the practice of the Eight Noble Paths in Buddha teachings.



These will lead people into a world of peace and justice.

Once again I would like to call on Buddhists of all sects, the disciples of the same Buddha, to unite together to make our world a domain of peace, justice, independence, democracy, unity and prosperity.

May I wish respected chairman and participants good health. May the Third World Buddhist Summit crown with great success.

Subbe Satta Sukhita Hontu

May all beings be happy.

Thank You.

## **SPEECH:**

**The Venerable Bounsy VONGPHOUMY  
Head, Lao Buddhist Delegation to the Asian  
Conference on Religion and Peace, Sixth  
Assembly, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, July 24-  
28, 2002**

Nomo me ratanatyassa

Esteemed Presidium

Distinguished delegates and guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,



As the representative of the Lao Buddhist Delegation and Lao Buddhist Fellowship Organization, I have the pleasure and honor of expressing my sincere thanks to the Organizing Committee of the conference for invitin us to participate in the Asian Conference on Religion and Peace, Sixth Assembly, being held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Let me take this opportunity to express best wishes and warm congratulations to the organizers of this conference for their successful preparations. The Asian Conference on Religion and Peace, Sixth Assembly, is held in a period of regional and world changes due to war, problems among ethnic groups, and other social conditions.

Therefore, the world is facing economic and financial crises which impact the development of many countries in the world, especially those which are underdeveloped. At the same time, there are trends toward peace, cooperation and peaceful co-existence which give hope to this important conference.

Esteemed Presidium, Please allow me to speak about the important role of Buddhism in Lao P.D.R. Since the Fourteenth Century,



Buddhism has played a very important role in the minds and daily lives of Lao people and their various ethnic groups. Buddhism became an institution of national heritage and a national center for teaching Buddhist principles of solidarity, mutual assistance and compassion. These principles helped develop the material and spiritual civilization in accordance with the new policy of the Lao government.

At present, our government supports citizens' rights of freedom of religious beliefs and non-beliefs, and to promote the positive role of Buddhist religious beliefs and practices in accordance with state laws.

After the establishment of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in 1975, Buddhist monks of two sects in two zones convened the First Lao Buddhist Congress in Vientiane, uniting them as one sect called "Lao Monk," under the administration of the Lao Buddhist Fellowship Organization. Their tasks were as follows:

- Bring together Buddhist followers, preach



unity to all ethnic groups, Buddhist principles of morality, patriotism and pure faith in Buddhism.

- Protect Buddhism and govern monks according to the Vinaya roles.
- Propagate Buddhism to all people in the society
- Promote and improve Sangha Education, human resource development, and set up schools for Buddhist youth.
- Construct, renovate and conserve temples, monasteries and, at the same time, protect sacred places and things.
- Promote traditional medicine and environmental protection.
- Strengthen relationships and cooperation among Buddhist countries and religions on the basis of Buddhist principles and the foreign policy of the government of Lao P.D.R.

At present, we are disseminating and implementing the resolution of the Fourth



Congress of the Lao Buddhist Fellowship Organization. That resolution propagates Buddhist teachings: the practice of meditation and the improvement of Sangha Education in order to encourage monks in teaching Buddhism to Lao ethnic groups.

Esteemed Presidium,

The Asian Conference on Religion and Peace held at Yogyakarta, Indonesia, is most important for promoting religion and peace because it brings together religious leaders from various countries. They meet each other and exchange experiences on the propagation of religious activities.

In fulfilling the above objectives, we will take the spirit of the Asian Conference on Religion and Peace and convert it into concrete actions in preaching Lao Buddhist doctrine to people of all ethnic groups. We try to make their minds and actions free from doing evil and thereby make the world into humanity, compassion, solidarity and true peace.

In conclusion, I would like to express the best wishes to the Presidium and participants, good health. May the ACRP be a great success.



Sabbe Sata Sukhita Hontu  
May all beings be happy!  
Thank you.

## **SPEECH:**

**The Most venerable Charoun  
VACIRARANGSY, Vice President of the  
Lao Buddhist Fellowship Organization  
Dialogue on Interfaith Cooperation,  
Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
December 6-7, 2004**

My homage Three Gems,  
Esteemed members of the Dialogue  
Delegates and distinguished guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Lao Buddhist delegation and Lao Buddhist Fellowship Organization, I have the pleasure and honor of participating in the Dialogue on Interfaith Cooperation Conference held in Yogyakarta, the city with beautiful nature and filled with the rich culture of the Republic of Indonesia.

First of all, I represent a different reli-



gious delegation in Lao. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the organizers and sponsors of the Dialogue for their invitation to participate in this important meeting. I would like to take this opportunity, as well, to convey the best wishes and warm greetings from the Most Venerable Dr. Maha Vichitsingharaj, President of the Lao Buddhist Fellowship Organization. Especially, I would like to bring a warm regards and best wish from His Excellency Mr. Sisawat Keoboonphanh, President of the Lao Front from National Construction, from His Excellency Dr. N. Hassan Wirajuda, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, and from His Excellency, Mr. Hon Alexander Downer, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia. They all express appreciation for the common initiative and creative ideas in hosting this Dialogue on Interfaith Cooperation, 2004.

This important Dialogue is being held in a fast changing complicated region and world. There are many challenges, both positive and negative, affecting underdeveloped and developed countries. Nevertheless, there



is a general trend in the world toward peace and cooperation on the basis of Five Principles of Peace, coexistence and mutual interests. Recently, our government and the Lao people had the great honor of hosting the Tenth ASEAN Summit in Vientiane, the capital of Lao, November 29, 30, 2004. Leaders in both Indonesia and Australia participated, which made the conference an important contribution to peace, stability and cooperation in this part of the world.

Dear delegates and distinguished guests. Let me inform you about some specific conditions of different religious groups in our country. Lao is a small country with a smaller population than in surrounding countries. There are forty-nine ethnic groups and four main religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Bahai and Islam. About seventy-five percent of the Lao population is Buddha, the largest and most traditional religion.

Over time, the doctrines and beliefs of the different religions in our country have played a major role in education, living the right life style, purifying the mind and avoiding evil. Different religious groups in Lao



are of one spirit, helping each other, sharing in the defense and construction of their beloved country, and following the guidelines of our government. Generally, there is no violation among religions in Lao. Buddhism, especially, has played a major role in the lives of people in different ethnic groups. In fact, Buddhism has become an institution for the preservation of unique customs and traditions, a valuable heritage of the Lao national culture.

In order to allow for the teachings of these different religions, to prevent suspicious activities of certain individuals, and to meet the requirements of Decree No. 92 concerning management and protection of religious activities, the government of Lao carries out its policies: allow citizens the freedom of religious beliefs, and promote the positive role of Buddhist religious believers.

The Department of Religious Affairs has become an effective assistant to both the Lao Front for National Construction and the government in handling different religious issues. The Department has also become a consolidating agency for different religious



organizations in the country.

Dear delegates and distinguished guests. Our world is on the highway to extensive scientific, technological, electronic and informational development. There is a globalization process going on, an integration of struggle and cooperation in all aspects of social life. There are many challenges. The world's focus is on material things and we are leaving out mental training about what is right. Our people are filled with greed, selfishness, envy, persecution and war. The teachings of different religions, especially Buddhism, tell us that "Where there is jealousy, there is suffering, but where there is no jealousy there is love and consolidation, there is happiness, and this is the way to bring our beautiful planet to peace without war."

This Dialogue on Interfaith Cooperation in Yogyakarta is playing a very important role in combating the common tendency today. It has offered new opportunity from representatives of different religious groups from different countries to meet and share different points of view. It has helped our efforts to bring out the common teachings from differ-



ent religions, to spread religious teachings and to build faith and peace.

In conclusion, we pray for you, presiding members of the Dialogue, and for all delegates to be of good health and to have successful outcomes from this very important meeting. Let this entire world creature be happy!

Thank you.





Wat Xieng Thong, Luang Prabang)



## **SPEECH:**

**Reverend**

**Dr. Kham phone KOUNTHAPANYA ,  
President of the Lao Evangelical Church  
Sixth Assembly of the Asian Conference on  
Religion and Peace June 24-28, 2003  
Yogyakarta, Indonesia**

Esteemed Presidium

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Evangelical Christian Lao P.D.R. I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the organizers of the Asian Conference on Religion and Peace for inviting us to this important gathering, especially in this most beautiful city of Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Mr. Chairman, I consider this a special privilege for the opportunity to share briefly the situation of the Christian church in Lao P.D.R. After the liberation of the country, the Christian denominations came together under the same umbrella called Lao Evangelical Church (LEC). The LEC is structurally and financially independent of the Christian churches overseas. However, we



continue exchanging visits and experiences with overseas churches. The LEC is working closely with other ecumenical groups such as the World Council on Churches (WCC) and the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA).

We acknowledge that we are now living in a changing world environment, in a global economy and a “market-oriented economy.” Incredible developments in communication technology provide instant information which has demolished former boundaries of individual and collective life. Manifestations of these changes have been especially prominent in Asia. The churches in Lao realize we need to discover a new vision and we need to “grow together and learn together in order for us to face together,” new realities and challenges in Asian life. The Lao churches believe their participation in this assembly is a historical event and a turning point in their history. Due to our lack of experience in partnering with other faiths, we are in a learning process and wish to gain more insights in order to become constructively involved in the year ahead. I am personally convinced that this is an appropriate time not



only for serious assessment of our policies and programs, but a time for a fresh look. We need a rethinking of new challenges in the life of religious people in Asia. I believe it is time for creative relationships to begin among religious people in these countries.

As Christians, we understand that Christians are to live their lives within the scope of two main areas and have responsibilities in both. To love God with all our being is indeed the first and greatest commandment. But to love our neighbor as ourselves is quite similar.

Every Sunday we hold worship service in a believer's home. We gather to worship for Easter, Christmas, and family thanksgivings. In addition, we have programs such as:

- Strengthening the church structure. This involves retreats from time to time for church leaders from all provinces of the country. Our main objectives are to search for a wide variety of opinions from all church leaders at all levels in order to improve the quality of church management and working environment.



- In Lao P.D.R., we are facing a shortage of qualified personnel or workers to pastor growing numbers. Every year, new congregations are established. Therefore, the training of church pastors and new leaders is critical and organized on a regular basis. Every year over the past few years, thirty people graduate from our training. After graduation, students have to return to their home churches either as evangelists or fulltime church workers. Most of them have to rely on voluntary donations or farming in order to support themselves.
- We also have a children's program. Bible training is organized for Sunday school teachers coming from different provinces.
- Our curriculum includes the doctrine of God. We believe that god is concerned for the whole of mankind and for the whole of life in all its color and complexity. We believe that God is also the God of nature as well as of religion and of the secular. We also believe that God is a God of justice. He hates injustice, evil deeds



and oppression everywhere. He loves and promotes justice and good deeds everywhere.

- Our curriculum includes the doctrine of human beings. Christians have a sounder basis for serving their fellow human beings. We believe that true human beings are fallen, and the divine image is defaced, but despite all contrary appearances it has not been destroyed.
- Our curriculum includes the doctrine of the church. We understand that “church” is a people called and belonging to God. But on the other hand it is a worldly people being sent back into the world to witness and to serve.

In summary, the above doctrines constitute the biblical basis for the mission of the Christian church for both evangelical and social responsibilities. To fulfill its mission relating to the second responsibility, the LEC has been involved for many years in the following social program, our second program area. In this program, we strongly believe that



God has called the Christian to love his neighbors as himself, that is, to have a concern for his neighbor's well being. As Christians, we cannot evade our social responsibility. We need to open our ears and listen to the voice of our Lord Jesus Christ who has called his people in every age to go out into the lost and lonely world (as He did) in order to live and love, to witness and to serve. Our involvement to date in the life of the communities includes:

- Assisting the poorest primary schools with building materials, furniture, equipment, and teaching materials. Assisting the remotest villages with clean water supply through building of water systems and digging water wells.
- Equipping and training of sport teams with sport equipment and materials and sport training. This program helps young people get involved with sport programs and activities which prevent drug addiction.
- In the area of health care, we have a mo-



bile clinic and have arranged for an overseas medical team to come in and provide medical treatment in poor communities. We have been able to give some medical equipment and hospital beds to a few hospitals in accordance with our capabilities.

- The LEC has contributed training in self sustainable agriculture programs in the villages. Exposure trips to neighboring countries to visit small-scale development projects have been arranged almost every year for church leaders.
- In the year ahead, the LEC expects to carry out similar programs and widen its scope in partnering with other faiths.

To conclude, on behalf of the Christian churches in Lao P.D.R., I would like to express once again my thanks to the WCRP and the Asian Conference on Religion and Peace for giving me this precious opportunity to attend the ACRP. I wish all of you all the best for a successful gathering.

Thank You.





**Evangelical Church in Vientiane**





**Evangelical Church in Vientiane**



## **SPEECH:**

**Mr. Sakthavy BOUNHOME**

**Bahí Representative from Lao P.D.R.**

**Sixth Assembly of the Asian Conference on  
Religion and Peace**

**June 24-28, 2002**

**Yogyakarta, Indonesia**

Honorable Chairman

Your Excellencies

Honored guests and Council Members

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahai in Lao P.D.R. I would like to humbly thank the organizers of the Asian Conference on Religion and Peace for inviting me and giving me this opportunity to participate and share the Bahai viewpoints for the various sub-themes of a conference dedicated to peace.

On this occasion, I would like to convey the greetings of the Bahai Community of Lao P.D.R. to the Asian Conference on Religion and Peace. We are members of the World Bahai Community, which is the second most



widespread religion established in 235 countries and territories throughout the world. We represent over 2,100 ethnic, racial and tribal groups and some five million people worldwide. Among this is Lao P.D.R., where the Bahai live under the laws of the constitution of the country. At present, our government carries out the policy of citizens' rights to the freedom of religious belief or non-belief, and to promote the positive role of religious belief in the cause of their national tasks based on religious principles, and according to state laws. This Spiritual Assembly is grateful for the directives of the government which gives permission to carry out our activities and services to the betterment of the society through the Bahai centers around the country.

For more than a century, Bahai communities around the globe have been working to break down barriers of prejudice between peoples and have collaborated with other like-minded groups to promote the model of a global society. At the heart of our belief is the conviction that humanity is a single people with a common destiny. In the words of Baha'u'llah, the founder of our faith,



“The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens.”

We agree that the time has come for the reconciliation of the people of the world to establish a permanent pathway to peace through religious dialogue that creates a common understanding that there is only one race, the *human race*, the earth is but *one home*, there is only *one* God, though we call Him by different names, and all founders of all the great religions of the world receive the revelation from the same sources and are like the rays of one light. The three levels of unity—unity of God, Religion and Mankind are the central theme of all universal teachings.

We believe that vision for a unified mankind and the promise of world peace is not some vague, fanatical idea but rather a prophetic promise of all religions. Love for humanity is the central value in the hierarchy of values. All actions should be directed towards the well-being of mankind, its welfare having priority over all particular interests. Baha'u'llah said, “Let your vision be world-embracing, rather than confined to your own



self. . .that one indeed is a man who, today who dedicateth himself to the service of the human race.”

Recently, the Universal House of Justice, Bahai faith’s governing council, has addressed a message to the world’s religious leaders. The appeal is that they act decisively on the need to eradicate religious intolerance and fanaticism. They offer the assistance of the Bahai communities around the world in working for religious unity and world peace.

Regarding the five sub-themes, I would like to share the following viewpoints from the Bahai writings:

- Reconciliation for peaceful common living, disarmament and security. Bahai u’llah asserts that “the well being of mankind, is *peace* and *security*, are unattainable unless and until the *unity* of mankind is firmly established.”
- Reconciliation for just and sustainable development, economy and ecology. Bahai writings speak of two types of pollution that are affecting humanity and the



environment, one is inside us and the other is outside us. The recrudescence of religious intolerance, of racial animosity, and of patriotic arrogance; the increasing evidences of selfishness, of suspicion, of fear and of fraud; the spread of terrorism, of lawlessness, of drunkenness and of crime; the quenchable thirst for, and the feverish pursuit after earthly vanities, riches and pleasures; the weakening of family solidarity, the laxity of parental control; the lapse into luxurious indulgence; the irresponsible attitude towards marriage and the rising tide of divorce; the degeneracy of art and music, the infection of literature, and the corruption of the press. Nature is the reflection of the divine, and in which all life is interconnected and interdependent. Therefore, it is necessary to uphold the principles of moderation, humility, and respect for ecological balance. The civilization that extends a thousand years into the future implies that human beings have a profound responsibility for stewardship of God's creation, and a global vision is essential to carry out such a



stewardship. Acceptance of the principle of the oneness of the human family is a prerequisite for achieving sustainable development.

- Reconciliation for life respecting community, human dignity and human rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is significant because it is the first time that humanity has embraced a single code of behavior to which all nations are accountable, which is itself a precursor to the establishment of the oneness of humanity, a goal Bahai embraces for the purpose of human existence. Bahai u'llah states, we have been “created to carry forward an ever-advancing civilization.” The creation of a peaceful global society that fosters both individual and collective well-being is at the heart of the Bahai vision of the future. Every individual is a potential contributor to this process.
- Reconciliation for harmonious family women, children and partnership. If love and agreement are manifest in a single



family, that family will advance, and become illuminated and spiritual. The Bahai believe that women have a major responsibility in establishing peace in the world. Historically they have been the staunchest advocates of peace. The sense of inter-connectedness with the planet and its entire people is the same inter-connectedness which needs to be established between men and women. This new force of love will transcend the boundaries of race, class, sex, religion and nation, and created a new consciousness of partnership of the family of humanity. We hope to bring about this partnership through a deeper awareness that we are truly one human family, that each individual is born into the world as a trust of the whole and that the violation of the rights of any member of the family is a violation of everyone's humanity. According to the teachings of Baha'u'llah the family, being a human unit must be educated according to the rules of sanctity, and all virtues must be taught to the family. The integrity of the family bond must be constantly



considered, and the rights of the individual members must not be transgressed. None is arbitrary. Just as the son has certain obligations to his father, the father has certain obligations to his son. The mother, the sister and other members of the household have their certain prerogatives. All these rights and prerogatives must be preserved while the unity of the family must be sustained, and the injury of one shall be of concern, yet the unity of all; the comfort of each, the comfort of all; the honor of one, the honor of all. Since the character and consciousness of an individual are formed in the first years of life, the moral education of children has highest priority. "The global ethic must therefore be taught in all schools . . . first train the children in the principles of religion. . . only such education can fill the young with respect for other people, with love for their neighbor, with solidarity and civic sense, and can bestow on them inner strength which will enable them to respect the rights of others."



- Reconciliation for a culture of peace, education and service for peace. Bahai believe that “Today there is no greater glory for man than that of service in the cause of the Most Great Peace.” “Religion should unite all hearts and wipe wars and disputes from the face of the earth. It should give birth to spirituality and bring light and life to every soul.” When a thought of war comes, oppose it by a stronger thought of peace. A thought of hatred must be destroyed by a more powerful thought of love. Thoughts of war bring destruction to all harmony, well-being, restfulness and content. Thoughts of love are constructive of brotherhood, peace, friendship and happiness.

Thank you and I wish the Assembly great success in achieving its noble purpose to promote this interfaith dialogue as a tool for world peace and reconciliation among the peoples of the world.





Bahá'í Centre in Vientian



## **COMMENTS:**

**Reverend**

**Dr. Khamphone KOUNTHAPANYA**

**Executive President of the Lao Evangelical Church**

Dear Mr. Tong Yeur Tho, Deputy Chairman of the Lao Front for National Construction (LFNC)

Ambassador Robert Seiple, President of the Institute for Global Engagement, USA

Participants of the Seminar,

I count it a privilege that the LFNC has given me the opportunity to have a comment in the occasion of the visit of Ambassador Mr. Robert Seiple, especially in this seminar on religious freedom. On this occasion, I wish to bring a few comments on various issues as per below.

Relating to the implementation of the Decree No. 92/PM of the Prime Minister and the Instructions No. 001/FNC, Decree No. 92/PM is a reflection of the existing policy of the Party and the Government towards religions and religious people in Lao P.D.R. It



shows that the Party and Government respect and protect all legal religious activities as well as guarantee the equality of rights before the laws for people to believe or not to believe in religion as stipulated in the National Constitution, laws and rules of the Lao P.D.R. It also reflects the stand and position of our country in the effective and rational implementation of the rules and regulations of the international community in terms of religious freedom. Decree No. 92/PM and Instructions No. 001/FNC show the active attempts made in solving problems that occurred to religious organizations. In this regard, our Party and our Government always realized that religious problems are sensitive and need special attention. If we are not diligent or cautious enough, we might give way to bad people who are looking for opportunity to use problems as our shortcomings and criticize our country very easily which could negatively affect other areas of life as well. In addition, Decree No. 92/PM also helps in providing a clear understanding of the responsibilities of various organizations of the Party and the Government in dealing with religious activities and reli-



religious organizations including religious believers in Lao P.D.R. Through my understanding, the LFNC is the central body responsible for the implementation of this decree and also understands that all other organizations of the government, the mass organization, the religious organizations, religious believers, and people of all ethnics have the right to know and implement the above decree. Therefore, after more than a year, we have now seen the issuance of the Instructions No. 001/FNC of the chairman of the LFNC explaining about the registration of religious groups which intend to operate in the country. The Instructions also gives a list of existing officially recognized religious groups in our country. The Instructions provide guidelines on how to work out various problems occurring from time to time in a few areas. Generally speaking, with regard to the past implementation of Decree No. 92/PM and Instructions No. 001/FNC by the organizations of the Party, the government and the religious organizations, we have seen substantial cooperation as a result and many problems being solved more quickly. Here is an



example: In many provinces including the capital city, there has been good cooperation among various concerned parties in properly working out minor problems. Recently, meetings of Christian leaders have been organized in Xieng Khouang Province and in a special zone. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and gratitude to the LFNC for allowing a representative to attend as keynote speaker in order to explain the rules and laws on religious affairs. I wish to express my thanks and gratitude to local authorities together with the local FNC of those two provinces who have facilitated and given us permission to organize meetings. As a result of those meetings, many issues were clarified and believers felt more confident about the Party's policy and the Government's position on religious beliefs.

Problems worked out in some areas in the past. According to my understanding, most of the problems had their cause from the following:

- Implementation of Decree No. 92/PM and the Instructions have not reached grass



root levels in districts and villages. Budget allocations are needed in such an operation.

- Some believers lacked knowledge of existing laws and regulations and failed to cooperate with local authorities. Further, they did not get involved with the community which created a gap between their faith and other faiths.
- Some local authorities did not base their decisions on either Decree No. 92/PM or Instructions No. 001/FNC. They took administrative measures rather than providing a proper education. Sometimes it has been said that Christians are not Lao people and that Christianity is a foreign religion.

Nevertheless, I understand that the above problems have not been caused by Party and Government policy. Each time an incident occurred and a report was made to the LFNC and government authorities, there was no delay in bringing about proper solutions. Certainly there were delays in some areas due to different reports being received. However,



what is encouraging is that the government authorities always listened to both sides and treated both fairly.

Responsibilities toward society. During the past years, the Lao Evangelical Church has contributed seriously to the activities for national defense and security. It also made contributions to the social development program of the society in accordance with the policy of the Party and government on a regular basis. Examples are as follows: Assistance to schools, well drilling, water systems in mountainous areas, medical health care, sports activities, training villagers in agriculture, HIV/AIDS and sports. Almost one hundred percent of the contributions go to non-Christian villages. We put into practice the two great commandments of our Lord Jesus Christ, the second of which is love thy neighbor as thyself. Additionally, the LEC has contributed in propagating Decree No. 92/PM by inviting representatives of LFNC to be keynote speakers, and by participating in the solving of local problems. To conclude, I again express my thanks to the leaders of the Party and the Government, the LFNC, and Amba-



sador Mr. Robert Seiple who have always been concerned about the well being of the religious believers and I wish the best for the organizers to have a peaceful life, prosperity in their living, and all the success in their undertakings.

Thank you.

## **General Overview of Religions in Lao P.D.R. (2003-2004)**

- Followers (religious believers)

Buddhists	3,900,000
Catholics	41,746
Evangelists	60,000
Adventists	700
Muslim	400
Bahaists	8,537
Animism share with Buddhism	1,180,000
- Religious dignitaries and clergy
  - o Buddhism



	Monks	8,796
	Novices	13,376
	Nuns	450
	Clergy in white clothes	3
	Lay persons in temple	563
o	Catholics	
	Priests	15
	Bishops	4
	Nuns	114
	Seminarists	262
o	Evangelists	
	Pastors	21
	Ministers	150
	Missionaries	400
o	Adventists	
	Pastors	2
	Ministers	12
	Missionaries	25
o	Islamic	
	Leader of association	12
	Muslim	400
o	Bahaist	



Spiritual Assembly 9

Bahaïst 8,537

- Places of worship (sacred places)
  - o Buddhism, 4,937 pagodas
  - o Catholic churches 95
  - o Evangelical churches  
221
  - o Adventist churches 5
  - o Masazad Alazah in Vientiane  
Municipality 2
  - o Bahaï 9
  - o Mahayana Buddhism 8
- Statistics on Buddhist Training (See  
tables at end of document)
- Buddhist affairs in Vientiane Capital  
(according to the Summary of  
Buddhist Fellowship Organization in  
Vientiane Capital, 1998-2004)
  - o Committee of BFO in  
Vientiane 11
  - o Committee of BFO in Dis-  
trict level 100 in which  
standing committee 41



- o Committee BFO in grass root (temple) 507
- Statistics of religious dignitaries and clergy of Buddhism in Vientiane capital
  - o Monks 1989
  - o Novices 2316
  - o Clergy in cloth 1
  - o Nuns 151
  - o Lay persons living in the temple 147
  - o Pagoda 507
  - o Pagoda without monks 23
  - o New building Pagoda 7
- Restorations, such as monasteries, ancient places
  - o That Luang Kommalien (1,790,000,000 kip)
- New constructions
  - o Temples 13
  - o Pagoda 7
  - o Preaching hall 16



- o Monk's cell 54
  - o Drum tower 91
  - o Big gate 31
  - o Temple wall 31
  - o Total: 75,933,000,000 kip
- Special and most beautiful new construction in Dharma Assembly Hall in That Luang Monastery built by plan of Lao Buddhist Fellowship Organization, Central Committee, leading by Most Ven. Dr. maha Vichit Singharaj president of LBFO. and president of Lao ABCP National Centre. Cost: 3 million US dollars
- Buddhist training in Vientiane Capital
  - o Schools 7
  - o Students 1378
  - o Teachers 57
- Buddhist affairs in Champasak Province from 1999-2004  
Statistics of dignitaries and clergy



- o Monks 1370
  - o Novices 2163
  - o Pagoda 638
  - o Pagoda without monks 36
  
- Buddhist training of students
  - o Elementary 40
  - o Secondary 714
  - o High school 812
  
- Constructions, restorations and Protections
  - o Monk's cell 86  
6,250,747,000 kip
  - o Preaching hall  
5,981,520,000 kip
  - o Temples 39  
8,338,015,000 kip
  - o Drum towers 26  
556,574,000 kip
  - o Library 1  
120,000,000 kip
  - o Big gate 31  
11,975,520,000 kip
  - o Large meeting hall 9



- o                   1,100,000,000 kip
- o   Toilet               130
- 796,300,000 kip
- o   Temple repairs       29
- 1,819,381,000 kip
- o   High school    1
- 6000,000,000 kip
- o   Secondary school   1
- 90,000,000 kip
- o   Elementary school  2
- 235,618,000 kip
- o   Restoring road       13.2 km
- 482,000,000 kip
- o   Electricity to Pagoda units
- 18, 516,000,000 kip
- o   Setting up hall for resting 6
- 10,000,000 kip
- o   Casting Buddha Stupa 31
- 211,000,000 kip
- o   Water basins    8
- 193,818,000 kip
- o   Total: 28,582,923,330 kip



- Restorations
  - Temples                      37  
5,973,086,000 kip
  - Preaching hall                71  
1,379,086,000 kip
  - Monk's cell                    80  
5,020,000,000 kip
  - Total: 12,372,665,000 kip
- Public health (traditional medicine and environmental protection)
  - Hospital equipment  
23,500,000 kip
  - Protection costs  
6,000,000 kip
  - Total: 29,500,000 kip
- Contribution of Buddhist Fellowship Organization of Savannakhet Province in the field of social and cultural development, led by Most Venerable Maha Ngone Dhamlongboune President of BFO of Savannakhet Province
  - Setting up one elementary



school: 650,000,000 kip,  
contributed by people of two  
religions Houai Xai and  
Nong Ing of Champhone  
District: 84,000,000 kip

- o Campaigning people of  
Nateui Village, road restora-  
tion, 30 km: 116,000,000 kip
- o Building water systems in 9  
remote villages: 113,000,000  
kip
- o Setting up new temples in 7  
villages: 300,000,000 kip
- o Leading people of  
Thamokang Village build  
water front protection:  
200,000,000 kip
- o Helping Lam Thaen village  
build fish bowl: 130,000,000  
kip



- o Supporting people of Kham Haeng Village in building a roadway: 10,000,000 kip
- o Assisting people of Nakala Village set up one secondary school: 7,000,000 kip
- o Helping Savannakhet Province set up Buddha hospital: 756,000,000 kip
- o Monks helped people of Savannakhet Province set up Buddhist high school at Wat Sayaphoum: 685,000,000 kip
- o Total cost: 30,051,000,000 kip
- Statistics of Catholics in Lao P.D.R. in 2005 (covering 4 administrative areas)
  - o Vientiane area Catholics  
12,348  
Bishop 1



- |             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| Priest      | 3   |
| Nuns        | 38  |
| Seminarians | 108 |
| Churches    | 24  |
- o Luang Prabang administrative area
 

Catholics	3890
Bishop	1
Priest	1
Seminarians	10
Churches	7
  - o Thakhek-Savannakhet administrative area
 

Catholics	10,263
Bishop	1
Priest	8
Nuns	8
Seminarians	34
Churches	29
  - o Champasak administrative area
 

Catholics	15,245
Priest	3



Bishop	1
Nuns	18
Seminarians	110
Church	35

- o Totals
 

Catholics:	41,746
Bishops	4
Priests	15
Nuns	114
Seminarians	262
Churches	95

- Contributions of the Lao Evangelical Church in the field of social and cultural development from 1999 to 2004

- o Education. Assisting primary, secondary and high schools with building materials, furniture, teaching equipment:  
307,437,300 kip
- o Public health. Assisting



remote villages with clean water

supply. Medical equipment, hospital beds, medical treatment: 1,096,062,200 kip

- o Sport field. Equipment and train teams and provide offices, 153 places: 246,038,300 kip
- o Supporting workshop and help with accident victims, 135 places: 272,154,700 kip
- o Giving to fund for training in self sustainable agriculture programs to villages, 4 times: 87,373,300 kip
- o Contributions of blood donations to the Red Cross two times per year.



- o Total Lao Evangelical Church socio-economic development contributions from 1999 up through 2004: 2,009,065,800 .
- Contributions of any religion in Vientiane Municipality for assisting people who suffered from the Tsunami disaster on December 26, 2004.
  - o Lao Buddhist Fellowship Organization:
    - 3,718,000 kip
    - 1219 US dollars
    - 23,520 Baht
  - o Lao Evangelical Church
    - 15,500,000 kip
    - 1002 US dollars
    - 15,680 Baht
  - o Lao Adventist Church
    - 1,000,000 kip



- o Catholic, Vientiane  
2,000,000 kip
- o Islamic Association in  
Lao P.D.R.  
1,000,000 kip
- o The Spiritual Assembly  
of Bahai in Lao P.D.R.  
1,000,000 kip
- o Lao-Vietnam Mahayana  
Buddhist in Fetics  
Monastery, Vientiane  
5,000,000 kip
- o Total Tsunami Relief  
29,218,000 kip  
2,221,00 US dollar  
39,200,00 Baht.
- Work by the Catholic Church  
(Sec Tables at the end of  
document)





Roman Catholic Church in Vientiane





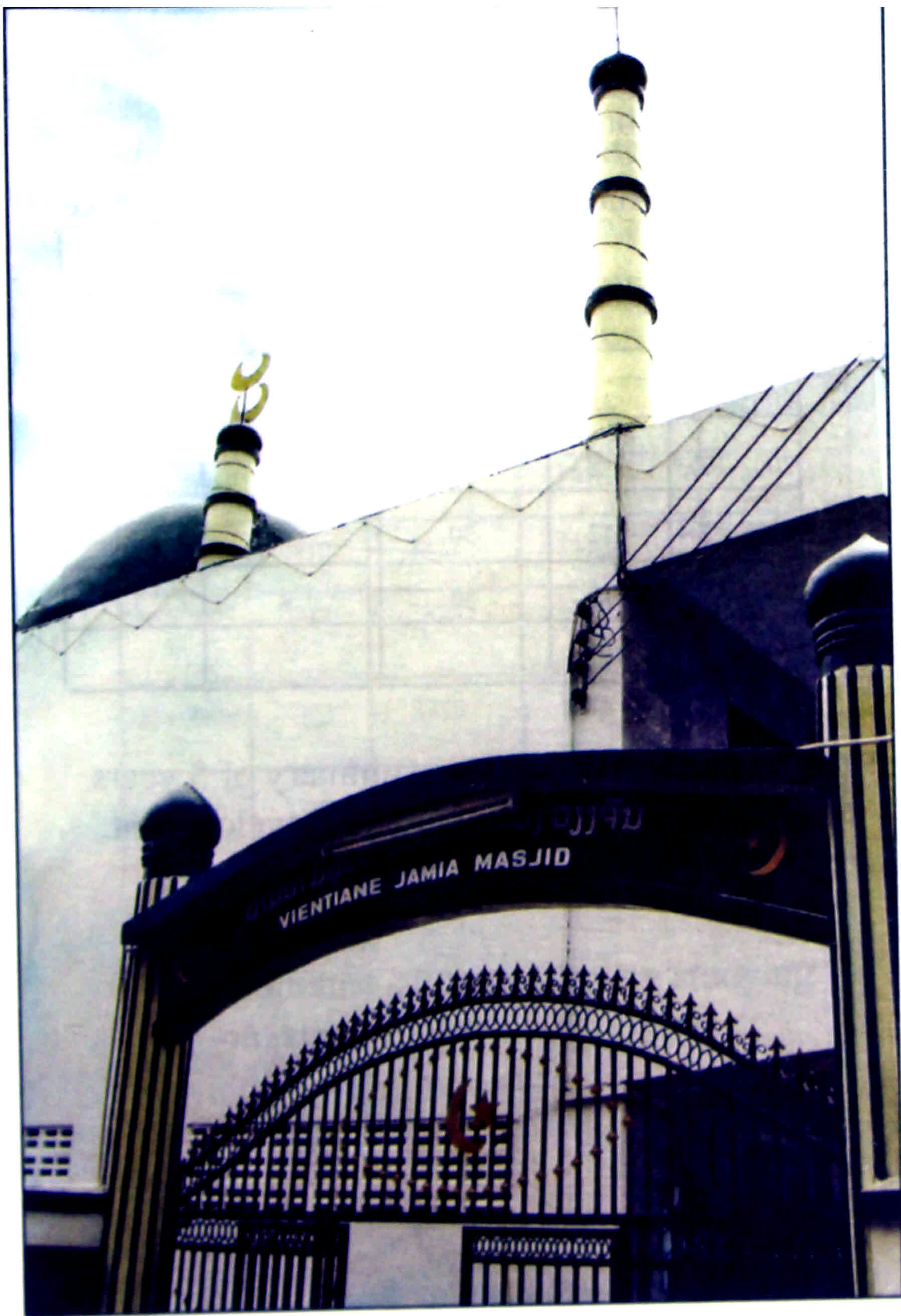
Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Vientiane





Masazed Alazah in Vientiane





Vientiane Jamia masjid  
Statistics of Buddhist Training



## 1. Number of Schools

Years	Primary	Secondary	High School	Còllege
1999-2000	1	23	5	1
2000-2001	23	27	5	1
2001-2002	16	23	6	1
2002-2003	8	32	8	1
2003-2004	12	30	8	1
2004-2005	12	30	8	1

Note: According to the summary of 5 years of the Buddhist Educational Development Plan



# Statistics of Buddhist Training

## 2. Number of Buddhist Students

Years	Primary	Secondary	High School	College
1999-2000	434	1996	1199	188
2000-2001	617	2180	1326	218
2001-2002	410	2577	1573	247
2002-2003	318	2823	1899	195
2003-2004	303	2758	2178	247
5 years	2.083	12.333	8.165	1.095

Note: Buddhist students who are studying  
in abroad: 564



## Statistics of Buddhist Training

### 3. Number of Buddhist Teachers

Years	Teachers	Monks	Layman
1999-2000	289	49	240
2000-2001	413	119	294
2001-2002	470	189	281
2002-2003	490	226	264
2003-2004	489	197	292
5 Years	489	197	292



Project of Vatican Embassy in Lao P.D.R. with government statistics  
supplied by the Catholic Center, Vientiane Diocese

Year		Project	Partners	Cost (US dollars)
1997	1	Hospital, Khoutsambat Village	Min Labor and Soc Wel	40,000
	2	Medical equipment	Nat Cent Skin Disease	16,000
			Total	56,000

Year		Projects	partners	Partners	Cost (US dollars)
1998	1	Primary school	Km 30, Pakse	Min Public Health	45,000
	2	Mobile clinic	of Thangone village	Min Labor and Soc Wel	25,000
	3	Med equipment,	clean water	Min Lab and Soc Wel	20,000
	4	Ed funds,	2 students, Thangone village	Min Lab and Soc Wel	5,000
	5	Car services,	patients, Khoutsambat village.	Min Lab and Soc Wel	5,000
	6	School for Somsanouk	Village	Ministry of Pub Health	50,000
				Total:	150,000



## Project of Vatican Embassy in Lao P.D.R. with government

Year	Projects	Partners	Cost (US dollars)
1999	1 Hospital, Bokeo Province	Min Pub Health	49,730
	2 Mobile clinic, Somhong village	Nat Cent Skin Disease	7,930
	3 Primary of Houa phanc province	Min publ Hcalth	57,500
	4 Mobile clinic, Kyo Kacham village	Min Public Health	9,200
	5 Conf Hall, Houai Xot Bokeo province	Min Public Health	20,000
	6 Training, Houai Xot women	Min Public Health	6,430
	7 Repair house, lepracy people Houai xot	Min Public Health	5,900
	8 Mobile clinic, Leprocy people Houai xot	Min Public Health	7,780
	9 Primary school, Khoutsambat village	Min Lab and Soc Wel	50,000



1999	10	Primary school, Lepracy Houai xot village	Min Public Health	56,734
	11	Mobile clinic, Paklum	Min Public Health	7,750
	12	Ed Fund, Lepracy children	Nat Cent Skin disease	25,200
	13	Medical equip, Xiengkho Houaphane prov	Min Lab and Soc Wel	34,193
	14	Electric supply, school, Ban Samsanouk	Min Public Health	700
	15	Improve office, Houai Xai	Min Public Health	600
	16	School, house, disabled children	Nat Rehab Centre	50,000
	17	Med equip, training, paralyzed people	Nat Rehab Center	18,000
	18	Printer for the blind people	Nat Rehab Center	10,000
			Total:	417,647



2000	1	Med Equip, mobile clinic	Min Public Health	232,044
	2	Equip for conference hall	Nat Rehab Center	90,773
	3	School, electricity, lepracy villages	Min Public Health	101,933
	4	Ed funds for poorest students	Min of Education	12,000
	5	Teach Training college, Luang Pra	Min of Education	300,000
	6	Med equip, Luang Prabang Hospital	Min of PubHealth	41,600
	7	Ed equipment, paralyzed puppies	Nat Rehab Center	54,600
	8	Qualifying languages, Singapore	.	
Total				1,032,950



# Project of Vatican Embassy in Lao P.D.R (continued)

Year		Projects	Partners	Cost (US dollars)
2001 - 2005	1	Med equip, operating Hall, Bokeo prov.	Min Public Health	18,000
	2	Training college, Pakse Champasak prov.	Min of Education	370,000
	3	Training human resources	Min Public Health	29,647
	4	School, blind and deaf	Nat Rehab Center	185,000
	5	Ed funds, children of lepracy	Nat Cent Skin Disease	31,600
	6	Analyzing laboratory	Nat Cent Skin Disease	41,156
	7	Equip, payment, paralyzed pupils	Nat Rehab Center	90,375
	8	Qualifying languages, Singapore		200,000
Total:				965,778

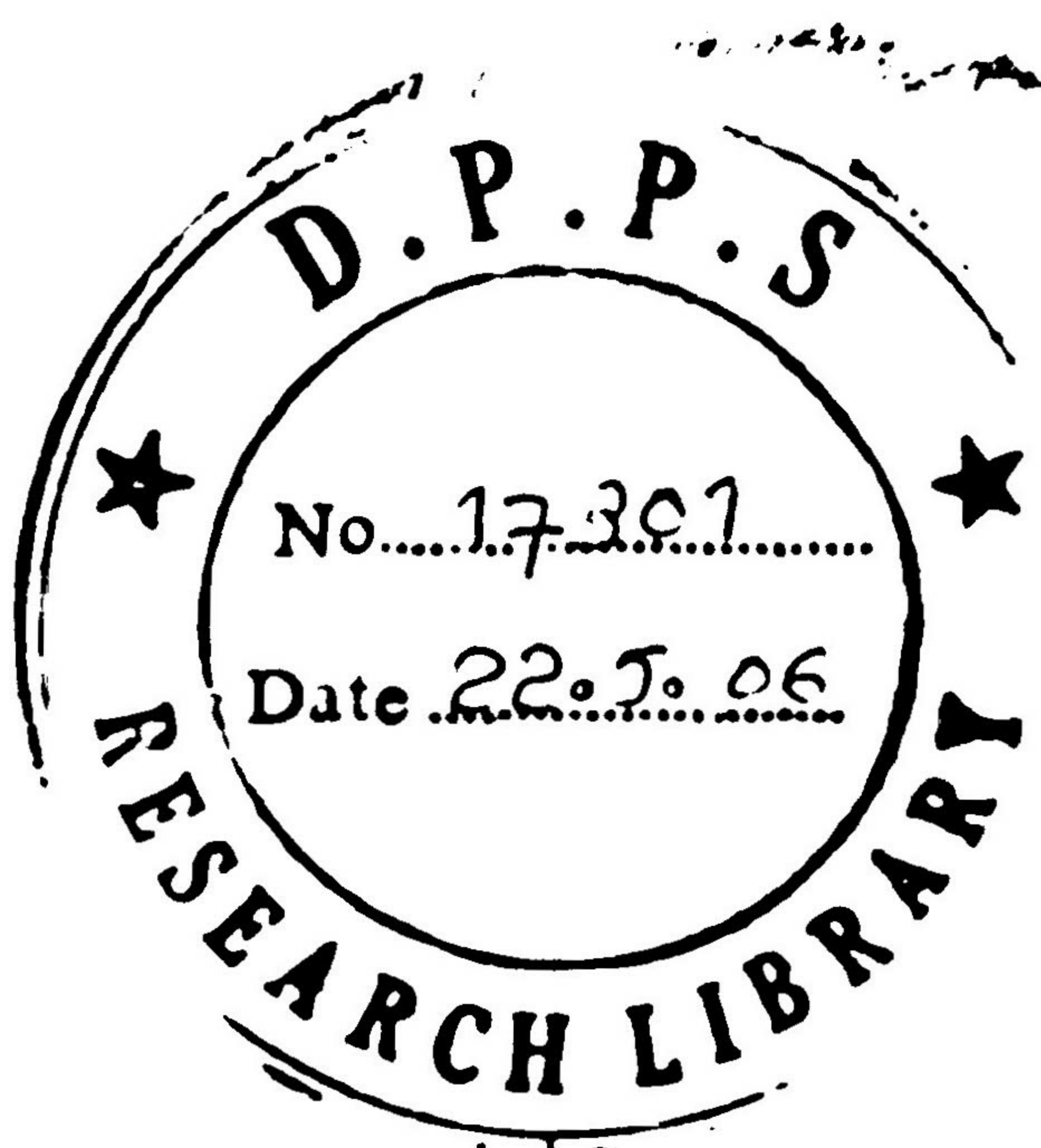


## Final Comments

Realizing the deep religious significance to cultural life and the aspirations of the Lao people, the Lao Front for National Construction has carefully carried out the policy toward religions, implementing the correct policy of the Party and State on religious management and protection. This will ensure the right and liberty to believe or not believe in a religion. Religious followers of different ethnic groups are living their daily lives in harmony, solidarity and unity in Lao. They actively take part in creating this solidarity among all religions in accordance with national laws. We are very faithful to monks, novices, priests and worshippers of other religions who teach and train the Lao people to be moral, engage in good conduct, legally earn a livelihood, and take part in social and public advantages available to them. For example, students in schools are taught good hygiene, the importance of curing disease and of building hospitals, schools, roads, and canals. They are also taught to care for and, when needed, restore sacred monuments ,



stupas and temples, all of which are part of the important cultural heritage of the Lao nation .





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