



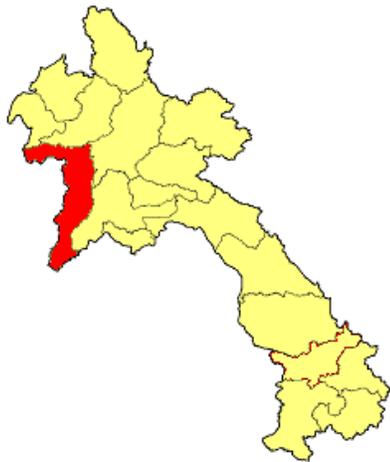
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CONSTRUCTED READING ROOM COMPLETION REPORT

Country: Laos

Report Writer: Khanthanouphone Mixaykone, Senior Reading Room Program Officer

Donor: Ben and Lisa Slivka

NAME OF SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY Kenthao Complete Secondary School			PARTNER ORGANIZATION N/A			PROJECT ID NO. LA-CRR-07-03		
PROVINCE Xayabouly		DISTRICT Kenthao		COMMUNE N/A		VILLAGE Phouan		
LOCATION Xayabouly Province is located in the northwest part of Laos and shares a border with Thailand. There are 10 districts in the province with a total population of 338,004. It is 435 km from Vientiane (the capital the country) to Xayabouly Province. Kenthao Complete Secondary School is located in an urban area of Kenthao District. It is 235 km from the Provincial Education Service (PES) to the school, and it takes about 7 hours to drive from the PES to the school along the unpaved, mountainous road.				MAP  Xayabouly Province is indicated in red.				
NUMBER OF STUDENTS			NUMBER OF TEACHERS			NUMBER OF TEACHERS ASSOCIATED WITH PROJECT		
FEMALE 272	MALE 347	TOTAL 619	FEMALE 11	MALE 16	TOTAL 27	FEMALE 2	MALE 0	TOTAL 2
GRADE LEVEL OF STUDENTS Grades 6 – 11				AGE RANGE OF STUDENTS 11 –18 years old				



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DESCRIPTION OF COMMUNITY AND LIFESTYLE

Kenthao Complete Secondary School is located in Phouan Village, Kenthao District, Xayabouly Province. Villagers reside along Road No. 4, which extends to Borten District, one of the bordering districts of Xayabouly Province. In this village, there are two main ethnic groups: Laoloum (95% of the population) and Khamou (5% of the population). Farming of rice, corn and vegetables is the most common lifestyle for villagers, and gardening, slash and burn cultivation, and breeding livestock (cattle, hen and buffalo) are off-season alternatives. Villagers can also earn money by collecting vegetables and herbs and by fishing, and children and the elderly grow crops for subsistence living. Additionally, many young people try to get jobs in Vientiane, other large cities, or Thailand. However, the standard of living for the residents is very low and economic growth is slow due to a continued reliance on a subsistence lifestyle and natural resources.

In this area, there is no unexploded ordnance (UXO) remaining from the Vietnam War, as it has all been cleared in recent years. A guaranteed certificate from the government to this effect has been issued. The transportation system is easily accessed in all seasons, but most of the road is unpaved and in poor condition. Luckily, this village is free from floods and drought.

Water for the village is sourced from a 15-meter deep well. Each house has its own bathroom but there is no irrigation system, which does not bode well for agricultural expansion.

CURRENT SITUATION AND REASON FOR SUPPORT

Kenthao Complete Secondary School teaches students in grades 6 – 11. This school was established in 1980 and was funded by the villagers. There are twelve classrooms in the two buildings. The first is a concrete two-story building. The second is made of wood and has a corrugated iron roof, but is dilapidated and in decaying condition. There are also dormitories for the students who live far away from the school. These dormitories were made by parents who wished to send their children to complete secondary school. By having a Constructed Reading Room in the school, students can spend their free time in the library wisely.

The villagers are committed to participating to make sure that their children receive a good education so that they can have a better future. They would like to partner with Room to Read and the local education authorities in the construction of a new school. They are willing to make contributions of sand, gravel, labor, wood for the ceiling, soil for excavation, and ground beams. The villagers, teachers and pupils are very enthusiastic to have this new school and express their gratitude to RtR.

RtR's preliminary field visits indicated that village residents and local educational staff are very enthusiastic about the School Room project. On the most recent field visit, preliminary surveying found that villagers, a coordinator of PES, coordinators of DEB and all sectors involved are very interested in the project and have cooperated in all of RtR's activities.

The community also understands that education for children is a crucial and sustainable key to community and national development. They are aware of the potential for the alleviation of poverty, an issue that Laotians have been confronting for decades. Villagers and authorities are committed to



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ensuring security during school construction, providing a place for children during the construction period, and closely monitoring of the purchase of construction materials.

In addition, on the day the villagers signed contribution contracts, the Deputy Governor of Kenthao District attended and showed a strong commitment of support for the project. The village leader, teachers and some villagers are committed to cooperation and helping with school construction.

DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT

September, 2007

DETAILS OF PROJECT

DESCRIPTION OF CONSTRUCTION

The construction of the Reading Room at Kenthao Upper Complete Secondary School began on March 29, 2007 and finished on September 1, 2007. The hand-off ceremony was held on September 13, 2007. It was co-funded by Room to Read Laos and the community of Kenthao District. It serves students from various villages within Kenthao District. The project featured great cooperation with the General Education Department (GED), Ministry of Education (MOE), PES and the District Education Bureau (DEB). The building took 8 months to complete.

DETAILS OF BUILDING CONSTRUCTION:

- Reinforced with steel (footing, column, ground, beam, roof beam).
- Colored steel roof with the roof frame made of hardwood.
- The ceiling is wood.
- The windows are made of hardwood.
- The internal color is white.
- The external color is light yellow.
- The whole building area is 10 m wide X 12 m long. The Reading Room is 6m X 7m.

DESCRIPTION OF LIBRARY ESTABLISHMENT

The Reading Room at Kenthao Complete Secondary School has been set up by the local community of Kenthao District in cooperation with Room to Read Laos. The Project will be supported by Room to Read Laos for 3 years (36 months). During this time, Room to Read Laos provides furniture, books, education materials, and library stationery from year one to year three (however, furniture is given only in year one), and training on library management and library activities for the library teachers.

The school is responsible for sending two teachers to attend the trainings on library management and library activities conducted by Room to Read Laos, and allocating at least one teacher to be in charge of library service at the school.



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CHALLENGE GRANT

COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT (25 % OF CHALLENGE GRANT):

- Volunteer labor for all unskilled labor work required by the project;
- Contribution of backfill soil needed;
- All aspects of security during the construction period;
- Had UXO clearance task completed with official approval certificate;
- Secured official title for land that belongs to the school;
- Prepared water source and made available for new school building;
- Closely monitored purchase of quality construction materials and made sure the process was transparent.

ROOM TO READ CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT (75 % OF CHALLENGE GRANT):

- The funds for the construction project, including paying the labor costs of technical construction person(s);
- Funds for wood for door and window frames and panels, as well as the labor cost for producing them;
- Provided materials for construction, such as cement, sand, gravel, steel, corrugated sheet metal, plywood, nails, ceramic tile, hardware and paint;
- Provided furniture for the Reading Room such as: students' desks and benches, teachers' tables and chairs, and black boards;
- Some construction tools;
- Support for the Reading Room (books, some furniture, library equipments and librarian training).

USAGE TO DATE

Currently, the library is open 7 hours a day from Monday to Friday. Since some students live in the school dormitories, the library is also open on Saturday, during which students can spend their time doing self-study. Currently, the newly constructed library at Kenthao Complete Secondary School is well-utilized by the students and teachers within the school. Everyday during class time, the teachers, especially the English teachers take their students to study in the library.

And it's not only the students and teachers in the school who access the resources in the library. The new Reading Room also attracts members of the community living nearby to come use the library. The school has also raised some money collected from modest library membership fees, which will be used as a fund to promote the sustainability of the library.

COMMENTS

Since Kenthao Complete Secondary School is located in a remote area and serves students who are from poor villages, the library is a useful resource. The construction of the Constructed Reading Room at Kenthao Complete Secondary School was implemented very well and went smoothly, mainly because the project featured great cooperation between the local community and the school, and close monitoring by Kenthao District Education Bureau and Xayabouly Provincial Education Service.



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Photos:



Students checking out books with teachers.



Students browsing books in the library.



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Students enjoying the books.



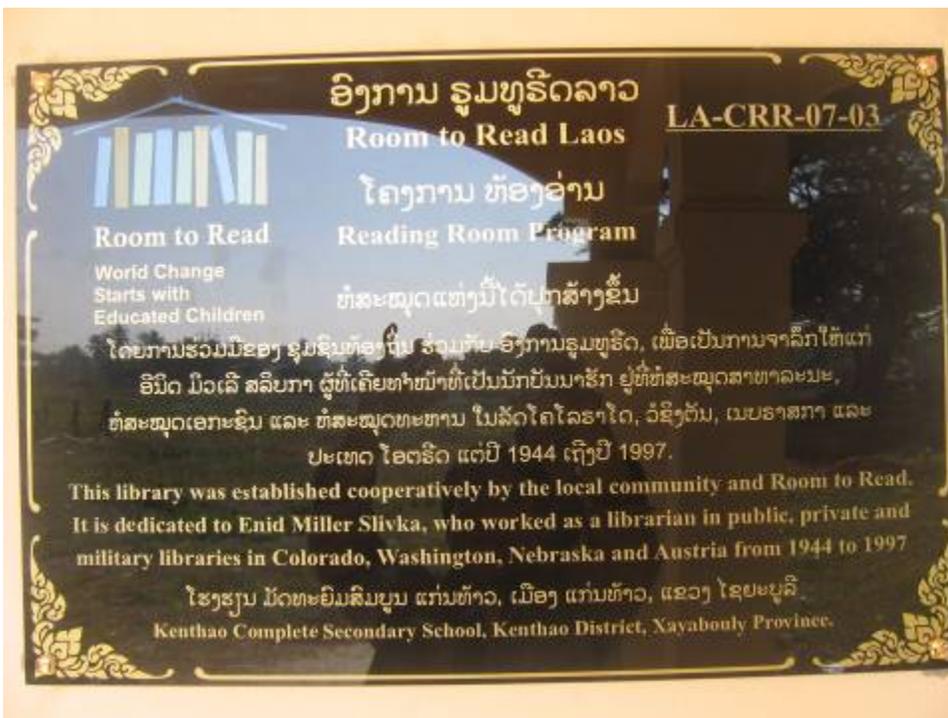
Students spending their leisure time reading in the library.



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The overview of the newly constructed library building.



The donor's dedication plaque on the wall of the library.