

1. The Assessment of current performance of the Country Alumni Association.

We representatives of the IATSS ex-participants from Lao P.D.R. would like to express our grateful thanks to the IATSS Forum Committees in Japan, and to the IATSS Forum Alumni Association of Vietnam to facilitate and give us a warmly welcome to participate in the 7th International Alumni Meeting which will be held very soon in Melia Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam.

The Lao P.D.R. began participating in the IATSS Forum Program in 1999. Nowadays, the total amount of all ex-participants is about 45 people, 19 girls. Those ex-participants work in both within and outside the country depend on the official functions and duties of each. From 1999 to 2005, the ex-participants were not active in creation activities for the society because of the difficulties of environmental situation and communication, organizing the activities and so on. But since 2006 the Lao Youth Union has improved and set up the new country secretary committee.

After that, the new country secretary committee has been trying to encourage the IATSS ex-participants to create some activities to support the society movement like: we created 8 times of a day-activity for helping people in villages, students and teachers at schools, and visiting disable people. Some IATSS ex-participants were also the volunteers to join in the young Japanese visitors and culture exchange youth program for 4 times (young Japanese from Kagawa city), helped with providing Homestay within 2 days 1 night for ten young Japanese people, five times formal meeting with the secretary general of Lao Youth Union in occasional events. Had an IATSS ex-participants meeting in some cases with the urgent for important movement activities. The majority of the funds to run those mentioned activities were from the support and contribution of some companies and some were from the ex-participants and youth volunteers

that wanted to contribute the activities, and some were from the IATSS Forum Japan. In each activity, we focus on educational materials, sports equipment, children's play equipment and consumer products.

In a past year, the movement of the ex-participants was hardly working in a group, this is because many of them moved and stayed in other places, changed their jobs, and have more responsibilities. So we have difficulty situation in gathering, resource mobilization and labor that is necessary to create activities. However we still continue to move forward by being a volunteer to work with other projects such as the Lao Red Cross, vocational training center. Some other ex-participants attended in selecting new participants interview of each year, did the orientation of participation program to the new young people who are going to participate in the next forum, helped the country secretarial committee with dealing to the media agencies to advertise new forum, joined the meeting and dinner with IATSS Forum staff from Japan.

2. The solutions for dealing with existing challenges faced by Country Alumni Association.

2.1 After completion of participating the IATSS Forum Program, many of ex-participants got the promotion and new positions. Some changed their jobs, or got married and lived in abroad. This is a reason why some ex-participants did not have time or could not participate in association activities fully. In addition, some of them changed their addresses and workplaces as well as the contact numbers without telling us. These are all obstacles and difficulties of appointment in each time.

2.2 Some ex-participants can sometimes participate in activities in the occasion only.

2.3 Lack of fund to support activities. We get some from contribution of companies and

collected from the ex-participants themselves. Therefore, it cannot create many activities as it should be.

3. Some suggestions and recommendations to make IATSS Program abreast of new dynamics in alumni home country.

3.1 The president of the association or management committee should be active in working with members and create systematically work-plans to consult together at least in every three months.

3.2 To ensure that the association is operating as usual and efficient, there should be the specific time limitation or duration of the Association or the Executive position accurately and select the new president again.

3.3 To establish new strategies for the quicker coordination by using the new technology products. That is online accession to the social benefits, such as: Web page, Web blog, Facebook, Twitter, Whats App, and so on.

3.4 To have some amount of budget to contribute the movement activities that helps the society associations in each time.

3.5 To have a slogan, logo, and uniforms of Association (posters, caps, shirts) to wear during the activities.

3.6 To mobilize volunteers active in participating in the activities of the association in each time.