

25. Survey Research on the Vocational Education and Training in the Asia-Pacific Region: Laos

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Laos, which is located in Indochina Peninsular of the South East Asia, is one of poor countries in the world. Even though Laos has been in the transition to the market economy from social economy during 20 years, she still is short and lack of labor-force. Especially, the participant rate and conditions of higher education is deteriorated, which has been an important motive agent of economic development. There are only 3 universities in Laos. To overcome this obstacles, Laos has implemented to set up the 'education system' as the prior task of national agenda and strategy. The higher education develops the skilled worker through vocational education and training suitable for the industrial structure in the present stage. In addition, Laos tries to receive aid and support for the development from the Korean experiences.

According to this necessity, the aim of this study is to investigate the current situation, to solve the problems and to find out the improvements through survey of vocational education and training in Laos. The detail of the contents of this study is as follows.

First, it is to analyze the environment and the social and historical background of Laos. For this, we had surveyed the history and present, politic and economy, society and culture of Laos. Second, the educational system is researched especially in terms of higher education, education development plans, and participation rates, etc. Third, present and actual conditions of vocational education and training in Laos are analyzed. For this, we had surveyed the labor market, vocational educational institutes and centers, policies and strategies. Fourth, we conducted the conclusion and recommendation on the basis of this survey and contents.

The research methodologies are employed: literature review, fields survey, related data collection, and interview with the experts and officials of the Ministry of Education in Laos.

Above all, the conclusions are as follows.

First, we draw a conclusion that Lao has a good prospect for the future development for it has potential to grow in the aspects of politics, economy, society, and culture in Laos. Especially, political stability can sustain and drive forward the national development strategies. Moreover, the trades relations between Laos and Korea are increasing, and also Korean interest in Laos begin to arise.

Second, according to the actual conditions of the educational system in Laos, it is necessary to support and supplement the higher education institute, such as vocational education college and universities. The ratio of higher education population show only about 1 % of the total population, and it is short of requirement

skilled worker in industrial development.

Third, according to the demographics, the size of the population of young generation is very big, which means a big population of labor force. But there are not enough institutions and centers for vocational education and training.

Through the conclusions, we would like to suggest some recommendation for the development of Lao. First, the further study should be carried out to implement the feasibility of new request project including vocational education & training considering the priority of national development task in Lao. Second, more field survey should continue to get plans of not temporary but long term strategy on vocational education training as well as human resources development in Laos. Third, the support and supplementation of educational institutions, which were supported by Korea, should be continued, for expert dispatch, advisory work, curriculum development, textbook development, training for staffs and teachers etc.