Laos Country Report
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Media situation in Laos in brief

1 Lao media in brief

Since the establishment of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic in December 1975, the Mass Media in the country has developed significantly both in terms of organizational structure and activities. The mass media is a tool of the Lao government to use for political and economic gains, including internal and external campaigns. Media organizations mostly operate by the government up on the government’s budget. The main functions are to disseminate government policy, social security and other aspects including the critical situation in Internal and External.

Throughout the country, there are approximately 56 different newspapers, including daily, weekly, monthly, yearly magazines, journals and news bulletins. They are in Lao, English and French languages. Most of them are produced in the Vientiane capital city, some of them under the ownership of state bodies, public organizations and official institutions. The Government encourages the local print media to increase its circulation and enrich the contents of each news story.

Currently, they are five daily newspapers, three in Lao and two in the English language. The Lao language newspapers include Pasason (People), Vientiane Mai (New Vientiane) and Pathet Lao (Lao Country). The English language newspapers include Vientiane Times and KPL news.

Lao National Television (LNTV) the first Television in Laos, under the Ministry of Information and Culture was officially launched in 1983. The Lao National Televising is the only TV station in the country whose mission is to "inform, educate and entertain" Lao people by promoting the national development, preserving and developing Lao culture and identity and promoting mutual understanding among the ASEAN people and the world.

LNTV broadcasted for 17 hours per day via satellite to 22 provincial stations country wide. LNTV produces more than 60% of broadcasting programs. The television program covers mainly news and current affairs and provides information reflecting on government policies and socio economic development in the country. One among programs broadcast through National TV is called- Noum Lao (Lao youth program) which produced by The Lao People’s Revolutionary Youth Union.

The Lao People’s Revolutionary Youth Union was established in 1955 to implement the aspiration of the Lao People. Lao Youth Union play vital role to develop the new generation’s ability, knowledge and multiple skills in the society in order to be strong groups who expects contribution to socio-economic and cultural environmental development of Laos. Members of the Youth Union are groups whose age is between 15 to 35 years.

Lao Youth Union is a mass organization tasked with guiding the country's youth under the Party's leadership and helping to educate and train young pioneers to be the driving force for the nation's future. In the sense of contributing to national development, the focal point areas also included on the fields of information, media, entertainment, art and music. Operating at central, provincial/municipal, district and village level

1. To serve in educating youth on policy guidance and to provide further training young people to become good citizens;

2. To strengthen the organization of the Vientiane Capital Youth Union Young Pioneers.

3. To stimulate, monitor and supervise the implementation of congress resolutions and regulations of the Vientiane Capital Youth Union, as well as adhering to the working style of the Lao Youth Board at various levels;

4. To organize and inspect the activities of social youth organizations and provide advice and direction towards the development of new ideas, strengthening youth involvement in socio-economic development and keeping morale high among youth;
5. To organize income-generating activities designed to promote and protect youth welfare; to manage various projects, properties and funds provided by the party and state and to support activities ultimately aimed at further promoting the welfare of young people.

6. To represent the youth board at all levels within the system and establishes relations with various youth groups and international organizations, in order to gain support, assistance and co-operates with foreign countries in a wide range of program activities their skills.

2 Organizational Structure of Lao youth union
The organizational structure of Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union has 4 levels: Central, Provincial, District and Grass root levels. The congress is held every five years for Central, provincial and district levels but the congress at the grass root level is held twice a year. The LPRYU has its own regulation that is revised in each congress and more than 200,000 youth are now members of the youth organization, 80,000 of whom are young women.
The structure of Vientiane Capital Youth Union

The Central Executive Committee of Lao People’s Revolutionary Youth Union

- The Media Department
- The vocational Department
- The cabinet department
- The training and developing department
- The international relationship division
- The training and activity of youth Division
- The Young business Group division

- The Provincial or City Executive Committees have 17 provinces
- The Ministry Executive committees of Youth
- The District Executive Committees of Youth

- The Vientiane Capital Executive Committee of Youth
- The cabinet Unit and the vocational center
- The training and developing Unit
- The Pioneers Unit

- The Division Executive Committees of Youth
- The international Relationship Department

- The District Executive Committees of Youth

- The Villages Executive Committees of Youth.
- The Schools Executive committees of Youth

Source: Vientiane Capital Youth Union, May 2007