

**Gender Mainstreaming
in the Higher Education Institution
ASEAN 5th Higher Education Summit
on Gender Issues**

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By:

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Overview

1. Lao PDR is one of the least populated countries in ASEAN. It has five universities, of which one university is under the Ministry of Health and the remaining are under the Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES). In total, Lao PDR has 155 HEIs, including universities, academies, institutes, and colleges. Alongside the five big public universities, there are 35 public institutions under MOES, 45 institutions under other line ministries and 70 private colleges. The biggest university in Lao PDR is the National University of Laos (NUOL). It was established as a result of a merger of ten universities in 1996. The formerly independent universities now constitute the NUOL faculties.

2. Access to Higher Education Higher Education institutions in the Lao PDR consist of: - National University of Laos (NUOL), - Souphanouvong University (SU), - Champasack University (CU), - University of Health Sciences, - 5 Teachers Training Colleges - 83 private higher institutions.



Higher Education

1. The number of students who enrolled at five public universities in the 2014-2015 academic year was 36,728 in total (female 16,087). The number of staff and lecturers who work and teach at five universities under the Ministry of Education and Sports is 2,935, (female 1,221 or equivalent to 41.6%), of which have PhD's (29 females); 935 have master's (297 females); 1,534 have a bachelor's degree (759 females); 156 are pre-bachelor (92 females) and 175 with lower certificate levels (44 females). Also, there are 7 professors and 171 associate professors, of whom 31 are female. There are 456 curricula (19 pre-bachelors, 352 bachelors, 66 master and 2 PhD), 9 first level of specialist curricula and 2 second level of specialist curricula.

Enrolment projection at four universities

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of new enrolments	9,000	10,000	11,000	12,000	12,500
Total students (four universities only)	36,000	38,000	39,000	42,000	45,000

Policy Framework

The Lao Government is Committed to Gender equality and Gender Mainstreaming

These are clear indications that the Lao Government is committed to gender equality. In May 2000, the Prime Minister's Office issued a Directive on the integration of sex disaggregated statistics in policy and planning gender-sensitive development programs/projects. In 2002, the Government established the Lao NCAW. The Government's commitment to gender equality is also expressed in a number of policy documents, including those on Population, Health and Human Resources

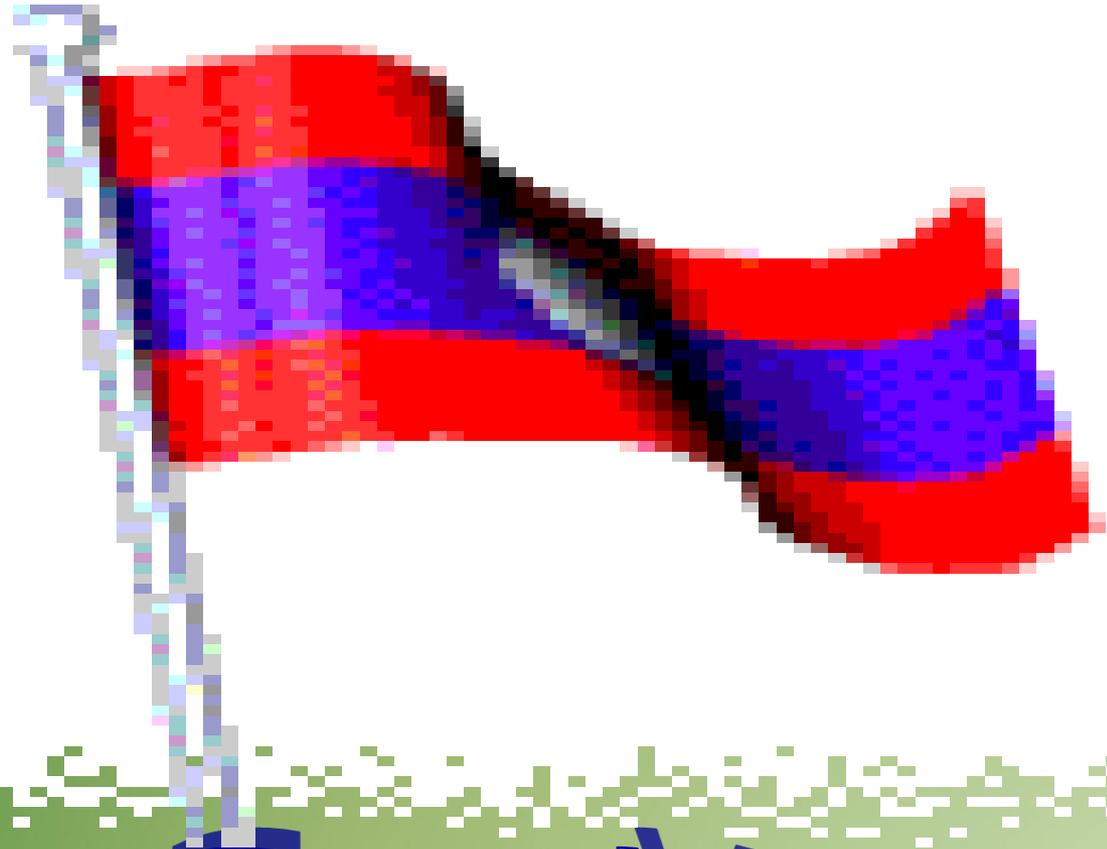
the Government requires all ministries to develop strategies and action plans to promote gender equality at the national, provincial, district and village levels. Under the direction of Lao NCAW, ministries have started to mainstream gender into their activities.

The Government's National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES, 2004), the Government's Sixth Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP-6, 2006-2010), Education Strategic Vision 2000-2020 (MOE, 2001), Education Sector Development Plan (ESDP 2006-2010), and EFA NPA (2003-2015) provide guidelines for ensuring equity and gender equality including access to education and skills development, especially for ethnic girls in poor and disadvantaged areas. The EFA NPA and the ESDP both stress critical targets regarding gender mainstreaming: (i) gender equality in education up to the Higher level; and (ii) curriculum and teacher training oriented towards eliminating biases against girls.

Challenging

A number of challenges continue to pose constraints to the formulation of gender specific national policies.

1. These include the lack of human and financial resources; poor coordination; the lack of accurate data, especially sex-disaggregated statistics and relevant gender information for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation purposes;
2. lack of greater coordination in gender mainstreaming among government organizations, international development agencies and NGOs; and the lack of facilities and budget to support gender mainstreaming.



Thank You

