

## **Women parliamentarians Caucus of the Lao National Assembly**

The Lao women Parliamentarians Caucus (LWPC) established since the 5<sup>th</sup> legislature of the Lao National Assembly (2002-2006), it was then designed a gender mainstreaming strategy followed by its implementation, and was improved in the 6<sup>th</sup> legislature (2006-2010), thus to produce gradually an outcome of a gender sensitive parliament where both men and women participate effectively in all functions of the Lao National Assembly such as an representation, oversight and an equitably legislative reviews roles, while stressing to the oversight role for the socio-economic implementation plan ,monitoring the supreme court, CEDAW implementation, and the enforcement of Laws related to the protection of the rights and interests in favor of women and children benefits.

So far, the 7<sup>th</sup> legislature of the Lao National Assembly implementation (2011-2015). Among 132 members of parliamentarians, 33 are women (25%). Lao Women Parliamentarians Caucus (LWPC) became officially an organization stipulated graciously in the Lao national Assembly Law which was endorsed on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

LWPC is one body of the NA's organization under the direct guidance of the president of standing committee of Lao National Assembly, in implementing gender mainstreaming strategy plan during the processes of laws development and improvement , laws ,policies implementation, gender equality and the promotion of the advancement of women , and mother and child health's promotion.

Lao Women Parliamentarians Caucus consisted of one chairperson, two vice chairs person and one WPC Department which served as secretariat of LWPC, under the direct guidance of the first ever woman National Assembly President in the history of the Lao PDR.

Lao Women Parliamentarians Caucus developed a 5 years plan strategy and yearly plan(2011-2015) ,adopted by the Lao National Assembly Standing Committee as legislative tools. its network available through women parliamentarians of respective constituency ( a total 18 constituencies).

In addition, LWPC has produced a manual of gender mainstreaming for Lao National Assembly and translated into Lao language of Gender sensitive parliaments as a global review of good practices for dissemination to all constituencies of Lao National Assembly Nationwide.

At National level ,there are a national coordination mechanism to look after the proper rights and benefits of the women and children namely Lao Women Union, and the National Commission for the Advancement of the Lao Women and the Women Parliamentarians Caucus of the Lao National Assembly

The Lao National Assembly will continue to strengthen the above mentioned coordination mechanism to working together in line with its procedure where appropriate, and will try of its efforts to increase women representation in the politics ,as well as in all areas of Public and Professional life. In particular, will considered all concluding recommendations of UN CEDAW Committee towards the combined 6<sup>th</sup> , and 7<sup>th</sup> periodic report of Lao PDR.

The Lao National Assembly revised criminal law by stipulating that, discrimination against women is constructed with the criminal act, and is in violation with the criminal laws, or criminal provision of the law on the development and the protection of women interests.

During the executing of the 7<sup>th</sup> legislature of the Lao National Assembly (2011-2015) in line with the commitments of the roles, functions implementation stated above, it will review 42 laws, will discuss and adopt 48 new laws including the law on the prevention and using of all kinds of discrimination ,and violence against women.

It is also understood that the full and effective implementation of CEDAW is indispensable for achieving the millennium development goals in general, in particular, the 3<sup>rd</sup> MDG-gender equality and empowerment of women, and to make violence against women highly reduced in the context of Lao PDR by the year 2015.

## **5<sup>th</sup> year plan of the Women Parliamentarians Caucus (WPC), Lao National Assembly work plan, 7<sup>th</sup> Legislature (2011-2015)**

Enhancing of Women Parliamentarians Caucus's capacity to ensure their efficiency in performing 4 main roles: *oversight, legislation, representation and decision on fundamental issue of the country*. Therefore, WPC has designed 7 work plans,30 activities, 3 projects as below:

**1. Improving on gender mainstreaming strategy work plan, during the implementation of Lao National Assembly 7<sup>th</sup> legislature, include 3 activities:**

- Gender Mainstreaming analysis
- Gender Mainstreaming planning
- Gender Mainstreaming development

**2. Organizing a short training course work plan, include 7 activities:**

- Techniques and skills of speaking
- Techniques and methods in laws making process / laws amendment
- Leadership and Negotiation skills development
- Techniques of oversight and representation
- Techniques in handling petitions and resolutions
- Projects monitoring and evaluation
- English proficiency improvement

**3. Information breakthrough work plan for WPC empowerment, include 6 activities:**

- Disseminating the Survey result on Domestic Violence in the context of Lao PDR including advocacy and prevention
- Disseminating the implementation on CEDAW
- Disseminating the Survey results on Women Trafficking including advocacy for prevention
- Advocacy on any issue related to HIV/AIDS problem
- Promoting and disseminating Gender sensitive parliaments IPU
- Translating guidelines of women's Caucus of IPU in Lao language

**4. Developing of work plan on the strengthening of cooperation mechanism among WPC, Lao Women Union and Lao National Commission for the Advancement of women, include 4 activities:**

- Organizing General annual meeting of Women parliamentarians caucus
- Consultative meeting on CEDAW implementation
- Consultative meeting to solve problem of women and children
- Organizing annual marathon for a rally violence against women's day on 25 November in conjunction with Lao women union and Lao NCAW

**5. International Cooperation work plan, include 3 activities**

- Enhancing cooperation among ASEAN member countries and other countries both bilateral and multilateral
- Improving collaboration with women parliamentarians at regional and global level by attending different concerned meeting
- Promoting information exchange of best practices, views and experiences at regional and international levels

**6. Involving in Law Making Processes and amendments of some laws, include 4 laws**

- Gender base violence Law (new)
- Law on development and Protection of Lao Women (amendment)
- Lao women Union law (new)
- Law on child court (new)

**7. Overseeing the implementation of the Constitution, Laws, policies, women and girls trafficking in some constituencies, include 3 activities:**

- Supporting the implementation of policies, laws and the constitution to promote gender mainstreaming and gender equality at National Assembly
- Encouraging and promoting a gender balance participation in the implementation of CEDAW and the MDGs
- Strongly keeping eye on any using of all forms of violence against women and children, women trafficking, and exploitation of child labor in different constituencies

**3 Projects:**

- **Gender mainstreaming development at the Lao National Assembly (manual)**
- **Women Parliamentarians Caucus bulletin development**
- **Oversight of CEDAW implementation at different constituency National wide**