

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**BETWEEN**  
**THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC**  
**REPUBLIC**  
**REPRESENTED BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**AND**  
**THE JAPAN CONSORTIUM FOR LAO HEALTH RESEARCH (JC)**

The Ministry of Health of Lao People's Democratic Republic represented by the National Institute of Public Health (NIOPH) and the Japan Consortium for Lao Health Research (JC) hereinafter referred to as "the Parties".

In order to develop friendly relations and strengthen cooperation in the field of research on Public Health between the two parties on the basis of mutual benefit in accordance to the laws, national policies, rules, and regulations of each country.

The Parties have agreed upon the following:

## **ARTICLE 1: Objectives**

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) aims to strengthen research capability of researchers of two countries in public health and health system needs of Lao PDR, in recognition of the mutual benefits accruing to their academic communities from the establishment of strong international links. And the purpose of the Memorandum is to establish an effective partnership to implement health research in Lao PDR.

## **ARTICLE 2: Forms of Cooperation**

The Parties shall conduct cooperation in the following forms:

1. Promote and foster joint projects to strengthen research capability of Lao and Japanese researchers in public health and health system needs of Lao PDR;
2. Collaborate in the field of teaching/training related to the joint research projects;
3. Enable and facilitate mutual projects through the respective networks;
4. Exchange of documentation and information related to the research activities.

## **ARTICLE 3: Areas of Cooperation**

- Strengthen the implementation of the existing joint research project on public health, provide technical support to plan and implement the research, Exchange lectures across countries and stakeholders, and assist to hold NHRF (National Health Research Forum)
- Jointly develop strategies for future innovative research, novel teaching/training approaches and public health action for Laos and on region-specific priorities in public and global health and health system planning. Development, implementation and improvement of health research policy, strategy and ethical regulations in Lao PDR
- Broaden joint research projects to following lines:
  - Policy research:  
Case studies for the formulation and implementation process of health policies in Lao PDR

- Operational and Action research:  
Evaluation for the approaches and cases in health practice for the development of appropriate strategies
  - Biosocial Epidemiological research  
The results of these researches can be feedback to formulate health policies
- Furthermore, new and/or rarely applied concepts in public health such as health system research and health impact assessment of large scale interventions are seen as a further avenue for further common project development;

#### **ARTICLE 4: Implementation**

The two Parties shall design the detailed plans and programs for each of the developed projects in order to implement this Memorandum of Understanding, each party shall be responsible for coordinating and implementing such programs in its own country.

#### **ARTICLE 5: Financial arrangement**

1. All the costs of the program, including also possible equipment, will be covered by the respective projects.
2. The nature, potential and place of the link agreement should be considered in any planning stage of a new major project by any of the institutions involved.
3. Any new activity will require careful budgeting well in advance and a mutually agreed strategy on how fund could be generated and are disbursed.

#### **ARTICLE 6: Enter into force, Duration and Termination**

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of signatures by each party, its shall be concluded for a period of three years and shall be automatically extended for a successive three years periods unless one of the parties notify the other of its attention to terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by a notice in writing at last three months prior to its expiry date.

The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding shall not affect the implementation of ongoing activities and/or programs which have been agreed upon by the parties and started prior to the date of the termination.

Signed in duplicate on 15/02/2017 at Vientiane, Lao PDR, in Lao and English language, all texts being equally authentic. Any differences or disputes concerning the interpretation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be settled through consultations and negotiations between the Parties. In case of divergence of interpretation between any of the texts, the English text shall prevail.

For the Ministry of Health of the  
Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Represented by the NIOPH

For the Japan Consortium for Lao health research



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