Report on Meeting of Lao project country partner with policy makers

I. Introduction

Today the ICT has became a part of our live especially the way of access to information in local language. Also today in Lao PDR the number of using computer and internet access has been increasing more and more, but this penetration of access to information has been develop only in the main cities and only who can read, write and speak foreign languages but not local people who live in urban and remote access area of the country.

Therefore, STEA who is a partner of PAN L10N project has organized this meeting among technical people with Policy makers which came from various related organizations to solve the problem mentioned above.

II. Objective

- To introduce the objective and the activities of PAN L10N project Phase I and Phase II to Policy makers
- To show up the current situation of ICT problems which Lao PDR is facing right now especially the localization issue.
- To show the result of research of project Phase I
- To make the Policy makers understand that how to solve the problem through the PAN L10N project
- To explain the more detail of project activities and get support from the Policy makers

III. Date and Location of Meeting

Due to during August – December 2007, STEA had been in period of reform the new organization and now the STEA has been changed to new name which called "National for Science and Technology Authority" (NSTA). According to this reform the agency, some Policy makers has leaved for other ministry and some one were moved from other ministry. Therefore, Lao PAN L10N project team could not make the meeting on time.

To archive the task of project, the project team has decided to organize the meeting was organized on 10th January 2008 in the meting room of STEA office for duration of 1 day.

IV. Time and Schedule

One day of meeting wad decided to cover as following:

8:30 am	Participant Registration
9:00 am	Opening Speech by Dr. Maydom Chanthanasinh, Vice president of STEA
9:15 am	Introduce Objective and Activities of project for Phase I and Phase II by Mr. Phonpasit Phissamay, Project leader
10:00 am	Coffee Break
10:20 am	Demonstration of LaoPad with Lao syllabification breaking, Lao shorting, Lao font convert, dictionary and OCR by Mr. Sisouvanh VANTHANAVONG and Ms. Chitthaphone CHANHSILILATH, programmers.
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	Introduce the idea of Corpus, Domain name in local language, localize Open Office and Text to speech by Mr. Valaxay DALALOY, project coordinator
2:40 pm	Coffee Break
3:00 pm	Discussion and comment
4:00 pm	Closing meeting

V. Paricipant

Policy makers:

1. Pro. Dr. Bountiem PHISSAMAY, President of STEA
2. Dr. Maydom Chanthanasinh, Vice president of STEA
3. Mr. Shita PHOUYAVONG, General Director of STEA
4. Mr. Keonakone Saysouliane, Deputy Director of Science and Technology Department, STEA
5. Mr. Somseng , Deputy Director of National Language Institute
6. Mr. Chanthapilit Chiamsisoulath, General Director of Culture Research Institute, Ministry of Information and Culture.

Project Team
1. Mr. Phonpasit Pitssamay, Project Leader
2. Mr. Valaxay DALALOY, Project Coordinator
3. Mr. Sisouvanh Vanthanavong, Programmer
4. Ms. Chittaphone CHANSYLILATH, Programmer
5. Mr. Thonglor Duangsavat, Linguistic

VI. Conclusion

After the demonstration and discussion, the president of STEA had added that this project is very important not only to STEA but also to nationwide especially for E-Government project because we will apply the result of PAN L10N for E-Application and will propose to government for approval as national standard on localization. In addition, the meeting agree and strong support to continue this project and get full benefit of this PAN Lao L10N project.