



COPE Newsletter JUNE 2015

Latest news

Visit to Cambodia

In June, COPE's CEO and P&O adviser visited the Orthopaedic Component Factory (OCF) in Cambodia to see how components are produced and understand the qualities of the productions.

They also met with the OCF Director (who is also the president of the Khmer Association of Prosthetics and Orthotics) and the Director of Person with Disability Foundation (PWDF), to identify potential opportunities for future cooperation.



COPE's CEO gives a Lao gift to the Director of OCF

COPE is...

The Cooperative Orthotic and Prosthetic Enterprise. We are a local not for profit organisation that provides support to the Government of Laos' physical rehabilitation services throughout the country, focusing on prosthetics and orthotics (P&O) COPE also supports patients who come to the rehabilitation centers. COPE advocates for survivors of bomb accidents and people with disabilities in Laos.

FAST FACTS

37%

Of COPE-supported patients who were fitted with prosthetic devices are bomb survivors.

4288

Visitors to the Visitor Center during the second quarter of 2015!

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COPE Services

COPE connect

The COPE connect team have initiated the additional activity of clinical assessment, prescription and distribution of the mobility devices in the field. This includes devices like walking aids (crutches and walkers). The purpose of this approach is to enhance the service users' mobility in the community in order to access to the physical rehab centres to complete their rehabilitation process and to be fixed with more permanent and functional devices like prosthesis or orthosis. Some people with mobility dysfunctions who could not be managed through the prosthetic or orthotic device but benefitted by the walking aids are also served better by this approach.



COPE & CMR Annual Meeting

The results of the second large-scale survey among COPE's beneficiaries were presented and discussed in Vientiane 12-13 May. 60 representatives from COPE, the Center for Medical Rehabilitation (CMR) and the Provincial Rehabilitation Centers met for a two day annual workshop to discuss issues of common concern. This year's beneficiary survey was conducted in Vientiane, LuangPrabang and Champassak, and included interviews with 254 people with disabilities who have received COPE-supported prosthetic or orthotic devices during the last 12 months. The survey is conducted annually with USAID support and gives important indications of patients' current needs and what could be done to improve their experience with the services.



Other topics that were discussed at the workshop included COPE's new strategic plan and the development of Lao national standards in the physical rehabilitation sector.

Received a components donation from Spain

In April, we welcomed Dr Beatriz Pereiro and her team, who donated P&O components to COPE from Spain.



Although COPE does not normally receive these kinds of donations in order to ensure that the material used is the most appropriate for the Lao needs - these are useful as they will be used as examples of technology that is not currently applied for learning purposes and possible future use. Thank you for your generosity!

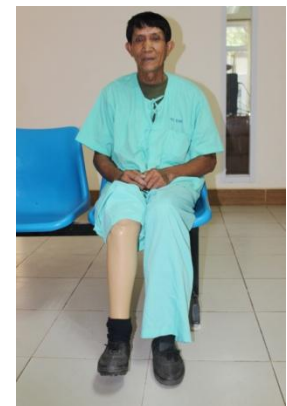


Patient story

Por Tao Bounleng or Mr. Bounleng is a 65 year old farmer. He is married with five children and lives in Narkham village in

Nongbok district, Khammoun province. He was fitted with his tenth prosthesis at the Center for Medical Rehabilitation in June after his previous one was worn out. The cost of his devices as well as his transport and food while receiving treatment was covered by COPE.

In 1973, Bounleng was shot while he was working as a soldier in the southern of Laos. The accident damaged one of his legs so he needed to have his leg amputated. He told us before he received the prosthesis, he had to depend on his family all the time to help him when he needed to move around. However, since he received the artificial leg his life is much better. "I am able to move around in more comfort and can take care of myself, so I don't need my wife and children to look after me all the time. This prosthetic leg is changing my life a lot. Now I feel happy again and can return to normal life and participate in everyday. Presently, I enjoy spending most of my time working in the rice fields, fishing and feeding live stock to get extra income in my family," said Bounleng.



On behalf of the rehabilitation team and Bounleng, we would like to thank you for your kind support. It is vital for our project to help more people with disabilities to move on.

What's going on at the Visitor Center?

COPE VC guest visit

The COPE Visitor Centre has continued to promote the work of COPE and increase awareness about the impact of cluster munitions in Lao PDR and the disability awareness.



COPE Visitor Centre is keeping to receive the international and local visitors. The total number of visitors for April - June is 4288 visitors, it is relatively low due to low tourist season in Lao PRR, but if compare to the past years of this time is still higher than other.

Lend your legs day

COPE joined the global campaign to stop landmines and cluster bombs. 4th April was the International Day for Mine Awareness. We were "lending our legs" by rolling up a pant leg to show support and compassion for survivors.



No More Landmines
No More Victims
Together for a Mine Free World.

COPE STAFF

Office Coordinator

Souk has joined us in the position of Officer Coordinator. She is working to support numerous projects across our organization and has a comprehensive background from various organizations.



"COPE is a good organization to work. It's helps disabled people in their real situations, and staff at COPE, they are all very friendly. I feel very happy to be part of the COPE team," said Souk.

Finance Assistant



Vilayvone is our new Finance Assistant. She has extensive

working experience with a number of organizations and government departments. She took over the role of Sisomphone who left in December.

Many thanks to our supporters...



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And special thanks to all the individuals, visitors and local businesses who generously support us throughout the year!

Connect with us



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