



ລາວຮັກບີ
LAO RUGBY

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

President's Note



Dear Friends of Lao Rugby, 2017 was a star-studded year filled with new international records, extraordinary growth and progress across all levels of rugby in Laos. We were delighted to be able to showcase our growth this year, hosting 11 global rugby superstars and 17 international teams across the year. Alongside holding 14 club competitions and 71 youth competitions in Laos, 2017 was also an exciting year for international travel for our players and coaches. We visited 8 countries for a variety of learning exchanges and competitions this year, including a busy travel calendar for our junior and senior representative teams. In taking to the field in new and returning competitions around the region, we are delighted to continue to develop young talent and build strong role models across the LRF's elite programme.

We are also proud to have extended our rugby footprint further across Laos this year, with our Champa Ban Youth Rugby program expanding into 7 districts. 139 active Champa Ban Coaches continued to provide opportunities for children and youth to learn and grow with us, with 41 teachers

among their ranks. Our strong coaching pathways have also enabled further positive progress in the World Rugby Training and Education domain, with new opportunities provided to solidify our platform for the growth of rugby in Laos. With assistance from Hong Kong Rugby Union and Thai Rugby Union, we were able to accredit 2 new Coach Educators, 21 World Rugby Level 1 Coaches, and 8 World Rugby Level 1 Referees this year.

At the elite level, the Lao National Men's and Women's teams recorded 9 international victories and scored 37 international tries between them in a successful year on the pitch. The Lao Women's National Team recorded a record finish in Brunei in the 2017 Asia Rugby 7s Trophy, coming in as Plate Runners Up after winning four matches out of six (including producing some major tournament upsets). Their U18 counterparts - the Lao U18 Women's National 7s Team - also produced some stunning displays to come away with the Bowl Trophy at the Asia Rugby U18 7s.

These performances followed strong showings from our

domestic clubs, with a notable mention for the Vientiane Lions who succeeded in recording a double as they came away with the Cup Trophy at the Vientiane International Rugby 10s and the Bangkok International 10s. The future for rugby looks bright with a growing number of teams at the U17 level transitioning to contact and gaining valuable experience against international club teams.

As the LRF continues to develop, we would like to thank our ever expanding family of stakeholders, partners, and sponsors for your unwavering support. Your dedication to our vision has made the success of 2017 possible. Join us in reflecting on what has been another successful year for the Lao Rugby Federation and in looking forward to future achievements as we continue to strive to provide access to rugby opportunities to all in the Lao PDR.

Sincerely Yours,

Mr. Virayouth Rathikoun
LRF President



LRF'S
ANNUAL
REPORT
2017

ACTIVITIES

LRF activities are focused on developing rugby through school and community development initiatives, supporting domestic and elite teams, and establishing a foundation that provides transparent and accountable financial and administrative support to every team, new and old, in the country of Laos.

MISSION

The mission of the LRF is to provide opportunities for men and women, boys and girls, social and elite players, and those in urban and rural areas to participate in the sport of Rugby, whilst ensuring that health and personal development are realised to their fullest extent.

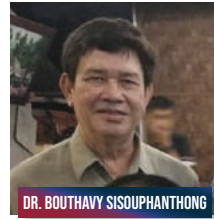
ENGAGEMENT

This mission will be achieved by ensuring that the LRF has the necessary capacity to deliver high quality playing and participation opportunities to residents across Laos, which we are hopeful will increase the National Olympic Committee and Ministry of Education and Sport support, while also; engaging with communities, businesses, schools, institutions and other partners to provide sustainable access to playing and non-playing participants.

VISION

The LRF is the governing body for all Rugby activities within the Lao PDR. It works to realise the vision of a Lao PDR in which all people have the opportunity to participate in the sport of Rugby.

EXECUTIVE BOARD



MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION

NATIONAL SPORT FEDERATION

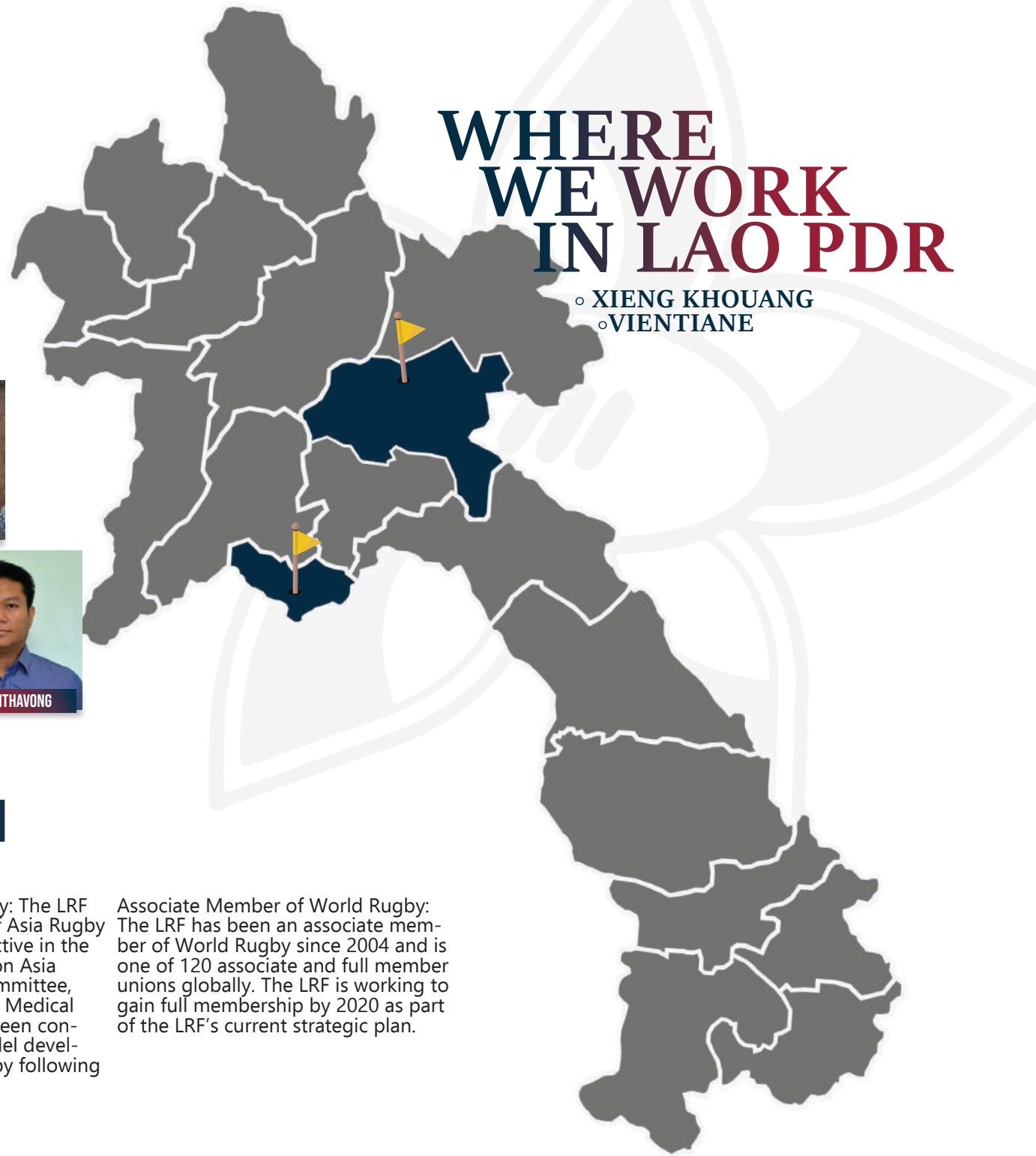
The LRF sits under the Elite Sports Department of the Lao Ministry of Education and Sport where more than 41 sports are registered as National Sport Federations. The LRF's Executive Board is approved by the Ministry and all rugby activities are governed according to the LRF's constitution.

Full Member of Asia Rugby: The LRF has been a full member of Asia Rugby since 2004 and remains active in the regional body with seats on Asia Rugby's Development Committee, Women's Committee, and Medical Committee. The LRF has been consistently praised as a 'model developing union' by Asia Rugby following union reviews annually.

Associate Member of World Rugby: The LRF has been an associate member of World Rugby since 2004 and is one of 120 associate and full member unions globally. The LRF is working to gain full membership by 2020 as part of the LRF's current strategic plan.

WHERE WE WORK IN LAO PDR

- XIENG KHOUANG
- VIENTIANE



ELITE RUGBY



Lao Men's and Women's 7s Teams
Lao Men's National 15s Team
U17 Lao Men's and Women's National 7s Teams
Lao Men's and Women's Nagas Representative Teams

CLUB RUGBY



Men's and Women's 7s Colours League
Men's 15s Colours League

CHAMPA BAN YOUTH RUGBY

2,098 players actively involved in Champa Ban powered by ChildFund Pass It Back

youth rugby programming (942 male, 1,156 female)



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

96 Champa Ban powered by ChildFund Pass It Back Coaches (44 male, 52 female)

52 individuals gained new World Rugby accreditations (including Coaching; Officiating; and Strength & Conditioning)

19 Administrative Staff (8 Male, 11 Female)



The LRF's work is divided into four areas as shown here. The base of the LRF's work is in developing the sport through school and community development initiatives in our Champa Ban Youth Rugby program. Champa Ban means 'blossoming flower' in Lao language and Champa Ban Youth Rugby ac-

tivities aim to offer quality sport programming for children and youth that help young people to develop their rugby skills while also learning about rugby's values including passion, solidarity, discipline, integrity and respect.

Many young people graduate from Champa Ban Youth Rugby to join club rugby teams and from there some are also selected for the Lao National teams and other representative teams under the LRF's elite rugby programming. Our Leadership Development work aims to improve and de-

veloping a sound structure to provide transparent financial and administrative support to the sport. This area of work supports staff members and Coaches to learn how to lead rugby activities in a safe and accountable way.



PLAY TOGETHER

• Launch of regional sport for development program called Pass It Back in partnership with ChildFund Australia, Women Win, and Asia Rugby brings in 715 registered youth players and 20 coaches across 40 teams from Xieng Khouang and Vientiane.

• 60 individuals completed a "First Aid for Rugby" training

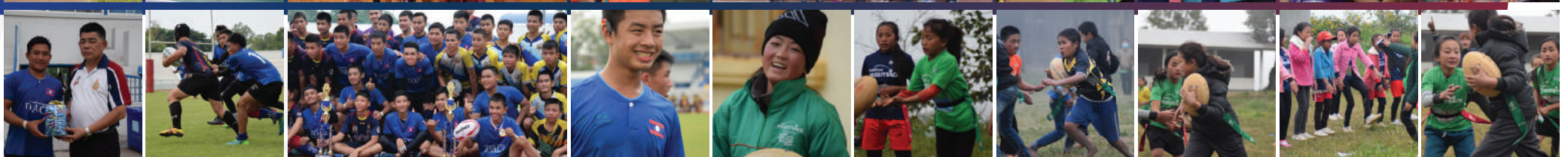
course in partnership with Asia Rugby Medical Committee and Lao Red Cross.

• Over 20 youth teams in Nonghet participated in a tournament in honor of International Women's Day.

• 40 youth leaders from Xieng Khouang attended their first English for Sport Camp.

• Successfully organized two tag tournaments in conjunction with the Rugby World Cup for Vienti-





17 Senior Men's and Women's Club Teams from Asia, Australia, and the United States traveled to Vientiane for the 2017 Vientiane International Rugby Championship.

The Vientiane Buffaloes hosted the 2017 Indochina Cup in Vientiane, Laos, featuring teams from Vietnam and Thailand.

CLUB RUGBY



The Vientiane Buffaloes won their first ever Men's Colours League Championship, while the Vientiane Lions won the Women's Colours League Championship.

The Vientiane Lions traveled to Bangkok for the 2017 Bangkok Sevens, competing in the Women's Social Division and ultimately earning the Cup Championship.





Elite Rugby

lao representative teams

The DAC Lao U18 Nagas Men's teams participated in the Bangkok International Rugby 7s from 10-11 November and recorded a 3rd place finish.

The DAC Lao Nagas Women's team finished as Runners Up in the Singapore Life Girls Rugby TRC Cup.

The DAC Lao Nagas teams took the pitch in the Lai Si Construction Kowloon RugbyFest (with the Women's team winning the Plate) before playing an exhibition match at the GFI Hong Kong Football Club 10s.

At the elite level, the Lao National Men's and Women's teams recorded 9 international victories and scored 37 international tries between them in a successful year on the pitch.

The Lao Women's National Team recorded a record finish in Brunei in the 2017 Asia Rugby 7s Trophy, coming in as Plate Runners Up after winning four matches out of six (including producing some major tournament upsets).

The DAC Lao U18 Women's National 7s Team - under the guidance of World Rugby Level 2 Coaches, Boudsadee 'Vaen' Vongdala and Lao Khang - won the Bowl Trophy at the Asia Rugby U18 7s held in India. The team recorded wins against Bangladesh, Nepal and Chinese Taipei.

The DAC Lao Men's National Team participated in the Asia 7s Trophy in Singapore. With the team in a transition phase, it was a tough campaign, yet finished with a strong victory against Nepal.

The DAC U18 Lao Men's National Team participated in the Asia Rugby U18s 7s in Malaysia from the 8-9 December.





Capacity Development

In 2017, 139 Champa Ban powered by ChildFund Pass It Back coaches earned new certification levels at the 2017 Pass It Back Coach Training.

XXX individuals earned new World Rugby Certifications in a variety of areas including Coaching, Officiating, and Strength & Conditioning, with Viengsamai

Souksavanh and Lao Kang becoming Laos' first internationally qualified female Coach Educators.

A rugby and english language camp was held to support our young leaders to access resources and interact with, and learn from, visiting coaches.



Challenges

ELITE RUGBY

Lack of consistent coaching support;
Men's National Team currently in transition;
Limited structured rehabilitation processes in place for injuries.

CLUB RUGBY

Limited pitch access and availability;
Lack of regular competitive fixtures;
Limited structured coaching support;
Player numbers and cost limits
15-a-side competitions;
High cost of overseas travel limits international club competition.

ADMINISTRATION

Expansion into new districts resulting in overstretched staff members;
Limited funding available;
Clashing events and competition dates result in strained staff.

CHAMPA BAN YOUTH RUGBY

Limited availability of suitable pitches for contact rugby;
Competing budget priorities restrict opportunities for development;
Safety concerns from community leaders around contact rugby.



FINANCIAL

EXPENDITURE	2017
Champa Ban School & Community	-
Domestic Rugby	41,226 USD
Elite Rugby	147,752 USD
Operations and Staffing	37,848 USD
Miscellaneous	-
TOTAL	226,826 USD

INCOME	2017
Restricted Sponsorship & Donations	170,469 USD
Unrestricted Sponsorship & Donations	7,742 USD
Merchandise	2,700 USD
Attendance Grants	349,351 USD
Vientiane International Rugby Championship	9,388 USD
Club Payments	501 USD
Sport for Development Grants	-
Asia Rugby Grants	-
Other Income	10,191 USD
Total	550,342 USD

2017 REPORT

THE LRF IS PROUD TO BE AUDITED EACH YEAR BY AN EXTERNAL AUDIT FIRM IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS. THE 2017 AUDIT WAS COMPLETED BY KPMG AND THE COMPLETE AUDIT REPORT IS AVAILABLE ON THE LRF'S WEBSITE AT WWW.LAORUGBY.COM.

V. SOUKSAVANH



M. VONGPHACHAN



S. LAO



K. SILIPHONGPHANH



B. VONGDALA



A. KHANG



S. SAVATDIPHON



V. KHANG



T. Keomanisay



M. PHAXAYSITTHIDETH



L. KHANG



B. KETHONGSA



2017 IN REVIEW

LET'S LOOK BACK OUR
MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

JANUARY

2017 Pass It Back Cup in Vietnam:

The 2017 Pass It Back Cup was held in Kim Boi District, Vietnam. The LRF's Champa Ban powered by ChildFund Pass It Back coaches attended workshops and training, led by Australian rugby stars Nicole Beck and Lewis Holland, and assisted by LRF staff. Besides an opportunity to meet the Australians, the 2017 Pass It Back Cup gave our coaches an opportunity to meet

with their Vietnamese counterparts during the halfway point of the 2016/2017 Champa Ban Powered by ChildFund Pass It Back season.



FEBRUARY:

2017 Vientiane International Rugby Championship:

The 10th Annual Vientiane International Rugby Championship was held as part of the Lao Rugby Festival. Held in central Vientiane at Chao Anou Vong Stadium from 17-19 February, the 2017 VIRC featured a total of 19 senior teams across Men's 10s and Women's 7s divisions.



Asia Rugby 7s Trophy:

As part of the Lao Rugby Festival, the LRF hosted the Asia Rugby 7s Trophy, featuring women's national 7s teams from Laos, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Pakistan, and South Korea. Over the course of the weekend, the DAC Lao Women's National Team earned victories over Nepal and Pakistan.





MARCH



International Women's Day at French Embassy:

The French Embassy hosted an event in honor of International Women's Day, and had a showing of LRF Communications Manager Anoulek Douangdala's short documentary film: "When 14 Minutes is a Lifetime." Her documentary, filmed and produced in Laos, follows the Lao Women's National Team's journey to the 2014 Asian Games.



APRIL

2017 KOWLOON RUGBYFEST:

The DAC Lao Nagas traveled to Hong Kong for the 2017 Kowloon RugbyFest featuring Laos' best men's and women's teams. The DAC Lao Women's Nagas finished as the Cup Runners Up, and the men's teams came out with a tough loss in the pool finals.

SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES 7'S TOURNAMENT:

The DAC Lao Women's and Men's National Teams competed at the 2nd Annual Southeast Asian 7s (SEA 7s) in Singapore on Friday, 14 April 2017, and finished in 5th and 7th place overall after a full day of matches in grueling weather and field conditions. The DAC Lao Men's National Team earned a victory over Brunei for 7th place, and the DAC Lao Women's National Team defeated Indonesia for 5th place.



MAY

Vientiane and Xieng Khoang Champa Ban
Powered by ChildFund Pass It Back end of season competition:

For the conclusion of the Spring 2017 Champa Ban powered by ChildFund Pass It Back season, the LRF hosted End of Season competitions for teams across Vientiane and Xieng Khoang Provinces.



JUNE

#OlympicDay Celebration in Xieng Khouang:

In honor of the increase of youth rugby players in Xieng Khouang Province, the LRF joined the Lao National Olympic Committee in Phonesavanh for an Olympic Day celebration featuring tag rugby matches.



Pass It Back Coach's Training:

In July, the LRF hosted our 3rd Annual Pass It Back Coach's Training, where over 60 coaches from Vientiane and Xieng Khouang Province worked to earn new ChildFund Pass It Back coach certification levels in anticipation of the 2017/2017 Champa Ban powered by ChildFund Pass It Back season!

Tribe7s Camp:

Over the weekend of 8-10 July, Australian rugby stars Sam Caslick and Rebecca Tavo joined the DAC Lao Women's National Team for an intensive training camp in preparation for the 2017 Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur. The camp provided players from Vientiane and Xieng Khouang an opportunity to practice together and access to coaches with experience at the highest levels of the game.

JULY





AUGUST

Southeast Asian Games:

The DAC Lao Women's National Team travelled to Kuala Lumpur to participate in the 2017 Southeast Asian Games, playing in matches against Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, and the Philippines. Though the DAC Lao Women's National team did not earn a victory, the competition was an incredible learning experience for a host of new players, many of whom were introduced to rugby through Champa Ban powered by ChildFund Pass It Back.

Pass It Back Cup:

One Champa Ban powered by ChildFund Pass It Back coach, and five players from Xieng Khouang Province traveled to Belfast, Northern Ireland from 17-23 August during the Women's Rugby World Cup 2017. The Lao delegation joined coaches and players from the Philippines and Vietnam to form the Southeast Asian Dragons, attended World Cup matches, cultural events, and finally played in a tag rugby competition with local Irish players for the Pass It Back Cup.



SEPTEMBER

Coke Tag League:

Over the first three weekends of September, the LRF hosted the 2nd Annual Coca-Cola Tag Rugby League! 14 teams and 140 players across Senior Men's and Women's divisions competed for first place in Laos' only senior tag rugby competition. The Coca-Cola Tag Rugby League provided rugby veterans and novices alike an opportunity to improve their tag rugby skills.



2017 Colours League:

The Fall 2017 Colours League provided an opportunity for Men's and Women's Senior teams, including the Vientiane Lions, Vientiane Buffaloes, Vientiane Wild Hogs, Vientiane Buffaloes, and Vientiane Tigers to participate in Men's 15s and Women's 7s matches. The Vientiane Buffaloes earned their first Men's Colours League Championship, while the Vientiane Lions raised the Women's Colours League Championship trophy.



U17 Boys to Chinese Taipei:

The DAC U17 Lao Men's National Team's trip to the Asia Rugby U17 Sevens in Chinese Taipei represented the first time that Laos had fielded a U17s National Team at an international competition. The DAC U17 Lao Men's National Team played matches against powerhouses such as Hong Kong, Japan, and Thailand, and earned Laos' first ever U17 National Team victory with a 12-10 victory over Uzbekistan.





OCTOBER



World Rugby Certification courses:

With support from DAC, Asia Rugby, Thai Rugby Union, and Hong Kong Rugby Union the LRF hosted a series of World Rugby accreditation courses. In 2017 over 50 individuals received new World Rugby certifications in a variety of areas, and Mr. Pisa Vongdeuanpheng became Laos' first World Rugby Educator, allowing him to lead World Rugby Level 1 certification courses.

Pass It Back Carnival (XK):

To celebrate the recently completed Women's Rugby World Cup in Ireland, the LRF hosted a Pass It Back Carnival in Xieng Khouang Province for Champa Ban powered by ChildFund Pass It Back players.



NOVEMBER



Champa Ban Championship:

On 4 November, the LRF hosted the 2017 Champa Ban Championship featuring tag and full-contact rugby matches between ChildFund Pass It Back participants from Vientiane, Xieng Khouang, and Vietnam.

Mekong Cup:

On 4 November, 2017, the DAC Lao Men's National Team faced off against the Thai Men's National Team at Chao Anou Vong Stadium in central Vientiane. Though the Lao side fell 49-3, the team featured a number of young players who had been introduced to rugby through Champa Ban powered by ChildFund Pass It Back and played in front of hundreds of local youth players, creating a great environment for the continued growth of rugby in Laos.

Bangkok 7s:

The weekend of 11-12 November, the DAC Lao Men's Nagas and Vientiane Lions both traveled to the Bangkok 7s Rugby Tournament in Bangkok Thailand. The DAC Lao Men's Nagas featured a squad of both veteran and novice players and fought hard in the Men's Elite Division against teams from Kazakhstan, Thailand, and New Zealand. The Vientiane Lions played in the Women's Social Division, ultimately earning the Cup Championship.

U17 Girls to Dubai: On 29 and 30 November, Laos' U17 Women's National Team competed at the 2017 Asia Rugby U17 7s, ultimately earning a record of three wins and two losses at the team's first ever international competition. Despite a difficult first day with losses against Japan and India, the DAC U17 Lao Women's National Team defeated the Philippines, Malaysia, and the UAE en route to a 3-2 record at the competition. Head Coach Viengsamai Souksavanh also made history as Laos' first ever female Lao National Team Head Coach.





DECEMBER

VILLAGE GROUP COMPETITIONS:

Throughout December and January, the LRF hosted a number of Village Group Competitions for our Champa Ban powered by ChildFund Pass It Back teams in Xieng Khouang Province! Despite cold weather conditions, all players, coaches, and staff had a great time as the teams enjoyed the opportunity to compete with one another.

WORLD RUGBY LEVEL 1 AND 2 7S COURSE:

With support from the Lao National Olympic Committee, the LRF hosted a series of World Rugby Level 1 and Level 2 7s Coaching certification courses in Vientiane, furthering the expansion of World Rugby accredited coaches in Laos.





Special Thanks
to our main sponsor

DAAC

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORSHIP

PLATINUM:



GOLD



SILVER:



BRONZE:



Thanks to Key Supporters:

LTE
ESF Kennedy School
Friends of Lao Rugby in Hong Kong

Platinum Sponsors:

DAC

Gold Sponsors:

Vientiane College,
Pot Bellied Pigs,
Coca-Cola

Silver Sponsors:

DHL,
Heineken,
New Zealand Rugby Resources

Bronze Sponsors:

DFDL Legal & Tax,
Mercure Vientiane

Thanks to our Curriculum Partners

ChildFund Pass It Back
Asia Rugby
World Rugby Impact Beyond 2019
Women Win
Proudly supported by; Australian Aid

Thanks to our Community Partners

Princeton in Asia
Glendale Raptors
Kowloon RFC
Singapore Rugby
Hong Kong Rugby Union (HKRU)
Thai Rugby Union
UAE Rugby
Japan Rugby
JENESYS
CONVERSION/Shrewsbury House School
British Embassy in Vientiane
French Embassy in Vientiane
US Embassy in Vientiane

Thanks to Key Supporters

LTE
ESF Kennedy School
Friends of Lao Rugby in Hong Kong

Thanks to our Kit Donors

Escapade Sports
Streamline Sports
Valley RFC
Sandy Bay RFC
Hong Kong Football Club
Kukri
YMCA of Hong Kong Christian College
Hong Kong Cricket Club
DHL
ESF Kennedy School

Thanks to our Donors and Player Sponsors

Wesley Feausi
Maggie Dillon
Alby Pattison
Dustin Penrod
Maeve and Leo Madden
Winrock Advisors LTD
Kristin McBreen
Emily Gaughn
Hanoi Dragons
Saigon Rugby Club
Hong Kong Cricket Club
Phonsak Leasing Co., Ltd
Mike Coates

Special Thanks

to our Teams



THANKS TO OUR STAFF

VIRAYOUTH RATHIKOUN
SOUK PRASAY SITHIMOLADA
SOMSANOUK MIXAY
DR. BOUNTHAVY
SISOUPHANTHONG
VINAY INTHAVONG
STEVE MAJOR
PHANAVANH BOUTTHAVONG
VIENGSAMAI SOUKSAVANH
PISA VONGDEUANPHENG
SAVANHXAY XAYYASONE
ANOULEK DUONGDALA
MEGAN KNIGHT
STEPHANIE KIM
LAO KHANG
AENG KHANG
VANNAXAY SOMSUTHI
PHONESAK KHOMSAD
AENG KHANG
YUR HA
SOULISA SOUWATDIPHON
BOUSADEE VONGDALA
YIA YAR
NOY SOMBATNIYOM
KOUNG FAIYSAMAI
THIPPACHANH KEOMANISAY
TOU SEANGAUMPHRN

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

JENNY REDDEN
STEPHEN WELD
MAX CHEVALIER
SARAH OWENS
CLIVE HAMMOND
XAISONKHAM INDUANG-
CHANTY
JACOB CAWTHORNE
ALETA PHELPS
SARAH DOUANGPHACHONE
KHOUNKHAM DOUANGPHA-
CHONE
ANDREW GLOVER
ALAN HAVERTY
MR. KEOLA
VIENTIANE COLLEGE TEACHER
ASSISTANTS
PRINCETON IN ASIA FELLOWS
STEVE JONES
CHRIS GARVEY
ADRIENNE GARVEY
JAMES OWENS
PATRICIA LIU
MADELEINE ADCOCK
PANOY PHANALASSY
PHONESAVANH SOUVANASY
HANNAH MCDONALD-MONIZ
KATDY SOUNSIRI



ANNUAL REPORT

2017

info@laorugby.com

www.laorugby.com

