



ລາວຮັກບີ
LAO RUGBY

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

President's Note



Dear Friends of Lao Rugby,

Despite the challenges, globally, the LRF rugby community was able to build on the successes from 2019 and implement a strong domestic program in 2020. Sustainable player and coach development pathways across all levels of the game led to strong results on the pitch supported by a milestone in our organisational development as we celebrated World Rugby full membership leaving the future looking bright for Lao Rugby.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the entire world during 2020. The LRF was able to adapt and create successful online campaigns to continue our work to keep our families and communities safe. In the winter, before the pandemic, the LRF was able to successfully host the annual DHL Vientiane 10s tournament and several trainings. When it became necessary for distanced learning and opportunities, the LRF was able to conduct online trainings for both fitness, first aid and player welfare.

As our teams continue to develop on the pitch, we are also proud of the development of our organisational talent where several of our strong role models who have been working hard away from the pitch are also gaining increased global recognition. Viengsamai Souksavanh received acknowledgement from World Rugby

for her devotion to helping the federation grow. She received the Women Executive Leadership Scholarship.

The crowning achievement of this year was the recognition from World Rugby as a full member. This has been several decades of work and we were elated to announce our full membership in December of 2020. As we celebrate this historic milestone this year, we thank everyone in the LRF family whose dedication to our vision has made all of the work and success possible.

As the LRF continues to develop, we would like to thank our ever expanding family of stakeholders, partners, and sponsors whose unwavering support continues to enable Lao Rugby to work with thousands of young people to show that rugby can play an important role in supporting communities through difficult times. 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

OUR VISION AND MISSION

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.

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.

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.

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 Sports support, while also; engaging with communities, businesses, schools, institutions and other partners to provide sustainable access to playing and non-playing participants.

The 2020 audit was completed by KPMG and the complete audit report is available on the LRF's website at www.laorugby.com.



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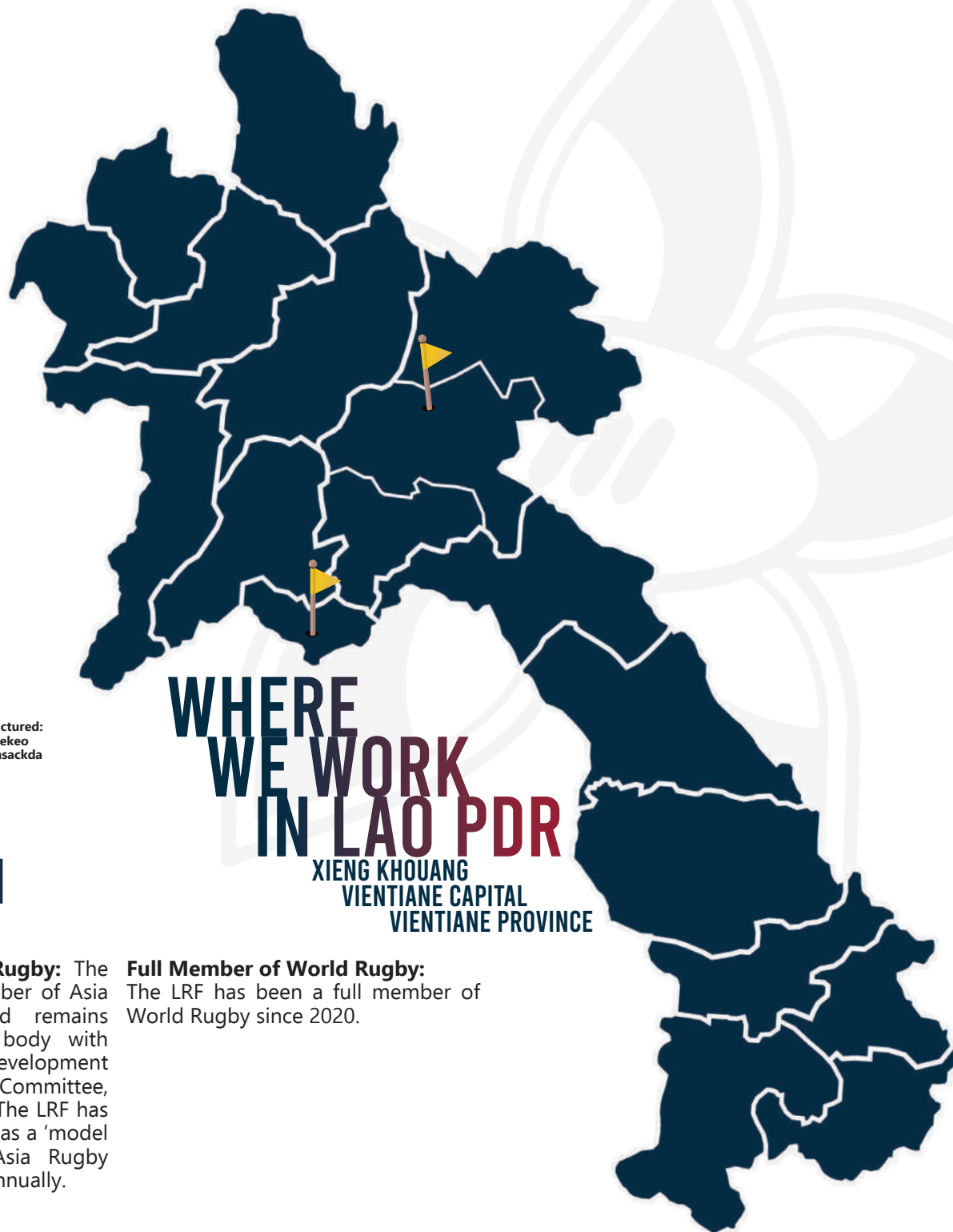
MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION

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.

Full Member of World Rugby: The LRF has been a full member of World Rugby since 2020.



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 Lao Women's Nagas Representative Teams

LRF regularly fields men's and women's international teams in 7s and 15s competitions however, due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, no international competitions were possible in 2020. National Team players applied their skills to their clubs during the year and prepare for international competition to reopen in the coming years.

CLUB RUGBY



32 teams in the 14th DHL Vientiane 10s Men's and Women's 7s Colours League
8 Club Fitness and Skills Challenges

CHAMPA BAN YOUTH RUGBY

2,736 players actively involved in Champa Ban powered by ChildFund Pass It Back youth rugby programming (1,301 male, 1,435 female)

COVID-19 Response and Recovery programming delivered across 60 schools for youth rugby players and communities



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

110 Champa Ban powered by ChildFund Pass It Back Coaches (51 male, 59 female) trained

8 World Rugby Level 2 Match Officials Accredited



The LRF had no shortage of accomplishments in 2020, despite COVID-19 restrictions. Through first-ever online programs we engaged more than 43,789 viewers with the Rugby U Barn project on Facebook. We also worked with 8 clubs from 3 provinces to engage

more than 150 senior players for the Club Fitness and Skills Challenges supporting players to return to play safely while learning important club administration skills like safeguarding and financial management. Champa Ban powered by Pass It Back Coaches and staff leaders adapted

to COVID-19 in stride including delivering the Reconnect curriculum to help Coaches administer COVID-19 safe training sessions for young people 5-18 years old.

Without a doubt, the shining achievement of the LRF for 2020 was the naming

of full member status with World Rugby. This achievement capped two decades of hard work by thousands of individual LRF friends and family working hard together and marks the beginning of an important journey among the other World Rugby members globally.

IN 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



THE LRF TIMES NEWS

The year kicked off with the Annual DHL Vientiane 10s tournament welcoming 32 teams in the 14th edition. The DAC Weredragons took the Men's Cup and the Vientiane Lions won the Women's Cup in an exciting festival of rugby that saw a record 14 Lao teams participate across the 3 day tournament. Early in the year, Champa Ban powered by Pass It Back youth competitions closed the 2019 school season and more than 151 Coaches from across 3 Provinces attended the 9th ChildFund Pass It Back Coach training to support Champa Ban youth leaders develop their rugby and life skills coaching skills in preparation for the youth season kicking off in February. In Quarter 1, the LRF also welcomed World Rugby Educators from Thai Rugby Union to Vientiane to deliver Level 2 Match Officiating courses for 8 match officials. This course marked the highest match officiating certifications received by Lao nationals and served as an impressive step forward in improving and developing the quality of rugby in Laos.



In Quarter 2 as the world began to cope with the global COVID-19 pandemic, the LRF implemented COVID response activities including supporting rugby communities and schools with donations of hygiene and PPE supplies. The LRF moved all operations to working from home and providing ongoing support to the rugby community online through initiatives like Rugby U Ban which saw more than 28 videos created by youth Coaches to engage Champa Ban players at home while strict lockdowns kept schools closed. As lockdowns eased in June, Champa Ban Coaches were trained in the Reconnect curriculum which provided safe ways for children 5-18 to get back to physical activity in line with Ministry of Health guidance. Between Quarter 2 and 3, the LRF hosted a series of Fitness and Skills Challenges for clubs to support a safe return to play program leading into Lao League 7s competitions as COVID-19 restrictions domestically further eased.

THE LRF TIMES NEWS

In July, 18 Champa Ban coaches across Vientiane and Xieng Khouang Provinces were awarded certificates for 3 or more years of service to growing rugby in Laos and the LRF's CEO and 2018 Coach of the Year, Ms. Viengsamai Souksavanh, was selected as World Rugby Women's Executive Leadership Scholar. With less than 50 Scholars globally, the World Rugby honour recognises women in rugby leadership positions and with only a handful of female CEOs for rugby unions globally, LRF is proud to see Viengsamai's talents and dedication recognised and nurtured with this award.

In August, Champa Ban Coaches participated in a series of trainings to further develop skills in delivering the Reconnect rugby and life skills curriculum showing the rugby can serve as an important part of emergency response for children and young people in communities.



In Quarter 4, World Rugby Level 1 Coaching Courses were delivered by LRF's Educators further supporting safe return to play measures before successfully hosting the Lao League 7s across Vientiane and Xieng Khouang. While COVID-19 restrictions prevented international travel, many domestic opportunities were able to safely proceed in Q3 and Q4 due to the low instances of infection rates across Laos in the later part of 2020. This brought exciting

opportunities for the LRF who was able to continue to engage thousands of young people in rugby development and rugby for development activities during the year thanks to the ongoing support from key partners like ChildFund and DAC. 2020 also brought several new partnership opportunities as the LRF joined the Laureus family and hosted UNFPA's 'Me, My Body, My Planet, My Future' Campaign for nearly a hundred young people in Laos.

The year ended on an even higher note as the LRF was welcomed to the World Rugby family as full members. This achievement marked a culmination of 20 years of hard work from thousands of LRF players, fans and stakeholders around the world and was celebrated with a ceremony in Vientiane seeing many important guests welcomed in person and online in recognition of the World Rugby full membership status.

IN 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



FINANCIALS

EXPENDITURE	2020
Champa Ban Youth Rugby	282,325 USD
Elite Rugby	12,214 USD
Domestic Club Rugby	37,336 USD
Operations and Staffing	49,026 USD
Other	8,312 USD
TOTAL	389,213 USD

INCOME	2020
Restricted Grant Funds	287,701 USD
Attendance Grants	0 USD
Club Payments	5,776 USD
Merchandise Sales	1,648 USD
Restricted Sponsorship and Donation	30,959 USD
Unrestricted Sponsorship and Donation	1,714 USD
Vientiane 10s	25,231 USD
Other	28,767 USD
TOTAL	381,795 USD

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CONVERSION/Shrewsbury House School
British Embassy in Vientiane
French Embassy in Vientiane
US Embassy in Vientiane

Thanks to Key Supporters

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Alby Pattison
Dustin Penrod
Maevae and Leo Madden
Phonsak Leasing Co., Ltd
Mike Coates

Thanks to our Kit Donors

Shresbury House School
Kowloon Rugby Football Club
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ESF Kennedy School



Special Thanks to our Team

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BOUDSADEE VONGDALA
NOY SOMBATNIYOM
KOUNG FAIYSAMAI
THIPPACHANH KEOMANISAY

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

JENNY REDDEN
MAX CHEVALIER
CLIVE HAMMOND
JACOB CAWTHORNE
PRINCETON IN ASIA FELLOWS
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