



ສາທາລະ ະລັດ ປະຊາທິປະໄຕ ປະຊາຊົນ ລາວ  
ສັ ຕິພາບ ເອກະລາດ ປະຊາທິປະໄຕ ເອກະພາບ ວັດທະ າຖາວອນ

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ກະຊວງແຮງງານ ແລະສະໜັວດຕິກາ ສັງຄົມ Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

ໂຄງການ ເກັບກູ້ລະເບີດ ແຫ່ງ ສ.ປ.ປ ລາວ. Lao National UXO Programme (UXO LAO)  
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## PRESS RELEASE

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The Government of Japan has decided to extend its assistance to UXO Lao by providing a grant totalling US\$861,280 under the Grant Assistance Scheme for Grassroots Human Security Project. This is the third year of the Japanese Government's support to the organisation under the scheme. The funds will be used to support UXO Lao's operations in the provinces of Attapeu, Saravane, and Sekong in 2008 and acquire new UXO detectors. The Grant Contract of the project was signed today, 24 January 2008, between UXO Lao National Program Director Bounpone Sayasenh and Japanese Ambassador Masaaki Miyashita. The signing ceremony was witnessed by Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Onechanh Thammavong and UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Stéphane Vigié.

The Government of Japan is currently one of the largest donors to UXO Lao. The Japanese Government has provided more than US\$4.3M to UXO Lao since 1997, supporting operations in Attapeu, Saravane, Sekong, and Xieng Khouang. The Japanese Government is the largest supporter of development in Lao PDR.

UXO Lao is the national humanitarian UXO clearance operator in Lao PDR. Since its establishment in 1996 by the Lao Government with the support of UNDP and other stakeholders, the organisation has cleared more than 11,865 hectares of land. It has also visited 6,659 villages, conducting community awareness activities on the dangers of UXO. In the process of conducting operations, it has destroyed more than 801,013 items of UXO, of which 46% were bombies. The organisation employs more than 1,000 employees, of whom around 85% are in field operations. UXO Lao currently receives support from countries as Australia, Germany, Japan, Ireland, Luxembourg, Poland, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. It also receives support from private foundations such as World Without Mines.

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