Lao Population census

Introduction.

Laos is a country, land locked with Population 6 million habitants in currently. History told us that a king in year of 1377 counted Lao population and were 300,000 habitants. In the 20th century they conducted population count in 1922, 1934 and 1935 during the French colony, estimated 800, 000 habitants. During the Vietnam war 1959-1961 t hey conducted just only one of the opposite side were about 1, 900,000 habitants. After that they only survey some area to estimate for whole population.

Whatever we think, First Population Census is conducted in 1985, there were 3.6 mil. Habitants, Second in 1995 (4.6 mil. Habitants) and the last census in 2005( 5.6 mil. Habitants).

1. Objective of population census.

The main objectives:

* To access population data, covered for whole and local in the country
* To have series data on population for whole and local;
* To build capacity on production, coordination and dissemination of statistics for accuracy and timeness;
* Develop how to use for users;
* Develop data base for sampling design.

1. Preparation.

Population census conduct in the year ended with figure 5( critical time 1st May) so the preparation started 2 years before: require permission, draft content , questionnaire, manual, supevisers, enumerators, budget and equipment. Village and household listing, enumeration unit mapping, processing tool and program, pilot test, training and enumerators and supervisers recruitment nearly 20,000 people. Train in 3 levels: central, provincial and district. Propaganda and inform to the whole country by media.

1. Methodology.

Actually population census is conducted in 2 methods: De Jure Census and De facto Census. For Laos we use the De Jure method. The movement will not record who leave longer than 6 months from the household. Base on many ethnic groups and illiteracy, population census needs to interview directly household head and women aged 15-49.

1. Identification unit.

The unit used for the census is household and identified in 2 categorie: individual and collective households as study in the demography subject.

1. Administration and geographic structure.

Administrative management divided to province, district and village. Geography classified to urban, rural with road and rural without road. Census unit covered 100 households for one enumerator and filed for one week.

1. Questionnaire.

Questionnaire consist 36 questions: name, relationship, age, sex, place of birth, where live in the last census, citizenship, ethnicity, marry status, religion, can read and write lao, ever go to school, education level, professional level, main job in last 12 months, what professional you did, what sector of economy you did, 3 questions for women, aged 15-49, death, migration, disable people, ownership o house, what materiel of roof, wall and floor, access to electricity, size of living area, access to drink and cooking water, sanitation, energy for cooking , agriculture area, total household members.

1. Quality management.

Supervisers control the enumerators in the knowledge, understanding field , starting from how to organize each level to enumerator unit, check questionnaire before compilation, coding system

1. Processing.

Processing data is used mainly scanner and some manual for preliminary report. Data store in server by Microsoft access and analysis is using SPSS software.

1. Report, publication and dissemination.

Preliminary report is disseminated after field operation 3 months. Processing prolong to 6 months for the whole country and 9 months for provincial level. Report the result to government after 6 months. Publication is coming after night months. Arrangement workshop and media were disseminated the result to all levels and users.