

Country Name	The Project for the Construction of Lao-Japan Budo Center
Lao PDR	

**I. Project Outline**

Background	<p>There were approximately 400 athletes in Budo (Karatedo, Judo, and Aikido) players in the Lao PDR (hereinafter referred to Laos). Partly owing to the instructions given by members of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) and Senior Volunteers (SV) dispatched from time to time since 1966, the technical skills of these Budo players had risen, and Laos had produced several medalists at international events such as Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games). Stimulated by the achievements of these athletes, the number of persons who want to participate in Budo practice had been increasing. However, there was no Budo center satisfying the international standard in Laos. Athletes were practicing mostly by making use of spaces such as meeting rooms and lecture halls. In addition to the aging of facilities, these buildings had problems because they were not designed specifically for sports and large spaces were not available. In some cases, players in different Budo disciplines were rotating the same place for each practice. Thus, most Budo players were practicing in an environment that was far from sufficient.</p> <p>In addition, Laos would host the 25th SEA Games in 2009. Karatedo and Judo would be included as official events, however, there was no facility in Laos for Budo tournament that can host international events such as SEA Games.</p>		
Objectives of the Project	To enable Budo practices and competitions to be performed in better conditions, and to promote Budo education in Laos by constructing Lao-Japan Budo Center (the Budo Center) in Vientiane and procuring the necessary equipment there.		
Outputs of the Project	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Project Site: Vientiane</li> <li>2. Japanese side <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Construction of (1) Main Budo Hall Building (Budo hall, stage, administration office, federation rooms, spectator seats, hall, etc.), (2) West Annex (Judge rooms, infirmary, equipment storage rooms, etc.), and (3) East Annex (Changing rooms for men and women, lavatories for men and women, multipurpose lavatories, etc.)</li> <li>- Procurement of equipment: (1) Tatami mats for Judo, (2) Mats for Karate, (3) Folding chairs, (4) Floor protection sheets, and others</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Lao side: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clearance of obstacles and grading work in the site</li> <li>- Gates and boundary fence work</li> <li>- Table-tennis table</li> <li>- Connecting water supply, electricity line and telephone line in the project site,</li> </ul> </li> </ol>		
E/N Date	-1st phase: 31 August, 2007, 12 March, 2008 (Extension), 11 March, 2009 (Re-extension) -2nd phase: 19 December, 2008	Completion Date	30 October, 2009
Project Cost	E/N Grant Limit: Phase1 - 400 million yen, Phase2 - 201 million yen / Contract Amount: Phase1 - 380 million yen, Phase2 - 196 million yen		
Implementing Agency	National Sports Committee (NSC)		
Contracted Agencies	Azusa Sekkei Co., Ltd., A Joint Venture of Kanto Construction Co., Ltd. and Sanpo International		
Related Studies	Basic Design Study: October 2006 – August, 2007, Detailed Design Study: September, 2007 – November, 2007		
Related Projects	<p>Japan's Cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Project (Procurement of Karate equipment) (2002)</li> <li>- Dispatch of JOCV and SV</li> </ul>		

**II. Result of the Evaluation**

1 Relevance
<p>This project has been consistent with the Lao development policy, as education is regarded as high priority agenda under the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES) formulated in 1996 as well as the 7th five year National Social Economic Development plan 2011-2016. Further, at the time of ex-ante evaluation, the importance of sports for healthy development of youths was well recognized in the field of education, and the Lao Government recognized the importance of policies for the development and popularization of sports in the country<sup>1</sup>. The project has been consistent with the needs for developing a Budo center which satisfies the international standards for hosting international competition as well as offering spaces of practice for Budo athletes at both ex-ante and ex-post evaluation. Assistance in the field of sports through Japanese ODA assistance is referred in "FY 2013 Priority Policy for International Cooperation", however, relevant statements related to the project objective was not referred clearly in the Japan's ODA policy to Lao at the time of ex-ante evaluation. In light of the above, relevance of this project is high<sup>2</sup>.</p>

<sup>1</sup> At the time of ex-post evaluation, the current Lao Government policy for promoting sports was not confirmed as an official document.

<sup>2</sup> The relevance is high though the purpose of the project was not mentioned in the Japan's ODA policy to Lao at the time of ex-ante

## 2 Effectiveness/Impact

The project has largely achieved its objectives, “to enable Budo practices and competitions to be performed in better conditions, and to promote Budo education in Laos”

The Budo Center has been utilized for international competitions. First, the Budo Center was used as a venue for Judo and Karate do competitions at the 25th SEA Games in 2009. Further, the ASEAN University Games 2012 was held at the Budo Center and some national (or lower level) competitions were also held. In addition to hosting competitions, the Budo Center has been fully utilized for regular practices of Judo, Aikido, Karatedo, and Tae Kwon Do for the general public, students and children. Currently, 3-4 lessons/day are held every day (26 times per week). In addition, when the facilities have a vacancy, the facilities are used by the Judo national team, and for other sports such as badminton and various events. After the construction of the Budo Center, the practices have been performed in better conditions because the space of practicing becomes wider. Members of Budo federations have their regular practice at the Budo Center, and they do not need to use the previous practice venues which were not suitable to Budo practices. As the result of the environmental improvement, people are more interested in Budo, and the number of athletes and people who practices Budo as well as those who participate in international games has increased.

As to impact, according to the Judo Federation and some athletes, the level of players' Budo skills has improved, as they have larger space for and equipment for practice. The JICA Senior Volunteers, dispatched to Ministry of Education and Sports for the management of the Center after the project completion, partly contributed to this improvement. While the Budo Center is mainly used for Budo practice and competition, the Budo Center is also used for cultural event such as concerts and seminars/lectures. No negative impact on natural environment was observed, and land acquisition/resettlement did not occur.

Therefore, effectiveness/impact of this project is high.

### Quantitative Effects

Indicator	Year 2007 (before the project) Actual value	Year 2010 (target year) Target value	Year 2010 (target year) Actual value	Year 2012/2013 (ex-post evaluation year – the latest full calendar/fiscal year) Actual value
Indicator 1: The number of Budo athletes/those who practice Budo	400 (Judo, Aikido, and Karatedo)	Increase	300 (208 for Judo, Aikido, and Karatedo)*	621 (452 for Judo, Aikido, and Karatedo)
(Supplement Indicator): Number of Budo practices per week at the Budo Center	-	-	22 lessons per week (6 days/week)	26 lessons per week (Full week)
Indicator 2: The number of International games held in Laos (annual)	0	Increase	2 (Including the SEA game in 2009)	1
(Supplement Indicator): Number of Budo competitions (national or lower level) in the Budo Center (annual)	-	-	2	3
Indicator 3: Number of athletes who participate in international games	23	Increase	37	46

Source: Judo Federation

\* The number of athletes decreased in 2010, as after construction completed, some athletes do not know where the new practice place is or the Budo Center is far from home.

## 3 Efficiency

Both the project cost and the project period exceeded the plan (ratio against the plan: 140%, 142%) because price of the construction materials escalated, and therefore the biddings were unsuccessful several times and the second phase (phase 2) was added. Outputs were produced mostly as planned.

Therefore, efficiency of this project is fair.

## 4 Sustainability

The operation and maintenance of the Budo Center had been carried out by NSC until 2011. At the time of the ex-post evaluation, the Budo Center is under the Elites Sport Department, Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES), which took over some of the NSC's functions, while the actual operation and maintenance is carried out by the Judo Federation under the contract with MOES. The Judo Federation is responsible for operation and maintenance including daily check-up and staff allocation, and has assigned five staff members to the Budo Center for conducting the operation and maintenance.

There are some problems with the technical aspect. In accordance with the NSC's termination, the technical staff allocated from NSC had been assigned to another appointment and there had been no technical staff at the Budo Center. In 2013, the Judo Federation hires one technical staff who used to be a NSC volunteer. At the handover of the facility upon completion, the training for the use of the equipment was provided by the supplier, but the Judo Federation would like to train staff from all federations (Judo Federation, Karate do Federation, Akido Federation, Tekwondo Federation and Kendo Federation) who use Budo center as practice venue. In addition, no manual for maintenance of equipment in Lao language is available.

Financially, the Budo Center has its own revenue from membership fees from each federation (including the Judo Federation) that rent the Budo center for practice as well as from facility usage fees from the concerts and seminars. By using such revenues, the Judo Federation covers the necessary operation and maintenance cost such as staff salary and equipment cleaning (conducted jointly by all federations twice a year) and repairs as well as the cost for necessary utilities, though the

evaluation. The reasons are; (1) the project satisfies the aims of Cultural Grant Assistance for “promoting developing countries' cultural assets and higher education institutions” at the time of ex-ante evaluation; and (2) Cultural Grant Assistance was not required to align with Japan's country assistance policy at the time of this project's approval.

budget is not enough. MOES allocates budget for large-scale repairs when needed.

There is no problem observed on the current condition of the facilities and equipment. The new technical staff of the Judo Federation conducts checkups and regular maintenance of the equipment monthly, who also maintains the facilities (building) including air conditioning, and replacement and repair of lightning fixtures. So far, there have not been any cases that equipment is broken. If any equipment is broken they will use budget from the Budo center account or will request MOES for assistance. However, there is uncertainty for facility condition in the future, because it is unclear who is responsible for the large-scale repair when needed.

Thus, as this project has concerns on the technical and financial aspects as well as the current status of operation and maintenance, sustainability of the effects of this project is fair.

#### 5 Summary of the Evaluation

The project has largely achieved its objectives, "to enable Budo practices and competitions to be performed in better conditions, and to promote Budo education in Laos by constructing the Budo Center in Vientiane and procuring the necessary equipment there". The Budo Center has been utilized for international competitions and for regular practices of Budo for the general public, students and children. As the result of the practice environment improvement, the number of athletes and people who practices Budo as well as those who participate in international games has increased. As to impact, following the practice environment improvement, the level of players' Budo skills has improved.

Efficiency is fair because both the project period and cost exceeded the plan. As for sustainability, problems were found in each of technical and financial aspect as well as the current status of the operation and maintenance.

In light of the above, this project is evaluated to be satisfactory.

### III. Recommendations

#### Recommendations to implementing agency:

- Technical transfer for maintenance activities in the BUDO center is recommended to be practiced periodically so that the staff both from the BUDO Center and from the relevant sports federations will be able to perform maintenance work.



The Lao-Japan BUDO Center



Tatami mats for Judo