



Supporting Governance



BACKGROUND

Since the Institute of Legislative Studies (ILS) was created in August 2016, the Foundation has assisted it to provide research that helps the National Assembly (NA) and People's Provincial Assemblies (PPAs) make decisions on laws and fulfill their other responsibilities.

Researchers in Lao PDR have few opportunities to develop skills or access neutral and trusted sources. At the same time, credible parliamentary research is more important than ever, as priority concerns for the country such as land ownership, economic growth, and infrastructure planning increase pressure on the NA and PPAs to step up in responding to constituents' needs and overseeing government institutions.



ACTIVITIES

Our work strengthens the skills of the ILS research team to deliver research on a range of diverse subjects, as well as to respond to urgent, high-level requests related to upcoming legislative sessions. The Asia Foundation connects ILS staff with foreign research experts to mentor the staff on producing briefing notes on priority issues for the NA and PPAs. The Foundation also provides structured training on key topics, such as qualitative and quantitative research methods and English language for research, via trainers and research mentors with in-depth Lao language and country expertise. The Foundation also engages directly with parliamentarians to develop their technical expertise and lawmaking capacity.

KEY OUTCOMES

The Foundation and the ILS collaborate to develop parliamentary research capacity within the ILS, with the ultimate aim of supporting parliamentarians to better execute their policymaking and oversight mandates. This support has resulted in marked capacity improvements among ILS research staff and subsequently higher-quality and more informed debate among parliamentarians. The Foundation's assistance has also generated increased demand among parliamentarians for research products, which help them make decisions based on impartial evidence, rather than lobbying from the executive branch. As such, the Foundation's assistance has enabled the ILS to provide more and more research products to parliamentarians each year since 2016.



In addition to providing consistent mentoring, the Foundation is also able to flexibly respond to urgent requests from the ILS, the NA President, and the Standing Committee, as researchers and parliamentarians alike require external expertise to help them unpack extremely complex and often highly technical subjects related to tabled legislation. The Foundation has brought in relevant experts from Vietnam to assist the ILS and NA with strategic planning on key priorities such as the local government structure and the judicial system.



2016

ILS launched with support.
Staff trained/mentored: **6**

Research products delivered: **3**

2018

Staff trained/mentored: **14**

Research products delivered: **8**

2020

Research products delivered: **14**,
benefitting more than **200**
policymakers

2017

Staff trained/mentored: **10**

Research products delivered: **7**

2019

Staff trained/mentored: **20**

Research products delivered: **11**

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