

## COUNTRY REPORT

Presented by Brigadier General Somphone Keomixay, president of Lao Veterans Federation

Your Excellency the president of VECONAC

Distinguished delegations

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of Lao Veterans federation, I am honored and delighted to attend the 19<sup>th</sup> VECONAC General Assembly in Phnom Penh, the beautiful city of Cambodia.

Firstly, may I express sincere thanks to H.E President of VECONAC for inviting Lao Veteran Federation delegates to attend the important meeting and also I would like to thanks the Cambodian Veteran Association for providing such warm welcoming and excellent hospitality to our delegations.

May I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to all VECONAC member countries for all the support and cooperation given to Laos to achieved successful hosting the VECONAC 18<sup>th</sup> GA last year in Vientiane.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Over 2019, Lao Veterans Federation had concentrated in implementing its role and duty that are in line with government policy by focusing on poverty reduction to meet the UN's Millennium Goals while also improving the organizational structure of Lao Veterans Federation from central to local levels as well as the livelihood of our members as exemplified as follows:

### 1. Organisational Structure Improvement

The LVF has been continuously improving the organisational structure from central to local levels. We have also tried to collect the statistics of our members and up to now we have 60, 576 members with 6,441 females.

### 2. Publicity

The LVF recognises the importance of the publicity to help our veteran members to understand the government's current policy. We have disseminated the constitution, the government's the 8th Five-Year Economic Development Plan, veterans' development plan consistent with provincial and districts' policy in order for our members to fully understand the goals and objectives of the government's policy through various means, for example seminars, workshops, television, radio, magazines, newspaper and etc.

### 3. Rights and Interests of LVF Members Protection

The LVF has been committed to the implementation of our Five-Year Veterans Development Plan (2016-2020) as in line with 4 work plans and 17 programmes which were adopted by the 3rd National Veterans' Congress. This development plan motivates our veteran members who have got potentials to pursue entrepreneurship,

for instance, crop and livestock production, services among others in order to generate more income.

We have also encouraged our veterans organizations at each level to set up their own funds in order to help their members in case of emergency and up to now all districts have their own funds.

This year, we have also built 12 district LVF offices, 2 houses for veterans with economic difficulties, 1 house for national hero. Our veteran members also receive free medical treatment.

#### 4. International Cooperation

The Lao Veterans Federation has consistently followed the government's foreign policy of peace, independence, friendship and cooperation. As a result, LVF has tried to enhance relations, friendship and cooperation with veterans organizations within the region on a regular basis to exchange lessons and experience.

Lao Veterans Federation was honored to chair the VECONAC President and successful hosting VECONAC 18<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and 31<sup>st</sup> Executive Board Meeting in 2018.

In 2019, LVF had attend General Assembly and exchange lesson and experiences with VECONAC members as follow:

- Attend Working Committee Meeting in Siam reap, Cambodia
- Attend 94<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Veterans Association of Malaysian Armed Forces
- Attend General Assembly and celebrating 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Veteran Association of Vietnam

Beside that, Lao Veterans Federation regularly exchanges lessons and experiences neighboring Veterans Association such as Veteran Association of Vietnam and Cambodian Veteran Association and Veterans Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

Finally, may I wish the VECONAC 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to complete with good success.

Wishing distinguished delegates all good health, happiness and success in your noble tasks.

**“VECONAC FOREVER, FOREVER VECONAC”**

**Thank you**