

CHAPTER 3

THE CONTEXT OF PAKSE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

In this chapter, I provide information about Pakse town and the process of urban development. I first give information about the history and the geographical characteristics of the district. I then explain about the process of urban development in Pakse involving the organization of the committee, the communication and discussion with affected villagers, and the compensation for lands, house demolition and relocation.

3.1 Pakse: A City in Southern Lao PDR

3.1.1 Geography of the area

Pakse District is a municipality located in Champasak Province, which is situated in the southeast of Lao PDR and is one of ten districts in the province. National Road 13 runs through the center of the town, and the town lies at the confluence of the Mekong River and the Sedone River. The district borders Sanasomboun District to the north, Bachiang Chaleunsouk district to the south and the east, the Mekong River to the west and also Phonthong District.

According to statistics from the Pakse District Administration (2011), Pakse covers an area of about 14,300 square kilometers, and is divided into eight village groups. In 2009, Pakse has a population of 94,494, of which 52,354 are females and 42,140 are males. It is situated about 676 kilometers from Vientiane, the capital of Lao PDR. To get to Vientiane from Pakse one can travel by land or air. By overnight sleeper, it takes about eight hours, while travelling by air it takes about one hour and there are flights every day.

3.1.2 The history of Pakse district

According to historical records, Pakse District is an old urban area over one hundred years-old, and in around 1890 a Mr. Keokham came to build a house there, establishing a farm and gardens around the mouth of the Sedone River, where it joins the Mekong, as this was a good area for carrying out agriculture and the fishing. In former times, this area was covered by thick forest and not many people lived there.

After 1901, more people moved into the area and established villages, including Talouang Village, which at that time had 57 households. In 1903, other villages were established in the area, including Kae and Phonkoun villages. The governor at that time (in Laos, *PayaMoungKhouk*) was called Grimmasaein French, and after that time the communities expanded along both banks of the Sedone River. Then, in 1907/08, the provincial administration, a hospital, Movie Theater, transportation hub and the market were moved to its present location. Then, in 1938, a bridge across the Sedone River was completed, important as the river flows right through the center of the district and on to the Mekong River (Bounnavong 1988 cited in Urban Development and Administration Authority 2000: 78).

3.1.3 Physical characteristics

Pakse is the largest of the ten districts in Champasak Province, and is also located in a plain area, with an average height above sea level of between 97 and 104 meters. It is located alongside the Mekong River and on both banks of the Sedone River, so over the years has been a suitable location for settlements, and in recent years offices, markets, transport infrastructure, and an airport and hotels have been developed – all to service the local community. In addition, Pakse District is located at the center of other districts in Champasak Province, and on an important trade route (the rivers), which has supported socio-economic development in the area and the livelihoods of many people over a long period. The Sedone and Mekong Rivers link with a number of other districts in Champasak and Salavan Provinces, and the Mekong River also support road links with Cambodia and Thailand, those which have supported trade over a long period.

In terms of climate, Pakse is influenced by the southwest monsoon and has only two seasons: a summer season and winter season. The average rainfall in 1999 was 1,670 to 2,600 mm per year, according to the Provincial Administration (2002 cited in Pakse District Administration 2011: 96).

3.2 Process of urban development in Pakse

Pakse is the capital of southern Lao PDR and is one of four cities in the second tier of urban areas below Vientiane – the capital city. These four cities including Louangprabang in Louangprabang Province, Takhak in Borikhamxay Province, Kaysone Phovihan in Savannakhet Province, and Pakse in Champasak Province.

As Sounadeth (2010) points out, the government emphasizes urban economic development in its 2020 development plan, and the strengthening of the urban economy has been supported by the establishment of urban plans to manage the environment, as well as the establishment of an investment plan for urban water supplies. As engines of economic growth, the government aims to develop the urban centers and make further improvements to urban living conditions through such strategies as the management of environmental infrastructure and services; the establishment of municipal government administrations; an improved institutional framework for urban planning development control and; the provision of sustainable urban services through greater mobilization of local resources, human resources development, and greater involvement of the private sector in the provision of urban services.

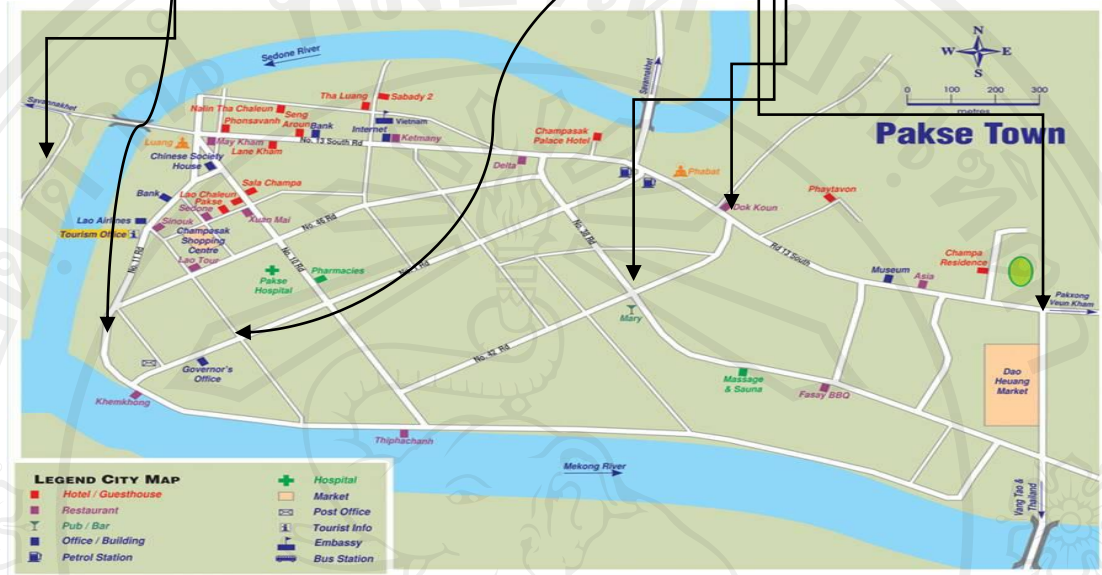
The urban development project in Pakse was also part of the government development plan. In Pakse, the Urban Development and Administration Authority (UDAA) was established in 1997 under Champasak Province administration office to facilitate urban development. The purpose of the urban development project was to improve the environment by developing infrastructure in the city, improving services (to make them efficient and sustainable), developing human resources and expanding the economy. The Pakse urban development project is the second urban development project in Laos after Vientiane. The project received funds from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Lao government, as well as local people with enough wealth (Pakse District Administration 2011: 75).

There are 67 villages in Pakse district, but the Pakse Urban Development project covers only 43 villages. These villages cover an area of 1,736.6 hectares (about 4,291 acres or 10,853.75 *rais*). They have a population of around 48,000 people and consist of 7,871 households.

Under the project, the management functions were split into three. The organization that supervised the project was the committee, which was comprised of representatives from the key ministries, senior administrators from the province, the head of the Communications, Transportation, Post and Construction Department, and the UDAA's chairman. The acting minister from the Ministry of Communication, Transportation, Post and Construction acted as the chairman of the project. In addition, the Department of Urban Planning Architect took care of the design aspects of the project. The UDAA's head office locates in Vientiane that depends on the Ministry of Communication, Transportation, Post and Construction.

The urban development project in Pakse ran from October 1998 to June 2003. At the start an announcement was sent out, persuading those impacted to relocate to an area allocated by the government. The aim of the project was to build five big water canals and seven small water canals, each nearly four kilometers long, with one water canal located in Tahin market and the government gave the low interest loan for 389 households to build the bathrooms. The project also included the construction of ten concrete roads adding up to three kilometers and two asphalt roads on two levels about 2,581 meters long. Each road had a wall built alongside to protect against floods on the river side, about 5,336 meters long. Also on the river side, a 980 meter-long wall with six gates was built to let water in and out (see Figure 3 below).

Building new road along the Mekong Road expansion around town



Source: www.Laomap.com

Figure 3 Pakse urban development project areas

3.3 Affected villagers and new settlement in Pattana village

Pattana village was established formally in 2002. The government used the village to receive people affected by the Pakse urban development project. People who now live in Pattana were relocated from the area in Pakse District in which the Mekong River road and wall were built in 2001. Under the Pakse urban development project, 356 households were impacted and received compensation.

Before the resettlement of the villagers in 2002, the area which is now Pattana used to be an area set aside for migrants from Salavan, Attapeu and Sekong provinces in the 1960s to 1970s. After the country turned communist in 1975, some residents went back to their hometowns, while others remained in the area, taking up farming. For the Pakse urban development project, the provincial government allocated this area to be the new settlement for the villagers affected by the project, estimated to cover 356 households from several villages. Pattana village is located along a main road constructed by the government in 1999. Champasak University is around 600 meters from Pattana village (Urban Development and Administration Authority 2000: 79).

To resettle villagers from the old (affected) areas, the government appointed a committee to work with state authorities and the heads of the villages. This committee went to discuss the project with the villagers who were to be moved, in order for them to understand the purpose of the urban development project including to help support economic expansion; accommodate the increasing population; prevent floods and pollution and; improve living conditions and the lives of local people. In addition, the committee announced that compensations would be paid for the houses being demolished, the land being taken and for the relocation of the people to a new area (Urban Development and Administration Authority 2000).

The committee started to survey the area in 1997, and finished in December 1998, the aim being to ascertain the number of households to be relocated to Pattana village. The villagers who were to be migrated were to receive land in Pattana on which to build their house, along with compensation for the demolition of their old houses and for relocation. However, the payment of compensations was late and patchy, meaning the resettlement process was quite slow. Those households who received compensation migrated first, though for some of these people the land they moved to was not that identified by the project (Pakse District Administration 2011).

The villagers to be relocated got together with the heads of the villages and a draw made for who would live where. The villagers who migrated from Pakse village (the largest group) migrated to the area close to the road leading to Champasak University; those from Pakhueyleu village moved to the border with Phonkoun village and the villagers who migrated from Phonkoun also moved to the area alongside the road to Champasak University - opposite those who migrated from Pakse village and up to kilometer marker eight. There are also households of government officials in Pattana village who received land from the government (Urban Development and Administration Authority 2000).

The committee which comprised of state authorities including the governor of Champasak Province allocated land in Pattana for housing, for those impacted by the urban development project. In addition, the systems of public infrastructure (or *satalanoupabok* (in Lao) that are necessary for livelihood of people in that area had also been provided. For example, the roads around the village, the electricity supply and water wells. The urban development included an objective in relation to the

development of infrastructure and services (such as electricity, water, roads, health, telecommunications, education and transportation). The idea being to improve the urban environment and provide modern services in accordance with the aims of the UDAA (1999). The land to be impacted by the project was divided into parts (or *saksuan* in Lao) based on three big blocks along the Dongchong-Salakheo road, and also several small blocks each of 800 square meters to which people were to be resettled. Moreover, for those villagers receiving land, the government was to give them land use documentation.

Affected villagers

Those involved in the discussions regarding the move to Pattana were those located in the urban development project area, most of whom lived alongside the Mekong River, where a road was to be constructed. Two groups of villagers were given permission from the government to migrate to Pattana village. The first group to migrate included those not building permanent households there but migrating in order to trade or for employment purposes; for example, to sell fruit and vegetables at the market, or to sell young plants and watermelons alongside the road. These villagers built small cabins to protect them from the sunlight and the rain, and some built such cabins on their own land or on relatives' or friends' land. The second group to move was those moving to permanent households. These groups received a total of 800 square meters of land (Urban Development and Administration Authority 2000).

Having discussed and surveyed the households' histories and livelihood, 356 households gained permission to receive land from the government in Pattana village.

A villager Mrs. Say, who eventually migrated from Pakse village to the new location, told me in an interview:

"The villagers started to migrate to Pattana village in 2001. There was no village head at that time and I took care of the move. This had the agreement of the head of Pakse District. At that time and up to 2002, about 30 households migrated initially from Phonkoun village, after which the households increased to 102. The first village head was selected in May 2002."

(Mrs. Say, 58 years old, March 2013)

The authorities allocated 800 square meters of land to each household that had migrated, the idea being they would build their houses on this land.

One of Pattana village's head, Mrs. Keo described the migration situation at that time, as follows:

"The first to migrate from Pakse, Phonkounng and Pakhueylue villages moved to the new area in 2001 - migrating one group at a time. After that, migration continued based on the villagers' needs, plus compensation was given for the villagers who had moved, based on the condition of their housing. The compensation was divided into two periods, with the amount paid based on the number of 'pang' (plot); each 'pang' is about 800 square meters, and villagers drew lots to decide which land they ended up with."

(Mrs. keo, 47 years-old, April 2013)

In Pattana there is a main road with other roads which lead to each block. The roads divide the village into four squares and each plot faces the road. To build their houses in Pattana, the villagers used the wood and other materials taken from their old villages, plus bought materials using the compensation paid by the government. Therefore, most of the houses in the new village took on the same characteristics as those in the old village; two stories and built of wood, like many houses in Laos. However, some built modern style houses made of cement and with tile roofs of various colors.



Figure 4 The main road in Pattana village community

Some affected households received the compensation but did not move to live in Pattana village. They moved to live in other places. Of the 186 affected households from Phonkoun, Pakhueylue, and Pakse villages, only 68 households moved to live in Pattana village in the very beginning. By the end of 2002, the numbers of affected households migrated to live in Pattana village increased from 102 into 274 households (141 households were from the three villages of Phonkoun, Pakhueylue, and Pakse).

Some households looked to find work in the new village, but continued to live in their 'old' locations, and those with land outside the construction project area continued to trade alongside the Mekong in the evening, that is, until the state or other projects needed to use that land also (Pakse District Administration 2011: 104).

3.4 Physical characteristics of Pattana village

3.4.1 Location and boundaries

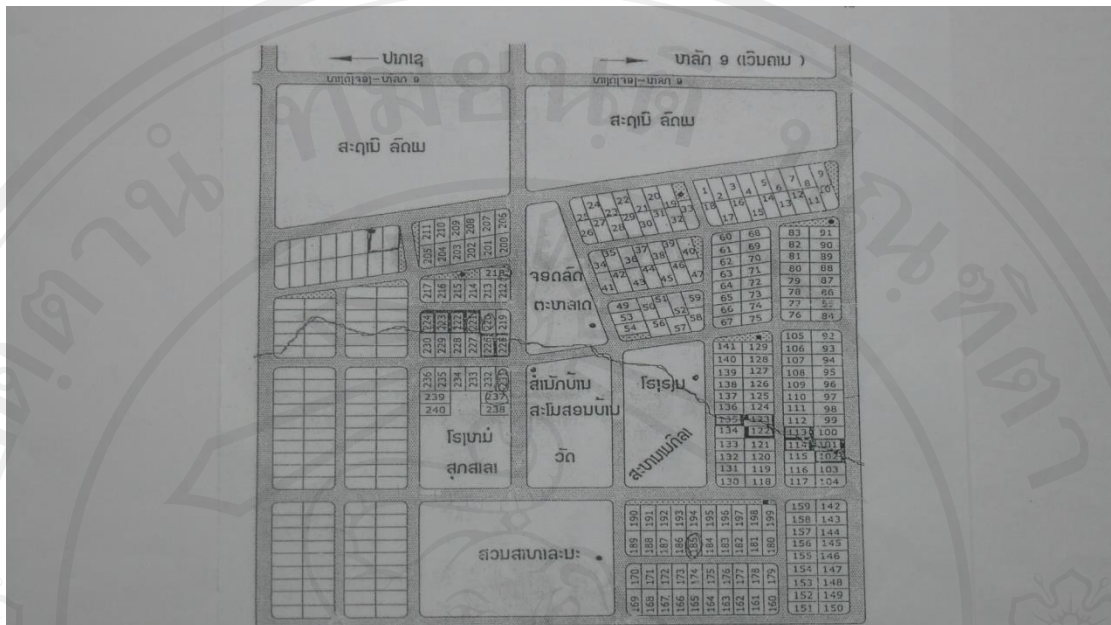
Pattana village is located in southern Pakse district, about seven kilometers from Pakse town. To the north is the southern road no. 13, to the south is the border with *Chatsan* (allocate) village, to the east is the border with Huesae village and to the west is the border with Phoukhoun village.

The area is convenient in terms of communications, transportation and trade because Pattana is on the road to Champasak University, which is only about 600 meters away. In addition, Pattana village is close to the soon-to-be-opened golf course – only one kilometer away, and this might provide villagers with jobs in the near future.

3.4.2 The size and shape of Pattana village

According to the UDAA's plan (see Figure 5 below), apart from the land allocated to those villagers moved by the government, there were also a transportation hub, a temple, a primary school and secondary school, a village hospital, a park and also a community market. However, the planned infrastructure had still not all been put in place when people first moved; for example, the transportation hub, main market, hospital, park and upper secondary school, though some facilities were later opened; for instance, the temple, primary school, secondary school and community market. As there was a difference between the planned plans for the village and the reality, in terms of what the government promised and what was delivered, thus, some villagers did not migrate to live in the new area or on the land allocated to them, leaving a lot of unused space.

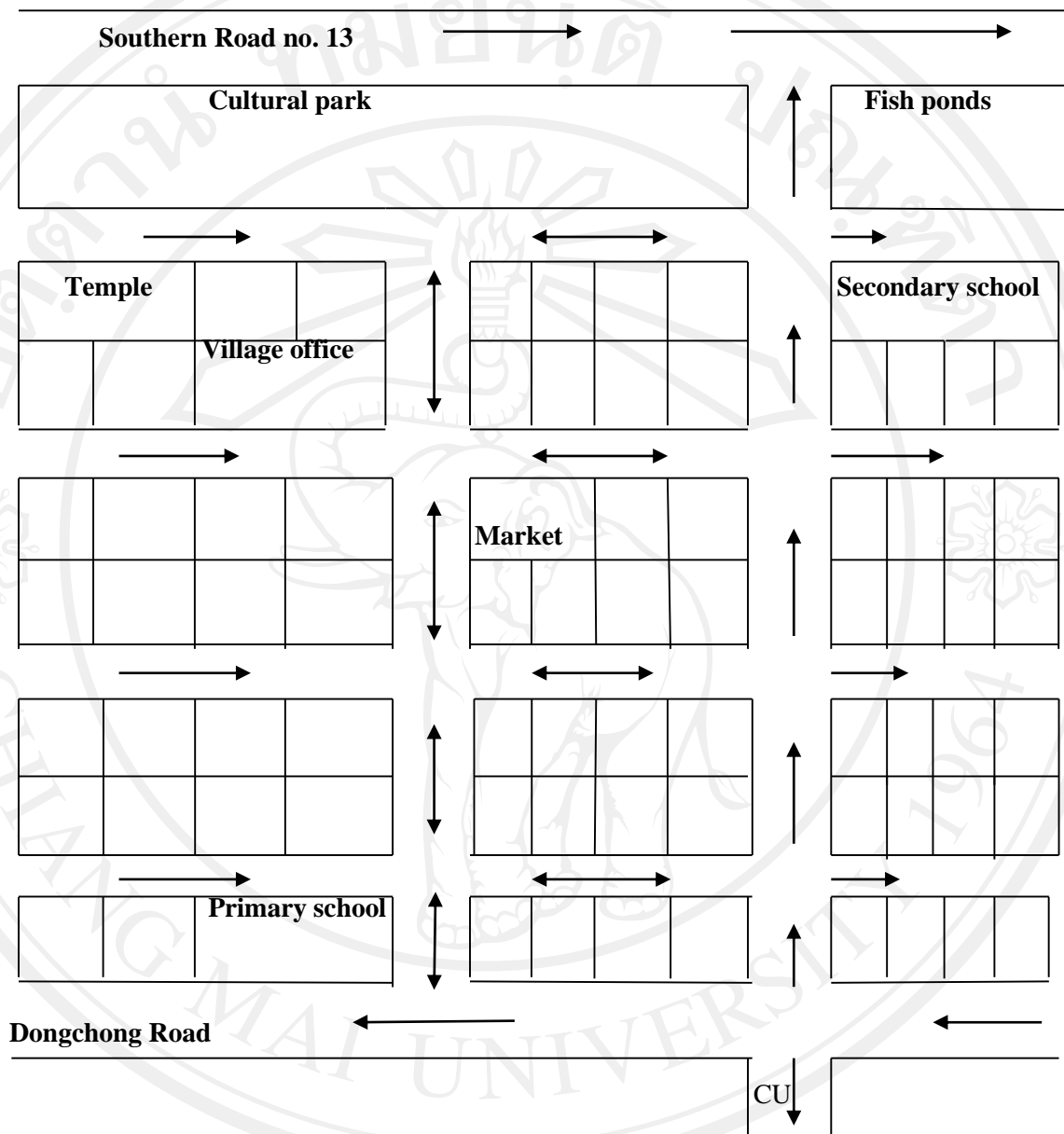
The livelihoods of the villagers who migrated were closely linked to the river and the market in their previous location– where they traded for their subsistence. However, after migrating to Pattana village, which had no river or markets, and no nearby community with which to exchange goods, the villagers had to adapt.



Source: UDAA

Figure 5 Household lay-out of the allocated lands in Pattana village

Currently, Pattana village covers an area of 879 hectares (or 2,172 acres or 5,493.75 rais). Of this, a public park covers about 56 hectares (138 acres or 350 rais), unused land covers 300 hectares (741 acres or 1,875 rais) and accommodation spans 523 hectares (1,292 acres or 3,268.75 rais). The village is made up of four squares each running for three kilometers along the road. There are also three fish ponds at which located entertainment venues which are open until midnight and which host important local and international festivals; for example, teachers' day, Lao New Year, international new year, and Christmas day. The fish ponds also provide jobs and generate an income for the villagers each month (see Figure 6 below).



*CU: Champasak University

Figure 6 Plan of current Pattana village

3.4.3 Public infrastructures in Pattana

Pattana village has been designed as an area allocated by the government for villagers relocated under the urban development. This makes Pattana different from other villages as the state is obliged to provide all necessary infrastructures as described below.

Communications

Pattana village is located about one kilometer from the transportation hub and is located on highway no.13, making it easy to travel to and from the area. Buses run from the village every day, plus there is the Dongchong road which runs to a new main road which starts from the Mely Hotel crossroads just past Daohuang market, and then runs past Pattana village at the kilometer 10 markers in Banchiang Chaleunsouk district.



Figure 7 Dongchong road runs past Pattana village to the town center

As part of the national development plan for Lao PDR (Rigg 2005), physical infrastructure development such as road building has been promoted in the area, its purpose being to transport goods to other locations, plus for general commuting. In Pakse, most villagers use the Dongchong road to get to the town center, to go and trade at Daohuang market and at the shopping center market in the middle of town, and to go to work at offices in the center of town. There are 40 streets in the village linked together; however, only one street is sealed with asphalt – the street to Champasak University. As a result, in the dry season traveling around is easy but in the wet season (from the end of May to October), it is difficult because the streets

become muddy, so most people walk or travel by motorbike, as cars are difficult to drive in such conditions (see Figure 8 and 9 below).



Figure 8

Figure 9

The main road for travelling in and out of Pattana village during the rainy season

Electricity and water supplies

At present most households in Pattana village have access to electricity, as the urban development plan identified this need in advance, installing the supply before most people moved. Not long after the villagers first migrated, all households in the village had electricity, and this led to the acquisition of a number of items to support the villagers' lifestyles, such as televisions, air conditioning units, computers, washing machines, fridges and other electrical items. In addition, the villagers require electricity to run their home businesses such as guest houses, hotels and shops in Pattana village. For instance, each internet cafe, each copy shop, gaming store, entertainment venue and other business requires the use of electricity.

For the water system in Pattana, there is no hydrant water system and no natural water sources, so villagers have to use the water-well (*nambadan*) for their drinking water, for taking a bath and for daily use. Although the government has a policy regarding the digging of wells, for those who migrated to Pattana there is not enough water, as the government wells cannot be used, so the villagers in the end dug

their own wells. For those without the money to dig a well, they have to buy water from neighboring areas within community which do have a well. According to the government, there is a plan to install water hydrants by 2015 in the village, to support people's livelihoods and to ensure water security.

Telephone and postal services

The telecommunications infrastructure is required in the modern era for communicating and for relating to society and the outside world. In the case of Pattana village, the government allowed private investors to set up a telecommunications station to help facilitate the management and administration of the village.

With regard to the postal service, there is a post office at kilometer eight in Bachiang Chaleunsouk district, which neighbors Pattana and there is a provincial post office in the center of town about seven kilometers away. Both of these facilities facilitate communication services such as the sending of letters, documents and money.

3.4.4 Economic conditions

The village is generally self-sufficient economically, as most of the villagers can now be considered middle-income; few are poor. According to my interview with Mr. Saleumsay, 54 years old, one of the heads of Pattana village, he mentions that "64 households are rich, 281 are middle-income and 44 are poor." He further explains that rich households are those with monthly income of 5,000,000 Kip or over (US\$ 666.66) (as of the time of fieldwork, 100 US dollars equal 750,000 Kip) while middle-income households earn about 500,000 Kip (US\$ 66.66) or more a month but not up to five million Kip, and the poor households make less than 500,000 Kip (US\$ 66.66) a month. The average income among the population is 7,500,000 Kip (US\$ 1,000) per person per annum or 625,000 Kip (US\$ 83.33) a month. Most people have several occupations such as traders, business persons, employees and staffs (state enterprise officials and government officials).

3.4.5 Social organization in the village

The villagers in Pattana work in groups to help each other with economic and societal issues, and these groups have received encouragement from the state sector, including the village leaders, who have tried to get the villagers to participate in such initiatives. Details of the groups set up in the village are as follows:

Village Development Fund

The monetary group was set up to manage the village fund, the aim of which is to reduce poverty in the district as well as in Pattana village. There are 167 members of this group, and has been since November 2008. The group has capital of about 75,000,000 Kip (US\$ 10,000), the purpose of which is to provide loans to members who have few funds but who need money for their businesses or to run trade operations; or to help people with medical expenses when they are ill. The interest rate is low and there are borrowing rules in place; for example, people who deposit money can borrow five times that amount as capital to run a business or trade – with an interest rate of 5 percent per month. If they borrow to carry out agriculture, the interest rate is 3 percent per month and if they borrow to cover medical expenses the interest rate is 0 percent for up to one month and 3 percent per month thereafter (interviewed with Mr. Nam, 53 years old, the village development fund chairman, March 2013).

Health fund – to cover healthcare expenses

During the interviews I held as part of my field visit, I found that the health care fund is supported by the public health department, and that this funding began in April 2009. At first, in June 2009, this group had 154 households as members, its purpose being to support health services in the village. The members of this group have the right to free health care (during a hospital stay or for a health check) at the provincial hospital (Champasak Hospital). Every month, each member household has to pay an amount to the fund based on the number of members it has. For instance, a family of one person has to pay 14,000 Kip per month (US\$ 1.8), while if there are two to four people in the household they have to pay 34,000 Kip per month (US\$ 4.5). If there are five to seven people in the household they have to pay 30,000 Kip per month (US\$ 4), and if there are more than eight people in the house they have to pay 33,000 Kip per month (US\$ 4.50) (interviewed with the head of the health fund, March 2013).

Funeral group

The funeral group helps its members when a family member dies. Every household in the village has to participate in this group and help the others. In a case of a child's death, his/her family receives 5,000 Kip (US\$ 0.6) from all members in the

funeral group. If an adult dies, the household will get 10,000 Kip (US\$ 1.50) from all member households (interviewed with the head of funeral group, March 2013).

3.4.6 Social and cultural conditions

Population of Pattana village

In Pattana there are 389 households, and the population is 1,572 people, of which 793 are men and 779 are women. From my survey, the highest percentages of population in Pattana village are those 15-59 years old age group; followed by those aged between 6-14 years old, and those aged between 46-60 years old (see Table 1 below).

Table 1: Population of Pattana village

No	Age	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
1	Below 5 years old	92	108	200	12.72
2	6-14 years old	219	243	462	29.38
3	15-59 years old	198	282	480	30.53
4	46-60 years old	256	123	379	24.10
5	Above 60 years old	28	23	51	3.24
Total		793	779	1,572	100

Source: Report of Pattana village, Pakse District, Champasak Province (from interviews with village's assistant head, March 2013).

Housing situation in Pattana village

The new settlement is set out in quadrangles, and if one looks from above, the elevated area is a farm area, plus there is a housing area which is divided into three groups of village based on the former settlements of the villagers that were Phonkoun, Pakse and Pakhueylue villages.

In terms of the houses, there are three types. Most are one-storey houses, but there are also two-storey houses made from cement – but not many. Most are made from materials taken from the old houses and are not permanent, as the villagers only thought they would live in them for a short time until they had the funds needed to build new houses.

Governance in Pattana village

Pattana has three village heads who control and take care of the administration and finances of the village, including the development fund and the planning and statistical aspects. In addition, there is a village committee which ensures the safety of those in the village, and a social welfare and culture committee which coordinates children and parents' welfare, women's social welfare and youth activities. Each committee has different duties according to the rules set out. The village head selects and appoints people for the committees, those with the appropriate knowledge, abilities and behaviors.

Village administration is divided into thirteen groups, and each group has a manager appointed by the head of village. These groups are divided up based on the housing areas, so they can take care of the residents living there.

Every month, the village head summarizes the latest events and draws-up an implementation plan at a meeting of the Pakse District Administration, returning with information for the heads of the thirteen groups in the village. If any of the information is important or urgent, he will set up a meeting to announce the news to the villagers. This meeting is meant to occur every Saturday or Sunday morning, but seldom occurs because villagers do not have the time to join it, plus the village covers a large area, with the houses far from each other, so people do not have the time or ability to travel. So, when the meeting is scheduled for Saturday or Sunday morning, only villagers who do not work on those days can join.

Education in Pattana village

According to my interviews with one of the heads of Pattana village in March 2013, Pattana village has two schools – a primary school and a secondary school (see Figure 10, 11 below). The primary school was built over the period 2001 to 2002 and is located along the Dongchong road. The owner of a golf center provides the funds to this school. The school opened in the academic year 2002/2003 for the primary school

students (year 1 to year 5), and in 2003/2004 opened a kindergarten. In 2007/2008, there were 420 pupils, 227 were male, 193 were female and twenty teachers, of whom twelve were women. Six of the teachers live in Pattana, while the others are from different villages. There are two buildings in the school used for teaching, with fourteen study rooms and two rooms set aside for the teachers. Some of the pupils who finish primary school go on to the secondary school in the village, while others go to a secondary school in Pakse District.

The secondary school was built in 2004, based on funding from the Japanese government. The secondary school was opened to students in academic year 2006/2007, including only years 1 and 2, then in the following year opened for years 1 to 3. There are three buildings used for teaching, with twelve study rooms and two rooms set aside for the teachers. There are 394 students in total, 215 were male, 179 were female and 21 teachers, of whom thirteen are women, and there are two volunteer teachers also. Most students at the secondary school come from the primary school, but some come from the Chatsun village primary school and from other villages. Some of those students who finish secondary school in Pattana village go on to Pakse upper-secondary school, while others go to Phounsay upper-secondary school in the center of town.

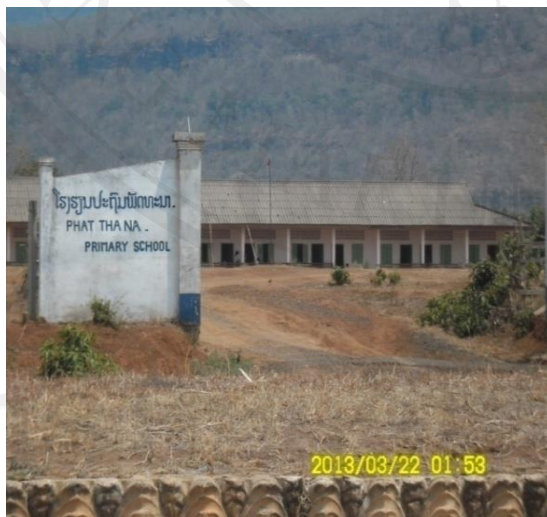


Figure 10 The village primary School



Figure 11 The village secondary School

Public health sector

In terms of health care in the village, whenever people are sick, such as with a cold, headache, muscle ache or are tired, they buy medicine from the pharmacies in the village or in town. However, if they are very sick most like to go to the small clinics in town, the provincial hospital or the international clinic, about eight kilometers away. If a soldier gets ill, or any member of the household in the village gets ill, the sick people can seek for service from the army hospital about two kilometers from the village. In general the villagers do not use traditional medicines as they take a long time for treatment, though there are some illnesses for which these are used.

According to my interviews regarding the villagers' food and drinking water usage, many villagers said they find their ingredients either naturally or at the community market, or they buy from the markets in the center of the town. For their daily consumption, villagers get their drinking water from the well. They boil it before they drink it, while some buy bottled water. For washing and for cleaning their clothes they take water from the well, but during the wet season most people use rainwater.

In the village there is a community market that the villagers established by themselves at the end of 2007 because the village is far from any other community market and also the main markets, such as Daohuang market, the shopping center market and the evening market. The villagers, as well as those Champasak University students who live in dormitories, have to travel seven kilometers to the markets in town. As a result, the villagers often buy fresh food from these markets and then sell it in front of their houses. A group of villagers also got together in order to set up a small market in the village, informal at first and then using a community building, and this is used by villagers and Champasak University students who do not have a motorbike, car or find it difficult to get around.



Figure 12 Pattana village community market

Religion and culture

Most of the villagers are Buddhist – amounting to 383 households, though six households are Christian. There is one temple in the village with seven monks and eleven novices residing there. An abbot is the head of the temple; the leader of the local religious order and the heart of the village. The villagers always hold festivals at the temple on Buddha days and on other sermon days in line with tradition. On other days, the villagers divide-up the task of taking food to the temple for the monks and novices, with on one day sixteen households giving food to the monks and novices who walk along the road every morning picking up food and rice donations from the villagers. The villagers present the food and rice to the monks in front of their own houses.

In the village, there are a number of traditions still practiced; for example, the rice festival, Buddhist festivals, the alms-giving ceremony, a festival celebrating the teachings of Buddha, a festival celebrating Buddha's birth, death and enlightenment, an ancestor festival, rice-growing festival and Lao New Year. In addition, there are *Basysoukhwān* ceremonies which the villagers normally arrange, though these have been improved and developed over time.



Figure 13 Pattana village community temple

Households and relatives

Although Pattana village has integrated people from several villages, most of the villagers have retained their previous relations and family structures, including a father, mother, children and others, such as grandparents, nieces, nephews, brother-and sister-in-laws. However, some of these extended families represent a temporary situation, for once oldest daughter, second daughter and other daughter (except youngest daughter) get married about two years or three years, they usually build a new house and move to live with their husbands. In this area, daughters receive more of an inheritance from their parents than the sons, because when the sons get married they move in with the wives' families. However, when the youngest daughters get married they usually stay at home to take care of their parents.

Recreation

The villagers in Pattana seldom have time to relax at home, because they have to work to earn an income for their family, such as at one of the local markets, for businesses, in shops and in hotels. The villagers usually work during the day, though some work at night. As a result, they do not have time to talk with friends or join in with activities at home, except on festivals days such as the boat racing festival, Lao New Year and their own house festivals. Those villagers who trade at the community market have time to talk with each other as a group and to join in with activities

together. During village activities or traditional festivals, the villagers stop working or trading and volunteer to help, as these occasions give the villagers the opportunity to relax and meet each other.

3.5 Summary

In this chapter, I focus on overview of urban development project in Pakse district, Champasak province and provide information about the current situation of villagers who had been relocated to live in Pattana village. In the next chapter, I explain the implementation and the process of the urban development project and resettlement policies and activities,