



# ALiSEA NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

## IN LAO PDR

Work together Towards an Agroecology Transition

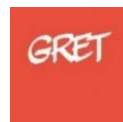


Thursday, 07th November 2024  
Don Chan Palace Hotel

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## List of Acronym

ADSA: Agricultural Development and Social Assistance Association  
AFD: Agence Française de Développement (French Development Agency)  
AFA: Asian Farmers' Association  
AI: Artificial Intelligence  
ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations  
ALISEA: Agroecology Learning Alliance in South East Asia  
APPREN: Association for protection and promotion good live to the children & Youth  
ARMI: Association for Rural Mobilisation and Improvement  
Asiadhrra: Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia  
AVSF: Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (Agronomists and Veterinarians Without Borders)  
CASE: Community Association for Salvation & Environment  
CDEA: Community Development and Environmental Association  
CLICK: CLICK KM for Development  
CODA: Community Development Association  
CSO: Civil Society Organization  
DALAM: Department of Agricultural Land Management  
DOPC: Department of Planning and Cooperation  
EU: European Union  
FAPPL: Foundation for assisting poor people of Lao PDR  
FFEM: Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (French Facility for Global Environment)  
FO: Farmers' Organization  
FOA: Faculty of Agriculture  
GALS: Gender Action Learning System  
GCA: Green Community Alliance  
GRET: Groupe de Recherche et d'Échanges Technologiques (Group for Research and Technological Exchanges)  
HELVETAS: HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation  
iNGO: International Non-Governmental Organization  
KHPA: Khao Kai Noi Houaphan Promotion Association  
KCDA: Kong District Community Development Association  
LANN: Linking Agriculture, Natural Resource Management and Nutrition  
LaoDHRRA: Lao Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas Association  
LFA: Lao Farmer's Association  
PAKA: Participatory Development Knowledge Agency  
PBE: Pheun-Ban Enterprise  
PDDA: People With Disabilities Development Association of Xiengkhouang  
PKL: Pha Khao Lao  
POF: Phommalok Organic Farm  
PSNUA: Promote Sustainable Natural Resource Use Association  
RDA: Rural Development Agency  
RDSA: Rural Development and Sustainable Agriculture  
RRDPA: Rural Research and Development Promoting Knowledge Association  
SAMDA: Sustainable Asa Mobilizing Development Association  
SAEDA: Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association  
SDC: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation  
SUN CSA: Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance  
TAG: The Association for Green  
TOAC: Thongmang Organic Agriculture Cooperative

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Overview

This report summarizes the 2024 National General Assembly of the Agroecology Learning Alliance in Southeast Asia (ALiSEA), which was held in Vientiane Capital on November 7, 2024. The meeting was organized by ALiSEA with support from committee members including the Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association (SAEDA), Faculty of Agriculture (FAG), Participatory Development Training Center (PAKA), Rural Development Association (RDA), and Groupe de Recherche et d'Échanges Technologiques (Gret). The main purpose of this gathering was to strengthen cooperation, share valuable lessons from the past year's activities including successes, issues and challenges, and to set future directions for agroecological programs.

### 1.2. Objectives

The objectives of the national General Assembly are:

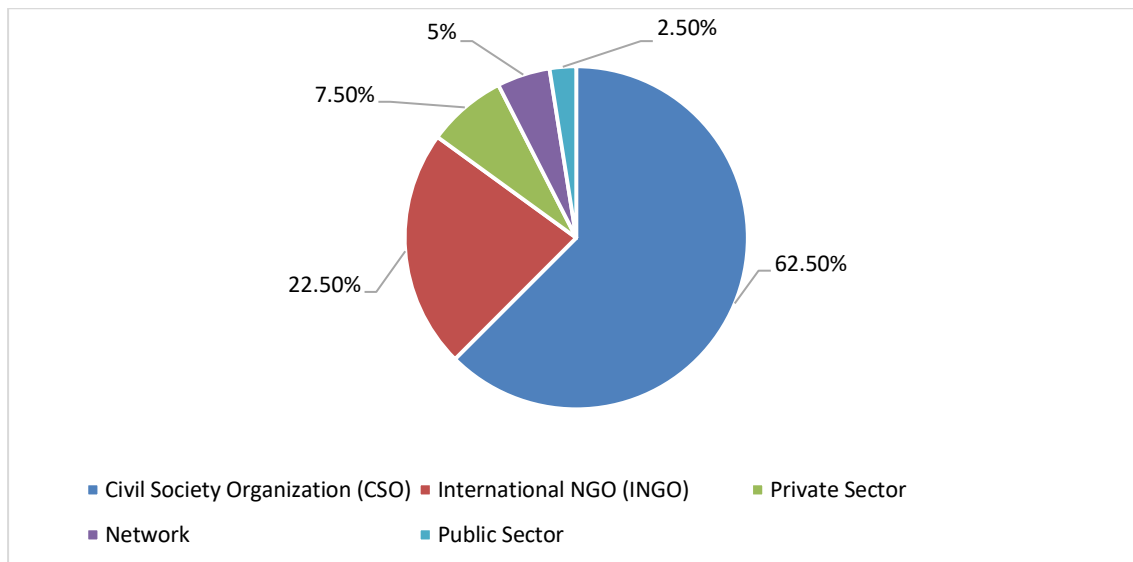
- Welcome the new members of 2023/2024;
- Present and share ALiSEA progress activities and achievements in 2023/2024;
- Present updates and results on the call for proposal 2023 from ALiSEA Small Grant Facility;
- Co-develop ALiSEA national action plan 2025 with ALiSEA members;
- Remind key results of the Regional ALiSEA General Assembly in March 2024 and agree on the next steps forward.

### 1.3. Participants

The meeting brought together 40 participants (including 23 women) from representing civil society organizations (CSO), international non-governmental organizations (iNGO), private sector, networks, and public sector.

#### Type of stakeholders

Sector	Number of Participants	Percentage
Civil Society Organization (CSO)	25	62.5%
International NGO (iNGO)	9	22.5%
Private Sector	3	7.5%
Network	2	5%
Public Sector	1	2.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100%</b>



## 2. Main Discussion Points

### 2.1. Introduction Session

#### 2.1.1. Welcome Speech

Good morning, everyone. I am Khamphoui Saythalat, the director of the Participatory Development Knowledge Agency (PAKA). I would like to extend my warm welcome to Ms. Lucie Reynaud, the regional coordinator of ALiSEA and Gret based in Paris. Today it is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to the ALiSEA general assembly 2024. This gathering marks a significant step in our collective journey of working together towards Agroecology transition. Over the past year and many years since 2015, ALiSEA has been growing and has recently become a flourishing network dedicated to increasing the credibility and visibility of agricultural practitioners and supporters who actively engage with members in information and knowledge sharing through current actions that promote agroecology transition and provide visible benefits for all participants, including farmers, consumers, and policy makers.

I believe that our network has achieved remarkable milestones over the years and has overcome so many challenges as you know and has made a great impact on promoting the agroecology concept and creating a space for stakeholders to engage and learn from each other regarding agroecology transition in the greater sub-Mekong region, including Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and Myanmar. Today, we have collectively gathered to attend this general assembly. We have the opportunity to reflect on our past year's achievements and commitments, assess our current position, and plan for the future. Of course, we will discuss various important issues, share innovative ideas, and collaborate on strategies to further advance our mission. I believe so.

I'm confident that through open dialogue, constructive consultation, and a spirit of collaboration, we will emerge from this assembly with new energy and a shared vision and action plan for the future of this endeavor. Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to strengthen our bonds and inspire one another to work together for a better ALiSEA, its stakeholders, and beneficiaries. Thank you very much.

#### 2.1.2. Opening Remark

Lucie Reynaud gave her remark: I'm happy to welcome you today to our ALiSEA - Agroecology Learning Alliance National Technical Assembly. A network is nothing without its members. It is always nice to see familiar faces, and also new organizations that have joined us to exchange ideas about agriculture and to learn from each other in various dimensions: vegetable seed production, rice-duck integration, and to exchange together about the challenges we are facing in the fields and how we can share our experiences and learn together. This is really the spirit of ALiSEA: bringing people around the table, bringing a diversity of stakeholders—farmers,

organizations, researchers, and NGOs. We believe that together we can make a difference. We can have joint actions for promoting agriculture.

Today, during this general assembly, we will have plenty of opportunities for discussion, but also for consultation with you. These kinds of moments are important for us to get suggestions from our members to improve the network, to exchange ideas, and also to make decisions about the next steps forward for our network. Furthermore, the SDC has expressed interest in the ALiSEA network, and our activities, our proposal has been selected for a year period from 2025 to 2028. This is part of the objective for today: looking back at what has been done, but also building the next action plan together, building the future together during this one-day workshop. We will also welcome our new members and discuss the governance and structure of the network.

As you remember, this has been a long process, a long journey, on coordination and management. We will also have a dedicated section regarding this topic. Lastly, I would like to thank the ALiSEA team. With PAKA, SAEDA, RDA, and NUoL, and Gret, have been working together for nearly 3 years now to coordinate and implement the ALiSEA Network and express my gratitude to PAKA for its strong and valuable commitment. Ms. Soutima has joined us as the ALiSEA National Secretariat 3 months ago, and I'm really delighted to collaborate with PAKA to boost and manage the ALiSEA network. I wish you a very fruitful discussion during this whole day.

### **2.1.3. Introduction of New Members**

Ms. Soutima Boudvised presented the steps to becoming a new member of ALiSEA. She then introduced the 5 new members that have recently joined ALiSEA network in 2023 and 2024:

1. Sustainable Asa Mobilizing Development Association (SAMDA)
2. Pheun-Ban Enterprise
3. Khao Kai Noi Houaphanh Promotion Association (KHPA)
4. Phommalok organic farm
5. HELVETAS Laos

Ms. Soutima Boudvised highlighted that ALiSEA Laos has grown to 72 organizations. She broke down the membership structure, showing that NGO/NPAs constitute the majority at 57%, followed by the private sector at 18%, Research and University institutions at 13%, Farmer Organizations at 8%, and Networks at 4%.

**Full presentation available** [[01-02-ALiSEA Laos-Main achievements 2023-2024-FV.pptx](#)]

## **2.2. ALiSEA Achievements in Laos (2023-2024)**

Ms. Xaysomphone Phaypadith highlighted ALiSEA Laos's 2023-2024 achievements, detailing the organization's successful execution of international exchange programs, online sessions, training programs, field visits, and policy discussions. **Full presentation available** [[01-02-ALiSEA Laos-Main achievements 2023-2024-FV.pptx](#)]

Mr. Somephone Phanthavong (KCDA), shared his experiences and contributions. He described participating in ALiSEA training on various topics, including rice-duck integrated farming, organic vegetable cultivation, and growing coffee in banana plantations, among others. After the training, under KCDA, he implemented the rice-duck integrated farming practices in Khong District, Champasak Province. He noted that there were several initial challenges, as locals were skeptical and worried that the ducks would damage their rice crops. He addressed these concerns by discussing them with the village head, explaining the benefits of rice-duck farming such as natural pest control (eliminating snails, weeds, and crabs), reduced chemical use in production, and dual income streams from both rice cultivation and duck eggs. He further explained, *"For this trial, we weighed all the ducks before introducing them to the rice fields to compare their growth with conventional duck farming methods. The activity has been running for three months with monthly monitoring, and we will conduct our final evaluation this November and submit the results to ALiSEA."*



### **2.3. ALiSEA Main Achievements in Vietnam and Cambodia (2023-2024)**

ALiSEA has made significant progress in Cambodia and Vietnam during 2023-2024, following strategic pathways established through their 2021 Theory of Change. In Cambodia, the organization focused on addressing knowledge gaps, improving market access and price for agroecology products, and strengthening policy dialogue. One of its notable achievements is having ALiSEA as a sub-committee member CASIC, a national platform promoting agroecology transitions and policy maker engagement. In Vietnam, its initiatives focused on government policy support, consumer demand for healthy foods, and stakeholder collaboration. As one of its significant achievements, Zalo Group was created, engaging 54 organizations. The group serves as a platform for knowledge sharing. Despite these achievements, ALiSEA also faces many challenges, including limited input to knowledge products, board member time constraints, communication flow issues, the need for wider stakeholder participation, national secretariat turnover, and limited communication between countries.

**Full presentation available** [[03. Draft ALiSEA Main achievement in VN and Cambodia.pptx](#)]

### **2.4. ALiSEA Action Plan 2025 in Laos**

Ms. Xaysomphone Phaypadith presented Laos' framework, which has three components: 1) enhancing young farmers' knowledge through domestic and international exchanges, 2) improving farmer organizations' technical knowledge about agroecology and food safety, and 3) managing the use of agricultural chemicals.

Ms. Soutima Boudvised and Ms. Lucie Reynaud introduce ALiSEA's Action Plan 2025 for Laos, outlining five key modality of actions. They then explained specific activities and their corresponding timelines for each modality. The following are the 5 Main areas of ALiSEA action plan:

1. Strengthening ALiSEA network
2. Capacitation of Stakeholders
3. Communication and media outreach
4. Youth Engagement in Agroecology
5. Policy Dialogue for uptake of agroecology

**Full presentation available** [[04-ALiSEA-Activities 2025 Final.pptx](#)]

#### **Q&A Session:**

**Q1:** How does ALiSEA engage with policy subsector working groups, and even roundtable in the context of Laos?

**A1:**

- Within ALiSEA's committee, we have one focal point person responsible for policy dialogue engagement. In Laos, SAEDA is in charge of facilitating discussions among members.
- We have initiated discussions with government partners, including the Department of Agricultural Land Management (DALAM), who co-chair the agroecology subsector working group together with AFD. We are part of these subsector working groups.
- In addition, we organize group discussions within the network to identify key messages we want to present at these subsector working groups. This strategy is the same for all the countries. The idea is to identify discussion areas that are endorsed by the ministry itself and then get organized beforehand on what we believe are key messages for promoting and scaling up agroecology in the country. We then participate in these events to share ALiSEA's position. However, this is still a work in progress and the network has only been engaged in policy dialogue activities for three years.
- This is something we would like to strengthen and make sure more documents would be produced and published. We believe it would be more relevant and impactful to develop position papers that can be circulated within the network based on consultation workshop, field visits, and meetings. We strongly believe in learning by doing. Through these kinds of events and opportunities we have today, we can learn from each other and determine the way forward.. This



is exactly the kinds of ideas and discussions we will be having today , to finalize our action plan 2025.

**Q2:** My organization has weaknesses in financial accounting. I would like to know if ALiSEA can help provide training for my organization in this area?

**A2:**

- At the moment, all financial and administrative accounting for the ALiSEA Network is managed by Gret. We rely on Gret's finance department and staff to guarantee the quality of the financial reporting, accounting, and transparency in our budget management and donor reporting. This responsibility extends to all three countries.
- Members are the ones working directly with farmers and local authorities, creating a direct impact in the field. ALiSEA's added value lies in strengthening our members. This is why, there will be a group discussion focusing on capacity building around technical aspects of agroecology, and soft skills such as video production, gender awareness, leadership, public speaking, etc. During the group discussion, we plan to list all ideas and needs regarding ALiSEA's support. Then, we will work on prioritizing these needs. The network is here to provide services to the member organizations.

Regarding capacity building, we acknowledge that agroecology can be a complex topic, with various dimensions. ALiSEA welcomes organizations with 20 years' experience in agroecology and those who are new to agroecology and want to learn.

This year, we aim to design a training program focusing on agroecology in national language. When new members join the ALiSEA Network, they will be able to learn about agroecology through this program. We want to build this training program building upon members' expertise, to take advantage of all your experience in Laos to design and develop training tools in the national language. In order to meet a long-standing need: the lack of available training resources for implementing agroecology. The creation of these tools and training program is one of our key objectives for the coming years.

**Comments from SUN CSA:** Congratulations on ALiSEA's achievements. SUN CSA is a network similar to ALiSEA, but SUN CSA's work focuses on nutrition. Although our organizations work on different topics, we are still connected because SUN CSA's network includes multiple program groups, with agriculture being one of our sub-topics. Therefore, we hope that both our networks can work together and share information to create benefits for members of both our networks.

**Response from ALiSEA:** Agriculture and nutrition are highly connected through the production of high-quality, diversified foods to feed local communities. Our network works and promote farm diversification while providing valuable nutrition to communities. ALiSEA has always tried to pull resources rather than duplicate actions. Working together makes us stronger and more visible, especially in the face of actors pushing in opposite directions. Let's discuss further collaboration opportunities.

#### **Co-development of ALiSEA Action Plan 2025 in Laos**

Participants were divided into 4 groups. Each group spent 20 minutes at each discussion station and rotated through 4 key topics:

- Station 1: Capacity Building, facilitated by Ms. Xaysomphone Phaypadith (RDA)
- Station 2: Youth Support, facilitated by Ms. Soutima Boudvised (PAKA)
- Station 3: Communication, facilitated by Mr. Samphanh Lathsakit (GRET)
- Station 4: Policy Dialogue, facilitated by Ms. Manivanh Aliyavong and Ms. Lucie Reynaud (GRET)

Below is the summary of the group discussion.

### Group 1: Capacity Building

Activities	Co-organize	Feedback	Recommendation
Training need assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most organizations don't have this activity in their annual plans, but they are interested in participating as members.</li> <li>Organizations that have capacity building plans for their staff include: LFN.</li> <li>Desired training topics: Video production, Photography, Marketing for Agricultural Production, Media Production, Social Media Management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Besides assessing training need, members suggest including organizational assessments that cover organizational strengths and weaknesses, and areas for improvement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen institutional capacity through peer-to-peer learning</li> <li>When organizing capacity building activities, SUN CSA and ALiSEA can work together since agriculture and nutrition are interconnected. Both networks can provide trainers to each other for specific topics.</li> <li>Meetings often focus too much on presentations. More time should be allocated for organizations to share feedback and report on their activities.</li> </ul>
Co-Team & training program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most members have expressed strong interest in participating in this activity. However, their organizations haven't developed a plan for this initiative. Organizations that currently have established plans include: LFN, SEADA, and VFI.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training topics are not yet known. Once posted, members will select suitable candidates to join.</li> </ul>	
Develop agroecology training tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LFN/CLICK, VFI, and SUN CSA have tool design expertise and dedicated teams, with tool development planned for next year.</li> </ul>		
Agroecology technical & soft skill training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LFN/CLICK, VFI, and SUN CSA have tool design expertise and dedicated teams, with tool development planned for next year.</li> <li>LFN/CLICK - has expertise in 14 areas of agroecology in Laos (Small grant facility)</li> <li>The Faculty of Agriculture plans to conduct technical training on agroecology</li> </ul>		
National exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most organizations don't have plans to organize such activities, but they are interested in participating.</li> <li>Preferred study visit locations are Xiengkhouang Province, Houaphan Province, Louangprabang province and Pakse District</li> </ul>		
Regional exchange		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was a suggestion that each organization nominates some of their members to join such activity.</li> </ul>	
Online webinar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SUN CSA conducts weekly online hangout sessions covering topics of member interest. They are open to collaborating with ALiSEA on mutual topics to facilitate knowledge sharing between members of both networks.</li> </ul>		
Create and Facilitate Farmer Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most members are interested in collaborating and organizing such activity with ALiSEA.</li> </ul>		

### Group 2: Youth Engagement

Activities	Those who should be involved	Timeline	Co-organize	Feedback	Recommendation
Youth agroecology mapping (members) working on youth and farmers' needs	Farmer organization and members	June-August	Organizations interested in participating or co-organizing: LaoDHRRA, PAKA, RRDPA, KHPA, SAMDA, ADSA, APPREN, LFA, CoDA, SAEDA, FAPPL, Phommalok	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a survey to identify youth aspirations and needs for support programs.</li> <li>RRDPA &amp; APPEN: While most programs focus on rural youth, opportunities should be extended to include urban youth participation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FOA has visionary professors and cooperatives involved in agricultural processing, farming, and livestock raising.</li> <li>CDEA: Create opportunities for disadvantaged groups to reduce poverty gaps.</li> <li>Aim to develop youth into leaders with enhanced knowledge of agroecology.</li> </ul>

			organic farm, GCA, PDDA.XKH, and PKL.	(especially youth disability in Vientiane). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CoDA: Enhance ALiSEA network with other existing networks/government agencies in Laos (Lao youth union) by encouraging youth leadership.</li> <li>• PBE: Promote learning about ALiSEA objectives among target youth groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAG/NUoL: Conduct biodiversity information campaigns at universities to spark youth interest; this will also help us reach target groups effectively.</li> <li>• SUN CSA: Develop youth role models in agroecology, especially in urban areas, to inspire other young people. Create platforms for them to showcase their work and identity through social media and multi-level forums.</li> <li>• VFI: Promote agricultural production to secondary school students.</li> <li>• LaoDHRRA: Strengthen FO capabilities in accessing funding and project proposal writing, enhance FO group management, and develop their leadership and negotiation skills.</li> </ul>
Organize knowledge sharing & online learning webinars	Farmer organization and members	October	Organizations interested in participating or co-organizing: KHPA, RRDPA, PDDA.XKH, AVSF – Laos, TAG, CASE, PAKA, CDEA, CoDA, and RDSA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommend holding 2-4 sessions per year.</li> <li>• LaoDHRRA: FO cannot fully participate during June-August as this is their rice cultivation season.</li> <li>• Face-to-face activities are preferable to online sessions.</li> <li>• PBE: There should be different learning groups led by experienced individuals or successful role models. Additionally, after each training session, the activities should be disseminated through social media platforms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommend organizing face-to-face training sessions such as field visits.</li> <li>• Invite organizations with successful implementation experience to share their practices.</li> <li>• SAMDA: Youth members should have implemented similar activities and share their results and experience.</li> <li>• FAPPL: Suggest training topics - promoting crop cultivation for seed conservation, promoting cotton cultivation.</li> <li>• CDEA: Support product processing to ensure stable market access.</li> <li>• RDSA: Recommend having information exchange meetings on agricultural work.</li> <li>• We should organize visits to model farms.</li> </ul>

### Group 3: Communication

Activities	Those who should be involved	Timeline	Co-organize	Feedback
Develop digital tools - consumer campaign	Members, Executive team	November – December	Organizations interested in participating or co-organizing: SAMDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADSA: we can contribute good quality photo of activities/events</li> <li>• AVSF: Biosecurity, One health, topic has been identified and materials are available, need a partner to promote/launch this campaign</li> <li>• SUN CSA: run joint campaign on 1) agriculture and food security (Facebook post, case study/story video), 2) Agriculture and climate change. These could be share via SUN CSA Facebook page, website, YouTube...</li> </ul>

Social media engagement with general public & students – Monthly Quiz	Executive team	July-December 2025	Organizations interested in participating or co-organizing: RRDPA and SAMDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADSA: we should create/design our own organization's Facebook page to share post from other partners to promote each other.</li> </ul>
Create Communications materials	Executive team	January-April	Organizations interested in participating or co-organizing: CoDA and ADSA (regarding Poster design), TAG, and SAMDA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CDEA: Previously contributed to making a video about the solar dryer dome project at Thongmang Cooperative.</li> <li>RDSA: Proposes that ALiSEA provide video editing training alongside its agroecology training program</li> </ul>
Support and guide agroecology to journalists	Executive team	January-December	Organizations interested in participating or co-organizing: AVSF and SAMDA	Nutritional resources available on SUN CSA website, including 1,000 Days program and LANN GALS initiative.
Develop brief booklet concerning agroecology	Executive team	August-September	Organizations interested in participating or co-organizing: TAG and SAMDA	ADSA: Should include Information about agroecological knowledge, agricultural learning centers, photos, and field sites
Journalist field visit	Journalists	June	Organizations interested in participating or co-organizing: SAMDA	
Monitor journalist articles	Executive team	November-December	Organizations interested in participating or co-organizing: SAMDA	
Translate videos into various languages including local dialects	Executive team	November	Organizations interested in participating or co-organizing: KHPA, SAMDA, CoDA (capable of translating into both local dialects and English)	

**Comments from Mr. Phoutthasin Phimmachan (Click) regarding translation:** Currently, AI (Artificial Intelligence) technology cannot effectively process Lao language because we don't publish enough Lao language documents on various websites.

#### Group 4: Policy Dialogue

Topic	Those who should be involved	Timeline	Co-Organize	Feedback	Suggestion
<b>National Level</b>					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizations with successful implementation experience should share their practices</li> </ul>
Policy training to Executive Team to promote agroecology in ASEAN	Executive Team	August			

Create field evidence	Executive Team, members	April-June	Organizations interested in participating or co-organizing: AVFS, VFI, RRDPA, LaoDHHRA, and CLICK.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Compile agricultural activity results into articles for publication and dissemination.</li><li>• Develop sustainable demonstration models for short-term crops, long-term crops, and integrated farming systems, such as coffee cultivation in both tropical and temperate zones.</li><li>• Transform local organizations' initiatives into policy recommendations (conduct data collection in appropriate seasons).</li><li>• Present the association's achievements, completed project activities, and future organizational plans at exchange meetings</li></ul>	<p>with those facing implementation challenges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Members should participate in developing training concepts and approaches.</li><li>• Prioritize topics for policy development.</li><li>• Propose training sessions on policy brief writing.</li><li>• ALiSEA committee representatives must participate in agricultural policy exchange forums that are organized by government, FAO, AFA</li></ul>
National policy workshop on consumer, vegetable seeds, pesticide reduction	Executive Team, members	June	Organizations interested in participating or co-organizing: CASE, SAMDA, APPREN, VFI, and KCDA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organize training workshops on how to collect and preserve native seed varieties for later distribution to target communities.</li><li>• Conduct training on safe and effective use of pesticides and agricultural chemicals.</li></ul>	
Produce policy brief based on multi-stakeholders’ workshop	Executive Team	August-October	Organizations interested in participating or co-organizing: KCDA, AVSF, ADSA.	Develop strategies and policies regarding agroecology in Laos	
Regional I Level					
Develop collaboration with AFA & Asiadhrra to promote agroecology at ASEAN level	Executive Team	January-May	Organizations interested in participating or co-organizing: AVSF, LaoDHHRA, ADSA.		
Information session on ASEAN guideline (online)	Members	February	Organizations interested in participating or co-organizing: AVSF, LaoDHHRA		
Contribute to regional workshop on ASEAN guideline implementation	Executive Team	March	Organizations interested in participating or co-organizing: SAMDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relevant stakeholders, particularly government bodies such as the ASEAN Secretariat, should be involved.</li><li>• Interest in participating in policy dialogues, especially in developing policy briefs.</li></ul>	

#### Additional comments:

- It's unfortunate that documents sometimes cannot be stored online. SUN CSA has a website for document repository - All partner organizations are welcome to store and share their documents through our platform.
- Associations are involved in various project activities but have not shared information, resulting in a lack of awareness and knowledge among members' work. The aim is to identify the most impactful topics and experiences (select on topic) to present as strong evidence for policymaker.

## 2.5. Results of Regional General Assembly

Ms. Lucie Reynaud presented the results of the Regional General Assembly held in March 2024 in Laos, including ALiSEA's current and new organizational structure and governance changes:

ALiSEA Network Evolution & Structure:

- Founded in 2015, ALiSEA is an informal network, initially coordinated by GRET across Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia
- In 2021, established National Board members to increase member involvement in decision-making and to represent the diversity of members' organizations
- In March 2024, members voted to split governance into two distinct components: National Boards and National Executive Team

The new national organizational structure will consist of 2 committees – (1) National Board serving on a four-year mandate (2025-2028, renewable) on a volunteer basis and (2) National Executive Team. National Board will be elected by country members through majority votes, with key roles including network representation, strategic guidance, and promoting agroecology. National Board must be from member organizations and must be senior staff or experienced agroecology staff who can provide ideas for the Network. The Board composition strives for balance between different stakeholders (FO, CSO, INGO, Researchers). The Executive Team is responsible for implementing activities and includes 3 positions working 40-50% per month: National secretariat (PAKA was selected), Knowledge management, and Policy dialogue are available positions.

To maintain regular communication and engagement, National General Assemblies will be held annually for discussions and suggestions, while Regional General Assemblies will be organized every two years, subject to funding availability.

**Full presentation available** [[05-ALiSEA-Governance and Internal Structuration-Final.pptx](#)]

### Q&A Session:

**Q1:** What is the position of National Secretary in this structure? You mentioned there will be Board Members and 3 persons in the Executive Committee. So, is the National Secretary part of the Board Members and Executive committee or is it an additional position?

**A1:** The executive team has 3 people to implement activities: one National Secretariat, one Knowledge Officer, and one Policy Dialogue Officer. The executive team focuses on implementing activities, while the board provides strategic guidance and promotes the network. The National Secretariat serves as the team leader. In our vision, the National Secretariat leads the network in the countries, manages networking activities, and maintains connections with members. The person will handle communication, facilitate discussions, and coordinate the implementation of activities in the country.

**Q2:** Since we hold a general assembly every 2 years, but the proposed national committee elections are every 4 years, shouldn't we consider changing the national committee's term to 2 years? This way we could elect a new committee at every general assembly that takes place every 2 years.

**A2:** The National and Regional General Assembly are a good opportunity for the board and executive team to meet. The national general assembly will be held annually, while the regional general assembly will be organized every two years.

**Q3:** Our members consist of both organizations and individuals. One organization gets one vote, but how should individual members vote?

**A3:** No ALiSEA is a network of organizations, not a network of individual members. This is why the rule proposed is - one vote per organization.

Currently, we have few requests from individuals such as journalists, and independent researchers who feel connected to ALiSEA and agroecology values, but their organizations are too large to become members. They're like friends. At the moment, they can't join, but we could create a "friend"

status. These ALiSEA friends aren't part of the network now, so they can't vote. If you're a member, it must be as an organization.

**Q4:** For organizational applications, I think we don't need to focus too much on names and positions of applicants, as it's automatically the head of organization who applies. Instead, we should keep the short profile of the organization, meaning whoever has time or is assigned by the president can attend on behalf of the organization.

**A4:** We try to balance this because ultimately, someone will speak on behalf of the network. We think it's important to have someone experienced or with a strong background on agroecology who feels comfortable speaking about it. The idea is that people will represent both the organization and themselves. We will vote for both the organization and the person.

**Additional comment from Click:** In that case, the focus may be too much on the individual. Both approaches have their justifications. For me, the organization is sufficient. For example, in Lao farmer network, our president, vice president, and others can join different events based on their expertise and relevance of the relevance. It doesn't have to be me as president to join the event. If we specify names, people might wonder who can replace that person.

**Additional input from HELVETAS:** Regarding individual versus institutional membership, in the iNGO Network, we have INGOs as members with voting rights, and associate members who are typically individuals like researchers or private sector representatives. It is therefore possible to have the second category.

**Q5:** When you mentioned ambassadors - a board has usually more than two people and has a wider mandate than just strategic guidance and being ambassadors. It is more of a supervisory role over the executive and the secretary. So, we should discuss whether to keep it as it is or expand the role of the board .

**A5:** What would you add to the board's role?

**Input from HELVETAS:** You could either keep it as a board or as ambassadors with the current roles. If we have 5 or 6 board members, it would be more relevant to have different criteria for membership. For example, we could include NPAs or INGOs and have positions like executive directors or agriculture experts. These criteria become more applicable when you have more than 2 people. A board could also oversee fundraising. There's also the financial supervisory role and performance assessments, though I'm not sure if you already have these. In other networks, these might not be board responsibilities. Different boards have different mandates, but our current responsibilities are limited if we retain them as a board.

**Comment from CODA:** ALiSEA executive team, need to be able to dedicate 40-50% of their time. Therefore, I think the only suitable candidates would be directors, as they will have the time to contribute. It would be even better if executive team have a good educational background, such as being researchers or having prior experience in agroecology, along with English language skills. This is important because they'll need to coordinate with others and be able to contribute to the work effectively.

**Experience sharing from SUN-CSA:** There are three things I would like to share:

- Regarding network membership: We have full members and participating members. The benefits for both types of members are similar, but only full members have the right to elect the national board.
- Regarding board candidates, their contribution to administrative work is made on behalf of their organization, but we need the individual's name because they will be the ones actually contributing and doing the work. For SUN CSA's network, we don't require candidates to be directors, but they must be in senior positions so they have some decision-making authority or influence within their organizations.

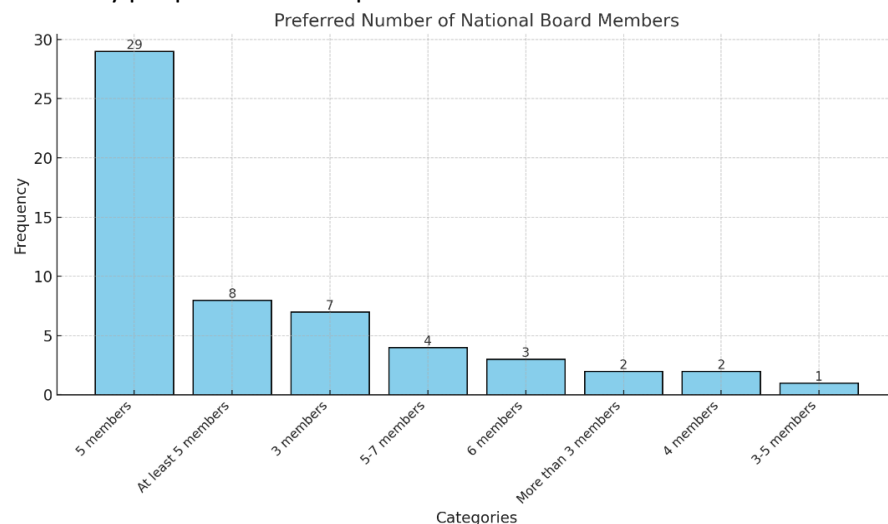


- One thing we've noticed is that our network calls it a Management Committee, which consists of 7 members, and we maintain a balance between CSOs and iNGOs. However, one challenge, as Mr. Bounom Soulideth mentioned, is time availability because everyone has their own work priorities, and network contribution is voluntary. Therefore, we increased the management committee to 10 members so that our network would have more participants in monthly meetings.

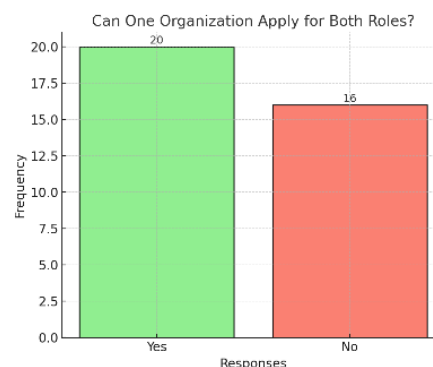
### Structural and Governance Review (Mentimeter Results)

All participants scanned the QR code displayed on the projector screen to access and respond to three online questions regarding ALiSEA's proposed new organizational structure.

#### Questions 1: How many people should compose the national board member?



#### Questions 2: Can one organization apply for both national board member and national executive team?



#### Questions 3: Do you have any feedback/suggestions on Governance and Internal Structure

- This will be an improvement over the current system:
- 1 Chairperson, 2 Vice Chairs, and 3 Committee Members.
- He/she could be nominated by the organization and will be the one who works and spends time for the work. We are happy to share on how we are doing at SUN CSA. Please contact [info@suncsalaos.org](mailto:info@suncsalaos.org)
- No individual may hold dual positions within the organization.
- Each eligible member organization may only nominate one representative to prevent any single organization from having disproportionate influence.
- Each organization should contribute one staff member to the committee.
- A committee of 5 members is recommended to ensure coverage during busy periods and to provide backup when members are ill.
- The structure should include 1 Chairperson, 2 Vice Chairs, and 4 committee members, with consideration for gender balance.

- The 5 members should represent diverse sectors to ensure efficient operations.
- It is recommended to have at least 6 committee members from different organizations (such as iNGOs, NPAs, and FOs), with rotation every 2 years.
- Circulate by-law for governance structure and elections for feedback before endorsing.
- Each organization should designate 2 representatives: a leader and a 1 leader assistant.

## 2.6. Small Grant Program Results (2022-2023)

The ALiSEA Regional Small Grant Facility showcased remarkable progress in supporting agroecology transition across the Sub-Mekong Region during 2022-2023. The initiative awarded 16 grants totaling 301,650 Euros, distributed across Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, and Thailand. The program focused on strengthening ALiSEA members and partners on three major topics in support of agroecology transition in the Sub-Mekong Region. Those topics included (1) market access enhancement for agroecological products, (2) youth empowerment in agroecology, and (3) innovative agricultural practices implementation. The small grant facility has supported various projects scheduled for completion between December 2024 and June 2025.

Full presentation available [[06-ALiSEA-Nov24 Small Grant Facility Progress Final.pptx](#)]

**Mr. Phouthasinh Phimmachanh (Click) shares lessons from 12 case studies:** we organized a conference on agroecological best practices in Lao in Vientiane in late 2022. While the conference identified 44 best practices, our organization selected 14 based on these criteria: 1) alignment with agroecological indicators, 2) rural focus, 3) proven techniques with at least two successful implementations, 4) suitability for small-scale farmers, and 5) accessibility for women and youth. Some selected cases studies are listed below:

1. Integrated tea cultivation with crop rotation and livestock (as animals don't eat tea leaves)
2. Integrated organic gardens
3. Broadcast rice farming technique for weed control
4. Soil improvement through cattle grazing on degraded land
5. Aquatic species conservation through trap pond in rice fields
6. Coffee cultivation in forest
7. Buffalo's role in agroecological conservation
8. Post-rice peanut cultivation

**Mr. Khamphachanh Bounnakeo (CDEA) shared experience with the drying dome project in Thongmang village:** We received €18,800 from ALiSEA Small Grant/Gret to construct a solar dryer dome in Thongmang village. The project aims to prevent crop spoilage and handle surplus produce through drying and processing. Our association focuses on improving living standards, poverty reduction, and environmental protection. **Ms. Khammone Luanglath from Thongmang agricultural cooperative further explained** that the cooperative received funding from ALiSEA in partnership with CDEA for the solar dryer dome project. Previously, as organic farmers growing bananas, rice, and cucumbers, they were faced with problems of wasting surplus products. The solar dryer dome enables unsold products to be processed and add value. The facility has become a learning center where members study processing techniques, from raw to dried products, and learn about cost and profit calculations. It has particularly benefited women, with the Women's Union members actively involved in processing, while youth participate in production and packaging. When representatives attended international conferences in the Philippines and Korea, we showcased their products to assess market interest. We have successfully produced pumpkin and cassava chips for various food festivals, including the World Food Day event, and the feedback was positive. We've also developed local herbal products like skunk vine tea and butterfly pea tea. However, we still face challenges regarding technical knowledge of solar dryer dome operations and specialized product processing.

## **2.7. Updates on ALiSEA Communication Strategy**

ALiSEA has many communication channels:

- Facebook is ALiSEA's main channel for disseminating information and updating activities, including sharing various agricultural techniques. In 2024, Facebook followers increased by 216 people, which shows growing interest in agricultural work.
- WhatsApp groups and email are the main channels for coordination and information exchange. Through these channels, members receive information about training, meetings, and various activities.
- ALiSEA's website will be updated next year, becoming a knowledge hub for agroecology and a resource center for various funding announcements.
- YouTube is used for collecting and sharing videos of various activities.

Note: The organization will also change its logo next year.

Full presentation available [[01-02-ALiSEA Laos-Main achievements 2023-2024-FV.pptx](#)]

## **2.8. Reward ALiSEA Membership Certificate**

The certificate presentation ceremony is an important activity to welcome new members to the ALiSEA network. The certificate serves as official proof of membership. As this was the first certificate presentation ceremony, the ALiSEA team has decided to present certificates to both new and existing members.

## Annex 1: General Assembly Agenda

Time	Activities	Speaker/Facilitator
08:00-8:30	Registration of the participants	Gret Team
8:30-8:50 (20min)	<b>Introduction session</b> 1. Welcome speech (5 min) 2. Welcome speech (5 min) 3. Overall objective & Agenda (10 min)	MC: Soutima Boudvised, ALiSEA National Secretariat-PAKA 1. Khamphoui Saythalat-PAKA 2. Lucie Reynaud (Regional coordinator ALiSEA/GRET)
8:50-9:10 (20min)	<b>Welcome new members</b> 1. Share process on how to become a new member 2. Introduce & welcome the 5 new members for 2023/2024	Soutima Boudvised-National Secretariat -PAKA
9:10-9:40 (30min)	<b>ALiSEA Laos Progress Achievements 2023-2024 (30 min)</b> 1. Reminder of the national framework through the 3 pathways 2. Share progress of activities and results achieved in 2023-2024 3. Share regional activities from Vietnam and Cambodia 4. Highlight challenges & lessons learnt over past year	Soutima Boudvised, ALiSEA National Secretariat-PAKA
9:40-10:10 (30min)	<b>Co-develop of ALiSEA action plan 2025 in Laos</b> 1. Present draft action plan for 2025 2. Q&A	1. Xaysomphone Phaypadith -ALiSEA Knowledge management -RDA 2. Soutima Boudvised, ALiSEA National Secretariat-PAKA
10:10-10:30 (20min)	<b>Coffee break and visit booths</b>	All participants
10:30-12:00 (1h30mn)	<b>Co-develop of ALiSEA action plan 2025 in Laos</b> 1. Open discussion to define collaboration and joint activities via World café methodology  <b>3 to 4 Groups discussion per topic:</b> Every 20min group rotate to another topic for discussion 1) Capacity building 2) Knowledge Production? / Support to Youth? 3) Policy Dialogue 4) Communication	1. Xaysomphone Phaypadith -ALiSEA Knowledge management -RDA 2. Ms. Innakhone Vorachak- ALiSEA Policy Dialogue -SAEDA 3. Feu Yang/Thansamai- ALiSEA M&E Capacity Building -NUoL 4. Soutima Boudvised, ALiSEA National Secretariat-PAKA
12:00-13:45 (1h45mn)	<b>Lunch break and Screen videos on Agroecology</b> <b>Visit Knowledge Products of participant's booths</b>	All participants
13:45-14:45 (1h)	<b>ALiSEA Governance and internal structuration:</b> share results of regional GA (March 2024) and discuss next steps 1. Present and discuss the new agreed structure: executive team and board member committee (ToR and mandate) 2. Discuss and decide on election process and timeline	1. Lucie Reynaud-Regional coordinator ALiSEA/GRET 2. Pat Sovann-Regional deputy coordinator ALiSEA/GRET

Time	Activities	Speaker/Facilitator
	3. ALiSEA Internal Charter Q&A	
14:45-15:15 (30mn)	<b>ALiSEA Small Grant Call for Proposal 2022-2023</b> 1. Share progress update/results of Small Grant call proposal 2022-2023 (10min) 2. CLICK: Link and learn agroecology from the field, share 14 case study result (10min) 3. CDEA: Promotion of renewable energy into agriculture post harvesting for smallholders, share the result of activities and case study (10min)	1. Manivanh Aliyavong- Regional Small Grant Manager ALiSEA/GRET 2. Phoutthasinh Phimmachanh -CLICK 3. Khampha Keomanichanh-CDEA
15:15 -15:30 (15 min)	<b>Coffee break and visit booths</b>	
15:30 -16:15 (45 min)	<b>ALiSEA Communication Strategy:</b> website, logo & tools 1. <b>COM approach:</b> how communication channel benefits to members (FB, WhatsApp group, website, upcoming tools) 2. PPT presentation, website live demonstration 3. <b>Knowledge Hub</b> live demonstration, case studies production progress Q&A	1. Soutima Boudvised, ALiSEA National Secretariat-PAKA 2. Xaysomphone Phaypadith -ALiSEA Knowledge management -RDA
16:15 -16:55 (40 min)	<b>Reward ALiSEA Membership Certificate</b>	Soutima Boudvised, ALiSEA National Secretariat-PAKA
16:55-17:00 (5min)	<b>Conclusion &amp; Closing</b>	Lucie Reynaud-Regional coordinator ALiSEA/GRET

## Annex 2: List of Participants

No.	Sex	Name	Position	Organization	Location	Phone No.	E-Mail
1	M	Bounom Soulideth	Association Audit President	CoDA	Savannakhet	55527106	
2	F	Chanthaly Deeyangvaiv	Farm owner	POF	Vientiane Capital	9552736	
3	M	Chansamone Laty	Director	RDSA	Attapeu	52050244	laty9988@gmail.com
4	F	Duangkhae Kepnoi	Database officer	PKL	Vientiane Capital	91737053	
5	F	Innauh	Coordinator	SAEDA	Vientiane Capital	22514751	
6	M	Insawn	Deputy Director	SAMDA	Bokeo	28996999	insawnbokeo@yahoo.com
7	M	Jesper Lauridsen	Country Director	HELVETAS	Vientiane Capital		jesper.lauridsen@helvetas.org
8	F	Khambang Thepphavong	Director	LaoDHRRRA	Vientiane Capital	22227595	Laodhrra@gmail.com
9	F	Khamkham Saiyalath		FAPPL	Xiengkhouang	58945632	
10	F	Khammone Luanglath	Head of Cooperative	TOAC	Vientiane Capital	55800675	lfa.khammon@gmail.com
11	F	Khamman Thepmany	Coordinator	LFA	Vientiane Capital	94155363	
12	M	Khamphachanh	Director	CDEA	Vientiane Capital	55545524	bkhamphachanh@gmail.com
13	M	Khamphoui Saythalat	Director	PAKA	Vientiane Capital	55700847	ksaythalat@gmail.com
14	F	Khonkham	Director	PSNUA	Vientiane Capital	22000577	
15	F	Khuanchai Southammavong	Technical staff	GCA	Vientiane Capital	97968832	
16	M	Kuha Jerthai	Technical staff	CASE	Xiengkhouang	993334731	kouha2021@gmail.com
17	F	Lucie Reynaud	Regional coordinator	Gret	France	0632497863	reynaud@gret.org
18	F	Manivanh Aliyavong	Regional Small Grand Manager	Gret	Vientiane Capital		manivanh.laos@gret.org

19	F	Marie Christine Lebret	Programme manager	Gret	France		lebret@gret.org
20	F	Oudone Keomany		TAG	Vientiane Capital	55701388	k.oudone@gmail.com
21	M	Pat Souvann	Regional Deputy Coordinator	Gret	Cambodia		pat.cambodia@gmail.com
22	F	Phimpha Oudone	Technical staff	RRDPA	Vientiane Capital	28694659	
23	M	Phuthasinh Phimmachanh	President	LFA	Vientiane Capital		phoutthasinh.phimmachanh@gmail.com
24	M	Samphanh Lathsakit	Communications & Website manager	Gret	Vientiane Capital	25037322	lathsakit.laos@gret.org
25	F	Xaysomphone Phaypadith	Programme Officer	RDA	Vientiane Capital	28885944	xaysomphone.ppd@gmail.com
26	M	Sengphet Vannavong	Consultant	CDEA	Vientiane Capital	55605344	sengphetvannavong@gmail.com
27	F	Siriarun Budcharern	Project Coordinator	ARMI	Vientiane Capital	91720230	siriarun@armi.la
28	M	Somxai Chanthalongsy	Director	KHPA	Houaphan	22245222	
29	F	Somma Intavong		AVSF	Vientiane Capital	23963663	
30	M	Somephone Phanthavong	Project manager	KCDA	Champasak	91497278	somephone.kcda@gmail.com
31	M	Souksakhone	Consultant	PBE	Xiengkhouang	58837777	
32	F	Soulivanh Bounthammy	Secretariat Officer	SUN CSA	Vientiane Capital	29806309	info@suncsalaos.org
33	F	Soutima Boudvised	National Secretariat	PAKA	Vientiane Capital		soutima2506@gmail.com
34	M	Sybone Lasahan	Project Manager	VFI	Vientiane Capital	57575559	sybone@villagefocus.org
35	F	Thippachan Phoudavong	Communications officer	ARMI	Vientiane Capital	57080044	
36	M	Thonglith Yoisaikham	Technical staff	PDDA	Xiengkhouang	99946777	
37	M	Thonsamay	Staff	FOA	Vientiane Capital	96539515	



38	F	Toukta Sonesaksith	Manager	SUN CSA	Vientiane Capital	22425144	info@suncsalaos.org
39	M	Vonelachit Laddaxay		APPREN	Vientiane Capital	56599946	
40	M	Xiengmonchan Kanyatham	Director	ADSA	Vientiane Capital	99278389	xiengmonechan@gmail.com

### Annex 3: Event Photos



[Link to the even photos](#)

Article on ALiSEA website: <https://ali-sea.org/successful-alisea-national-general-assemblies-across-southeast-asia/>