

## KEY FACTS AND FIGURES ON LAOS / UNESCO COOPERATION

### I. COUNTRY PROFILE *(source: UNDP Human Development Report 2016)*

- Population, total (millions): 6.8
- Human Development Index: 0.586; Rank: 138 (out of 188 countries, between Kiribati which ranks 137 and Bangladesh which ranks 139)
- Life expectancy at birth (years): 66.6
- Expected years of schooling (years): 10.8
- Gross national income (GNI) per capita (2011 PPP\$): 5,049
- Internet users (% of population): 18.2
- Carbon dioxide emissions per capita (tonnes): 0.3  
*(UN Map of Laos at the end)*

### II. LAOS/UNESCO COOPERATION

1. **Membership of UNESCO:** 9 July 1951
2. **Membership of the Executive Board:** No
3. **Membership on Intergovernmental Committees, Commissions, etc.:** No
4. **The Director-General's visits in the country:** 0
5. **The former Director-General's visits in the country:** 0
6. **Permanent Delegation:**
  - H.E. Mr Yong Chanthalangsy, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Lao People's Democratic Republic, Permanent Delegate
  - Previous Permanent Delegate: H.E. Mr Ouan Phommachack (2014-2016)
7. **UNESCO Office in Laos:**
  - Covered by Cluster Office in Bangkok established in 1961
  - Officer-in-charge UNESCO Office in Bangkok and Regional Bureau for Education: Ms Maki Katsuno-Hayashikawa
  - Member States serviced: Thailand, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Singapore, Viet Nam and Cambodia
8. **National Commission:**
  - President: Ms Sengdeuane Lachanthaboun, Minister of Education and Sports
  - Secretary-General: Mr Somboun Masouvanh
9. **Personalities associated with UNESCO (e.g. Goodwill Ambassadors, Special Envoys, Chairpersons of Committees, etc.):** none
10. **UNESCO Chairs & UNITWIN Networks:** none
  - Réseau UNITWIN sur le renforcement des capacités d'expertise sous-régionales en biodiversité végétale-(923)- établi en 2011 à l'Université Nationale du Laos, l'Université Royale de Phnom Penh, l'Université des Sciences Naturelles de Hanoi, l'Université des Sciences Naturelles de Ho Chi Minh Ville.
11. **Associated Schools:** 37
  - Member since 1996 with currently 37 schools (9 Primary Schools, 26 ASP2 Secondary Schools and 2 ASP2 Vocational & Technical ED Schools) participating in the Network.

12. **Category 2 Institutes and Centres: none**
13. **Biospheres Reserves: none**
14. **World Heritage Sites: 2**  
*cultural*
  - Town of Luang Prabang (1995)
  - Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape (2001)
15. **Tentative Sites: 3**
  - Sites Mégalithiques de la province de Xieng Khouang (1992)
  - That Luang de Vientiane (1992)
  - Hin Nam No National Protected Area (2016)
16. **Intangible World Heritage : 1**
  - Khaen music of the Lao people (2017)
17. **Memory of the World Register: 1 Regional element**
  - The “Neo Lao Hak Xath Film Collection” of the Lao Cinema Department under the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, inscribed on the Regional Asia-Pacific Memory of the World Register (MOWCAP) since 2014
18. **Creative cities network: no entry**
19. **Legal instruments: 12 ratified and 28 non-ratified**
  - Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Paris, 20 October 2005: ratification (5 November 2007)
  - Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Paris, 17 October 2003: ratification (26 November 2009)
20. **Anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated in 2018-2019: none**