

Intern in Luang Prabang

- 12/8-1/29
- Creating DBMS (Database Management System) of heritage constructions, pond, authorization and drawing.
- Measurement of wireless connection in Luang Prabang
- Discussion about Knowledge Kiosk with MdP staffs
- Meeting with
 - Local government offices in the town of Luang Prabang
 - Local government offices in Xieng Nguen
 - Chiefs of villages
 - Computer training center
 - Souphanouvoun university
 - Ministry of Information and Culture in Vientiane
- Field visit to villages
 - Along national road
 - Along Nam Khan River
 - In the mountain

Background information

Circumstances in Luang Prabang

- Ethnic groups
 - Lao lum; 60% of population
 - Lao thumg (minority ethnic group)
 - Lao sung (minority ethnic group)
- Income level: GDP per capita is \$365 [<http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area/laos/>]
 - Salary of local government officer in LP : \$30 per month
 - Normal salary of employees of Internet cafes, restaurants and guesthouses : \$50 per month
 - Salary of civil workers : \$2 per day
- Commodity price
 - Fleece jacket for local people : \$3
 - T-shirts : less than \$1
 - Motorcycle : \$500~\$1,000
 - Parabola antenna : \$180
- Literacy rate: 66.4% (total population in Laos)
[<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/la.html>]
 - Many language groups
 - Large disparity between urban area and rural area

Life with heritage buildings



Cultivation along the river



Transportation on the river



Night market



Beautiful landscape with Nature



Villages

- Tourism village
 - Some village along Mekong River was developed as tourist site
- Along national road 13
 - Infrastructures such as electricity, telephone line are established along the road
- Along Nam Khan River
 - Enough water for cultivation and dairy life
 - Transportation
- In the mountain
 - inadequate income level: \$80 per year
 - Lack of Education: primary level
 - exploitation by rich villages and the town

Tourism village



Village along Nam Khan River



Village in the mountain



Knowledge Kiosk

in the case of Bua Khan Bueng

- Main 3 function at the first step
 - Information service on PC
 - Database on heritage constructions and pond Information
 - Heritage trail
 - PSMV 5 books
 - Advertisement of MdP
 - Exhibition
 - Panel on the wall (activities, history, rules for tourist)
 - Miniatures of Bua Khan Bueng
 - Video show
 - Shop
 - Drink shop
 - Guide book and map
 - T-shirts

My understanding of “sustainability”

1. Financial factor
2. Technical factor
3. Human resource factor
4. Logistical factor
5. Motivation factor
6. Political factor

Related to each other

Financial factor

1. Capital fund

- With support by government budget
- With support by funding agency

2. Operational fund

- Important to keep self-sustainable financial cycle
- Income generating activities

Technical factor

1. To keep system/hardware compatibility
 - Importance of local adaptability and sustainability
2. To tackle legal issues
 - Using open source software
3. To keep the suitable condition of buildings for Knowledge Kiosk
 - For PCs
 - Safety

Human resource factor

- To develop the human resource for maintenance and development
 - Large gap between required human resources and currently available human resources in Luang Prabang
 - Assigning trained professionals from Vientiane?
 - Regular dispatch of interns from Tokyo Tech?
 - Development of human resources in Luang Prabang
 - Souphanouvoun University?
 - E-way center?
 - Private computer centers?

Logistical factor

1. Basic Infrastructure
2. Climate condition
3. Geographical location (transportation)
4. Demographics of the project sites

etc...

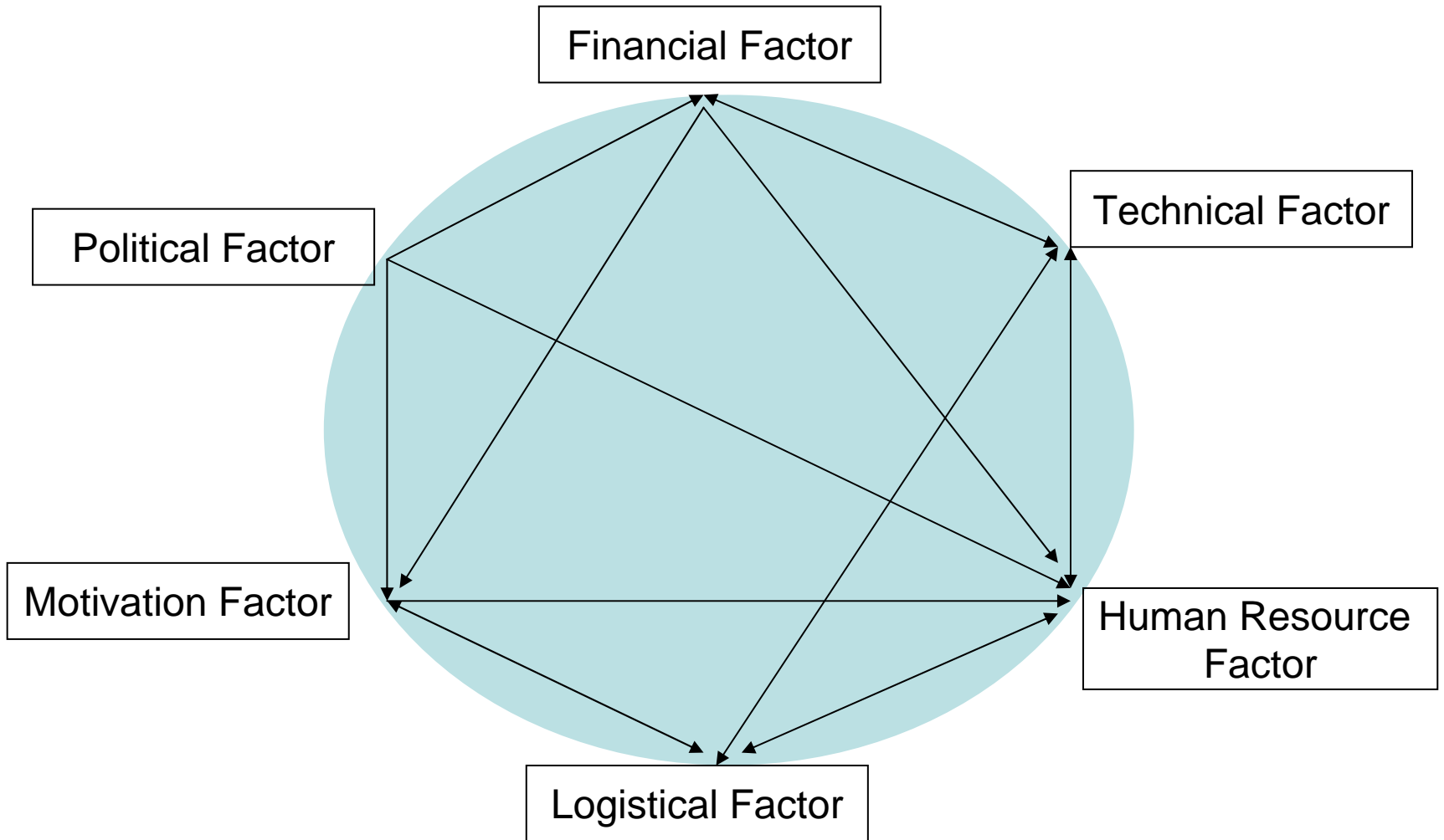
Motivation factor

1. Motivation for the local community to engage in development project
 - Income generation activities to contribute to their own lives
 - Non-monetary incentives
 - Needs to increase public awareness via campaign
 - Motivation for getting knowledge

Political factor

- Necessity of authorization (at each level)!!
 - Centralized administrative framework
 - Authorization of central government is powerful
 - Backwardness in developing regulations
 - Lack of radio law
 - Process of application/approval is NOT transparent

Relations of factors



Observation

1. Gaps between town and villages
2. Central government is a major stakeholder
3. Importance of non-monetary incentives to manage development project
4. Meaning and reality of “eco-tourism”
 - No margin for villages
 - Competition between tourists agency



School in the mountainous area



School in the town

Road to village in the mountain



Road in the town



Database Development in MdP



January 14, 2005
Tokyo Tech Team

Database

- Civil house
- Temple
- Road
- Wetland
- Authorization
- Drawing

Functions

- Search
- Insertion (authorized administrator only)

Action Points

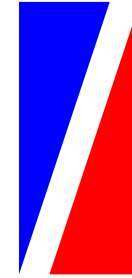
- Documentation of DB application
 - Record of implementation
 - Future modification
 - Future use for project application
- Manual porting of DB
 - Data and file check functions are implemented on input screen.
 - Help of internship students for input.

Future Aspects - Sustainability

- Human resource development

- Data management
- System management
- Application program management

frequency



skill



- Change and modification of applications

- Skilled system engineer (SE) needed

Current Prioritization

Needs



System



Human resource

Possible Solutions

- Regular dispatch of interns from Tokyo Tech
 - They are not necessarily the specialist of DB.
 - Quality of interns varies due to interests rather than education.
 - It is difficult to correct the codes.
- To Find Human Resource
 - Expert in NUOL in Vientiane
 - Expert in Thai Universities

Future Extension

- Land title
- Integration with GIS
- Needs of UDAA
 - Road
 - Disaster prevention

To Avoid Change of Application Program

- Use as is.
- Freeze the modules, and do not integrate everything.
- Microsoft Access can be used for local DB.

Introduction of GIS

- More difficulty in HRD
- Integration with Web
- GIS-like functions without GIS
 - Relation between map location and building