



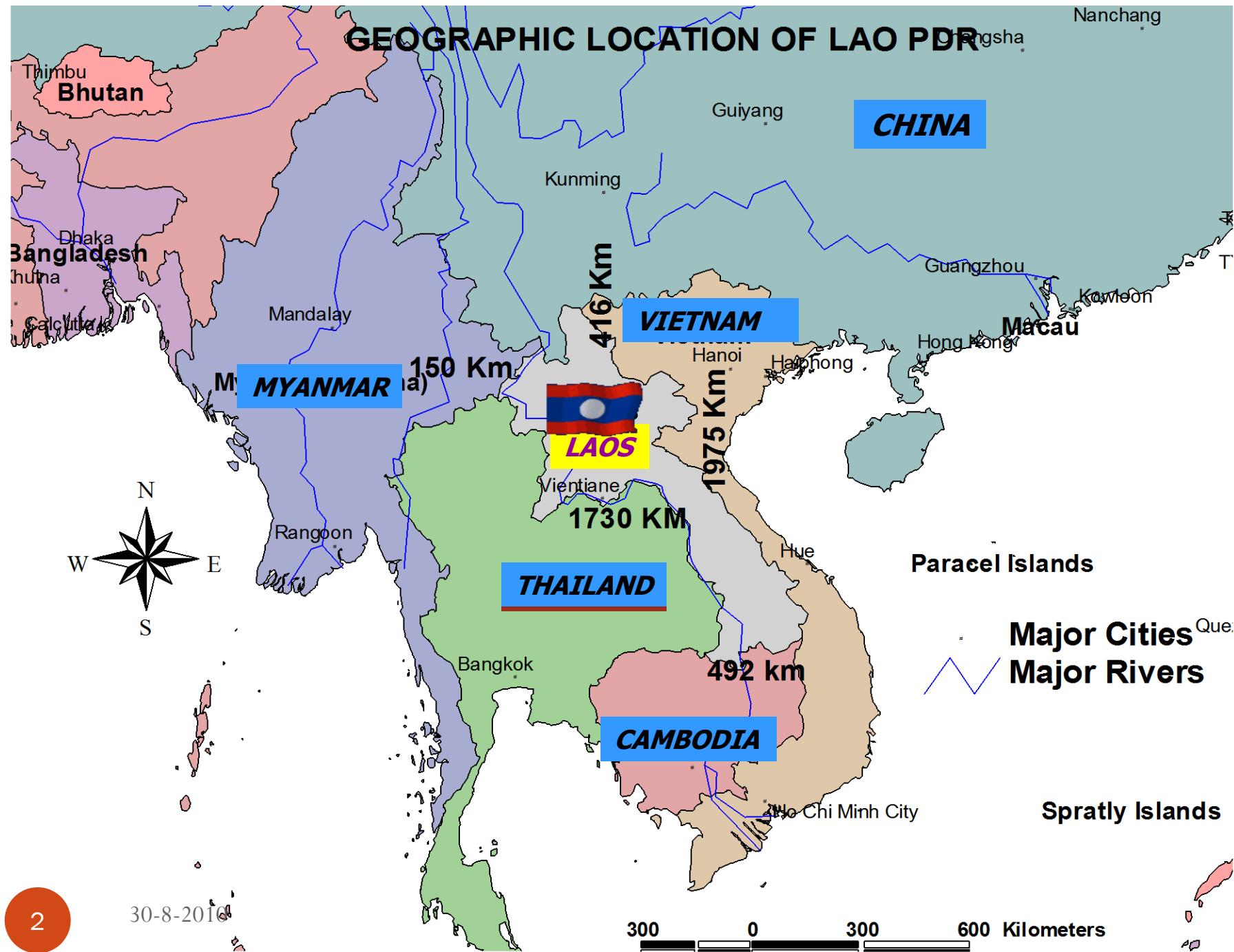
Laos

Lao PDR

Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) Workshop

April 12-14, 2011 Sydney, Australia

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF LAO PDR





Laos Descriptions

- Laos is a landlocked country
- Area 236.800 square kilometres
- Population: 6.5 millions people (2005)
- 4 ethno-linguistic families: Lao-tay 64.9% Mon-khmer 22.6%, Hmong Emien 8.5%, and Sino-Tibetan 2.8%.
- 49 Major ethnic groups
- Lao is the national official language
- Adult literacy rate 78% (2009)
- Overall teaching quality is poor
- Insufficient numbers of qualified teachers primary, secondary education.

Rationale

- Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) is a new concept for Lao PDR. The MOE begins to prepare EGRA in 2011
- We heard about EGRA for the first time when Eduardo visited Lao PDR in 2009
- Later on, with Helen Abadzi, we conducted a small test in 2 schools in G2. The result showed that the students could not read well, even those in G4 and G5.
- The results from Assessment of Student Learning Outcome (ASLO) in 2006 and 2009 also confirmed that the students' performance in Lao language is very low



Rationale (cont'd)

- Therefore, our management called for an assistant from the World Bank to help us conduct EGRA
- A mission from World Bank (February 2011) introduced to MOE staff the EGRA concept, methodology and implementation experience from other countries, following by a discussion on how to apply EGRA in Lao P.D.R, especially on developing Lao EGRA instruments



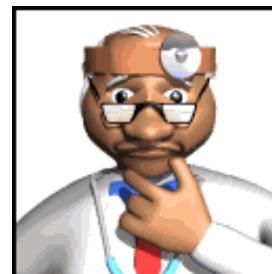
On-going EGRA activities

- Identified MoE Core Team to implement EGRA; 8 staff from the Research Institute for Education Sciences (RIES)
- Identified relevant departments in MoE to support EGRA implementation and conducted a training workshop to inform them on EGRA methodology and implementation plan
- Identified documents in Lao language that will be used as inputs to develop instruments; and currently preparing input files to develop test components
- Survey pilot to be conducted in September 2011; 70 students in 5 schools in Vientiane capital

Challenges



1. Lao language structure is very different from Latin language or English.
2. Lack of research on Lao language.
3. Lack of experience in this field for the team
4. The text in Lao language textbook seems to be difficult for student reading.
5. Different tones from different region of the country.
6. Many children from ethnic groups do not speak Lao at home
7. Some teachers are from ethnic groups and do not speak Lao language clearly
8. Limited staff.





Khop chay

Thank you

