

The Primary School Design and Promotion to Assist Educational Development in Lao P.D.R.

It is said that nearly half of children in Laos can not graduate primary school. One of the reasons is the lack of school buildings in terms of both quantity and quality. Therefore the schools being built by a NGO, Minsai Center (EDF-Japan) was designed by Takahisa Kato as a volunteer architect based on the concepts as below.

- Provide the pleasant classroom for children even there is no electricity
- Adopt the design considering circumstance of construction technologies and climate and the nature features of Laos.
- Work together with villagers and teachers. Supervise the site regularly.
- Adopt inter-locking blocks for walls which is made of laterite-soil at the site mixing with small amount of cement
so that they can prevent the destruction of forests by using wood for baking bricks.
- Adopt high windows and roofs with different levels to ensure natural ventilation and lighting.
- Lay-out the building on east-west axis to protect class-rooms whole day from strong sun shine.
- Ask donors to plant trees around school buildings to form shade to prevent the ground to get hot.

By these concepts, so far 28 School buildings had been built, and 4 are under construction.