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**Project Name: It's Not a Waste! (INW)**

## **I. Introduction**

As we all know that Peace is a social health. In order to live in a peaceful society, people need to live in a healthy environment. The problem that I would like to address in my project plan is the waste management. Why waste management is important? Waste that is not properly managed can create serious health or social problems in a community. In Laos, waste management is considered as a big problem because people are still littering around and there is no separate bin and recycling processes. These facts can cause social and economic problems. Messy yards and streets can have a bad affect on the attitudes of local people. It can also be hard to get people such as nurses and trades people to work or live in a community where the environment looks untidy or unsafe. Moreover, People can get seriously sick from badly managed waste problems. If they have to leave the community to spend time in hospital, the patient and their families can be badly affected by the separation. If waste is managed well, the cost of fixing problems does not become a burden on council finances. Having seen those problem, I came across with the project ideas called It's Not a Waste. This project will allow students and local people to generate the benefits and income from the waste such as paper, cardboard and bottle.

## **II. The existing problems and what currently being done by authority.**

Currently, There are no Government regulations on littering and waste management. Therefore, INW will highlight key issues pertaining to solid waste management in Vientiane. Moreover, there is lack of public awareness on the proper disposal of solid waste – a private trash collector truck may come to pick up trash from an apartment complex each week, but direct neighbors may still be burning their trash. This action has polluted the environment of the communities.

### ***The problems existing are:***

- Excess of waste collection taken to overloaded dumping sites
- Problems arising due to poor waste disposal include bad odors, flies, mosquitoes and disease especially among vulnerable children

- Separation of waste into different containers
- The generally dirty, unaesthetic problem in the city and environment Solid waste-related activities for poor waste pickers posing a serious threat to public health

### ***What is currently being done?***

- Trash Collection – There is a waste management infrastructure (i.e. trash collection) in only four of Vientiane’s nine districts
- Garbage Collection Centers – There are five garbage centers, all located outside of Vientiane, and inconvenient to access.
- Burning trash – As a result of the lack of trashcans and nearby collection centers, people resort to burning the trash, which causes many, environmental and health hazards.
- Leaving trash in the street – There are many outdoor markets and events held in Vientiane everyday. After markets close or at the end of an event trash is simply thrown and left on the ground.

INW will not only educate the community about waste management, but it will incentivize, or pay, people to recycle instead of burning trash or leaving it in the street. Garbage collection at schools will allow local residents easy access to recycling centers instead of having to travel to garbage centers located outside the city.

### **III. Project Model at a glance**

- Recycling waste such as Plastic bottle, paper and used Cardboard.
- Mainly focus in School and community.
- Encourage citizen throughout Vientiane to separate the waste by providing separate bin.

- Apply the redeemable coupon model such as “0 kip shop” (this Project has been done by the local authority in Thailand<sup>1</sup>) where students or housewife can bring the trash to the shop and get product or coupon (for free meal or service in any cooperated restaurant or business) in return.

### ***Project Model***

It's Not a Waste! (INW) is an educational and self-sustaining waste management and recycling service implemented primarily in schools throughout Vientiane, Laos.

**INW will strive to:**

#### **1. Educate target markets about the benefits of waste management and recycling through:**

- Implementing waste separation and recycling campaigns in local schools and partner businesses
- Incorporating environmental lectures and projects regarding waste management into the classroom (*As a part of the Vientiane High school Environmental Studies class and the US embassy special program for example, students' final projects require them to travel to neighboring provinces and examine waste issues and resulting effects.*)
- Holding a recycling competition among schools and choosing the best and most creative idea to be the winner. The advantage of this competition not only lies in students' ideas but also aims to encourage the youth to express their minds and gain knowledge.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.bangkokpost.com/multimedia/vdo/308525/the-zero-baht-shop>

## **2. Create a self-sustaining waste management/recycling operation through:**

- Providing recycling and waste separation bins in schools.
- Selecting volunteers/representatives from each school to join an environmental club (INW team member) and to run the operation
- Incentivizing local residents to bring their trash to the school in return for INW Points. For each kilogram of recyclable trash, residents can receive INW Points redeemable for cash, coupons and gifts in the future.
- Encouraging local businesses to partner with the organization in being INW sponsors and accepting INW Points that will provide discounts to customers. This partnership will provide free marketing for local businesses as well. Now we have 3 target businesses such as The Pizza Company, Swensen and M-Point mart that would be ready to support our project.

## **IV. Sustainability Analysis**

Every week, schools and INW team member will sell the recycled waste back to Duanchai KM 24, a garbage and recycling center outside of Vientiane. There are four other garbage collectors outside of Vientiane as well.

Profits will go back to the school and be used to expand environmental educational programs and expand the self-sustaining operation.

### ***Data***

1) Students in universities University students are the immediate next leaders of the country. There are approximately 150,000 university and high school students in 42 primary, secondary schools and 4 universities in Vientiane

2) Students in primary and secondary schools Raising awareness of people in the early stages of their lives is crucial since they are the fundamental unit of national development. Also, young students are instrumental in teaching their parents!

3) Local Vientiane residents through word of mouth and the activities of their young sons and daughters, residents will be incentivized to recycle their trash and will see the benefits of recycling as repeat customers.

There are currently no active communities recycling projects in Vientiane. Recently, feasibility studies have been conducted and proposals have been submitted to help poor people in rural areas profit from recycling trash.

The grant that we would receive could help support approximately 500 trash bins to the school and community in Vientiane and some remote areas in Laos.

### **INW will benefit the Laos by:**

- Educating individuals on the value of “waste” and how to properly dispose of it
- Reducing health risks from insect and rodent contamination
- Significantly reduce waste in streets
- Creating a more beautiful environment more attractive to tourist groups
- Creating self-sustaining and profitable operations in schools
- Providing close proximity trash collection centers (at schools) for everyone to use.

### **V. Project Implementation, Timeline and Budget**

- The INW project’s pilot phase will be implemented during July – December 2013.

- The project will utilize the grants from The East West Center to be the start up cost.
- The volunteers will be recruited at the school; we would need 10 student's representatives and 2 community's representatives.
- During the pilot phase the project will be implemented in three schools and communities in Vientiane in order to see the possibility in continuing the project in the next phase.

### *Timeline*

- **August 2013:** Receive grants from the Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund and the target school and community should be finalized.
- **September 2013:** Utilizing the grants to purchase 500 separated bins and provides those bins to schools and communities in Vientiane. The INW's team members start doing the fund raising activities and asking for the sponsorship from the local businesses.
- **October – November 2013:** Implementation of the project.
- **December 2013:** Holding the Recycling competition among schools in Vientiane. The winner will get a chance to join a field trip study oversea (the US will be the target country through SEAYP program).

-The evaluation of the project will be implemented this time.