

# Internet Society Chapter Application

## A. Proposed name of the Chapter

**Chapter Name:** Internet Society Lao Chapter (ISOC Lao)

## B. Community of Interest the Chapter will serve

This community will serve the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Laos).

## C. Purpose and scope of Chapter

The purpose of this chapter is to promote open development, evolution, and use of the Internet for the benefit of all people throughout Laos through education, technical cooperation, and local support.

The Internet Society Lao Chapter aims to serve as the official representation of the Internet Society in Laos. Working closely with the existing foundation of the Lao Network Operators Group (LANOG), our chapter will focus on enhancing Internet infrastructure, promoting technical education, and providing local support that ensures an open, secure, and accessible Internet for all Lao citizens.

LANOG (<https://nog.la/>) has been working to build a community of network operators in Laos and strengthen the country's Internet ecosystem through knowledge sharing and capacity building. The ISOC Lao Chapter will expand upon these efforts by connecting with the global ISOC community and resources.

## D. Outline of key priorities for the first year of Chapter

This is our outline plan for the first and second years of our community.

1. Conduct a technical roadshow across four key universities to install and configure RIPE Atlas probes and provide in-depth training on device maintenance and network measurement analysis, directly contributing to regional Internet data and expertise.
2. Establish a strong founding membership base of at least 50 individual ISOC members representing diverse stakeholders (academia, government, private sector) in the Lao Internet community
3. Plan and execute financial and logistical support for the LANOG Annual Event, ensuring its success and solidifying the Chapter's position as a key supporter of the local technical community.
4. Organize two workshops including non-technical and technical workshop focused on network security, IPv6 deployment, and IXP development
5. Create educational resources in the Lao language about basic internet fundamentals and best practices
6. Collaborate with regional ISOC chapters and NOGs to exchange knowledge and expertise

## E. List of founding members

1. Sotsay Sengvong
2. Phonexay VILAKONE
3. Saikeo Kavhanxay
4. Thavyboun PHOMMAKOTH
5. Sounikorn SAETERN
6. Pinkeo Khemkhamphoum ee
7. Chindavone BOUNNHAVONG
8. Derek Spranger
9. Nut Donephondy
10. Senglathsamy CHANTHAMENAV ONG
11. Sanouphab Phomkeona
12. Khamxay
13. Siliphone laviengvong
14. PHOMMALY KHAMLA
15. Brucelee LEEBOUAPAO
16. Thonglin Lisockxay
17. Alouny
18. Namfone Chanthanakhone
19. Phonethavee Phasikaisone
20. Soukphaxay Thiengtham
21. Souphaphone PHONGPHET
22. Soudalin PHOUMMY
23. Engxiong YENG SUENU
24. Somphone MEUANGCHAN
25. Mr. Leevong Leebouapao

## F. List of supporters and partner organizations

The Lao Chapter will have support from various stakeholders in the local Internet community. The existing LANOG community includes professionals from major ISPs and network operators in Laos, providing a strong technical foundation for the chapter. Academic Institutions are the main partners. We have established relationships with the National University of Laos, Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES), and The Institute of Information and Communication Technology of the Ministry of Technology and Communications (MTS) to promote Internet education. We also partner with the startup incubation called Makerbox.

Organisations
Network Operator - LANOG
Information Technology Center, National University of Laos
Faculty of Engineering, National University of Laos

The Institute of Information and Communication Technology
Makerbox Lao

## G. Membership

The Lao Chapter will implement the following strategies to attract and retain members:

1. We will welcome individuals from all backgrounds interested in Internet development, including technical professionals, policymakers, educators, students, and civil society representatives.
2. Members will benefit from networking opportunities, technical resources, educational programs, and the chance to participate in shaping Laos's digital future.
3. We will promote chapter membership through:
  - LANOG events and communications channels
  - Social media campaigns in Lao and English
  - Conduct trainings using the ISOC learning platform (<https://www.internetociety.org/learning/>)
  - Regional and global collaboration with ISOC chapters
  - Participation in ISOC-led activities
  - Partnerships with universities and technical schools
  - Industry conferences and professional associations
4. We will maintain engagement by:
  - Providing regular opportunities for members to contribute to projects
  - Recognizing member contributions and achievements
  - Creating special interest committees focused on specific technical or policy areas
  - Facilitating mentorship between experienced and new members

## H. List of requirements

We acknowledge that establishing the Chapter as a formal legal entity in Laos requires full compliance with national regulations. We have chosen a legally compliant route to ensure immediate operational status while adhering to the country's requirements for local entities, which involves establishing a new company and meeting all tax obligations. This legal entity will operate as a not-for-profit.

## I. Additional information

- The formal legal registration process for new, standalone non-profit organizations in Laos is complex and time intensive. To ensure immediate operational status and financial compliance with local regulations, the Chapter's activities will initially be housed under the

new entity, which will be registered as a local company that will apply all tax requirements from the Ministry of Finance with the option of third-party auditing if required. This structure ensures our activities are legal, financially transparent, and ready to launch without delay, while still maintaining a non-profit mission dedicated to the goals of the Internet Society.

- All Chapter funds and operations will be managed under the new entity's bank account, with dedicated and transparent accounting for all Chapter-related activities. We are committed to adhering to all local laws and maintaining the highest standards of financial governance.
- As a landlocked country, Laos faces unique connectivity challenges that require specialized technical solutions. ISOC can support building local technical capacity, supporting Internet Exchange Points (IXPs), improving network resilience, and advising on Internet-friendly policies, leading to more affordable, reliable, and inclusive Internet access.
- Our chapter will create resources in the Lao language and adapt global best practices to fit local cultural contexts.
- We will serve as a bridge between the global Internet community and local stakeholders, bringing international expertise to bear on local challenges.

## J. Your contact information

- Primary Contact Representative: Sotsay Sengvong
- Secondary Contact Representative: Derek Spranger

