

## 別紙 4

報告番 -	※ -	第
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## 主 論 文 の 要 旨

論文題目 Changes in Upland and Lowland Peoples' Livelihood in Northern Laos  
(ラオス北部における山地および低地住民の生業変化)

氏 名 INGXAY Phanxay

## 論 文 内 容 の 要 旨

The purpose of the study is to investigate and understand how the livelihood of upland and lowland people in northern Laos changes as the result of influence from economic growth and the climate change. Two different livelihood systems in northern Laos were investigated. Upland people in Kachet village, Nambak District, Luang Prabang Province was selected as representative of highland swidden cultivation where the livelihood of local people were affected by climate change; while research site B, including Yo, Deua, and Chiangpee villages in the Boun Neua District, Phongsaly Province was selected as representative of agrarian livelihood in lowland areas, where livelihood activities were changed in response to the influence of economic growth in China.

A framework for sustainable livelihood is applied to estimate rural livelihood assets associated with differences in climate conditions, such as normal climate and climate event years, and to compare household strategies in response to and to cope with climate and economic changes. Household data were collected via a household survey as well as semi-structured and structured interviews in addition to participatory group discussions. The household data are quantitative and qualitative. A Field observation survey was made in order to understand the situation in each village. Household interviews focused on farmers' basic socioeconomic characteristics. Interviews were conducted with the head of each household. Sixty-three households were interviewed at research site A and 50 households at research site B. Respondents were randomly selected for interview.

People in northern Laos are experiencing rapid changes as a result of

climate change and economic growth in neighboring countries. People in the research villages have lived with significant climate change in the past and expect frequent and increased changes in the future. Coping strategies were shaped by the level of impact of the climate event and households' needs toward achieving their livelihood objectives. People had good access to natural capital, but less access to financial capital. People had transferred the value of one asset to another and the value of some assets are decrease while others are increase. People had limited to access to livelihood assets due to a lack of capital for sustainable livelihoods, which is the case for most farmers in poor rural areas of northern Laos. However, the study concludes that with the onset of the wet season the livelihood strategies of local people were unable to be shaped at the research site. In fact the proportion of households undertaking each different livelihood strategy was different. At the same time changes in China influenced by global economic development were shaping people's livelihood strategies in lowland areas of the research sites. Their livelihoods had changed from subsistent agricultural production to commercial production in response to market demand. Chinese direct investment was providing positive livelihood options, but the Lao government needed to channel sufficient information and feedback about market opportunities to producers and investment companies. On the other hand, Chinese influence had negative impacts due to weak policy implementation and inadequate investment law. Beside influence from the Chinese, change in agricultural production in lowland areas is dependent on suitable geography, culture, and social capital of local people.