

Abstract

The objectives of this research project were to 1) search and analyze the education cooperation project between the Kingdom of Thailand and Lao PDR; 2) analyze and synthesize the outcomes of human achievement and international understanding between the Kingdom of Thailand and Lao PDR; and 3) analyze, synthesize, and propose the policy recommendation for the future prospect of education cooperation and international understanding between the Kingdom of Thailand and Lao PDR. This research focused on the projects which take at least three years. The methodologies applied were: 1) documentary research; 2) survey research; and 3) future research. The key informants comprised 13 Thai coordinators, 33 Laotian coordinators, and 124 Laotian beneficiaries. The content validity of 5 research instruments was examined. Except the questionnaires on the human achievement and international understanding, the reliability were examined (Alpha Coefficient = 0.95-0.98.) The research findings revealed that there were 5 education cooperation master projects and 11 subprojects between the Kingdom of Thailand and Lao PDR. Most of them were one-way of bilateral cooperation; Thailand was donor and Lao PDR was recipient. The outcomes on human achievement found that 30,612 Laos including 30,000 of poor children had completed Grade 12 couple with professional skills development; 113 of educational personnel had completed their undergraduate in educational management; 110 of educational personnel had completed short course training in teaching. The international understanding outcomes of these projects showed that the coordinators' international understanding were increased to the highest level in the aspects of the recognizing and appreciating diversity among Lao and Thai, and the recognizing interdependence and connections among Lao and Thai (PNI 0.74); the beneficiaries' international understanding were increased to the highest level in the aspects of knowledge and responsibility necessary to live effectively across cultures and understanding contemporary and historical global issues (PNI 0.83). The education cooperation that had the strongest driving force on human achievement and international understanding was the scholarships on master's or doctorate degree in educational management. There were 5 policy recommendations for future prospect of education cooperation: 1) education cooperation between Thailand and Lao PDR should be "Bilateral of Mekong Bank" with two-way cooperation; 2) focus on the collaborative planning by the people at the grass roots; 3) improve on evaluation of sharing with

embracing and understanding of errors; correction, and continuing of internal evaluation; 4) communication by collaborative learning, sharing and implementation; and 5) increase the scholarships for teachers, lecturer, and educational administrators. There were 5 policy recommendations for future prospect of international understanding: 1) continuous promotion of international understanding between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Lao PDR by educational cooperation mechanism; 2) campaign on knowledge and responsibility necessary to live effectively across cultures 3) campaign on the understanding of how domestic policies affect the world; 4) campaign on value of peace and international interests; and 5) campaign on respecting democracy and basic human rights.