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Unsung Hero: Noimany Pialeuxay

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Noimany Pialeuxay: the first woman driver to be hired by MAG Lao PDR (People’s Democratic Republic), has worked with her all-female unexploded ordnance clearance team to clear landmines in remote areas of Lao PDR. Her story has been an inspiration to many other women who wish to join the demining effort.

The woman driver is a very rare thing to find in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, as is an all-female unexploded ordnance clearance team. Working with an all-female UXO clearance team since September 2007, Noimany Pialeuxay, the first woman driver for Mines Advisory Group Lao PDR, of broadening the scope forever in Laos is a very rare thing to find in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, as is an all-female UXO clearance team. Working with an all-female UXO clearance team since September 2007, Noimany Pialeuxay, the first woman driver for Mines Advisory Group Lao PDR, has been an inspiration to many other women who wish to join the demining effort.

Pialeuxay is now a member of one of MAG’s all-female UXO clearance teams in Lao PDR, an initiative that provides employment for women in the rural areas of Lao PDR and incorporates women in the UXO clearance process. "When I first applied at 18 to be a driver, there were only a handful of women in the district," says Pialeuxay. "I was one of the few who wanted to drive, and at the age of 18 became one of a handful of women from the Xieng Khouang province in Laos to receive a driver’s licence."

Pialeuxay says she is very happy about this accomplishment. "MAG Lao PDR is very proud because we are undertaking dangerous work that directly benefits communities."

He feels she is an "excellent team player and right from the start...fit into her role as a driver."

Pialeuxay stresses the need to keep a positive perspective about life and her work is always inspiring. "MAG is not only recruiting women; it is also recruiting women who wish to do this job."

Pialeuxay says, "We encourage women who are interested to get involved in UXO clearance projects. If you see a job advertisement, then apply! Don’t be afraid of men who say women can’t do this job."

Kubirske says, "Noimany Pialeuxay exemplifies the success that is possible for women through UXO clearance. She states that outstanding and encouraging women involved in UXO clearance who are working in rural areas of Lao PDR, the only one who entered the mine-action field. "If you see a job advertisement, then apply! Don’t be afraid of men who say women can’t do this job."

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