



FACTS

SECONDARY EDUCATION

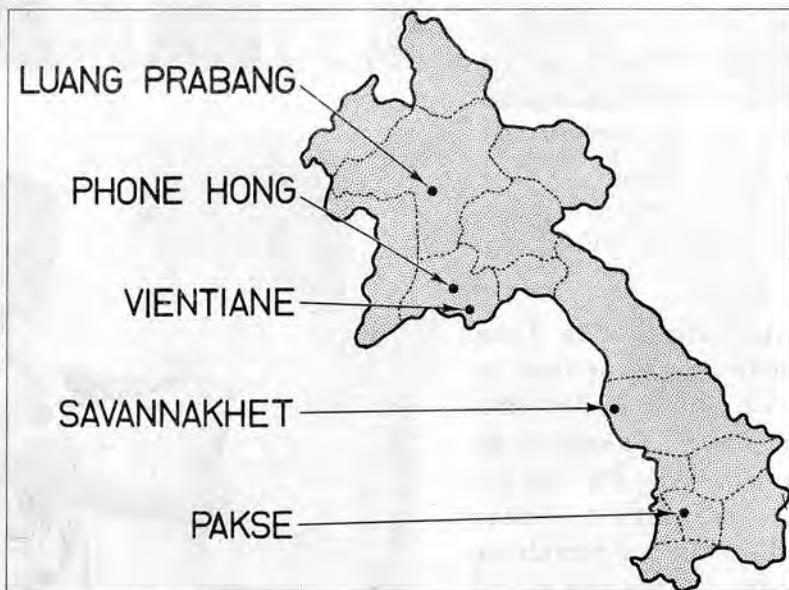
A Project of the USAID Mission to Laos

PHOTOGRAPHS

In 1965, the Ministry of Education requested USAID to make recommendations for developing a secondary school program to implement the Lao Education Reform Act of 1962. The study was carried out by a survey team from the University of Hawaii. Recommendations included use of Lao as the language of instruction and a curriculum to consist of a core of academic subjects with four elective prevocational fields designed to graduate students with practical skills.

USAID contracted with the University of Hawaii in 1967 to provide technical consultation services to implement the recommendations. These services include co-development of curricula, Lao textbooks and teaching materials, inservice training of teachers and administrators, advice to school directors and Ministry personnel.

Since 1967, four comprehensive high schools have been constructed by USAID and development of a fifth site has been started. The Lao government gave the name Fa Ngum to each of these schools in honor of the illustrious king of Laos who unified the country. The location and the present status of these schools are as follows:



Location	Year Established	Grades Offered ^{a/}		Enrollment
		January 1973		
Vientiane	1967	7-12		611
Phone Hong	1969	7-10		415
Savannakhet	1970	7- 9		316
Luang Prabang	1971	7- 8		202
Pakse	[Scheduled to open October 1973]			
				1,541

a/ With the exception of Phone Hong, all Fa Ngum Comprehensive High Schools will add one grade each year until they reach Grade 13.

Cost to USAID for development of each site totals approximately \$300,000 for construction and \$100,000 for equipment. The Royal Lao Government provides the site, utilities, staff and operating expenses, and some student scholarships. These expenses average about Kip 30,000 or \$50 per student per year. For an enrollment of 800 students at one Fa Ngum school, the Royal Lao Government contribution totals Kip 24,000,000 or \$40,000 per year.

Cost of curriculum and textbook development provided by USAID includes approximately \$400,000 annually for the University of Hawaii contract services and a total of about Kip 60 million (\$100,000) for translation, writing, and printing of textbooks and related materials.

Courses in the Fa Ngum schools are taught in the Lao language and the curriculum is designed to meet the need for personnel in the beginning and middle-level management and technical positions in government and in business, as well as to prepare students for advanced study in the professional fields. The first year of enrollment in a Fa Ngum school is a year of orientation in multiple fields of study and work. All students take the same courses in mathematics, science, social studies, agriculture, business education, home economics, industrial arts, English and French. Also, during this first year as part of the vocational guidance program, all students take field trips to talk with workers; they view films and filmstrips on vocational choice techniques. At the end of the first year, the students choose a practical arts specialty in agriculture, business education, home economics or industrial arts.

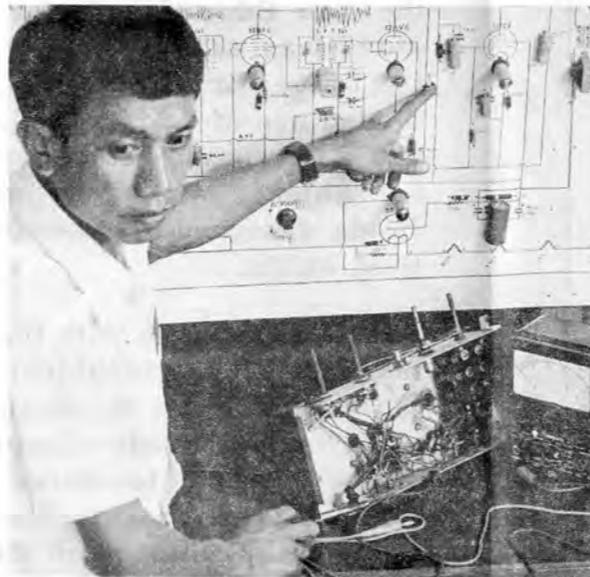
The University of Hawaii will complete its contract in June 1976. By that time, six Fa Ngum Schools are expected to be in operation with a total enrollment of about 3,000 students. In addition, the present 18 academic secondary schools in Laos, following the pattern set by Fa Ngum schools, will have added prevocational subjects to their curriculum. They will be using Lao rather than French as the language of instruction in most classes. [March 1973]



FA NGUM SCHOOLS

Vientiane

Phone Hong



Fa Ngum Comprehensive Curriculum

Hours of Instruction per week for 33 weeks a year

Subject	GRADE						
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Lao Language	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Social Studies	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Mathematics	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Science	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
(Total Academic)	(16)	(16)	(16)	(16)	(16)	(16)	(16)
<u>Foreign Languages</u> (Choice is made in Grade 8)							
French	4	6	6	6	6	6	6
English	4						
(Total Foreign Language)	(8)	(6)	(6)	(6)	(6)	(6)	(6)
<u>Practical Areas</u> (Choice is made in Grade 8)							
Agriculture	1 1/2						
Business	1 1/2	6	6	8	8	8	8
Home Economics	1 1/2						
Industrial Arts	1 1/2						
(Total Practical Arts)	(6)	(6)	(6)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)
Physical Education	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Fine Arts, Student Government, etc.	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
TOTAL	34	33	33	35	35	35	35

