

UNITED STATES AID MISSION TO LAOS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 6, 1973

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director 

FROM : Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division

SUBJECT: Education Division Monthly Report, July, 1973

In-Service Training for CREC Teachers

1,004 primary teachers attended training courses conducted by the Department of Elementary Education, with USAID support, from July 1-26. The trainees were CREC and refugee teachers who are seeking to become qualified Civil Service teachers, which they can do by taking four summer training courses, completing six years of teaching, and passing a final qualifying examination. This year the trainees were organized into 25 groups, including two at the fourth-year level. Courses were conducted by Primary School Inspectors, Directors of Groupes Scolaires, 14 classroom supervisors who had been trained locally and in Thailand, and by other experienced teachers including 13 who had taken courses in science and math at RECSAM.

Miss Engler and Mr. Woodson spent most of the month visiting the various centers. Support from the ACs and their staffs and from numerous offices in USAID -- especially the Cashier personnel -- was greatly appreciated in carrying out this rather large activity.

Secondary Education and Teacher Training Workshops

The following workshops were held during July:

1. Office Practice Workshop for Fa Ngum Business Education teachers

Included practical work and teaching techniques for filing, duplicating processes, receiving visitors, using a telephone, business correspondence and typewriter maintenance.

2. Library Workshop for Teacher Training and Fa Ngum School participants

Mr. Prachit Soulisak, Director of the National Library, conducted this workshop in school library practices and procedures. 14 participants attended.

3. Science Workshop for 42 teachers from Teacher Training and Fa Ngum Schools

The three-week program was held at Dong Dok. Instructors were Dr. Ponniah, from the SEAMEO RECSAM center at Penang; Dr. Allen, UH Contract; and Dr. Porter and Mr. Inversin, IVS. Various instructional approaches and materials for teaching science were demonstrated.

Other Donors

The French Cultural Mission is supporting training for 680 Fifth Grade teachers to improve French language instruction. Training courses for 10 days each are being held at Vientiane, Luang Prabang, Thakhek, Savannakhet, and Pakse.

Nutrition Activities

The following extracts from the monthly report by Miss Dorothy Heieie, UH Home Economics Advisor, are quoted for general interest:

Under the leadership of Tiao Marina Rangsi of the Home Economics Division of RLG Agriculture, Mr. Nikorn Phankongsy, Director of the Agency for Development of the Vientiane Plain, a meeting to study "Nutrition Strategies for Laos" was held July 27. The 25 people attending represented ADVP, WHO, UNDP, OB, Dooley Foundation, Asian Christian Service, Mahosot Hospital, RLG Agriculture, Ministry of Education, IVS, as well as USAID representatives from Program, Public Health, and Education. It was decided to make this a permanent committee with monthly meetings, and to perhaps get legitimacy from the Ministry of the Plan. This was the first Nutrition meeting of this kind in Laos.

A group of home economists representing WHO, OB, RLG Agriculture, Ministry of Education, IVS, and USAID also met to plan a revision of the Basic Nutrition and Child Feeding posters. These posters were then redrawn by CM, and are now awaiting final approval from the home economics group.

OICC Construction

The ten-classroom curriculum center building at Fa Ngum Vientiane and the final phase of the construction at Fa Ngum Luang Prabang are expected to be completed during August. Sewage problems in Vientiane and water problems in Luang Prabang will still need to be resolved.

Construction of Fa Ngum Pakse is moving ahead. The total plant is about 16 per cent complete; the buildings needed for the opening of school this year are about 35% complete.

Various

We were pleased to have a visit by University of Hawaii President Harlan Cleveland, July 12 - 14. In one crowded day he met with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Education, the Chargé a. i., the Director of USAID, the Hawaii Team, a group of Lao students returned from study in the U. S., and also visited the Fa Ngum School in Vientiane. Minister of Education Leuam Insisienmay hosted a dinner for him that evening.

Norman Sweet, new Thai-Lao Desk Officer for AID, was another welcomed visitor to the Fa Ngum Vientiane School this month.

Dr. Robert Martin, new Chief of Party for the Hawaii Team, made orientation trips to all of the provincial Fa Ngum Schools.

Personnel

Mr. Hartwell Blake, UH Agriculture Advisor, departed for home leave July 29.

Mr. William Rankin, UH Industrial Arts Advisor, left post July 19 at the end of his contract.

Mr. Heng Daovannary has been assigned to replace Mr. Wath Symoun as director of the Fa Ngum Luang Prabang School. Mr. Wath leaves in August to work on an M. A. in School Administration at Northern Michigan.

Reporting Units: School Maintenance and Supply Advisor
Teacher Training
Secondary Education
Community Education

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