

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 3, 1973

TO : Mr. Norman Green, Chief, Education Division
FROM : James A. Colman, *James A. Colman* Teacher Education Advisor
SUBJECT: Teacher Training Monthly Report for July, 1973

Problems:

Nothing significant.

Accomplishments:

On July 2, 1973, a science in-service training program began at Dong Dok. Forty-two Lao science teachers participated in this training. The instructors were Dr. Allen, Fa Ngum, Vientiane; Dr. Porter, ENI Savannakhet; Mr. Inversin, ESP Dong Dok; and Dr. Ponniah, SEAMEO RECSAM, Penang.

The first week of instruction included techniques for teaching biology by Dr. Ponniah. The second and third weeks by Dr. Allen, Dr. Porter and Mr. Inversin, teamed up to conduct methods of instruction in chemistry and physics. Considering normal problems, the program went very well. The evaluation of the program revealed the large need for educational materials. There was a great interest in Thai Comprehensive Secondary program and Teacher Training materials. Exploration is under way to find out the availability of these books for Lao school libraries. The range of interest of the Lao instructors was great. The teachers teaching in seventh year science would prefered to have had training in subject matter more related to seventh grade teaching curriculum. The theme was to learn science through different possible instructional approaches. The Lao instructors enjoyed each new learning experience that differed from rote learning. Many pictures were taken of the science activities. A book including these pictures with captions, will be prepared.

During the month final preparations were made to start a class of Thai language for possible participants to Thailand. Staff shortages make it difficult to upgrade existing staff by participant training. Summer training in Thai will allow the potential participants to teach the next year for MoE rather than becoming a full time student in local training the entire year before leaving for further education.

A summer student work program began during July. Each campus has specific work planned for this program. The work is a training program for the students while completing major improvements and maintenance activities. The summer work program is a major part of maintaining the eight campuses. For ten weeks, 150 Lao are working to maintain Teacher Training Campuses.

At the end of the month staff changes were coming to an end in the Teacher Training Department. During August 6 the new assignments will be assumed and possibly by September 1 a report can be supplied giving the results of the many changes.

ENI Pakse drainage development continued. At the end of the month approximately 30% of the campus drainage system was completed. The project work has been possible because of the weather. Normal weather conditions has the campus under several feet of water. This year it has been possible to work everyday pouring cement.

EDU/TF:JAColman:sd