

Hu. Woodson

UNITED STATES AID MISSION TO LAOS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 9, 1973

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director

New Green

FROM : Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division

SUBJECT: Education Division Monthly Report, September, 1973

New School Year

Secondary and Teacher Training Schools opened on October 1 for the new school year. "Openings" and items of special interest are listed below. To clarify the various programs, you may wish to refer to the diagram of the Lao school system attached to this report.

1. The Fa Ngum School in Pakse opened on schedule, admitting its first class of about 100 Seventh Graders. The contractor was extremely cooperative in getting the first two buildings ready on time in spite of the unavailability of some GFM materials.
2. The two-year "Sam Thong" teacher training school for Xieng Khouang is now in place at Ban Na Moh (Site 207), having been relocated last month from its refugee quarters in Vientiane. It will take another month or so before all the furniture and other materials are on hand but the school will be in full operation soon.
3. The Vientiane Normal School at Dong Dok now covers the full seven years of the secondary level. Grades 11, 12, and 13 were added to its program by transferring these grades (including the English Section) out of the ESP. The latter school now has only the four years of higher education, establishing it as a true College of Education within Sisavang Vong University.
4. Four additional secondary schools in Laos have joined the Vientiane Lycee in offering a complete seven-year high school program up to Grade 13. The Fa Ngum School in Vientiane now has its first class of about 50 students in Grade 13. In addition, the Lycees in Savannakhet, Pakse, and Luang Prabang have been authorized to give Grade 13 (Classe Terminale). In prior years, students from these lycees had to transfer to Vientiane for their final year of school.

5. The Khongsedone College moved out of its refugee quarters in Pakse and returned to Wapikhamthong.

Refugee Schools

One elementary school has been reopened in Long Tieng with an enrollment of about 500 students. Other recently established temporary classrooms for refugees include the following: Thakhek area - 12; Na Nhao - 4 (for Meo from Phou Khao Khouei); Houei Dena and Nam Cheng (along the road currently under construction at Km. 52). Vang Monh, with support from World Vision and the Houa Phan Students Association.

Houei Sai Schools - Teacher Shortage

In the Houei Sai area, a report by Larry Woodson indicates that twelve existing classrooms in nine locations are not being used because teachers have not been assigned. No additional qualified teachers are available and the School Inspector in Houei Sai says he does not want CREC teachers. Ministry officials in Vientiane are aware of the situation and have said they will seek additional positions for CREC teachers for Houei Sai if the PSI requests them.

For the moment we are at an impasse which seems to lead to two possible courses of action: (1) USAID could refuse to assist with the construction of any more classrooms in Houei Sai until the vacant rooms are staffed; (2) if the villagers themselves are willing to accept CREC teachers, the local officials, the Chao Khoueng, and the Delegates to the Assembly should exert pressure on the PSI to request the required number of CREC positions for the vacant classrooms and for any additional classrooms planned for construction this year.

Sixth Grade Final Examination Results - June, 1973

Attached to this report is a table prepared by Lee Engler showing the results of last June's final ("CEP") exam for sixth grade students in each school inspector's district. Out of 17,133 applicants, 12,454 passed, for a national average of 73 percent. Of the number passing, 9,667 attended public schools and 1,049 attended private schools during the 1972-73 school year. In addition, 566 other persons not enrolled in any school last year also passed the exam.

In-Service Training

Plans are being made for the annual conference of Primary School Inspectors, which is to be held January 14-24 in Paksane. USAID participation in the conference will be somewhat less than that of previous years.

Attachment 3 to this report is a summary of in-country training programs held during FY 73 for personnel in the elementary education program. The table shows the number of trainees for each activity from each school district. The total number of trainees was 949.

A two-week workshop for social studies teachers in Fa Ngum Schools was held last month in Vientiane. The seminar emphasized the materials and objectives of the social studies curriculum in the first cycle, Grades 7-10.

School Improvement Projects

Summer work projects to improve the buildings and campuses of the teacher training schools have been completed. 150 students and 8 supervisors took part in the projects. To continue school improvement activities during the school year, eight Activity Proposals have been approved -- one for each campus -- specifying the work that will be carried out during the next nine months.

The Pakse ENI is a good example of the work accomplished under the Teacher Training maintenance program. Drainage around the buildings has been provided so swampy conditions no longer exist in the lower part of the campus. City water has been connected and there is now a reliable supply of potable water. The toilet rooms have been rehabilitated. Louver devices have been replaced with wooden shutters. Furniture is in the process of being repaired; painting of the buildings remains to be done. Clean-up work on the campus is in progress and the students are being required to assist with maintaining the buildings and grounds. A maintenance man from the school has just completed four weeks of training in various skills in Vientiane. The new director of the school is taking a strong interest in the appearance and care of the facilities. Through the good work of Jim Colman, Tom Liston and all others concerned, we hope that one of the schools in weakest condition will now be able to take care of itself.

Other Donors - Participation in Regional Programs

Participation by Ministry of Education personnel in regional seminars and other programs continues to grow. The following are some of the recent activities being attended:

- Six persons are attending a three-month course at the INNOTECH center in Saigon in programmed materials for elementary schools;
- One person is attending a two-month seminar on book production in Tokyo;
- One person is attending a seminar on Primary School Teaching in Asia, also being held in Tokyo;
- Two persons are attending a RECSAM course in Penang on the production of apparatus for teaching science and mathematics;
- One person is attending a nine-month course at the East West Center in Hawaii on the preparation of teaching materials for English language instruction (USAID bought the round-trip ticket and paid ten percent of the costs for this program);
- Two persons are attending a two-week UNESCO conference on literacy, being held in Khonkhaen, Thailand.

Completion of the AACTE Contract

Dr. Lawrence Levy, Higher Education Advisor under contract with the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, departed post this month at the end of his two-year contract. Dr. Levy has left us with a great amount of materials related to the future development of the College of Education (ESP). This material will be available soon in the form of a compilation of Dr. Levy's papers. A final evaluation report will also be prepared.

Personnel

Mrs. Elsie Ito, the Education Division secretary for the past five years, departed post last month. She has been replaced by her assistant, Mrs. Malisone Vongsouthi. Mrs. Malisone was in turn replaced by Mrs. Chanh Saycocoe.

Miss Dorothy Heieie, Home Economics Advisor with the Hawaii Team left for home leave September 16.

Mr. Yang Her, assistant to Mr. Woodson for the refugee school program, resigned at the end of the month in order to return to school.

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

Attachments: (1) Diagram of Lao School System
(2) Sixth Grade Final Examination Results - June 1973
(3) CE In-Service Training - FY 73

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DIAGRAM OF LAO
NATIONAL SCHOOL SYSTEM

