

August 30, 1973

TO : Dr. Robert M. Martin, Chief of Party, UH Team

FROM : *John W. Rantala*
John W. Rantala, PIC UH Team

SUBJECT: Monthly Report for August, 1973

FA NGUM VIENTIANE

Problems:

The moving of the UH Team curriculum activities, supplies, equipment and personnel into the new Curriculum Center at Fa Ngum School, Vientiane.

Activities:A: Room Assignment

The above move has been the topic of formal planning, informal discussion and a UH Team meeting of August 23, 1973. The following tentative room assignments were made:

1. Room 201 will be a conference room and curriculum materials library
2. Room 205A will be occupied by Dr. Jane Fultz and counterpart
3. Room 205B will be occupied by Dr. Leslie Allen & counterpart
4. Room 207A will be occupied by Dorothy Heisele, John Rantala and counterparts.
5. Room 207B will be occupied by Hartwell Blake and counterpart.
6. Room 208A will be occupied by Arthur Crisfield and counterpart.
7. Room 208B will be occupied by Iwao Kumabe and the Artist, Illustrator, Mr. Khamhoung Faa Baccam.
8. Room 211 will be occupied by the Curriculum Center Clerical/Typing staff, duplicating equipment and machine operator. Collating of mimeographed materials will also be done in room 211

The arrival of Dr. Dwane Collins o/a January 1, 1974, may require some reassignment of space.

The rationale for the specific assignment of rooms is too lengthy to discuss in this report but will be reviewed with the COP on his return.

Recommendations: - GESTEFAX

The procurement of a Gestefax electronic stencil cutter and its accompanying mimeograph duplicator is temporarily delayed pending decisions on whether fiscal year 1973 or '74 money will be used for the purchase. All necessary information on prices and GSA contract numbers are in hand.

Mr. Woods of the Program Office has expressed doubt as to whether the Finance Office will approve the purchase of duplicating equipment in lieu of the 44 typewriters requested on the FY/73 PIOC. A strong

likelihood exists that USAID will assist the Ban Hom self-help secondary school in establishing Fa Ngum-type Business Education. Typewriters would be required, so it seems prudent to order typewriters with the FY '73 PIO/C and to use FY 74 funds for the Gestefax-Gestetner purchase.

B. FURNITURE

One-hundred ^{Vientiane} twenty-five tablet arm chairs have been manufactured by the ~~Lao-French~~ Tech. Institute for the first floor classrooms of the Curriculum Center. Present thinking of the Fa Ngum Director is that the chairs will be used in Bldg. A (two-story classroom Bldg.) and the older student tables and chairs will be used by the Sam Thong students using the 1st floor of the Curriculum Center Building.

Fifteen teacher desks and 15 typing tables are under manufacture for the Curric. Center Bldg. They will be completed on or about Sept. 15, 1973.

RECOMMENDATION

At this date it appears that the balance of funds left in Curric. Center Furniture AP SE 3018 will be kip 147,000. We will need five library tables for the conference room and inst. materials duplicating room. The estimated cost would be kip 200,000. An amendment should be made to the AP and the tables made by the ^{Vientiane} ~~Lao-French~~ Tech. Inst.

C. PAINTING, SEPTIC TANK, GRADING AND SIDEWALKS

The temporary problem of securing grey paint for exterior painting has been resolved. The faulty septic tank/leach pit installation has been corrected.

Grading to handle the surface runoff from heavy rains appears to be satisfactory. Summer student workers have made the sections of sidewalk planned for the rear and end of the bldg.

D. BASKETBALL - SOCCER FIELDS

The construction of concrete basketball standards across the width of the old soccer field, fronting the CC Bldg., is underway. New provisions will have to be made for a soccer field.

E. AIR CONDITIONERS

Provisions were made in the construction of the CC Bldg. to accommodate six individual room air conditioners. Four of the air conditioners required will be transferred from Bldg. B. Two are under repair at Electro Vientiane. Rewinding of the burned out compressors will be completed by Sept. 1, 1973.

Expectations are that the final inspection and acceptance of the CC Bldg. will take place during the first week of Sept. 1973. The air conditioners will then be installed.

RECOMMENDATION

The Hawaii Team members should extend their congratulations and appreciation to Mr. Don Phommachaker and Mr. Samly for the outstanding manner in which they have handled the School Improvement tasks accomplished under AP SE 3022. Much remains to be done under the AP but all that has been done to date has been done expeditiously and well.

It is also noteworthy that Don is providing the same kind of outstanding effort and leadership to the General Maintenance Training AP SE 4063.

It was of special interest to me to hear Dr. Hal Hall praise the school improvement/maintenance efforts he observed at Fa Ngum Vientiane. Dr. Hall also mentioned that the problem of school maintenance in South Vietnam is very critical and yet to be recognized, let alone resolved!

We have not yet succeeded in bringing the problem of school maintenance into sharp focus at the RIG, MOE level. Staffing, training and adequate salaries for school maintenance personnel is equally as important as the development of a good teaching staff. The MOE should establish one professionally graded/paid position in school maintenance in each Fa Ngum School and fill the positions with Fa Ngum Industrial Arts graduates. The incumbents in these positions should, in turn, after two years of service, be eligible for further training.

OBSERVATION

The acting SEA, Art Crisfield, has kept in close touch with all the on-going projects left to his care while, at the same time, carrying out his curriculum advisory duties. Nothing was left unattended, so as a result, the UE Team performance has remained at a high level.

Mr. Inao Kumabe performed in a like manner while pinch hitting for Dr. Jane Fultz. His reassignment to the textbook production responsibilities by Dr. Martin has revealed a high order of organizational abilities.

It has been a pleasure to feel and observe the functioning team spirit.

WATER PROBLEM

The second well at Fa Ngum Vientiane has been tested again for salinity. The salt content is 1100 parts per 1,000,000 parts of water. This appears to be satisfactory for fish pond and agricultural uses, but cannot be used for drinking water.

RECOMMENDATION

The water storage tank at Fa Ngum Vientiane that is to be constructed during the coming dry season will have to be used for the accumulation of city and Fa Ngum well #1 water only. The brackish water from well #2 can likely be used as suggested. There are, however, several considerations relative to pumps, piping, fish pond water circulation and possible aeration of the fish pond water to increase its oxygen content. These considerations should be held in abeyance until Mr. Blake returns from home leave and they can be more thoroughly investigated.

ADMINISTRATIVE/ADVISORY PROBLEM

The new Industrial Arts Shop for Small Engine Mechanics and Electrical Instruction is nearing completion. If I am to assist and advise in the development of the shop layout, installation of equipment, tool panel construction, fabrication of training aids and implementation of an instructional program for the 1973-74 school year, I cannot wait until January 1974 to do so.

RECOMMENDATION

I would like to be relieved of my PIO responsibilities in order to start working with the Industrial Arts teachers of Fa Ngum Vientiane by September 15, 1973. This would give me approximately 60 working days to get this advisory task underway before departing on R&R December 17, 1973 through January 11, 1974.

FA NGUM PHONE LONGPROBLEM:

The Faculty House to be built under AP SE 3020 was held in abeyance for over one month because the MOE could not come up with sufficient funds to purchase the amount of lumber required.

Activities:

The above problem could only be resolved by reducing the size of the proposed house, making it one story and siding it with woven bamboo. These alternative plans were drawn by the Industrial Arts Teacher, Mr. Bounleum of Phone Long. The plans were discussed with USAID Edu. and MWD and found to be minimally adequate.

Thirty bags of cement are being moved from Fa Ngum Vientiane and 20 bags have been ordered from SMD. Construction is underway.

PROBLEM:

A short in the auditorium lighting circuit has burned six fixtures and all the overhead wiring. The necessary repair shells

and high ladder equipment are not available at the school. Mr. Datu, Engr. OICC has been requested to detail Mr. Zamorra, Elec. Technician, OICC, to assess the extent of damage and later assist with the repair.

The necessary 5 meter scaffold will have to be constructed to reach the auditorium ceiling. The scaffold will also be used to repair the seven broken cement asbestos ceiling panels.

RECOMMENDATION:

The ceiling panels were broken by kicking of basketballs to the ceiling. It is highly probable that a basketball striking a ceiling light fixture was the cause of the electrical short. All basketball hoops should be removed from Fa Ngum School auditoriums.

FA NGUM LLANG PRABANG

NO PROBLEMS!

Mr. Shozun Yamauchi has so thoroughly reported the activities of the School Improvement AP that I'll not say more than to express amazement at the high quality of work the students have done. We are appreciative of assistance and advice of Mr. Frank Bewitz of PwD and the Fa Ngum School Contractor. They have truly made the school improvement program an excellent work experience program for the students.

RECOMMENDATION

It has been thoroughly and repeatedly demonstrated that the School Improvement AP do make significant improvements in the school facilities as well as providing training and income for Fa Ngum students. I would like to propose that this school improvement activity be incorporated into the Industrial Arts and Agricultural Curricula as part of the Work Experience Program extended into the school vacation months.

Preliminary inquiries with business and industry in Vientiane, indicates that we would have success in working out cooperative work experience programs for Ind. Arts students for at least one trimester of the 13th year.

We should be looking towards the selection and training of a Work Experience Coordinator to handle the entire program. Here again, if the MOE is willing, there is no reason why a good sharp Fa Ngum graduate of the Practical Arts areas could not be trained into the job.

OBSERVATION

I had the good fortune to attend the Luang Prabang Boat Races

and the King's Ball. It is my opinion that the sharpest diplomat I met was Mr. Shozun Yamauchi. My wife and I observed that there was not a single governmental official that we encountered in two days of almost constant social activity whom Shozun could not introduce by name and title. All those whom we met also knew Shozun and were obviously well acquainted with the Fa Ngum School.

FA NGUM PAKSE

PROBLEM

The assignment of the Secondary Education Advisor, Mr. Zane, raised the question of how the travel expense for him and his wife, including shipment of household effects, was going to be handled.

Activities:

Consultation with Edu. and TRP resulted in Mr. Zane purchasing RAL tickets at his own expense to be later reimbursed by the UH. His household effects were shipped by USAID financed air cargo. His return for the UH Team meeting of Sept. 6 will again require Mr. Zane to personally purchase his tickets. He has been notified to that effect and it has also been suggested that he try to get on a USAID cargo flight.

PROBLEM:

The Pakse Fa Ngum School is scheduled to open on October 2, 1973. The first phase of furniture manufacture by local contract must provide for 105 students and 8 teachers/administrators. There now seems to be some question as to what the role of the UH/PLO and Pakse SEA are in relation to the Contract Representative and the SMD Contracting Officer for local procurement.

Activities:

I have written the attached memo seeking clarification of the UH Team role.

PROBLEM:

The non-availability of two inch aluminum roofing nails with neoprene washers threatens to delay the scheduled October '73 completion of the HE/Agric. and Toilet Bldgs.

Activities:

A telegram has been sent to Dr. Ihara, Univ. Hawaii, requesting that he purchase and air ship 13,000 roofing nails to meet this emergency. SMD local procurement could not turn up the nails in Vientiane or Bangkok. GSA procurement would have been too slow. Contractor procurement from Hong Kong was questionable as SE Asia has little demand for alum. roofing nails. The special roofing is very little used except on USAID financed Projects.

FA NGUM SVKT.

PROBLEM:

Funds presently available will not allow for both the Home Economics Practice House and 3rd Shop Bldg. to be built in Svkt.

ACTIVITIES:

A higher priority was assigned to the H. E. Practice House and the necessary AP proposal SE 4011 has been written and forwarded with signature to the AC/Svkt. Approval is expected for dry season review.

PROBLEM:

Proposed School Improvement AP SE 4005 proved to be too costly due to PWD equipment costs. It now happens that a road project in the close vicinity of the Fa Ngum School will provide the necessary fill dirt for the proposed bicycle shelters at very little cost. The AP is being rewritten to reflect the savings in equipment. It will not be possible actually to construct the shelters at this late date but the fill dirt will be hauled in, levelled and compacted, if the proposed AP is approved. The re-written proposed AP will reflect this change.

PROBLEM:

The EDL installation of insulators and transmission lines is progressing satisfactorily; however, they have come up with a shortage of 37 insulators due to miscalculation of material requirements.

ACTIVITIES:

Air shipment of the insulators from USAID/PWR has been arranged so it is not expected that the installation work will be delayed.

Present expectations are that Fa Ngum School Svkt. will have EDL electrical power by October 1973.

EDU/SE:TWRantala:ks