

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

December 27, 1972

TO : Mr. Hunter A. Fitzgerald, CEA/National

FROM : Miss Lee Engler, CEA/Program *Lee Engler*

SUBJECT : TDY Bangkok, December 18 and 19.
Participant Training

A summary of meetings with Mrs. Chanthanom, Local Training Coordinator, USOM/BKK and Mr. Somboon, Training Coordinator of Prasarnmitr, as well as comments on participant interviews, is as follows:

1. Two-year program for participants in Testing and Guidance, and Budget-Fiscal, PIO/Ps 20397, 20396, and 20428

The objectives of the training, the program content, and suggested activities as presented in the PIO/Ps were reviewed carefully. No set program had been prepared, but Mr. Somboon had contacted various department heads for suggestions.

It was decided that enrollment of the participants in university classes, where the fields of study were offered, would not be advisable or beneficial because of their level of training; it was decided at the same time that auditing university courses would be of little value for the same reason.

The only alternative was to arrange special six-month courses for the participants with proposals for an additional six months of study if progress justified continuation. If a six-months' program were organized, Mr. Somboon pointed out that it would be advisable to add two or three participants because training in groups was more effective for them, and potential influence on educational practices would be more substantial from a group than an individual. He indicated that arranging a program in Guidance and Testing for six months to a year would present no difficulty as such programs were already being conducted for Thai educators. He agreed that one program might be developed for the Budget-Fiscal and the Statistics participants.

Mrs. Chanthanom also encouraged Mr. Somboon to consider his planning with the Department Heads in terms of a year's training, stating that some activities mentioned should be developed to provide understandings in budget-fiscal practices and that others presented opportunities for a variety of practical experiences.

Topics mentioned for the Budget-Fiscal and Statistics program included planning the budget in relation to the major items of expenditure, analyses of expenditures as regarding per pupil cost; repeaters, teacher-pupil ratio, provision of textbooks, construction and maintenance of facilities as cost factors; community contributions to the school; statistical formats, kinds of data for general educational planning; observation and

on-the-job training at the department level, with special supervision and guidance; assistance with studies made by graduate students on various Budget-Fiscal and Statistical operational problems.

Mr. Somboon agreed to prepare a tentative course outline with certain Department Heads at Prasarnmitr and submit it to Mrs. Chanthanom for forwarding to USAID/HRDD, Laos, by the end of the month. It will be reviewed by Training, EDU, and MoE, for action. The starting date has been scheduled for June 1.

2. Four-Year Participants

Dong and Thone - Math and Science Participants PIO/Ps 10212 and 10209

Both would like to study English and Calculus when they return home o/a March 20. They are scheduled to take calculus during the first term, next school year, and feel that the training would help them very much to pass the course. They need and want to improve their facility in English. Both are doing fairly well in their studies. College of Education, Patumvan.

Nong - Industrial Arts PIO/P 10211

He seems to be doing very well, according to the second term grades. He is especially strong in his major subjects. Nong also wants to study English during the vacation period. Both Nong and Dong have asked assistance in finding employment for them so that they can provide for themselves in Vientiane, which is not their residence. Pranakorn Teachers College.

Phouthong - Agriculture PIO/P 10210

Being enrolled in Kasetsart University is making a big demand on Phouthong. As he says, "It probably will take me five years to make it." Then he explains that his program of study at the University is unlike that of the other three. Mrs. Chanthanom is well aware of his situation and has already observed his difficulties with Science courses, especially Chemistry, which she has recommended be scheduled during the summer, so he will have more time to study.

3. Supervisor Trainees (21)
PIO/Ps 20309 and 20310

Program logistical problems are being well managed by Mrs. Chanthanom. Mr. Somboon and the participants were very enthusiastic over their two weeks' visit to the Supervisory Unit at Karasin. They wanted to stay for a month but Mr. Somboon explained that double housing costs were involved and he felt that the two weeks were valuable and adequate for the time.

The participants mentioned many books that they wanted to buy; they say they do not have sufficient funds. The CEA requested that a list be prepared and submitted to USAID/EDU for consideration and possible purchase for the MoE library and, if funds are available, for libraries in the inspectorates. Mrs. Chanthanom agreed to provide the list. A 240-page booklet on educational supervision has been prepared in long-hand; stencils will be typed and USAID/EDU and MoE/RIG will be requested to duplicate copies as required.

Mr. Somboon stated that he thought the training of supervisors was improved over last year. Mrs. Chanthanom was in agreement, mentioning that evaluative papers prepared by last year's participants had been reviewed and the program revised in accordance. Mr. Somboon believes that it would be highly important and useful for the Primary School Inspectors to participate in a one-month special course on Supervision at Prasarnmitr to assure common understandings and cooperative implementation of supervisory projects. Participants expressed some concern over the establishment of supervisory personnel and the determination of their responsibilities.

4. Other Participant Contacts:

1. Sitanh and Songkham, MoF. Two weeks study on taxation at ECAFE (EAD). Due to return Saturday.
2. Mr. Sangphet, Development Bank of Laos. IFCT. Six months completed, six to go.
3. Mr. Leuanrith Buphasiri. USAID/OFIN. Second year of four.

5. Other Doings

- Monday - Lunch with Mrs. Chanthanom
- Monday - Dinner with Dong, Nong, Phouthong, and Thone.
- Tuesday - Lunch with Mrs. Chanthanom, Mr. Somboon, and nine supervisor trainees.

6. Conclusion

The TDY arrangements by Mrs. Chanthanom were entirely satisfactory and more than adequate for achieving the objective of the trip. Meetings with participants from EDU, as well as other fields, were valuable as related in the report. The appointment with Mr. Somboon was especially important to the major purpose of the trip. Although the request to arrange training for the particular administrative officials is an indeed difficult task, because of the need for a special program, Mr. Somboon never relented in making suggestions and plans as to what might be done to respond to this request. I feel that he will prepare a program satisfactory to EDU and MoE.

More comments are in order on Mrs. Chanthanom and her responsibilities with participants. I was deeply impressed.

Cleared: Mrs. Chanthanom (in draft)

EDU/Ci:LMEngler:six