

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

September 5, 1972

TO : Mr. Norman Green, Chief, EDU *Lucius Butler*

FROM : Lucius Butler, Chief of Party, University of Hawaii Team

SUBJECT: Secondary Education Monthly Report - August 1972

PROBLEMS:

Curriculum Counterpart Availability.

The general lack of curriculum counterparts was indicated in the December, 1971, monthly report and the situation exists at present to the same degree in spite of additional staff which have additional training.

This problem may be stated as follows:

1. Participation and in service local and regional training programs have been successful in raising the training level of Pa Ngum teachers over the past year. The career-ladder program should insure a well-balanced experience-education combination in future development of leaders.
2. There are well trained experienced teachers are few in number but do form the cadre from which curriculum counterparts could and should be developed. There should be one curriculum specialist for each of eight to ten curriculum areas of secondary education curriculum.
3. The experiences of the past eight months have indicated a recurring problem which revolves around the "extra-work-time" which is required of these well-trained experienced teachers if they are to assist the Hawaii local curriculum advisor in the development of curriculum outlines and textbook manuscripts.
4. High rate textbook production requires the assistance of an experienced Lao teacher who can work side-by-side with the American advisor on the manuscript illustrations and overall organization of content. Percent examples of this type of textbook development are the Lao Government, Australia and New Zealand textbooks.

5. The matter of compensation for the many hours required for this type of activity is the recurring issue in almost every case during the past eight months. USAID/Local Training needs experienced teachers in their program and can offer 1,300 to 1,800 kip per hour for these services. USIS/Lao American Association needs English teachers for their program and can offer 1,250 to 1,500 kip per hour for these services.

6. The very person who would serve best as a curriculum counterpart is also highly qualified to provide services for Local Training and Lao American Association. The overtime rates of the RIG range from 550 to 675 kip per hour and these are hardly competitive. The mere fact that the Hawaii team advisor wants a particular teacher to work with him should not "black-ball" that teacher from job opportunities with USAID or USIS. This action would surely not result in cooperative work.

7. The RIG director of secondary education has again been requested to assign two to four experienced teachers as full-time curriculum counterparts but has felt unable to do so. Assignment of teachers for six to eight hours per week has been suggested but this arrangement was attempted two years ago with very limited success.

8. The training and experience of the Hawaii team curriculum advisors continues to be utilized in "direction" activities of curriculum and textbook development. The textbooks will be published as close to schedule as possible within the limitations present. These "first editions" will meet the minimum requirements to implement the Fa Ngum school curriculum.

9. If the training and experience of the Hawaii team advisors could be utilized in "training-action" activities of curriculum and textbook development, these "first editions" would be better textbooks and curriculum specialists would be prepared to carry on the tasks of revision and development when the Hawaii team advisors leave Laos.

10. The most satisfactory solution which I am able to come up with (given the variables of teacher salaries, work hours, outside employment opportunities, and RIG personnel assignments) is an attempt to become competitive in bidding for well-trained experienced teacher's time by offering a rate of 1,000 to 1,500 kip per hour for editing assistance as a part of textbook writing activities.

Our highest salary for regular local employees is about 500 kip per hour. If either USAID or the MOE (preferably the latter) paid overtime for editorial work performed in addition to the required teaching load and paid it at the prescribed RIG rates, I believe the teachers would be satisfied. The highest rates suggested here should not be necessary in any case should not be given as a matter of principle. The teachers at IAA or private schools or do translation work. I suggest SE proceed with an AP to pay overtime at RIG rates.

New Green

PROGRESS1. Baccalaureat (Grade 13) Examination and Certificate

Discussion held with RIG Director of Secondary Education Phou Rasphone indicated that when the Fa Ngum class of June, 1974, finishes their studies they will take the same type of "Lao Bac" examination as the students in the Lycee have been taking for the past two years. I have asked for a copy of an old exam to have translated into English for study by our curriculum advisors to make certain that the Fa Ngum curriculum will provide adequate preparation for Fa Ngum students to pass this examination. Two previous "French Fa." exams published in the Lao teacher's magazine are currently being translated into English for study.

The four practical arts curriculum areas will be "options" (in French "series") in the same manner as the four areas of Philosophy, Math, Science and Social Studies are "options" for Lycee students. The examination option chosen by a particular student will appear on his certificate. Both Lycee and Fa Ngum certificates will be identical except for the "option". I presume that any Fa Ngum student who wanted to take a Science or Philosophy "option" would be free to do so.

Examinations are compiled by the Ministry of Education each year from questions submitted by teachers of all public schools who have students taking the examination. Thus, for the 1974 exam, Fa Ngum teachers will be asked for "input". I have proposed to Mr. Somsak that perhaps the "top 20" 12th grade students should take in "Lao Bac" in June 1973 for research purposes.

2. Publishing Progress

One book was sent to USAID/CM for contracting to local printers during this month:

Business 11: Accounting I, 340 p, 2,000 copies

One book was approved by the MoE with corrections. These corrections were not completed by the end of the month:

Social Studies 12: Lao Astronomy, 153 p, 5,000 copies

TOTAL: Books: 2 Pages: 493 Copies: 7,000

Seven books are currently being printed from previous months activities:

1. Lao: Lao Language, Grade 9, 306 p, 6,000 copies
2. Lao: Lao Language, Grade 10, 277 p, 6,000 copies
3. Social Studies 9: Australia, 127 p, 3,000 copies
4. Business 9: Abacus, 141 p, 3,000 copies
5. Industrial Arts 10: Introduction to Metals, 61 p, 3,000 copies
6. Home Economics 9: Food and Clothing, 152 p, 2,000 copies
7. Agriculture 9: Field Crops, 246 p, 2,000 copies

TOTAL: Books: 7 Pages: 1,310 Copies: 28,000

NOTES: Home Economics 9 and Agriculture Field Crops have been promised on or about September 10th by the printer. This completes most grade 9 texts in time for the opening of school in October, 1972.

Five books were printed and delivered during the month:

1. Social Studies 7: Lao Government, 80 p, 10,000 copies
2. Mathematics 9: Geometry, 316 p, 6,000 copies

TOTAL: Books: 2 Pages: 396 Copies: 16,000

Eight books are being typed, edited, illustrated and will be ready for publication as soon as approval is received from the RLC Ministry of Education.

1. Industrial Arts 10: Bench Metals, 9 p, 3,000 copies
2. Industrial Arts 10: Sheet Metals, 6 p, 3,000 copies
3. Industrial Arts 10: Forging Metals, 55 p, 3,000 copies
4. Industrial Arts 10: Machining Metals, 50 p, 3,000 copies
5. Science 10: Biology, 280 p, 6,000 copies
6. Social Studies 9: New Zealand, 52 p, 6,000 copies
7. Social Studies 11: Lao History, 150 p, 10,000 copies
8. Business 8: Ten Key Adding Machine, 64 p, 3,000 copies

TOTAL: Books: 8 Pages: 807 Copies: 38,000

Micrographed Production during the month included:

- 408: Planting Crops I, 122 p
- Planting Crops II, 115 p
- Agriculture: Curriculum outline 190 p
- Agriculture: Plant Disease, 113 p
- Agriculture: Animal Disease, 108 p

Pa Ngum Curriculum Outline, 61 p

SS: World Culture, 52 p

SS: Latin America, 86 p

HEC: Home Economics Workshop, 50 p

SCI: Science Workshop, 30 p

HEC: Sewing Machine Manual, 20 p

3. Activity Proposals:

1. AP SE-3001 for textbook evaluation was approved on 7/27/72 #3074, no account number.
2. AP SE-3002 for the Vientiane Home Economics Practice House has undergone several changes at the recommendation of USAID/FWD and has been approved on 8/22/72, #3050. This AP is for about \$100,000 and account #3074-4-B3 has \$2,300,000 remaining for future AP's on school improvement.
3. AP SE-3003 for textbook writing was approved on 8/17/72, #3035 for one million kip, account #3064-4-D3.
4. AP SE-3004 for textbook printing was approved on 8/9/72, #3027 for the 4 million kip in the approved budget, account #3064-4-D1. An amendment to SE-3004 has been drafted to provide another 20 million kip and \$30,000 for textbook printing to meet the project goals as indicated in the PAR.
5. AP SE-3005 for Luang Prabang school furniture was approved on 8/15/72, #3062, account #3064-4-B1a for 1.7 million kip. USAID/INR/200 has been asked by memo to conduct bidding to secure the furniture.
6. AP SE-3006 for Curriculum Center furniture has been drafted and signed and is being held pending decisions on building construction.
7. AP SE-3007 for school materials was drafted and forwarded for signature. A translation into Lao has been completed for information of RIG officials.
8. In-service training AP's from account #3064-4-D3:
 - AP-3008 - Home Economics Teachers Seminar was drafted by Advisor Hart and forwarded for signatures. This seminar requires \$158,600.
 - AP-3009 - Science Teachers Workshop was drafted by Advisor Allen and forwarded for signatures. This workshop requires \$79,200.
 - AP-3010 - Administrators Seminar was drafted by Chief of Party Baker and forwarded for signatures. The five 3-day seminars require \$245,000. A translation of the AP into Lao has been finished so that RIG officials may understand fully the intent of the activity. There is about million kip remaining for future in-service training AP's.

4. Construction Progress:

Phone Hong reports 94.48% completion of Phase IV construction. Several drainage problems have been resolved during the month and roof leaks are being watched carefully by Advisor Zane.

Savannakhet shows more progress this past month than previously and Advisor Wong is watching the operation carefully.

Luang Prabang "communication problems" were dealt with by all persons concerned and the several suggestions under study are nearing the implementation stage.

5. Staff Movement:

Mr. John Rantala will return from home leave on September 4. All Botani team will be in Laos for the remainder of FY73 except for possible TOY trips.

END/SW:ABT:scav