

UNITED STATES AID MISSION TO LAOS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

June 2, 1972

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director

FROM : Hunter Fitzgerald, Acting Chief, Education Division

Hunter Fitzgerald

SUBJECT: Education Division Monthly Report for May, 1972

Refugee Schools

The construction of temporary classrooms in the Hin Heub area has been completed.

The training course for fifty-four Xieng Khouang teachers who do not have classes continued with special contributions from the Teacher Training Branch.

The construction of permanent refugee classrooms on the Vientiane Plain is progressing well. There are shortages of available hardwood and SMB is working on the problem.

Sixteen temporary classrooms are planned for the Savannakhet Thasano Project.

Secondary Education

Comparative 1971-72 statistics of candidates for entrance to Fa Ngum schools are:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Openings</u>	<u>1971 Candidates</u>	<u>1972 Candidates</u>
Vientiane	105	1,661	1,711
Phone Hong	105	536	507
Savannakhet	105	939	1,209
Luang Prabang	105	660	785
Totals	<u>420</u>	<u>3,796</u>	<u>4,212</u>

This follows the general trend over the last few years with Phone Hong leveling off to 500 to 600 applicants due to the population of that region.

The fish pond at Fa Ngum Vientiane is nearing completion and consideration is being given to a similar type project in Phone Hong.

The first phase of textbook evaluation under Activity Plan SE 2004 was completed. All nine of the Lao textbooks for grade seven were reviewed.

Dr. Butler has submitted a comprehensive study on staff assignments for the four Fa Ngum schools. It is envisioned the University of Hawaii staff and Lao counterparts will study these informative charts and come up with some recommendations for improved staff utilization.

Community Education

The Community Education staff is completing final preparations for summer in-service training programs for over 1,016 refugee/CRIC teachers and 140 school principals. Courses will be held during July and August.

Seventy-three students for the summer work experience project have been requested by the Community and Secondary Education Projects. Projects include teaching summer school to refugee children, assisting in refugee school construction, preparation of literacy materials, and school rehabilitation.

Miss Engler in her Monthly Report gives a detailed summary of the follow up on ten returned supervisors and testing and guidance participants. The trainees received four months intensive training in Laos and then received six months of special course work in Thailand. These middle level educators have returned to their new posts with enthusiasm and are beginning to exert a real professional influence on the Primary Education Department.

Mr. Costantino reports that over 200 teachers left the Khong Sedone area and the PSI/Wapi has requested their placement by MoE for the next school year. The Education Division will work with AC/Savannakhet and AC/Pakse on this situation after the new people have settled a little more.

Sixteen temporary refugee classrooms are planned for the Thasano

resettlement area in Savannakhet.

Teacher Training

Mr. Colman reports that the Teacher Training Summer Work Program will be carried out at each Teacher Training campus and that final plans are being worked out with each school director.

A major change in the ENI Luang Prabang yard drainage was effected during May.

The Project Manager met and planned for the future configuration of the Dong Dok campus with Dr. Veo, Director of Teacher Training. Some of the projected changes are: moving grades 11-12-13 of ESP to the ENI administration; phase in of Lao language instruction completed by 1975; adding grades 14 and 15 to the English Section; the French Section of ESP will be grades 14 through 17 with departments in Mathematics, Science, Lao Language, Arts, Industrial Arts, and Business Education. It is quite significant that the Ministry is interested in and working on long-range plans.

Dr. Veo is assigning a team to investigate the possible ways the RLG can obtain a long-term loan for the purpose of piping water to the Dong Dok campus.

General

The Education Division answered the six recommendations made by the Resident Auditor General in the draft Audit Report of the Education Development Sector. The draft was subsequently withdrawn for further study by the Auditors.

Each project manager either corrected or responded to all items on a list of deficiencies for "Education Project - Funded Property and Equipment" from the same audit. This has been forwarded to the Resident Auditor General through channels.

The Division participated in the Director's Annual Spring Review and the programming issues were resolved. The Director requested staff work

on formulating possible recommendations for the Director to make to the RLG on the reform of MoE budget. A draft memorandum prepared by the Division is being circulated currently to interested offices and divisions for additional ideas, comments, and suggestions. After these are incorporated into the document, it will be forwarded to you. Other questions brought out during the Review are being answered by separate memo.

Mr. Donald Goodwin, Chief of Education and Public Administration, Technical and Capital Assistance, Bureau of Supporting Assistance, AID/Washington, visited the Mission, May 18-23, 1972. As the Control Officer, I had the opportunity to attend all of the briefings requested by Mr. Goodwin, and all contributing divisions are to be congratulated on the outstanding job done in explaining the USAID effort here in Laos. Mr. Goodwin was also able to spend some time in the field and visited: Fa Ngum Vientiane; various primary schools; Site 272 and surrounding refugee villages; and many refugee relocation sites on the Vientiane Plain.

Laos was the host country for the Governing Board of INNOTECH Conference which was followed by a National Seminar on Educational Innovation and Technology.

During the Governing Board meeting participants discussed past and future activities. It was decided not to move the INNOTECH Center from Singapore to Saigon for one more year. The National Seminar on Educational Innovation and Technology concerned itself with education innovation and technology in terms of the Education Reform Act of 1962. A USAID/Education observer was in attendance throughout the conference and a report will be on file for future reference.

Educational Materials

Educational materials completed this month:

CE	Science, Grade 1	10,000 copies
CE	Science, Grade 6	2,000 copies
CE	Hygiene, Grade 5	2,000 copies
CE	Hygiene, Grade 6	2,000 copies
CE	Reading, Grade 1 (Part I)	20,000 copies

Educational materials being printed:

SE	Lao Literature, Grade 9	6,000 copies
SE	Woodworking, Grade 9	3,000 copies
SE	Agriculture Plant Production, Grade 8	2,000 copies
SE	Science, Grade 9 (3 parts)	6,000 copies
CE	Hygiene, Grade 2	8,000 copies
CE	Reading, Grade 1 (Part II)	20,000 copies
CE	Reading, Grade 2	12,000 copies
CE	Reading, Grade 3	6,000 copies
CE	Reading, Grade 4	6,000 copies
CE	Reading, Grade 5	6,000 copies
CE	Reading, Grade 6	6,000 copies
CE	Stock Issue Cards	18,000 copies

Other Donors

The American Women's Club agreed to assist the MoE in the reprinting of a civics textbooks for grades 4, 5, and 6.

Mr. Le Xuang, UNESCO Behavioral Analyst and Testing Consultant, is in Laos on three months TDY from Paris. He has made himself available for consulting and training activities to all levels of the MoE. The Division feels he has much to offer and an attempt is being made to suggest to Lao counterparts good projects for him to undertake while he is here.

Representatives from RECSAM also visited Laos during the reporting period with ideas on setting up demonstration centers in secondary and primary schools in mathematics and science. They met with MoE, USAID/ Education, and other donor representatives and a proposal should be forthcoming from the MoE in the near future.

The Colombo Plan is assisting the RLG establish a nine month course in diesel motor specialization at the Vientiane Technical School.

Personnel

Mr. Francis Wong, UH Contract, departed on Home Leave.

Mr. Baccam, SE staff illustrator, assumed his duties at Fa Ngun.

Mrs. Khamsouk, SE, and Mr. Soukane, CE, are currently enrolled in the "Super-Man II" course sponsored by HRDD/LT

Reporting Units

Secondary Education
Community Education
Teacher Training

EDU:HA Fitzgerald:ei

DIST: OD/DD-2, AD/M, AD/FIN, AD/FO, AD/P, AD/RA, Each AC,
HRDD, EPM-2, AGR, PHD, PSD, PV/D, OICC, SMB-2, IVS,
EDU-19, Laos Desk, SA/IR/TECH/ED, C&R-2