

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

January 6, 1972

TO : Mr. Norman Green, Chief, Education Division
FROM : Lucius Butler, Chief of Party, University of Hawaii
SUBJECT: Secondary Education Monthly Report, December, 1971

Problems

1. Current translation fees.

The textbook production activity is one of several full-time tasks of the curriculum advisors of the Hawaii team. Most of the participation by Lao personnel has been part-time "overload" translating or writing on the part of Lao teachers at the project's Fa Ngum schools. This has been partially satisfactory for "first cycle" (grades 7-10) materials production. However it appears that "second cycle" (grades 11-13) materials are going to require a much higher level of translation ability, which in turn will place the project in competition for the few qualified translators in Laos. The current project translation rate of K350 per page will not be sufficient to give project translations priority and will result in delays in production and/or second-rate translations.

2. Lack of Lao counterparts.

The University of Hawaii Contract (AID/ea-1) has been in operation since July, 1967, with varying numbers of American personnel stationed in Laos to provide the professional education input to the contract activities and goals.

The Ministry of Education has not provided any

official full-time counterparts for the American advisors during this first four and one-half year period. Part of the problem has been the lack of degree-graduate Lao teachers with sufficient classroom experience. Another factor has been the lack of a job position within the Ministry of Education's Secondary Education Department to provide salary and status which such a position requires to attract and hold capable persons.

The lack of counterparts, who might also serve as translators or content checkers of textbook materials, has been one factor in the slow release of textbooks. This has been remedied to some degree by extensive use of part-time counterparts who serve (also unofficially) as subject area department heads at Fa Ngum, Vientiane.

The lack of counterparts has also greatly hindered the curriculum implementation activities which are essential when each school year brings an increasing number of young, inexperienced teachers. Here again, the Vientiane school experienced staff have served in a quasi-official counterpart capacity. The job is being accomplished at a 30 to 60 percent level under present conditions.

Finally, and most important, the long-range effect of the lack of counterparts means that the day-to-day in-service training which the experienced Hawaii team curriculum advisors could have provided during the past four years has been largely lost.

In this connection, the current lack of Lao curriculum planners/implementers has retarded the planning and implementation of goals to convert existing academic junior high schools from French to Lao language instruction and to add some practical arts courses.

These comments are explanatory and should not be construed as finding fault with the Ministry's support of this project. There is no reason to doubt that Curriculum Specialists positions will be established and filled when sufficient qualified, experienced personnel become available. Meanwhile, Fa Ngum personnel, many of whom have been diverted from other projects, are gaining valuable experience as they work with U. of H. advisors.

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In this connection, the future lack of Lao curriculum planners/implementers will retard or prevent future development of curriculum which, in turn, could result in a failure of Lao-language instruction in secondary schools in Laos to meet the needs of society as the nation develops.

Progress of Activities

A. Building Projects and Plans

Vientiane - the curriculum center plans are complete and a meeting with PWD/OICC is planned for January, 1972. The need for a power mechanics instructional area (grade 12 industrial arts) beginning in October, 1972, at Fa Ngum, Vientiane, has been indicated by Hawaii Team Advisor Rankin. Temporary arrangements may be possible in conjunction with the agriculture farm equipment building, but second cycle (grades 11-13) industrial arts will require additional instructional facilities.

Phone Hong - Phase IV continues on schedule with the front fence nearing completion.

Savannakhet - the school moved from the borrowed quarters in the Technical School into partially finished classrooms during the last ten days of December.

Luang Prabang - some additional changes required in Phase II plans have slightly delayed progress on "signing off" the blueprint plans.

Home Economics - a re-design of the present home economics food preparation instructional area has been prepared and is under study by the Hawaii team. The new design will include a "Lao kitchen" component to the present instructional facilities.

Progress of Activities (continued)

B. Textbook Production.

1. Mrs. Khamsouk, newly appointed editorial supervisor, has been able to assume many routine supervisory duties during this month. The HRDD/LT Supervisor Management course has accomplished its objectives in this case. A daily 30-minute administrative session is helpful to clarify misunderstandings and provide overall direction of editorial processes.

2. The attached three sheets provide the status of each textbooks from grades 8 through 10. Wavy lines indicate work completed before July 1, 1971. Dates are completion dates during the past six months. Percentages are the amount of work completed as of December 31, 1971.

C. Proposal Papers for Discussion.

The various aspects of our Secondary Education project which need consideration and discussion by the Hawaii Team, the contract representative, and eventually the Ministry of Education counterparts are being developed as proposal papers. During this month, the following proposals were developed:

1. Fa Ngum school budget policy, revised
2. Six trimester orientation sequence
3. Evening comprehensive junior high school, revised
4. Required and elective first cycle foreign languages
5. Second cycle foreign language track

Copies of these proposals have been made available to other interested personnel in USAID/Education.

D. Curriculum Implementation.

The need for curriculum advisors to expend most of their time and

energy in curriculum and textbook production during the month has resulted in curtailment of travel to other schools to assist in curriculum implementation. While this action has disturbed some administrators, the long range effect of textbooks published will be to lessen the requests for implementation assistance.

The goals set for textbook production during the six-month period, January through June, 1972, will require continued heavy reliance upon experienced teachers from Fa Ngum School, Vientiane, to assist teachers of other Fa Ngum schools when requested by the respective school directors through the Ministry of Education.

Summary: The second quarterly period has passed; several interim objectives are nearing completion; and, assuming adequate support of the project, the remainder of this fiscal year should see increased textbook production and the completion of a national budget system proposal for all secondary schools in Laos. The ninth semi-annual report is being drafted. This report will summarize the activities and status of the project.

attachments

GRADE 8

COURSE/CLUB	EDITORIAL STEPS										DATE PRINTING CONTRACT PRINTED & DELIVERED
	TEXTBOOK OUTLINE	MANUSCRIPT COMPLETED	ADVISOR CHECK	MOE APPROVAL	LAO TYPING	ENGLISH/FRENCH TYPING	ILLUSTRATION CAPTIONS BOOK COVER	CONTENT CHECK	STYLE FINAL CHECK	USA DISTRIBUTION	
AGRICULTURE: PLANTS	10/15/71	11/30/71	12/15/71	12/28/71	12/20/71	12/22/71	12/20/71	12/20/71	12/23/71		
BUSINESS: FINANCIAL											7/12/71
BUSINESS: GEN. BUS.											
HOM. ECONOMICS											9/3/71
INDUSTRIAL ARTS: DRAWING						8/30/71	9/10/71	9/27/71	10/4/71	10/12/71	
LAO LANGUAGE											
LAO LITERATURE											
MATHEMATICS											8/3/71
SOCIAL STUDIES											7/14/71
SCIENCE: (4 PARTS)	7/25/71	8/15/71	9/20/71	9/10/71	10/25/71		11/20/71	12/1/71	12/8/71	12/10/71	

FA NGUM CURRICULUM CENTER - LAO TEXTBOOK PRODUCTION SCHEDULE - GRADE 9

EDITORIAL STEPS												
	TEXTBOOK OUTLINE	MANUSCRIPT COMPLETED	ADVISOR CHECK	M & E APPROVAL	LAO TYPING	ENGLISH/FRENCH TYPING	ILLUSTRATION CAP. TIONS BOOK COVER	CONTENT CHECK	STYLE FINAL CHECK	FINAL CHECK	PRINTING CONTRACT	DELIVERED
ADDITIONAL LIVES TOUGH	Micrographed Draft Edition to be classroom tested during 1st series completed 12/28/73											
ENGLISH TYPING												
ENGLISH BUL. MATH	10/15/71	20%										
HOME ECONOMICS	10/10/71	11/5/71	12/10/71	12/20/71								
INDIVIDUAL ARTS: SCOD	9/15/71	12/23/71	12/24/71		12/27/71	12/27/71	12/28/71	12/30/71				
LAO LANGUAGE		8/15/71	9/30/71	10/14/71	95%							
MATHEMATICS		9/12/71										
SOCIAL STUDIES: AMERICAS		10%										
SOCIAL STUDIES: AUST. NZ.		30%										
SCIENCE (3 PARTS)		10/2/71	11/12/71	10/27/71	12/10/71	12/22/71	12/24/71	12/24/71				

PA NGUM CURRICULUM CENTER - LAO TEXTBOOK PRODUCTION SCHEDULE - GRADE 10

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