

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

January 6, 1971

TO : Mr. Norman Green, Chief, EDU  
*DWane Collins*  
FROM : DWane Collins, CoP, U of R Contract  
SUBJECT: Secondary Education Monthly Report - December 1970

Problems:

No significant problems developed during December.

Program Progress:

The highlight of the month was the enthusiasm generated by RLG officials for extension of the comprehensive high school program to Luang Prabang. Requests for the fourth high school to be located at Luang Prabang were manifested throughout the RLG Ministry of Education and the Civic Officials of Luang Prabang; the possibility was even discussed informally in the National Assembly. The excitement resulted in a visitation to Fa Ngum Vientiane of six Luang Prabang Civic Officials including Chao Khoueng Ouan Smita, Prefect General Boukhoung Pradichitr, Chao Muong Chanpheng Pramany, Deputy PSI Chanpheng Davong, Director of the Lycee de Luang Prabang Sad Treimany, and a News Media Specialist. They were accompanied by AC/LP Cauterucci and CEA/LP Des Brisay. They were hosted by Education Director General Khamking Souvanasy, Department of Secondary Education, and other MoE officials. After a presentation of the nature of the comprehensive school and an extended guided tour of the plant, Principal Somsak proffered a luncheon to the group prepared by the Home Economics Department. The target date for submission of bids for the construction of the Luang Prabang school is February 15, 1971.

Another major event of the month of special interest was the participation of the project in the Orientation and Training Conference on Project Management and Evaluation. The project

was one of two of USAID/Laos chosen to demonstrate the use of newly developed techniques. The visiting team from AID/W included Robert Hubbell, Deputy Evaluation Officer; William Lefeb, PFC; James Gudney, EA Evaluating Officer; and Herbert Dodge, EA Program Evaluation Chief. Even though it was a "dry run" activity and not an official evaluation it was satisfying to have the visiting team state that the introduction of the comprehensive high school idea had been more successfully realized in Laos than in any country where USAID had attempted its development. The "dry run" also precipitated the need to 1) the follow up with the RLC Ministry of Education on an arrêté granting official permission for the offering of the second cycle in the Fa Ngum Schools and 2) implement a request to submit a staff paper for consideration of some (10) individual participant support funds during professional workshop or seminar periods.

During the winter trimester vacation the principals of the three Fa Ngum schools held a three-day conference in Phou Hong to develop policy statements and administrative procedures to be submitted to the MoE for their consideration. One of the most important policy statements dealt with the promotion of Fa Ngum students from the first cycle to the second cycle of studies.

A time-line schedule of project developments for FY 71 was prepared by EDU Chief Green and myself (as Deputy Director Chandler). PWD and OICC collaborated.

Principals Somsak of Fa Ngum Viengkane submitted a letter to the American Women's Club of Laos stating the special needs of students and staffs of the three Fa Ngum Schools.

The project's research paper on the validation of an academic aptitude test battery has been submitted to Director of Secondary Education Phou Rasphone. It will be incorporated in his speech on secondary school testing to be delivered at the January PSI Conference in Champasak. The article has also been submitted for possible publication.

Initial drawings and requirements for the new National Curriculum Center for Secondary Schools have been discussed with OICC Architect Charles Ingold. These were developed cooperatively by the University of Hawaii Team and MoE officials.

Because of the transfer of personnel within the Auditor General's department, the audit for the project is being continued by new personnel.

In the area of teaching improvement, U of H Consultant Yamauchi organized the first formal workshop of Fa Ngum teachers to be held in Laos. All five of the Fa Ngum agriculture teachers worked for ten days during the December vacation period, developing teaching materials, learning production procedures, and developing plans for the agriculture school unit (at Phone Hong). They visited the Nam Ngum Dam site. Mr. Yamauchi also developed a participant training projection for the upgrading of the agriculture teachers both those on the job and those in training. Consultant Tsutsui visited 21 participants in training in Thailand. The U of H Team and EDU Chief Green are studying a suggestion of Mrs. LeBert MD/PT, that students in training in Thailand should receive in-service training during their vacation in Laos. The Fa Ngum mathematics teachers participated in a MoE sponsored seminar on mathematics held during the year end vacation period. Consultant Yoshimoto of Savannakhet prepared papers on: (1) a modified course method for grading students; (2) item analysis; (3) collecting and returning classroom papers, and (4) a survey of teachers and administrators use of exams for information. He shared them with his teachers and principals at Savannakhet and with the principals of the other Fa Ngum schools. Mr. Somsak and his staff have modified the Fa Ngum Vientiane schedule. While many students used their free time profitably during the former schedule, some did not. This concern, plus the need to extend the noon time so that the students living in wats could get at least one good meal each day, brought about the change.

Curriculum development activities included the publication of the second year Lao Language and Literature textbook and additional supplementary brochures. To assist in the publication preparation of textbooks the project furnished the MoE Materials Production Center with needed artist supplies. Consultants Yoshimoto and Stevens have produced a unit each of the UNIPAC (unified package) type of teaching unit designed to be used as models by Fa Ngum teachers. The Fa Ngum Social Studies classes

made a very successful field trip to the Comm. camp to study American merchandising. It will be followed by American home visitation to observe food usage of Cominternary goods. The Agriculture Department marketed high quality sweet corn, lettuce, and beans. There was a brisk demand for each; profits are ploughed back into the enterprise. The Industrial Arts Department enclosed the school flower garden area with an attractive wooden fence. They also constructed stacking racks for recently purchased lumber. The Home Economics Department is assigning commodity inventory units to specific teachers as a precautionary security measure.

Fa Ngum students have now added another sector to their accomplishments. The debate team won first place in the recent series of national debates sponsored by the R/C National Radio. They won even though they were assigned the negative position (from their point of view) on the topic "The New is Better than the Old."

A specially appointed Committee on Government Lands met and resolved the land boundaries at Fa Ngum Phou Hong. OICG Architect Charles Ingold, U of H Consultant Yamouchi and I made an immediate follow up visit to the site to make building, parking lot, and road placements. U of H Consultant Hagiwara reports the publication of the first issue of the 1970-71 school newspaper and a successful community service activity by the student body. Principal Phone took his student body to the recently rediscovered Wat Vien Keo to refurbish the area.

At Fa Ngum Savsonakhet, U of H Consultant Yrobvann secured a First Aid Kit from the local USAID Medical Unit and received a gift of 280 copies of "Beginning English for Lao Students" from Mr. Mauer, Director of the local Language Training Center. He is also assisting in the negotiation of the City reconstruction of the electric power line to the school site. ACR Engineers Morgan, Brooks, Shindawki, and U of H Consultant Yamouchi have collaborated in the development of the Agriculture Department's land unit. The recently completed Agriculture Orientation Course is being followed by Industrial Arts.

During the month, Consultants Ford (HVS), Zane Yamouchi, and

Collins serviced the Phone Hoag School and Ford, Stevens, and Yamauchi serviced the Savannakhet School. Consultants Tsutsui, Stevens, and Hagiwara enjoyed R&Rs during the Holiday Season and Wong took a brief period of annual leave. Mrs. Collins and I were privileged to be among the guests at Prince Souvanna Phouma's Annual New Year's Party.