

October 5, 1970

TO : Hon. Mrs. Green, Chief, Education Division

FROM : *W. J. Collins*  
W. J. Collins, DoP, University of Hawaii, Honolulu

SUBJECT: Secondary Education Monthly Report - September, 1970

Problems

The delay in resolving the legal boundary lines of the Pa'ngau School site is delaying Phase III construction, agriculture site development, and fencing. Mr. Joseph Khorayao, the new principal at Pa'ngau, has recently been appointed an official member of the site committee. It is hoped that he will be able to accelerate action.

See committee on Division office records.

The problem of replacing the burned pump at Pa'ngau School has been complicated by the changing of valves by the students. The replacement pump is not available locally.

The pump burned out because of a by-passed fuse. OIGC has been asked to investigate the circumstances. FWH and SMO are helping us obtain a replacement for the pump in Houghok.

*WJC*

The Pa'ngau School committee continues to derive storage tables was brought from the Ministry of Education. Director of Secondary Education Mrs. Khorayao states that the Division has no warehouses and that he hopes to use the new 200-ton dormitories at Pa'ngau. There are no storage units when they become vacant. Carbook storage has been temporarily moved to the existing dormitory. The superintendent of Pa'ngau, Mr. Khorayao, is the contact for the Division to get statements of the school.

It is only within the past year or so that the Secondary Education Dept. has had any need for a warehouse. Prior to that, there were few books to store and supplies could be shipped out as fast as they were received. It will take some time to accomplish the proper goal for the Ministry as a central school supply warehouse for all levels, rather than the establishment of a new, separate warehouse for Secondary Education.

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Program Progress

The principal activity of the month consisted of preparation for opening of the three schools scheduled for October 1st. Contact between the teachers and the University of Hawaii Consultants for the period improved greatly over previous school openings. Conferences were held from a few hours to a full three-day period. Mrs. Toutsui accomplished the first complete consultation in the Lao language with her counterpart. Also our consultation activity was expanded to include commercial teachers from MD/LT. The three principals, General of Fa Ngum Vientiane, Phanh of Phons Hong, and Koungthong of Savannakhet, returned to their duties on September 10 from the summer session at the University of Hawaii.

The current year holds considerable promise for curriculum development. MoE Director of Secondary Education Plan is considering the establishment of a Lao National Curriculum Center for Secondary Education in the projected new teaching materials production building to be constructed at Fa Ngum Vientiane. In addition to the permanent committee on Geography, which was established during a workshop this summer, another all school (elementary and secondary) curriculum committee in Mathematics has been appointed. Its membership includes the chairman of the Fa Ngum mathematics department, Mr. Sinsaphon Vongsay. Mr. Phou also plans to appoint national curriculum committees in science, social studies, and the Lao language. He plans to send highly selected teachers from the various academic departments to Thailand for special training in curriculum development.

Innovations during the month included a new nine-period schedule at Fa Ngum Vientiane to soon mandate a reduction of class size from last year's 36 to 30. Also at Fa Ngum Savannakhet a new schedule was developed for the pre-vocational orientation offering. Orientation in agriculture will be continued throughout the academic year rather than the traditional eight-week concentration. The change enables the other three pre-vocational orientation periods to be extended in one trimester each. Effects of these changes will be assessed at the end of the school year.

Last year's small and very group instruction innovation in the social studies department was a success. Next the agriculture and science

departments have incorporated them in this year's schedule.

Mr. Phou, MoE Director of Secondary Education, is considering an innovation that will make a profound impact on the future of education in Laos. Based on the principle that it is the purpose of schools to keep children in school rather than to eliminate them, he proposes the adoption of a plan for promotion from the first cycle (grades 7, 8, 9, and 10) to the second cycle (11, 12, and 13) of high school by an accumulation of credits or hours rather than the traditional comprehensive examination. The University of Hawaii Consultants and their Lao counterparts are developing possible plans for the MoE's consideration.

The rice variety research project ran into major difficulties as flocks of rice birds found the isolated paddies ideal feeding grounds. Even though production comparisons on a variety basis are now impossible the students have had an excellent experience in experimental design and record keeping. Elsewhere in agriculture, participant Vandi Douangprata has translated still another Thai brochure entitled "Diseases of Plants". His translation and expansion of a brochure of 210 pages titled "Conservation of Natural Resources" is being assembled with illustrations by two agriculture student majors (one a female). Last year's teachers' training program held by the department for graduates of Bat Dok Keo Agriculture School has resulted in two of the group being appointed as teachers in the Fa Ngum schools. A final item for the agriculture department is their offer to furnish plants for USAID's headquarters landscaping project.

The textbook publishing effort finds the Business and Lao texts being printed, the Mechanical Drawing text is getting illustrations, and the final typing of the Agriculture text is almost completed. Of interest is the fact that this and some of the other texts have been typed by a Fa Ngum student.

Mr. Max Lesage, French national, has been appointed as the principal of Sam Thong College which is now being housed and schooled in Fa Ngum, Vientiane. Mr. Lesage was formally principal at the Khong Island College from where many of his graduates established fine records in the Lycees which they attended. The Fa Ngum students laid the pipeline and connected the water line to the Sam Thong dormitory, kitchen, and toilet facilities. U of W Consultant Stevens, assisted by Consultant Zane, constructed shelves and clothes racks in the dormitories and helped the

students make 700 wire clothes hangers. Kitchen utensils were also purchased and made available.

Director Charles Mann has approved the request of the RLG Ministry of Education to locate the proposed Fa Ngum No. 4 at Luang Prabang. Director of Secondary Education Phou stated that it would not be desirable to combine the Fa Ngum school with the present Lycee because the population in the area demanded at least two high schools. He further prefers that the Fa Ngum school be located across town to spread the services geographically. USA High Dec Brisay at Luang Prabang arranged for a visitation to four sites proffered by the MEG. The visiting team included DC James Chandler with party of three, four RLG officials, and Miss Dec Brisay.

At Fa Ngum Phou Hong, the shop is 98% completed, the science building and auditorium are both 95% completed. Students and U of H Consultant Hagiwara have installed a water line to the new home of Principal Phouh. They also painted the ceilings and benches of the two-story classroom building, did some more landscaping and replaced the stolen pump handle. The MoE has now received sufficient Kip to build the two self-help teachers' cottages. Mr. Hagiwara and CPM Douang Saye will organize self-help crews to complete the project. Contracted drafting and typing tables are being assembled. On September 21 U of H Consultant Tantsui went to Phou Hong to set up the Lao typing room. Home Economics and Agriculture classes will be held in the Science building this year. The Fa Ngum Phou Hong tractor and accessories have arrived and are being given a "dry run" check. IVS/Education has been very helpful by loaning their Scout vehicle to Principal Phouh until the new Scout arrives.

Fa Ngum Savanakheth office furniture, textbooks and supplies were barged down the Mekong from Vientiane. U of H Consultant Yoshimoto has also received the school's new Travelall vehicle. All of the teachers have been appointed and are on deck as well as two secretaries and a custodian. All are provided by the MoE. FW's Earl Young drilled two wells at the school site. Well #1 was dry; well #2 produced 22 gpm. Since this is not adequate for the future demands another producing well has been requested. On September 3, U of H Consultants Yamauchi and Zane visited the site and conferred with officials to coordinate the development of the agriculture complex with the buildings construction. AGR Chief Leroy Sasmussen and AGR Engineer M. J. Merges are collaborating in this phase.

Personnel wise 11 of 12 Consultant Magistrate and 10's moved into the residence at 504 1/2th Street, N-6. Consultant Yoshimoto's air freight of personal effects finally arrived. All team members and the U.S. faculty are continuously recruiting applicants for participant traveling appointments. The project for the next year under the USAID/IVS summer work-study program was made to a very successful conclusion. The program was accomplished with 100% student participation including experienced. The special classes in English and Mathematics were successfully brought to completion. The 100% of students achieved proficiency in English during the latter part of the study in 1970-71.

During the year the team continued to work tirelessly on what they see as the program.

- Mr. Robert S. ... Director of ... USAID / W
- Mr. Stelice ... President of ... Foundation, who offered to ... requests for ... clothing, medicine notions, and ... exchanges.
- Miss ... Coordinator ... branch
- Director ...
- US ... colleagues ... and
- Spencer ...

Very truly yours,