

UNITED STATES AID MISSION TO LAOS

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 12, 1973

TO : Mr. Charles A. Mann, Director

NW Green

FROM : Norman W. Green, Chief, Education Division

SUBJECT: Education Division Monthly Report, November, 1973

Refugee Schools

Larry Woodson began turning over his responsibilities for refugee school programs to Jim Colman, who will assume the position of Refugee School Advisor beginning January 1. Unfortunately, Mr. Colman was called home suddenly at the end of the month because of his father's critical illness. He expected to return to Laos about the middle of December.

The following is a summary by CW staff of the approved refugee and reconstruction school projects for the current dry season:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Classrooms</u>		Total
	Temporary	Permanent	
Houei Sai	30	-	30
Pakse	32	57	89
Luang Prabang	-	25	25
Vientiane	18	12	30
Savannakhet	-	49	49
Xieng Khouang	89	43	132
	<hr/> 169	<hr/> 186 *	<hr/> 355

* Includes 28 repair projects

In MR II, continued improvements are being made on the facilities being used by the Sam Thong teacher training school at Site 207. New toilets have been completed by PWD, dining tables have been constructed by the students, and gardening projects are taking shape.

General

Dr. Taruo Ihara, Campus Coordinator for the Hawaii Contract Team, was in Laos for about ten days this month. As usual, his visit was a profitable time for planning future contract services and personnel requirements. Dr. Ihara visited all five Fa Ngum Schools while he was here, held staff consultations, and met with various USAID officers.

Considerable time was spent this month on adjusting budget levels and planning division reorganization and reassignments. A new functional statement and organization chart for EDU was submitted for approval, as requested.

Mr. Fitzgerald reviewed all POL allotments being provided Ministry of Education vehicles and planned a reduction in total allotments amounting to about fifty percent of the present level.

Mr. Fritz Lharrison, the new UNICEF representative in Vientiane, visited our office along with other offices in the Mission. He expressed a strong interest in expanding UNICEF's activities to include educational programs, especially for out-of-school youth. We provided him with a considerable amount of literature on educational activities in Laos.

PSI Conference

An Activity Proposal has been submitted to support the annual Primary School Inspectors Conference, which will be held next month in Paksane. The main tasks of the conference will be to complete new course outlines in Science and "Youth Movement" and to plan postwar reconstruction activities related to primary education.

Secondary Education Curriculum Activities

The following are a few representative projects from among the various curriculum activities being furthered by the Hawaii Team, in addition to their textbook writing, school visitations, and other on-going concerns:

- The first of a series of Science Newsletters has been sent to secondary level teachers in this field; similar newsletters are proposed for other curriculum areas.
- A group of 46 students from Fa Ngum Vientiane, with their teachers, visited the Ban Chieng archeological site in Thailand.
- Arrangements have been worked out for students from the Vientiane Technical School to take Lao typing lessons at Fa Ngum Vientiane three afternoons a week.
- The question of when to establish a second cycle at Fa Ngum Savannakhet is being studied with the Ministry; students there are now in the tenth grade - the question is whether there will be adequate qualified teachers to staff a second cycle program beginning next October.

School Construction

Two more projects for the construction of urban self-help groupes scolaires were completed this month - one in Ban Keun and the other at Tha Deua (Vientiane). Seven other urban schools are currently nearing completion.

At the Fa Ngum School in Pakse, work is progressing satisfactorily, with about fifty per cent of the entire construction now completed. Two needed GFM items -- aluminum roofing and ridge caps -- have recently been received.

In Luang Prabang, the Fa Ngum School is completed except for delivery of 2660 blades of frosted louver glass. About half this quantity is being rounded up from other stations in Laos; the balance is due to arrive in December. We are proceeding with plans for dedicating the school in January.

School Improvements

FDL extended the electric power line on the Dong Dok campus so that city power is now supplied to pumps at the two deep wells and a shallow well.

In another improvement, PWD installed anodes in the deep wells and along the galvanized pipe from the Dong Dok wells to the water tower. This was done at the suggestion of an OICC expert who said the anodes would help to prevent corrosion in the system.

OICC has conducted soil tests at the Fa Ngum School in Vientiane in order to prepare a design for an improved sewage disposal system which will need to be developed at the school during this fiscal year.

Personnel

Mr. Phouvong has been employed as a clerk-typist in the Community Education Section.

Reporting Units: School Maintenance and Supply Advisor
Secondary Education
Community Education

EDU:NWGreen:mv

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