

11. INTER - COUNTRY

Project No.  
Source of Funds  
Co-operating Agencies

Title

SEARO 2  
TA

Assistance to Tuberculosis Laboratories \*  
(Aug. 1955 - )

Aim of the project. To assist countries of the Region (Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, India, Indonesia and Thailand) in developing laboratory work in connection with the expansion of their tuberculosis services.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. A bacteriologist.

Probable duration of assistance. Until the end of 1960.

Work done during the year. The present bacteriologist (replacement) assumed his duties in November 1957. During the first three months he took part in planning the Indian National Tuberculosis Control Programme and visited the tuberculosis chemotherapy project, Madras, the Nagpur Tuberculosis Project, Bangalore and Hyderabad.

Two pilot research projects on simplified culture methods and the keeping qualities of egg media were initiated in the laboratory of the New Delhi Tuberculosis Centre.

The work of the laboratories attached to present and former WHO-assisted tuberculosis projects in Afghanistan, India, Burma and Thailand was reviewed during the course of visits in January, February and April 1958. Routine diagnostic procedures were checked, newer techniques demonstrated and lectures given on these and related topics. In practically no instance has the original standard been maintained or improved, mainly because of lack of staff and materials (to be provided by the governments). Break-down and delay in the repair of equipment are a common feature of a number of laboratories. In the course of his visits to Kabul, Patna, Calcutta, Rangoon and Mandalay, the bacteriologist also advised on the work and organization of public health laboratories, training of laboratory technicians, etc.

During May 1958, he paid a short visit to Hongkong on behalf of the Western Pacific Regional Office to advise on tuberculosis and public-health laboratory services.

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\* The assistance given under this project is shown, for budget purposes, under the individual tuberculosis projects of the various countries.

SEARO 6  
TA  
(ILO)

Conference on Industrial and Occupational Health, Calcutta (Feb. - April 1958; -)

Aim of the project. To bring together for mutual discussion persons actively associated with occupational and industrial health activities, representing ministries of health, ministries of labour, industrial medical officers and employers' and employees' organizations, with the primary objective of enabling the countries in the Region to plan more adequate and well-co-ordinated industrial and occupational health services at an early stage.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. A consultant for three months.

Work done during the year. This conference is scheduled to take place at the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, from 24 November to 6 December 1958. It is expected to produce a number of specific recommendations for the stimulation, organization and co-ordination of an industrial and occupational health programme. Technical and administrative arrangements for the conference have now been completed.

In the early part of the year, the consultant visited India, Burma, Ceylon and Thailand, making contacts with industrial health workers and government officials, to acquaint himself with the development of industrial health in the Region and to collect data for the preparation of working papers for the conference.

SEARO 18  
R

Preparation of Annual Public Health Reports (March - Oct. 1957; -)

Aim of the project. To assist the health departments of certain countries in the Region in preparing their annual public health reports.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. (a) A consultant in public health administration; (b) Supplies and equipment.

Probable duration of assistance. Until the end of 1959.

Work done during the year. The consultant assisted the Health Department of the Government of Burma in the preparation of its annual health reports for 1955 and 1956. This work was interrupted by his sudden and tragic death in October 1956. The manuscripts were revised in the Regional Office and returned to the Director of Health Services.

A consultant and statistical assistant are now under recruitment to assist the Ministry of Health in Afghanistan in the preparation of its annual health reports.

SEARO 20  
TA

Rural Health Conference, New Delhi  
(14 - 26 Oct. 1957)

Aim of the project. To discuss the problems of organizing health services in rural areas.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. (a) A consultant in public-health administration for six months, to make arrangements for the Conference and prepare working papers; (b) Cost of travel and maintenance expenses of twenty-nine participants from Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Thailand.

Work done. This Conference was conducted by means of the presentation and discussion of working papers, formal lectures, group discussions and field visits. There was an exchange of technical information on the state of development of the rural health services represented, and particular attention was paid to the planning, organizing and administration of these services, including their financing and staffing, the size of the health units, selection of centres, services to be provided, supervision of the staff required, training of personnel, evaluation, integration of special health activities and community participation.

The Conference gave particularly satisfactory results from the point of view of practical approach to the rural health problems in South East Asia. Its report was printed and has been widely distributed.

SEARO 23  
R

Regional Teaching Conference on Child Health,  
Bangkok (2 - 5 June 1958)

Aim of the project. To discuss the present set-up of maternal and child health activities in different countries of the Region and make recommendations for future developments.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. Cost of travel and maintenance expenses of sixteen participants from Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, India and Indonesia.

Work done. Eighteen teachers of paediatrics from different countries of the Region (including two from Thailand), met at Bangkok between 2-5 June 1958 to discuss the present set-up of maternal and child health activities in their respective countries and to make recommendations for future developments.

Among the recommendations made were the following:

- (1) There should be a separate Department of Paediatrics in every medical school under the charge of a full professor of paediatrics.
- (2) At least 300 hours should be devoted to paediatrics in the undergraduate curriculum, and at least one month during the pre-registration year.

- (3) Promotional and preventive aspects of child care should be given greater emphasis in the teaching.

The report on the Conference is under preparation.

SEARO 28  
R

Medical Education Study Tour  
(first tour: Nov. - Dec. 1957; - )

Aim of the project. To arrange study tours to enable small groups of professors and senior teachers in selected non-clinical subjects to visit certain medical colleges and research institutions in India, on a programme of discussions in their specialty.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. (a) A short-term consultant (senior professor of pathology from India); (b) Travel costs and subsistence allowances for six visiting professors of pathology.

Probable duration of assistance. Until the end of 1960.

Work done. A three-week tour programme was arranged from 21 November for six senior visiting professors of pathology from South East Asian countries other than India. Under the guidance of a senior Indian professor of pathology, the group visited Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Coonoor, Agra and Lucknow. They also attended the Eighth Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Pathologists and initial sessions of the Annual Conference of the Indian Council of Medical Research at Lucknow. The visiting professors derived considerable benefit from the discussions, demonstrations and professional contacts in the course of this tour. Full co-operation was received from the Government of India and from the institutions visited.

The success of the tour was largely due to the presence of an experienced and well-known representative of the host country as guide.

It is proposed to arrange similar tours in respect of other non-clinical subjects in 1958 and 1959.

SEARO 32  
R

Conference on Auxiliary Nursing, Delhi  
(March 1958 - )

Aim of the project. To provide an opportunity for national and international personnel who have had experience in auxiliary training to meet together to exchange ideas and to examine the problems of training and use of auxiliary workers; to establish some guiding principles and to stimulate enrichment of literature in this field.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. Two short-term consultants.

Work done during the year. The Conference will be held in Delhi from 3-15 November 1958. Two consultants - a nurse and a social scientist - have been assigned to make arrangements for the Conference. They spent six weeks in Bhopal (India), where they carried out a brief study on auxiliaries in order to obtain background material.

Questionnaires have been drawn up and sent to governments for use in preparing background material for the Conference. The Governments of Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, India, Indonesia and Thailand have declared their interest in taking part, and the participants have been selected.

SEARO 33  
R

Hospital Physics  
(Nov. - Dec. 1957)

Aim of the project. To supply hospital staff, research workers and public-health administrators with information on radiation protection in hospitals.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. A consultant for six weeks.

Work done. The consultant arrived in India in the last week of November. He visited medical centres in India (Delhi, Lucknow, Madras, Bombay and Calcutta) and in Ceylon. At each place visited, he gave a number of lectures, mainly on radiation protection in hospitals. He discussed hospital physics in general with hospital staff and advised on radiation protection measures in the radiological units. His report is awaited.

SEARO 38  
R

Production of Freeze-Dried Smallpox Vaccine  
(Jan. 1958; -)

Aim of the project. To advise Member Governments in the Region on the production of a thermostable dried smallpox vaccine.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. A consultant for one month.

Probable duration of assistance. Until the end of 1958.

Work done during the year. The short-term consultant visited Thailand in January 1958 to assess local facilities for the production of smallpox vaccine. He has submitted his recommendations on the steps to be taken for the local production of freeze-dried smallpox "Vaccine P".

Another short-term consultant for assignment to India and Indonesia is under recruitment.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of states in South Asia. Its member states are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The SAARC comprises 3% of the world's area, 21% of the world's population and 4.21% (US\$3.67 trillion) of the global economy, as of 2019.