11. INTER-COUNTRY

PROJECT LIST

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

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. A bacteriologist.

Work done. The bacteriologist completed his one-year assignment during the last quarter of 1958. He visited the various tuberculosis centres in the Region which had formerly been assisted by WHO as well as those currently being assisted. He reviewed the work of the centres, offering suggestions for improvement, and in the course of his visits gave a number of lectures on the bacteriological aspects of tuberculosis control. He also visited some public health laboratories and included them in his review. Some of the other spheres of assistance covered were:

1. Instructions in the technique of tuberculosis bacteriology to national bacteriologists appointed to take charge of the diagnostic laboratories;

2. The planning and organizing of research into simplified diagnostic methods dictated by the needs of the field work;

3. The organization and operation of courses of training for laboratory technicians.

The bacteriologist adequately covered all the terms of reference of his assignment.

It will not be possible, however, for some time to evaluate the results of this project because its objective is a long-term one of raising the general standard of service in the laboratories of the Region. WHO assistance of this kind is continuing, but will in future be included in the tuberculosis control projects under individual countries and no longer shown as a separate programme.

SEARO 3

BCG Assessment Team

(Aug. 1958 - )

Aim of the project. To review the progress and development of the BCG vaccination mass campaigns in the countries of the Region, to check technical procedures, and to train national assessment teams; to examine the techniques of tuberculin testing and vaccination, and, if necessary, to make suggestions for improvement.
Assistance provided by WHO during the year. (a) A BCG assessment team consisting of a medical officer, a statistician and a nurse for Ceylon; (b) A BCG nurse consultant for India; (c) Supplies and equipment.


Work done during the year. The assessment team, after completing a period of special training at the Tuberculosis Research Office at Copenhagen, commenced work in Ceylon in collaboration with a full counterpart team in the last week of January 1959. It may be possible for the team to finish the work in Ceylon in September 1959, leaving behind a fully trained national team, and to proceed to Indonesia.

The BCG nurse assigned to India in November 1958 reviewed the tuberculin testing and vaccination techniques in the various states. She completed her work in May 1959 after visiting the States of West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bombay, Rajasthan, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Her report has been submitted to the Government.


Aim of the project. To bring together for discussion persons associated with occupational and industrial health, in order to assist the countries in the Region to plan adequate and well co-ordinated industrial and occupational health services.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. (a) A consultant for three months; (b) Stipends for twenty-eight participants.

Work done. On the invitation of the Government of India this two-week conference, jointly sponsored by WHO and ILO, was held in the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta. There were 28 participants, from Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, India, Indonesia and Thailand. In addition, six observers attended the Conference.

The primary object was to bring together for discussion persons in the Region actively associated with occupational and industrial health. Participants were drawn from health and labour ministries, from organizations of employers and employees, and from among industrial medical officers and safety engineers. Discussions were directed toward formulating general principles which would serve as a guide to the countries of the Region in the promotion of adequate and co-ordinated industrial health services at an early stage in their industrial development.

In programme planning and in the general and group discussions attention was focussed on the three main subjects: (1) organization of occupational health services, (2) collaboration and co-ordination in the field of occupational health, and (3) training and education.
Assistance provided by WHO during the year. (a) Two short-term consultants (a nurse and a social scientist); (b) Cost of travel and subsistence allowances of 17 participants.

Work done. Seventeen participants, from Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, India, Indonesia and Thailand, attended the Conference, together with four participants from the Eastern Mediterranean and two from the Western Pacific Region.

Most of the time of the Conference was spent in discussion groups and in general sessions.

The participants were divided into three groups, and the topics selected by these groups for detailed discussion were:

(1) Training of auxiliary nursing personnel;
(2) Functions of auxiliary nursing personnel;
(3) Administration of auxiliary nursing services and training programmes.

Each group reported on its discussions and formulated guiding principles through which solutions to problems related to the training and use of auxiliary workers could be found in the different countries represented. Since the topics were not mutually exclusive, the general sessions afforded opportunities for co-ordination and cross-fertilization of the thinking in the groups.

The Conference provided an opportunity for nurses in South-East Asia to exchange ideas, to examine the problems of training and use of auxiliary workers, and to establish some guiding principles for governments and WHO on the needs, functions, training, supervision and relationships of auxiliary and professional nursing personnel and legislation.

The report of the Conference has been widely distributed.

Production of Freeze-Dried Smallpox Vaccine

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

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. A short-term consultant.

Probable duration of assistance. Until 1961.

Work done during the year. A WHO consultant visited India and Indonesia with a view to selecting appropriate laboratories which could conveniently undertake the manufacture of freeze-dried smallpox vaccine. His recommendations were submitted to the respective governments, and negotiations are in progress for implementing them.

It is planned to provide further short-term consultants in 1960 and 1961.
Aim of the project. To study the most practicable and efficient methods and procedures in the mechanism of surveillance in malaria eradication.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year.

Ceylon: (a) A malarialogist, two assistant malarialogists, four laboratory technicians and twelve auxiliary personnel; (b) Equipment, supplies and transport; (c) Reimbursement to the Government of salaries and allowances and travel and per diem costs of national personnel.

India: (a) A malarialogist, two assistant malarialogists and four laboratory technicians; (b) Equipment, supplies and transport; (c) Reimbursement to the Government of salaries and allowances and travel and per diem costs of national personnel.

Probable duration of assistance. Until April 1961.

Work done during the year.

Ceylon: A plan of operations for the proposed WHO experimental surveillance study programme has been concluded with the Government. WHO personnel, transport and supplies have arrived, and national personnel have been recruited. Two working centres have been established - one at Kurunegala and the other in Hingurakgowda. A detailed plan of action to carry out the proposed study in certain selected areas has been developed. Office and laboratory accommodation has been found, and preliminary surveys are being carried out by the team.

India: A plan of operations for the proposed WHO experimental study on surveillance techniques was concluded with the Government in May 1959. WHO personnel, transport and equipment have arrived in Mysore. The national personnel are being recruited by the Government. Laboratory and office accommodation for the team has been found and the work is in progress. A detailed plan of action has been developed to carry out the study in certain selected areas of Mysore State.

During July, a staff member of the Headquarters, Malaria Eradication Division, along with the Senior Regional Malaria Adviser, visited the project area in Ceylon as well as in India to discuss the progress made and the future plan of work.

Aim of the project. To provide training for x-ray technicians in radiographic technique and in the maintenance of x-ray equipment.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. (a) An x-ray engineer; (b) Supplies and equipment.
These objectives were kept in view in the discussions as well as when drawing up the report. A set of guiding principles for the establishment and promotion of occupational health services appropriate to the Region was formulated.

It is hoped that the contacts made at the Conference and the relatively wide publicity given to the report, of which some 400 copies have been distributed, may lead to a broader outlook on and a better understanding of the demand for industrial health services.

SEARO 12
Filarisis Study Tour, Ceylon and India
(Oct. - Nov. 1958)

Aim of the project. To study the epidemiology and control of filarisis in Ceylon and India.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. (a) A short-term consultant; (b) Stipends and travel costs for eighteen participants.

Work done. Following a resolution passed at the ninth session of the Regional Committee in 1956, a study tour for workers in filarisis was organized from 23 October to 24 November 1958. Eight representatives, from Burma, Ceylon, India, Indonesia and Thailand, participated in this tour, which was conducted by a WHO short-term consultant.

As large-scale control of W. bancrofti is being attempted in India, whilst successful control of W. malayi had been reported from Ceylon, the participants visited important control centres in these two countries. At the conclusion of the tour, the group submitted a report embodying their observations and recommendations on filarisis and its control in the Region.

This study tour is considered to have achieved its objectives (see Part I, page 8).

SEARO 17
Regional Seminar on Certification and Classification of Mortality and Morbidity, New Delhi

Aim of the project. To bring country representatives into touch with expert opinion; to pool experience of practical problems; to work out solutions for regional problems, and to make recommendations for the eighth revision of the Manual of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. (a) A short-term consultant; (b) Assistance from WHO statisticians working in Ceylon and Nagpur; (c) Cost of travel and subsistence of seventeen participants, from Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Portuguese India and Thailand; (d) Supplies.
Work done. This seminar was inaugurated on 13 October 1958 by the Minister of Health, Government of India, and lasted two weeks. It was attended by 18 participants from eight Member States and 15 observers representing various organizations. Three consultants took part, and two field statisticians acted as members of the technical staff.

Discussions at the Seminar were realistic, with all members actively participating. There was no attempt to gloss over the very difficult nature of the problems confronting national statisticians. On some points different opinions remained and were put on record, but the Seminar was able to agree unanimously on twenty-seven recommendations for future action. Carrying, as they do, the authority of national expert opinion, it is hoped that these recommendations will be actively followed up. The final report of the Seminar has been printed and distributed.

SEARO 28
Medical Education Study Tour
(First tour: Nov. - Dec. 1957)
(Second tour: Nov. 1958)

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 specialties.

Assistance provided by WHO during the year. (a) A professor of physiology; (b) Travel costs and subsistence allowances for four visiting teachers of physiology.

Probable duration of assistance. Further tours will be undertaken in 1959 and 1960 under separate project numbers.

Work done. The first tour was described in last year's report.

For the second tour, arrangements were made in November 1958 for a group of four teachers of physiology from Burma, Ceylon and Thailand to visit medical colleges and institutions at Calcutta, Delhi, Bombay, Baroda and Indore, under the guidance of a WHO visiting professor of physiology. At Indore, the group attended the annual conference of the Indian Council of Medical Research. Although the participants were few in number, they took an active part in the Conference.

The visiting teachers had also the opportunity to discuss recent developments in physiology and modern teaching methods, and were able to make useful contacts among their colleagues in India and other countries.

SEARO 32
Conference on Auxiliary Nursing, Delhi
(3 - 15 Nov. 1958)

Aim of the project. To enable national and international personnel with experience in auxiliary training to exchange ideas and to examine the problems of training and use of auxiliary nursing workers; to establish guiding principles and to encourage the production of more adequate textbooks.
Probable duration of assistance. Until the end of 1960.

Work done during the year. The School of Radiography at the General Hospital, Colombo, was selected as a centre for training x-ray technicians from the Region in radiography and the maintenance of x-ray equipment. A WHO x-ray engineer joined the project in February 1959. He has started to acquaint himself with the activities of the school, and has given lectures on apparatus construction to the students. He has also submitted detailed plans for the improvement of the existing facilities in the dark room of the General Hospital and recommendations for better protection facilities in the school.

Governments in the Region have been invited to nominate candidates for WHO fellowships for the two-year course offered by this school.