



REGIONAL COMMITTEE

SEA/RC33/12

Thirty-third Session

27 June 1980

Supplementary Agenda item 1

UNDP/WORLD BANK/WHO SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR
RESEARCH AND TRAINING IN TROPICAL DISEASES -
MEMBERSHIP OF THE JOINT COORDINATING BOARD

A special programme for research and training in tropical diseases has been planned and initiated by the World Health Organization with the assistance and co-sponsorship of the United Nations Development Programme and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to stimulate and coordinate research and training in tropical diseases.

The programme, which is a long-term endeavour, has two principal objectives:

- (1) To develop for large-scale application, effective and low-cost methods to control, in the first instance, six tropical diseases, namely, malaria, schistosomiasis, filariasis, trypanosomiasis, leishmaniasis and leprosy, and
- (2) To train scientists and technicians and strengthen research institutions in the countries affected by the diseases, thus increasing the capability of these countries to deal with the problems of disease control.

For the purpose of coordinating the interests and responsibilities of the parties cooperating in the Programme, a Joint Coordinating Board (JCB) has been established.

As per the Memorandum of Understanding on the Administrative and Technical Structures of the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (document No. TDR/CP/78.5), the composition of the Joint Coordinating Board (JCB) is as follows:

"The JCB shall consist of 30 members from among the cooperating parties as follows:

- 2.2.1 Twelve government representatives selected by the contributors to the Special Programme Resources.
- 2.2.2 Twelve government representatives selected by the WHO regional committees from among those countries directly affected by the diseases dealt with by the Special Programme, or from among those providing technical or scientific support to the Special Programme.
- 2.2.3 Three members designated by the JCB itself from among the remaining cooperating parties.

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2.2.4 The three agencies which comprise the Standing Committee.

Members of the JCB shall serve for a period of three years and may be reappointed.

Other cooperating parties may, at their request, be represented as observers upon approval by JCB."

Under Section 2.2.2, the Regional Committee, at its thirty-first session in 1978, decided that the Government of Burma would nominate a member to the JCB for a period of three years and the Government of India a member for a period of two years. The tenure of the Government of India's membership on the JCB terminated on 31 December 1979. The Regional Committee at its thirty-second session last year selected Indonesia in place of India for a period of three years, i.e., till 31 December 1982. India was, however, elected to be represented in the JCB at its second meeting in December 1979 by the donors under Section 2.2.1 for a period of three years, i.e., till 31 December 1982.

In view of the fact that the period of three years of the Government of Burma will terminate in December 1980, the Regional Committee needs to consider nominating a country from this region in order that it may select a suitable person to serve as a member of the JCB for a period of three years. In selecting a member, the Regional Committee may keep in mind the criteria for the selection, namely that representatives should be selected from among those countries directly affected by the diseases dealt with by the Special Programme, or from among those providing technical or scientific support to the Programme.

In the South-East Asia Region, the following Member States conform to the above criteria:

Bangladesh
Burma
India
Indonesia
Maldives
Nepal
Sri Lanka, and
Thailand