

PART I

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were adopted by the Regional Committee (the references to the "Handbook" are to the *Handbook of Resolutions and Decisions of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia*, seventeenth edition, 1948-1975, and supplement):

SEA/RC30/R1 NOMINATION OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR
FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

The Regional Committee,

Considering Article 52 of the Constitution, and

In accordance with Rule 49 of its Rules of Procedure,

1. NOMINATES Dr V.T. Herat Gunaratne as Regional Director for South-East Asia, and
2. REQUESTS the Director-General to propose to the Executive Board the appointment of Dr V.T. Herat Gunaratne for a further period of five years from 1 March 1978.

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Second Meeting, 2 August 1977
SEA/RC30/Min.2

SEA/RC30/R2 SELECTION OF TOPIC FOR THE TECHNICAL
DISCUSSIONS IN 1978

The Regional Committee,

1. DECIDES to hold technical discussions during the thirty-first session in 1978 on the subject "Expanded Programme of Immunization";
2. REQUESTS the Regional Director to take appropriate steps to arrange for these discussions and to place this item on the agenda of the thirty-first session, and
3. URGES governments of the Region to include adequate technical representation in their delegations to the thirty-first session.

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Seventh Meeting, 8 August 1977
SEA/RC30/Min.7

SEA/RC30/R3 TIME AND PLACE OF THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

The Regional Committee,

1. THANKS the Government of Mongolia for its invitation to act as host to the Committee for the thirty-first session in Ulan Bator in 1978, and

2. DECIDES to hold its thirty-first session in Ulan Bator in August/September 1978.

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Seventh Meeting, 8 August 1977
SEA/RC30/Min.7

SEA/RC30/R4 MENTAL RETARDATION

The Regional Committee,

Noting resolution WHA30.38 of the Thirtieth World Health Assembly;

Recognizing the universality of the problem of mental retardation;

Considering the growing importance of the preventive, promotive and rehabilitative aspects of health, particularly at the community level, and the emergence of psychosocial factors as significant contributors to mental disability, and

Taking note of the Director-General's Report on Mental Retardation presented at the Thirtieth World Health Assembly and the resolution passed at that meeting (WHA30.38),

1. URGES governments to give attention to the problems of mental retardation and to initiate or strengthen preventive, promotive and rehabilitative activities at the community level, and

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director to consider ways in which WHO can further assist in organizing the multiple-agency programmes required for maintaining services and preventive programmes in mental retardation, and mobilize resources from international, bilateral and other agencies for this.

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Seventh Meeting, 8 August 1977
SEA/RC30/Min.7

SEA/RC30/R5 BIOMEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

The Regional Committee,

Having considered Resolution WHA30.40,

1. ENDORSES the contents therein;

2. REAFFIRMS resolution SEA/RC29/R1 and the need for greater regional involvement and strengthening of national research capabilities;

3. NOTES the increased allocations for research in the Regional Budget;

4. APPRECIATES the progress made in the Research Promotion and Development Programme of the South-East Asia Region;

5. URGES Member Governments:

- (a) to establish or further strengthen the national research councils or analogous bodies for the co-ordination and implementation of national research programmes, and
- (b) to identify the national priorities in research, review the manpower and institutional resources and formulate appropriate goal-oriented national research programmes, and

6. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) to assist Member countries in the review of their research promotion and development efforts in order that governments may take appropriate steps to strengthen further their research capabilities in accordance with identified national priorities;
- (b) to assist Member countries in obtaining the external resources needed to implement the research priorities identified through their national reviews, which should also be incorporated in the proposed WHO medium-term programme, and
- (c) to ensure that global research programmes be developed as an upward synthesis of national and regional requirements, and that there is greater involvement of the Regional Office in the initiation, formulation and implementation of WHO's global research programme.

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Seventh Meeting, 8 August 1977
SEA/RC30/Min.7

SEA/RC30/R6

MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Regional Committee,

Recalling resolutions WHA28.22 and SEA/RC28/R5 recommending that Articles 24 and 25 of the Constitution be amended to provide for a marginal increase in the membership of the Executive Board from thirty to thirty-one, and emphasizing that each region should be able each year to have elected at least one Member entitled to nominate a person to serve on the Executive Board;

Noting with concern that only thirteen Members have so far acted upon resolution WHA29.38, and

Noting that amendments cannot come into force until two-thirds of the Members have deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations a formal instrument notifying acceptance of the amendments,

1. URGES Members in the Region that have not yet notified their acceptance to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to do so within

the shortest possible time, and invites all Members in the Region to request their authorities concerned to persuade Members outside the Region to do likewise, and

2. REQUESTS the Director-General to communicate this resolution to the Members concerned and impress upon them the need for expeditious action.

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SEA/RC30/R7

PROGRAMME BUDGET STRATEGY FOR TECHNICAL
CO-OPERATION IN WHO

The Regional Committee,

Referring to Articles 2(a) and 2(b) of the Constitution defining the Organization's constitutional mandate to co-ordinate international health work and furnish appropriate technical assistance and, in emergencies, necessary aid upon the request or acceptance of governments;

Recalling resolution WHA29.48, which requested the Director-General *inter alia* to re-orient the working of the Organization with a view to ensuring that allocations of the regular programme budget reach the level of at least 60% in real terms towards technical co-operation and services by 1980, and

Recalling resolution WHA30.30, which approved the programme budget strategy subsequently developed and proposed by the Director-General to enhance the co-ordinating role of WHO and within that approach to re-orient the work of the Organization towards increased, effective technical co-operation with and services to governments,

1. NOTES with serious concern the discussions on the restructuring of mechanisms for international developmental activities which would lead to a central planning and control authority for social and economic development within the United Nations system;

2. IS CONCERNED that this would lead to reductions in the assessed contributions which would endanger the concept of technical co-operation and would negate the expressed wishes of the Assembly;

3. BELIEVES that this would make it more difficult to close the gap between the health levels of developed and developing countries and would impede the Organization's efforts to make optimum use of the technical and administrative resources available in individual countries, and

4. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) to explain the Organization's constitutional mandates to the authorities concerned in the Member countries of the Region, and

- (b) to communicate these views to the Director-General for appropriate action to ensure that the constitutional mandate of the Organization is safeguarded.

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Seventh Meeting, 8 August 1977
SEA/RC30/Min.7

SEA/RC30/R8

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

The Regional Committee,

1. FELICITATES the Regional Director and his staff for the very lucid and comprehensive Twenty-ninth Annual Report (document SEA/RC30/2 and Add.1), which highlights so vividly the achievements as well as the challenges facing health services in the Region;
2. RECORDS its appreciation of the steady progress made in the year under report in respect of WHO's crucial role of health promotion, co-ordination and technical collaboration, and
3. EXPRESSES its confidence that, with the efficiency and dedication being displayed, combined with the additional resources being made available, there will be an intensification of this role in the coming year.

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Seventh Meeting, 8 August 1977
SEA/RC30/Min.7

SEA/RC30/R9

REVISIONS TO THE PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR
1978 AND 1979

The Regional Committee,

Having examined (a) the revisions presented by the Regional Director in document SEA/RC30/3 and SEA/RC30/3 Add.1 to the original programme budget for 1978 and 1979 (documents SEA/RC29/3 and Rev.1) and (b) the report of the Sub-Committee on Programme Budget (document SEA/RC30/18);

Recognizing that only minor adjustments had been proposed by the Regional Director as a result of the increased involvement of the national health authorities when preparing the original programme budget;

Appreciating the substantially increased allocation to the South-East Asia Region for direct technical co-operation as a result of the endeavours by the Director-General and the Regional Director in the implementation of resolution WHA29.48, and

Emphasizing that the thrust and direction of all these programmes should be in the furtherance of primary health care and family health with special reference to child care,

1. APPROVES the report of the Sub-Committee on Programme Budget;
2. NOTES the changes made in the programme budget for the South-East Asia Region for 1978 and 1979 as proposed by the Sub-Committee on Programme Budget, and
3. REQUESTS the Regional Director to implement the programmes under the Regional Director's Development Programme in accordance with the priorities and other guidelines indicated by the Sub-Committee on Programme Budget.

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Seventh Meeting, 8 August 1977
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SEA/RC30/R10

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES

The Regional Committee,

Noting with satisfaction that co-operation among the Member countries of the Region is increasingly becoming a reality;

Having considered resolutions EB57/R50, EB59/R39, WHA30.43, EB60/R4 and SEA/RC29/R10, which emphasized the principles of technical co-operation among developing countries, and

Welcoming the steps already taken by Member countries in achieving self-reliance in health matters through co-operation for health development in the spirit of resolutions EB60/R4 and WHA30.43,

EXPRESSES general agreement with the need for further developing co-operation among Member countries for health development.

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Seventh Meeting, 8 August 1977
SEA/RC30/Min.7

SEA/RC30/R11

INFANT AND CHILD MORTALITY

The Regional Committee,

Noting that infant and child mortality rates are still very high in several countries of the Region;

Recognizing the role of the World Health Organization in reducing infant and child mortality;

Appreciating the approaches suggested in the past for reducing the high infant and child mortality rates, and

Reaffirming resolution SEA/RC29/R8,

1. URGES governments of Member States to continue to give high priority to family health as part of their community health services, including the collection of perinatal, neonatal, infant and early childhood mortality and morbidity data within the context of the health information systems of the countries, and
2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
 - (a) to assist Member States in developing appropriate means to reduce infant and child mortality, and, for this purpose
 - (b) to assist in the collection and analysis of data relating to the causes of infant and child mortality in respect of the age-groups 0-1 month, one month to one year and one year to five years.

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Seventh Meeting, 8 August 1977
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SEA/RC30/R12 DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING
OF HEALTH WORKERS FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

The Regional Committee,

Recognizing the right of all people to adequate health care;

Considering the wide gap between the people's needs and the services available, and the wide disparity between urban and rural areas;

Recognizing the vital role of primary health care workers in integrated health care and rural development and the need to develop appropriate technology for them;

Reaffirming World Health Assembly resolutions WHA23.61, WHA25.17, WHA26.35, WHA26.43, WHA27.44, WHA28.88, WHA29.74, WHA30.48 and WHA30.49, and

Appreciating the Regional Director's efforts and interest in promoting and developing this priority area in the Region,

1. URGES governments in the Region:
 - (a) to plan, manage and evaluate systematically primary health care and develop appropriate manpower through orientation training of all existing categories of health personnel and the training of new categories;
 - (b) to analyse, in relation to existing technology, the promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative tasks to be performed by voluntary health workers and community health service workers;

- (c) to determine the appropriateness of existing technology considering its simplicity, effectiveness, feasibility, cost efficiency, and acceptability by the communities and those who apply it;
 - (d) to develop accordingly national inventories of priority problems and resources in terms of research institutions and personnel, and
 - (e) to develop and support national institutions and researchers working in this field in order to maximize national self-reliance in the shortest possible time, and
2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
- (a) to continue support to activities related to primary health care and integrated rural development to the maximum possible extent;
 - (b) to take adequate measures to promote and assist Member countries to establish as quickly as feasible well-developed programmes of health delivery relating to primary health care and rural development;
 - (c) to support Member countries in developing appropriate health technology for the delivery of primary health care;
 - (d) to develop suitable programmes for training a larger number of voluntary health workers in the community and for the orientation training of professionals and auxiliaries so as to equip them for the delivery of minimum health services to the community, and
 - (e) to promote, co-ordinate and assist in the exchange of information on the skills and know-how developed and practised in the countries of the Region.

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SEA/RC30/R13

TRADITIONAL SYSTEMS OF MEDICINE

The Regional Committee,

Recognizing the important role of traditional systems of medicine in providing health care in developing countries,

1. RECORDS its appreciation of the efforts of the Regional Director for the development and utilization of traditional systems of medicine for providing health care to large numbers of people, particularly in rural areas;

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director to take steps for the implementation of the resolutions relating to the promotion and development of training and research in traditional medicine (WHA30.49), and further

3. REQUESTS interested governments to provide facilities for the necessary training in traditional systems of medicine to health workers and to prepare protocols specifying the training, role and utilization of the manpower available in the traditional systems of medicine in the basic health care programme.

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Seventh Meeting, 8 August 1977
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SEA/RC30/R14 TRAINING IN HEALTH SERVICES MANAGEMENT

The Regional Committee,

Considering the importance of using modern management methods for ensuring better quality health care to the largest number of people at the lowest possible cost;

Recognizing the acute shortage of specialists in health services management in the countries of the Region;

Taking into consideration the Technical Discussions on the subject at the Regional Committee's twenty-sixth session (1973), the recommendation of the Regional Advisory Committee on Medical Research (SEA/RACMR/76.1) and of the Regional Research Study Group on Alternative Strategies for the Delivery of Health Care (SEA/RPD/HSD/77.1), and

Noting World Health Assembly resolution WHA26.35 and reaffirming the Regional Committee's resolution SEA/RC29/R10,

1. THANKS the Regional Director for his continuous efforts in promoting the application of modern management techniques in national health services, developing national and regional expertise in this field and assisting the regional training institutions;

2. URGES Governments of the Region:

- (a) to apply modern management methods in solving their priority problems and in their health delivery system;
- (b) to develop further the necessary multi-disciplinary national expertise in modern management science;
- (c) to support further their national training institutions;
- (d) to encourage the exchange of regional expertise in this field, and
- (e) to give priority to utilizing the regional institutions that could provide training in this field, and

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
- (a) to provide further technical co-operation to countries of the Region for developing their national expertise in health services management;
 - (b) to provide support to national training institutions and especially those that could offer facilities for regional training programmes, and
 - (c) to assist countries of the Region in the implementation of the Regional Committee's resolution SEA/RC29/R10 concerning fellowships and training facilities in the Region as it relates to training in management sciences.

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SEA/RC30/R15 HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The Regional Committee,

Having considered the report and recommendations of the technical discussions group;

Realizing the paucity of information available for the effective planning, implementation and evaluation of health care services;

Recognizing the urgent need to develop appropriate systems for the collection, compilation and dissemination of health information, particularly in relation to primary health care;

Appreciating the variations in the existing national health information system and the problems to be confronted in developing such a system in the various Member countries, and

Recalling the emphasis laid by the World Health Assembly on the subject (WHA30.46),

1. URGES governments to give high priority to the development of national health information systems in general and for primary health care level in particular;
2. EMPHASIZES the need for the exchange of experience and expertise in the field of information systems for primary health care among Member countries, and
3. REQUESTS the Regional Director to:
 - (a) provide adequate technical and material support to Member countries (wherever required) in designing, implementing and evaluating their primary health care information system;

- (b) provide support in developing an appropriate technology and in training personnel for the information system, and
- (c) promote and co-ordinate the exchange of experience and expertise in the field of information systems for primary health care.

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SEA/RC30/R16 RESOLUTION OF THANKS

The Regional Committee,

WISHES to convey its deep gratitude and appreciation to the Royal Thai Government and to the authorities concerned for the cordiality of the welcome and warmth of the hospitality extended to participants and, for the excellence of the arrangements for the thirtieth session, which have made this session so pleasurable and so memorable.

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Seventh Meeting, 8 August 1977
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SEA/RC30/R17 APPRECIATION TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL
AND THE SECRETARIAT

The Regional Committee,

1. PLACES on record its gratitude to the Director-General of WHO, whose presence and guidance gave a sense of direction as well as an added dimension to its deliberations, and
2. EXPRESSES its sincere thanks to the Regional Director and his staff for their untiring and unfailing help and support, which contributed so greatly to the success of the session.

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