



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC  
BUREAU REGIONAL DU PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL

REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Eighth Session  
Hong Kong

WP/RC8/Min/2 Rev.1  
4 October 1957

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING

Grantham Training College  
Friday, 6 September 1957 at 9.00 a.m.

CHAIRMAN: Dr. G. Graham-Cumming

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Second Meeting

Friday, 6 September at 9.00 a.m.

PRESENT

I Representatives of Member States

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| AUSTRALIA                | Dr. H.E. Downes   |
| CAMBODIA                 | Dr. Phav Sany<br>Dr. Ber Keng Hean<br>Dr. Y. Danvoye  |
| CHINA                    | Dr. Wu Ching<br>Dr. C.H. Yen<br>Dr. Y.T. Kuo  |
| FRANCE                   | Médecin-Colonel P. Bernard<br>Médecin-Colonel M. Demange  |
| JAPAN                    | Dr. M. Yamaguchi<br>Mr. A. Saita<br>Mr. Seiken Sasaki   |
| KOREA                    | Mr. Yu Sun Yun  |
| LAOS                     | Dr. Thongphet Phetsiriseng<br>Dr. Phony Phoutthasak   |
| NETHERLANDS              | Dr. J. Bierdrager   |
| NEW ZEALAND              | Dr. H.B. Turbott  |
| PHILIPPINES              | Dr. Jesus A. Nolasco<br>Dr. Antonio Ejercito  |
| PORTUGAL                 | Dr. J. Paiva Martins  |
| UNITED KINGDOM           | Dr. G. Graham-Cumming<br>Dr. P.W. Dill-Russell<br>Dr. P.H. Teng<br>Dr. G.M. Thomson<br>Dr. L.J. Clapham<br>Dr. W. Glyn Evans<br>Dr. M. Doraisingham |
| UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | Dr. Leroy Burney<br>Dr. Richard K.C. Lee  |
| VIET NAM                 | Dr. Le-Van-Khai<br>Dr. Nguyen Tang Nguyen<br>Dr. Tran Van Bang  |

II Observers of Non-Member States

FEDERATION OF MALAYA

Dr. Mohamed Din bin Ahmad

III Representatives of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

Mr. Brian Jones

UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BOARD

Sir Alexander MacFarquhar

IV Representatives of other Inter-Governmental Organizations and of Non-Governmental Organizations

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR  
THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

Dr. G.C. Dansey-Browning

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES

Miss Mary Chow

INTERNATIONAL DENTAL FEDERATION

Dr. Walter C. Allwright

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR HEALTH EDUCATION  
OF THE PUBLIC

Miss C. del Rosario

LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

Mrs D.C.C. Trench

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION

Dr. Marie Hui-hsi Feng

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

Dr. Thos. C. Lonie

WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Professor F.E. Stock

V Other Observers

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION  
ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Eugene Campbell

1 ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROGRAMME FOR TECHNICAL DISCUSSION

Dr. H.B. TURBOTT (New Zealand) outlined the arrangements for the Technical Discussions as given in documents WP/RC8/TD1 and WP/RC8/TD2 Rev.1. Dr. R.K.C. LEE (United States) moved that the schedules be accepted. This was seconded by Dr. J. BIERDRAGER (Netherlands) and adopted.

Dr. TURBOTT nominated Dr. Le-Van-Khai (Viet Nam), Dr. W. Glyn Evans (United Kingdom), Dr. L.J. Clapham (United Kingdom) and Dr. R.K.C. Lee (United States) as group discussion leaders, each group to choose its own rapporteur.

2 REPORT OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR (WP/RC8/2)

The SECRETARY introduced the Report and referred briefly to major events during the period. As in previous years assistance to governments had been focussed to the greatest possible extent on the strengthening of local educational facilities, the provision of fellowships for training abroad and the promotion of better standards in existing schools. Reference was made in particular to the refresher course in preventive medicine and village hygiene for assistant medical practitioners which had been held in Western Samoa, and the environmental sanitation seminar held in Taiwan on the collection, disposal and utilization of organic wastes.

In the field of communicable disease control, activities against malaria, yaws and tuberculosis had continued. In the South Pacific area yaws projects which began two years ago were now being assessed and reports to date were satisfactory. Satisfactory progress had been made in the malaria eradication campaigns in China and the Philippines and the co-ordination of malaria control work on an inter-country basis was proceeding according to plan. Attention was still being paid to the integration of BCG vaccination into over-all tuberculosis control projects and a promising start had been made in China.

In the field of maternal and child health there were encouraging signs that national health administrations were becoming increasingly aware of the necessity for planning and developing their maternal and child health programmes as part of the general public-health and medical care services of the community.

Emphasis continued to be placed on the educational aspects of nursing. In several of the programmes national nurses had assumed full responsibility and replaced the international staff, in others there had been a gradual shifting of responsibility as counterparts were prepared to take the leadership role.

This year too has seen some slight progress in the field of mental health although this was connected rather with the creation of awareness of the problem than with its implementation. The most significant development, however, had been the interest and response of the Government of the Philippines which had given full support to the recommendations of the WHO mental health expert.

A new field of activity in which assistance has been given since his last annual report was that of hospital administration and hospital records.

Health education activities had received considerable attention in China; the Philippines and Viet Nam and plans had been completed for a training course in health education for selected island people in the South Pacific. This course, which was financed with Technical Assistance Funds was the first activity jointly sponsored by the Organization and the South Pacific Commission.

Dr. J. BIERDRAGER (Netherlands) drew attention to the term "West New Guinea" on pages 24, 25, 26, 28 and 59 of the report, which was not acceptable to his Government. He was aware that the Regional Director acted only on instructions from WHO Headquarters and that the Director-General wished to follow the terminology which was issued by the United Nations Secretariat on its own initiative. However, the procedure introducing political matters into this committee along the lines just indicated seemed to him highly undesirable.

According to the Constitution of his country, the Territory should be termed "Netherlands New Guinea" and so it had been registered in the Secretariat of the United Nations. For these reasons his Government could not accept the term used in the above-mentioned document. Dr. BIERDRAGER asked the Regional Director to use the correct terminology in future and requested that the official records of this session should be brought to the notice of those concerned. In Holland, as in other countries of the world, it was neither correct nor customary to change names without consent of the bearers, and this was also the position as far as Netherlands New Guinea was concerned.

The SECRETARY stated that the Western Pacific Region and the World Health Organization had to conform with the terminology used by the United Nations and for this reason the geographical name had been used. This did not, of course, prevent governments from using other terms but unless a change was made in the United Nations terminology, it was impossible for him to meet the request of the representative of the Netherlands. In using the geographical term he was acting under instructions from Headquarters and the Director-General had made the same reply when the matter had been raised in the Programme Committee during the Health Assembly.

Dr. BIERDRAGER confirmed that he was aware of what had happened in the Health Assembly and he would be satisfied if due note were made of his statement.

Dr. LE-VAN-KHAI (Viet Nam) thanked the Regional Director for his report and the assistance given by WHO during the year, and was pleased to note the timely mention of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. He called attention to the fact that when the appointment of area representatives had been discussed at the last session of the Committee, the Regional Director had been asked to report back on their usefulness.

The SECRETARY replied that three area representatives had been appointed in 1956 in Saigon, Singapore and Sydney. These appointments had greatly facilitated the work of the Organization as they had resulted in much closer liaison with governments.

Dr. WU CHING (China) endorsed Dr. Le-Van-Khai's views on the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

Mr. A. SAITA (Japan) commended the Regional Director and Secretariat on the report, but considered that some mention of the difficulties encountered would enable Member Countries to know how they could better assist the administration: the tenth anniversary would be an appropriate time for a full review of past experience. It was satisfactory to note the progress made but it was important also to know of the difficulties encountered and to discuss such difficulties frankly. He would also like information on the work of the Statistician and Programme Evaluator, and asked whether the reports submitted by governments on the health situation in the Region would be distributed to all Member Countries.

The SECRETARY stated that a number of difficulties had been mentioned in his report, such as for instance the fact that on occasions it had not been easy to get information about public-health planning. He would, however, bear Mr. Saita's point in mind and give more prominence to this aspect in the future. The information submitted by governments for the report on the "World Health Situation" had been transmitted to Headquarters for incorporation in one volume. This has been prepared for the Tenth Anniversary of the Organization and would be circulated to all countries. The Regional Statistician and Programme Evaluator had had a period of training in Geneva, and since his return had been assisting technical advisers on programme evaluation and collecting information on the health situation. Projects would now be evaluated during their

implementation and after conclusion, and reports sent to the countries concerned. The Regional Statistician and Programme Evaluator was also available to assist governments on request.

Mr. SAITA enquired if the reports of the Statistician and Programme Evaluator could be made available to all Member Governments in the Region. It was agreed that this would be done provided the reports were first cleared with the government concerned.

Dr. PHAV SANY (Cambodia) commended the appointment of a statistician and programme evaluator, but pointed out that Cambodia had no one who could competently interpret statistics, and asked if anything could be done to remedy the situation.

The SECRETARY replied that in countries such as Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the United Kingdom Territories there were highly developed vital and health statistic systems. On the other hand there were places where the statistical services required strengthening. No international personnel could be of assistance to a country unless there were counterpart personnel to work with them. Training courses had been held in Tokyo and Saigon and further training in this field was important. The Regional Office was well aware of the situation and would be willing to assist countries to the best of its ability.

Dr. A. EJERCITO (Philippines) observed that when the Regional Director mentioned the different countries where statistics had been developed, he did not include the Philippines in the list. Dr. EJERCITO also requested the Regional Director to inform the Committee of the functions and activities of the Statistician and Programme Evaluator, pointing out that such a person should be fully conversant with basic statistical data if he were to evaluate projects effectively.

The SECRETARY explained that he had not intended to imply that the collection of statistical data was not being developed in the Philippines. It was true that statistics were available in the country and collection and compilation of data had been going on for some time. However, this system had not yet reached the stage of accuracy which WHO hoped to achieve. This situation existed not only in the Philippines but also in many countries in the Region and there was certainly much room for improvement. Regarding the functions and responsibilities of the Statistician and Programme Evaluator, the SECRETARY stated that a post-description had been prepared after considerable discussions and consultations with the WHO headquarters but regretted that a copy was not available at present. He assured the Committee that copies would be furnished to Member Governments shortly.

Dr. R.K.C. LEE (United States) congratulated the Regional Director for his clear and straight-forward report and remarked that if the advancement and co-ordination of public health in the various parts of the Region continued, then better health progress would be seen. He agreed with the observation made by the representative of Japan that health administrators sometimes had the tendency to report only the achievements made and not mention the difficulties or frustrations met. The Regional Director had, however, indicated some of these difficulties in his report and mentioned the various areas where improvement was needed, such as closer co-ordination and co-operation with national governments, international, multilateral and bilateral agencies, shortage of personnel in the countries in the Region, absence of civil service systems, etc. As far as the United States International Co-operation Administration (ICA) was concerned, he was pleased to note the co-operation rendered in furthering the better use of personnel and other resources in the development of health programmes, and remarked that the Regional Director and his staff

had done a great deal in promoting co-operative and co-ordinated effort. Regarding fellowships, Dr. LEE believed that there was need for a proper evaluation of the fellowships already awarded, with a view to determining their effectiveness and value and their relationship to the health services in the different countries. It would be good to know, for example, whether the people who had received training were still working in the projects to which they had been assigned, whether they had been reassigned elsewhere or whether they had left. He also hoped that, as training facilities were gradually being developed, it would be possible to train more fellows within the Region.

The SECRETARY replied that fellows who had completed their training were required to submit reports regularly. An evaluation report covering the utilization of fellows' services in the various countries was now being prepared by the Regional Office and would be ready shortly. In connection with the utilization of training facilities in the Region, the SECRETARY assured the Committee that this point had always been considered in the placement of fellows and only in cases where the type of training required was not available, were fellows sent to other regions. The present tendency was to make more and more use of the facilities in the Region.

Dr. LEE requested the Regional Director to explain further the question of shortage of personnel and the fact that civil service systems did not exist in all countries. He asked if requests had been received from any of the Member Countries for assistance or guidance on this matter.

The SECRETARY replied that the civil service system did exist in some countries in the Region but in others it did not. However, the situation common to all was that the health workers were grossly underpaid. The SECRETARY pointed out that there was little that WHO could do about this, although in some cases special subsidies had been given which had made things somewhat

easier. He said that no requests had so far been received from governments for assistance; however, several enquiries and complaints had been made.

The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to comment on the Regional Director's report page by page.

#### PART I

##### UNICEF, Section 5.2.1

Referring to the statement that in one part of the Region, the area representative was also the Acting UNICEF Representative, Mr. SAITA drew attention to the programme and budget document which indicated that UNICEF bore half of the cost of the area representative and asked how this arrangement was made and how this area representative functioned.

The SECRETARY explained that the salary of the area representative was met by WHO, but the salary of his assistant (a clerk) was partly paid by UNICEF.

##### FAO, Section 4.2.3

Mr. SAITA enquired why no mention had been made in this section of the nutrition conference jointly sponsored by WHO and FAO.

The SECRETARY replied that in cases where no technical specialists were available in the regional offices, staff from Headquarters usually participated in meetings sponsored by WHO. The particular meeting mentioned by the representative of Japan had been a joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee activity and Dr. Burgess of WHO Headquarters had attended on behalf of the Organization. Because it was a headquarters activity no mention had been made of this meeting in his report, which had been limited to regional activities.

Mr. SAITA expressed the view that even though the Regional Office had not participated in the meeting, the fact remained that the conference had been partly sponsored by WHO and it was but proper that this be reported on. He suggested that in future the Regional Director's annual report should cover

all phases of WHO health activities in the Region, regardless of whether they were wholly or partly sponsored by the Regional Office for the Western Pacific, as this information would be valuable to governments.

Dr. EJERCITO, Médecin-Colonel P. BERNARD (France), Dr. LEE and Dr. J. PAIVA MARTINS (Portugal) all supported the views expressed by the representative of Japan.

The SECRETARY stated that this would be done.

South Pacific Commission, Section 5.5.

Dr. LEE requested the Secretary to inform the Committee of the results of the health education training course recently held under the sponsorship of WHO and the South Pacific Commission.

The SECRETARY said that, as already mentioned, the course had been undertaken jointly by the South Pacific Commission and WHO, commencing in July and ending in the latter part of August. The Regional Adviser on Health Education of the Public had just returned from Noumea and his report would be completed shortly. Verbal reports from the Adviser, and from the participants who had passed through Manila on their return journeys, indicated that the course had been a worthwhile undertaking, was well organized and carried out and had been very profitable.

World Health Day, Section 7.2.

Speaking on the celebration of World Health Day in his country, Dr. WU CHING informed the Committee that more than 200 000 visitors had attended the celebration and many articles had been published for the purpose. He expressed the view that world-health day celebrations were very important aspects of the health work in the Region.

PART II

Assistance to governments in the developing and strengthening of their health services, Section 1.1.

Dr. BIERDRAGER referred to paragraph 2 of this section which stated that assisting health services in non-self-governing territories presented a distinctive administrative problem, and asked that the Secretary explain further what this problem was. From his own experience, no difficulty had yet been met in connection with receiving assistance from the Organization, and the requests had been met with full understanding and sympathy from the Regional Office. In return, the Health Department had tried its best to submit information covering the progress of activities in the country.

The SECRETARY said that the channel of communications with the metropolitan governments was one difficulty. Correspondence regarding policy and programme requests had to be sent to the mother countries and considerable delay was often encountered in getting replies. As a result, the implementation of activities was also delayed. Another problem was that, in view of existing policies of some of the metropolitan governments, WHO could not always give the assistance required by the territories.

Dr. LEE asked whether the existing channel of communications applied to both policy and routine matters and whether it did not permit direct correspondence with the territories on matters other than policy.

The SECRETARY stated that correspondence on technical matters was addressed direct to the territories, with copies to the mother countries. Correspondence relating to policy or programme matters had to be sent direct to the metropolitan governments, with copies to the territories concerned.

Dr. LE-VAN-KHAI suggested that the phrase "hampered by shortage of medical manpower, administrative and financial resources" in the opening sentence of paragraph 2, page 11, be replaced with "hampered by the lack of

medical manpower, administrative and financial resources available for health services".

The proposed amendment was accepted.

Dr. SANY referred to the item "Education and Training" on page 20, and mentioned that WHO had sent several lecturers to the Royal School of Medicine in Cambodia. He enquired whether WHO wished to encourage Cambodian teachers to participate in this teaching and whether there were any prospect of WHO fellowships. The SECRETARY confirmed that it was the policy of the Organization to withdraw international personnel as soon as national staff could take over, and WHO would be glad to assist should Cambodia present a request for fellowships.

Dr. EJERCITO referred to Item 3.1, page 23 - Malaria Control, and expressed the wish that greater financial support might be given to antimalaria measures. The report made reference to technical assistance but little to the financial aspects.

On the suggestion of the CHAIRMAN it was agreed that this should be discussed under the pertinent agenda item.

Dr. LEE referred again to the question of correspondence concerning non-self-governing territories. He was not clear how this might be followed up, but suggested a resolution calling attention to these difficulties. Dr. BIERDRAGER supported the proposal of a resolution. This was also supported by Mr. SAITA who suggested that it might be drafted by the representatives from the United States and Netherlands.

Dr. H.B. TURBOTT (New Zealand) proposed that a small sub-committee might be more appropriate.

The SECRETARY expressed his appreciation of the representatives' concern over his difficulties, but suggested that in view of the tight schedule it might be more convenient if in drafting the resolution on the report the rapporteurs

might include reference to this point.

Dr. SANY suggested that any resolution might have repercussions on the relations between the non-governing territory and the metropolitan government.

Dr. LEE said that it was for this reason that he was in some doubt as to how best to approach the subject. He would agree with the Secretary's proposal to note it in the resolution on the report, if Japan and Netherlands were agreeable, but suggested that reference to the matter in the minutes might meet the case.

This was supported by Dr. BIERDRAGER and Mr. SAITA and approved unanimously.

Dr. EJERCITO moved the adoption of the report, expressing appreciation of the achievements recorded and of the Secretary's efforts in producing so satisfactory a report.

Dr. C.H. YEN (China) seconded the proposal and the report was unanimously adopted.

### 3 ACCOMMODATION FOR THE REGIONAL OFFICE (WP/RC8/5)

The SECRETARY introduced document WP/RC8/5, giving details of the progress made with regard to accommodation for the Regional Office.

Dr. A. EJERCITO (Philippines) stated that his Government welcomed the establishment of a permanent home for the Western Pacific Regional Office.

Dr. C.H. YEN (China) referred to paragraph 3, page 3, of document WP/RC8/5 and enquired what the contributions now represented in pesos.

The SECRETARY said that in terms of pesos there was still a shortage, but he felt that the importance of the contribution lay not in the amount but in the expression of each Government's interest, and was an indication of the solidarity of the Region. He appealed to those Governments not yet listed to give an earnest reconsideration to this question.

4 MALARIA ERADICATION (WP/RC8/6)

The SECRETARY referred to resolution WP/RC7.R10, adopted last year by the Regional Committee, requesting priority for malaria projects and the establishment of co-ordination with adjoining countries. Efforts to promote inter-country co-ordination of campaigns had been made through the Antimalaria Co-ordination Board and the Borneo Inter-territorial Malaria Conferences. The United Kingdom Government had pleaded strongly for the establishment of joint programmes in border zones, and it was hoped that this could soon be achieved. Lack of trained personnel and insufficient funds still presented problems. He expressed appreciation of the assistance provided by ICA and UNICEF to a number of projects in the Region. However, additional funds were still needed and he drew attention to resolution WHA10.32 of the Tenth World Health Assembly regarding contributions to the Malaria Eradication Special Account.

The establishment of an inter-regional malaria training course in Indonesia in accordance with resolution WP/RC7.R11, had met with difficulty and this would not be possible in 1958. The Third Asia Malaria Conference tentatively scheduled for this year had been postponed but a malaria symposium would be held in Bangkok in December 1957, to be attended by the workers from the Western Pacific and South-East Asia Regions.

Dr. A. EJERCITO (Philippines) said that it was vital that a training centre be established as soon as possible. Technical knowledge, in this matter, was even more important than funds. Since it appeared that a training centre could not be established in Indonesia the Philippines would be happy to establish a training centre. He strongly recommended that immediate action be taken on this question.

Dr. LE-VAN-KHAI (Viet Nam) emphasized that his Government was doing all possible to eradicate malaria.

Dr. C.H. YEN (China) endorsed the action taken and hoped for more contributions to the Special Account. He also emphasized the importance of the Western Pacific Region having a training centre.

Dr. R.K.C. LEE (United States) mentioned that it was hoped that more funds from his Government would be available soon for ICA.

Dr. M. DORAISINGHAM (United Kingdom) said that his Government fully supported the antimalarial programme. In many of the territories for which the United Kingdom was responsible malaria had been eradicated, in others very strong efforts were being directed to malaria eradication. At the same time it should be accepted that malaria was not the only problem and the problem of other diseases should not be lost sight of.

Dr. EJERCITO felt that antimalarial measures should have priority in view of the possibility of resistance of vector species and insecticides.

Médecin-Colonel P. BERNARD (France) said that training of technical staff was obviously necessary. If a training centre could not be established could not courses in English and French respectively be arranged in various places in the Region as had been done in Africa.

At this stage the CHAIRMAN adjourned the Committee until 2.30 p.m.