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BUREAU RÉGIONAL DU PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL

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A COMPREHENSIVE AND CO-ORDINATED  
TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR HEALTH PERSONNEL

Report by the Regional Director

1 INTRODUCTION

During the twenty-first session of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific, a proposal related to a comprehensive and co-ordinated teacher training programme for health personnel was presented by the Regional Director (document WPR/RC21/9). The Committee adopted on 5 September 1970 resolution WPR/RC21.R13. The applicable paragraphs of this resolution read as follows:

- "1. ENDORSES the proposal that an academic institution or institutions should be selected to serve as regional teacher training centre;
2. CONSIDERS that to make such a selection will require careful consideration, not only of the institutions themselves, but of the categories of teachers to be trained and of education methodology suitable to the varying cultures and needs of the countries of the Region;

3. AUTHORIZES the Regional Director, if to his satisfaction the factors referred to in Part 2 have been fulfilled, to arrange for negotiations to be undertaken with an institution or institutions in the Region suitable for this purpose and to report to the Committee as its twenty-second session on the outcome of the negotiations;

If the selection and negotiations with a suitable institution or institutions have been successful,

4. SUPPORTS the proposal:

(i) that one workshop should be organized in 1971 to orientate the staff of the centre on the subject of teacher training;

(ii) that provision be made in the List of Additional Projects in 1972 for fellowships to strengthen the teaching staff of the centre on a first priority basis;

(iii) that provision be made in 1973 for fellowships for training at the regional training centre, together with an appropriate provision for consultant months."

## 2 ACTION TAKEN

### 2.1 Preliminary survey

A consultant in medical education visited selected institutions in the Region in order to identify suitable sites for the proposed centre. Discussions were held with officials in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines and visits paid to university medical schools and other educational institutions to catalogue the staff and facilities available.

The consultant recommended that the possibility of establishing a regional centre for teacher training of health personnel in Australia should be considered. He also stated that the University of New South Wales appeared to be the most suitable site for the centre.

2.2 Feasibility Study for the Establishment of the Teacher Training Centre in Sydney, Australia

Between 30 March and 19 April, two consultants in medical education visited Australia to make a study in depth of the possibility of establishing the centre in Sydney.

The consultants established the following criteria as being necessary prerequisites for considering a site for a regional teacher training centre:

(a) Primary factors

(i) willingness of the Administration and teaching staff to accept responsibilities for developing and sustaining the centre as manifested by the commitment of resources;

(ii) commitment to the achievement of excellence in training, research and service;

(iii) staff willingness and commitment of appropriate facilities for post-graduate education in several subject matter areas manifested among other things by regularly scheduled programmes open to participation by health professionals from other institutions and countries.

(b) Secondary factors

These criteria were defined as those which, if present, would facilitate the achievement of goals for teacher training. Initiation of the centre's development could begin with their absence but conditions must appear favourable for their ultimate presence,

(i) training programmes in the health sciences designed to meet local needs for health care and research activities aimed at identifying these needs;

/(ii) availability of ...

(ii) availability of training programmes in several areas of the health sciences field. A multi-disciplinary and multi-professional approach to the delivery of health care and its reflection in training;

(iii) professional relationships with other institutions in the Western Pacific Region. Evidence of this criterion would be the participation by individuals from other countries in educational or research activities and, conversely, faculty travel to other schools for similar activities;

(iv) educational research activities, such as a study of the competencies required of physicians or other health professionals to meet local health needs, or the correlation of student performance with the frequency or duration of specific learning experiences.

The findings of this mission indicate that the Medical Faculty of the University of New South Wales has the factors considered essential by the consultants for the development of a regional teacher training centre, and they recommended that WHO discuss the details of this proposal with the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia.

### 3 PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTION

Negotiations will continue with the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Medical Faculty of the University of New South Wales, as authorized by the twenty-first session of the Regional Committee, with a view to reaching agreement on the development of the centre. Details of the space, equipment and other requirements for a regional training centre have been submitted to the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia for its consideration. If the negotiations are successful, the following action by WHO is proposed for the training of staff and the strengthening of the selected centre.

/A four-week ...

A four-week workshop will be organized at the centre in 1971. This item has been included in the List of Additional Projects for 1971.

It is proposed to provide the following in 1972 to the centre:

- (a) a twelve-month fellowship to enable a senior teacher of the University of New South Wales Medical Faculty to take a Master's degree in Medical Education at the Inter-regional Teacher Training Centre, Centre for Educational Development, College of Medicine, University of Illinois, Chicago;
- (b) eight four-week fellowships to allow staff of the centre to attend a course in medical education at the Inter-regional Teacher Training Centre, Centre for Educational Development, College of Medicine, University of Illinois, Chicago;
- (c) two three-month fellowships to enable staff members to visit other educational centres.

These items have been included in the List of Additional Projects for 1972.

If agreement is reached between WHO and the Commonwealth of Australia, it is hoped that a course leading to a Master's degree of Medical Education can begin in the academic year 1972 or at the very latest in 1973. Twelve consultant months, ten three-month fellowships and supplies and equipment have been included in the 1973 programme and budget estimates. As it is possible that courses shorter than a full academic year may begin before the full course, the duration of the fellowships has been set at three months. If the one-year course commences the provision will be converted into fewer fellowships of greater length.

/It is hoped, once ...

It is hoped, once the Centre is established and the full academic year course inaugurated, that graduates capable of heading national training centres in the individual countries of the Western Pacific Region will be produced. These national centres will in turn train the teaching staff of the various national institutions training health workers, with WHO assistance as requested.