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**STATEMENT FROM CHRISTOFFEL BLINDENMISSION/  
CHRISTIAN BLIND MISSION (CBM)**

Christoffel Blindenmission/Christian Blind Mission International continues to be widely involved in the prevention of blindness field, working in close collaboration with the WHO PBL Programme.

The priorities of action continue to be:

- the tackling of the main causes of world blindness, with emphasis on the huge cataract backlog,
- the development of manpower by the training of appropriate task-orientated eye workers, from Community Eye Health ophthalmologist to the primary health care component at the Primary Health Care level, and
- the development and implementation of appropriate technology in relation to prevention of blindness activities.

In CAMBODIA, where there are innumerable blind persons and eye patients uncared for, CBM has begun an eye care and prevention of blindness programme that has begun to reach out into the grossly neglected areas.

In CHINA CBM has recently launched an intensive training programme of rural doctors to become cataract surgeons, mostly in the underserved Western and North-western provinces, including Tibet Autonomous Region. A special emphasis has been given to outreach services and simple, easy intracapsular cataract extraction without intraocular lenses.

In INDONESIA CBM is also active in rural areas, with teaching activities, and rural cataract surgery. Discussions are being sought with the government and other international NGOs in this field to set up training of rural ophthalmologists, and planning a National Eye Care Programme.

In LAOS CBM is supporting the yet modest National Prevention of Blindness Programme.

In PAPUA NEW GUINEA activities have included the running of Primary Eye Care Seminars for medical staff from the very scattered and isolated populations of this country. This will continue, as also with the support of the training of ophthalmologists and ophthalmic medical assistants at the University of PNG. At the specific request of WHO's PBL Programme an Optical Workshop was set up in Goroka in PNG with the intention to make cheap ready-made spectacles available to the island people of this region.

In the PHILIPPINES there are: rural medical projects, with emphasis on basic primary eye care teaching; the outreach to islands by sea and air services; and in cooperation with the Department of Health:

- (a) the development of eye care in neglected underserved provinces through the secondment of an ophthalmologist, and
- (b) also the three-year Modified Residency Training Programme for the training of fifteen (15) rural ophthalmologists.

An Optical Workshop for the manufacture of standard aphakic lenses using plate glass and physically disabled workers is also noteworthy.

In VIET NAM CBM has for a good many years been a major force in bringing eye care to many parts of Viet Nam, both urban and rural, through extensive training, by supplying essential eye drugs, ophthalmic equipment, surgical instruments, etc. The number of eye operations have quadrupled in the last quinquennium.

CBM's Regional Representatives and Consultants continue to take part in national and international forums in this field and the issues of the training of appropriate personnel was presented at the recently held 10th Afro-Asian Congress of Ophthalmology; a copy is appended to this summary. It is also CBM's intention to be represented at the Western Pacific Meeting of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness to take place in Sydney at the end of October.