

REGIONAL COMMITTEE

WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

Fourth Session
Tokyo
3rd to 8th September 1953

ORGANIZATION OF A POSTGRADUATE COURSE IN
STATISTICAL SERVICES IN ONE OF THE CITIES OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION
(Agenda item 12.3.1)

The above item for the agenda of the fourth session of the Regional Committee was proposed by the Minister of Health, Viet-Nam.

The World Health Organization and the United Nations have jointly sponsored a series of seminars and training courses on vital and health statistics. These took place in Ceylon, Chile, Egypt and Japan.

The Seminar on Vital and Health Statistics in Tokyo, organized by the Western Pacific Regional Office in collaboration with the United Nations and the Government of Japan and with the assistance of WHO Headquarters, started on the 4th of August and lasted until the 20th September, 1952. This Seminar was designed to give additional practical training to vital and health statisticians selected by Member Countries of the Region. Thirteen participants from Australia, China (Taiwan), Korea and the Philippines each awarded full WHO fellowships, 14 participants from Japan each awarded partial WHO fellowships, and 7 participants from Cambodia, China (Taiwan), Hongkong, the Philippines and Singapore each awarded United Nations fellowships, attended the

In view of the fact however, that the Tokyo Seminar was conducted in English, and in response to a request from the Government of Viet-Nam, a small amount of Technical Assistance funds is provided under Inter-country Programmes in the Proposed Programme and Budget Estimates for 1955 (WP/RC4/7) for a short-term consultant on vital and health statistics to visit French-speaking countries and territories in this Region. The consultant would advise on the establishment of statistical services, lecture to undergraduate medical students and, if feasible, conduct in a suitable centre, in co-operation with a host Government, a short training course for persons engaged in vital and health statistics. This consultant service would be complemented by a very small quantity of equipment and supplies, and a limited number of fellowships to enable Governments to send participants to the training course.

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The main objective of this proposed project is to assist governments in the establishment, improvement or reorganization of their statistical services, taking into account local resources, traditions, conditions and existing practices and problems so that uniform and comparable statistical information would be available.

The lectures and training course would cover statistical theory and its practical application to vital and health statistics. Since the previous training, experience and interest of the trainees may vary, attention would be paid to both the basic concepts of modern statistical methods and recent developments in this field.