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FACILITIES FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF HEALTH PERSONNEL
IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

I. INTRODUCTION

It is generally recognized that the establishment of well-organized public health programmes contributes significantly to the economic and social development of any country. It is further accepted that the success of any health programme depends primarily upon the availability of properly trained public health personnel. In many countries, however, the lack of trained personnel for health work has been the main obstacle to further extension of the health services.

The World Health Organization has paid a great deal of attention to the education and training of health personnel as reflected in a number of resolutions adopted by the World Health Assembly, the Executive Board and the Regional Committee. This matter has also been considered by many of the WHO Expert Committees, particularly the Expert Committee on Professional and Technical Education of Medical and Auxiliary Personnel.¹

WHO also appreciates the fact that whenever possible training should be carried out in one's own country, in one's own environment and with one's own people. As stated by the Expert Committee on Public Health Administration, "... local health workers should be trained to know and understand the local health problems with which they would be faced, and especially to carry out practical tasks in the field";² --- "It is essential that there be a definite emphasis on social and cultural factors affecting health in the area, and on individual and community reactions and motivations";³ --- training standards ought "to be related to local needs and possibilities, to local traditions and ways of life, and, above all, to the realities of the situation rather than to rigid norms established elsewhere."⁴ For these various reasons the Organization has recommended, encouraged, and assisted the development of local training facilities and the utilization of training facilities within the Region. This approach has been endorsed on many occasions by the Regional Committee which has adopted a number of resolutions to this effect.⁵

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The various countries and territories in the Region have come to realize the importance of training and have developed programmes based on their specific needs and resources. As is to be expected, these programmes vary, some countries having elaborate programmes geared to the education and training of fully-qualified professional health workers, while in others they are designed to train sub-professional or auxiliary personnel.

It is noteworthy that a number of countries and territories in the Region accept, or are prepared to accept, foreign students for training. This should be taken advantage of since the utilization of regional training facilities serves not only to stimulate the further development and improvement of such facilities but also promotes a closer relationship and understanding among the various countries of the Region. It is felt, however, that requests for intra-regional training, particularly those on a post-basic level, are not as many as they might be, one of the reasons for this being possibly the relative lack of information about the regional facilities available. The Regional Office has, therefore, started to compile information on these training facilities and with the co-operation and help of all the Member States, it is hoped that a complete list will be available in the near future.

Information on some of the training programmes in the Region is presented in the succeeding paragraphs.

II. TRAINING FACILITIES

1 AUSTRALIA

1.1 Post-basic Courses

1.1.1 Diploma in Public Health, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, University of Sydney

This course is open to candidates with medical qualifications. The size of the class is limited preferably to not more than twenty students. The curriculum includes parasitology, bacteriology, maternal and child health, vital statistics, epidemiology, etc., all of which are required. The course lasts ten months. Specialization in a particular field is possible by arranging that the student spends about two months after the course in a specific department.

1.1.2 Diploma in Public Health Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Sydney

The curriculum includes courses in preventive dentistry, given by the Faculty of Dentistry, and courses in public health which are given by the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Candidates must have finished the basic dental course. The course lasts one year.

/1.1.3 Master of ...

1.1.3 Master of Technology (Public Health Engineering), University of New South Wales

The course is intended primarily for civil engineers who are specializing or are engaged in the field of public health engineering. It is designed to cover all branches of the wide field of public health engineering including water supply, sewerage, hydraulics, hydrology, industrial hygiene, atmospheric pollution, control of disease, microbiology and statistics. The duration of the course is one year divided into three terms.

1.1.4 New South Wales College of Nursing

The school offers seven post-basic courses in nursing as follows:

(a) Diploma courses

- (i) Diploma in nursing administration
- (ii) Sister-tutor's diploma
- (iii) Midwife teacher's diploma

(b) Certificate courses

- (i) Certificate in operating theatre management
- (ii) Certificate in ward management
- (iii) Certificate in occupational health
- (iv) Certificate in research methods

The diploma and the certificate in research methods courses last one year. Admission requirements depend on the course taken. Applicants must be either qualified general nurses registrable or registered by the Nurses Registration Board of New South Wales or qualified general and midwifery nurses.

1.2 Qualified foreign students are admitted to all the above courses. Instruction is in the English language.

2 CHINA

2.1 Institute of Public Health, National Taiwan University

The Institute offers a two-month training course which is open to qualified physicians, nurses, engineers and sanitarians. The course covers the various disciplines in public health, such as administration, statistics, epidemiology, environmental sanitation, etc. Instruction is mainly in the Chinese language.

3 FIJI

3.1 Fiji School of Medicine

In addition to the course for assistant medical or assistant dental officers, the School offers the following:

/3.1.1 Certificate ...

3.1.1 Certificate in Public Health

This is a six-month course for assistant medical officers who have qualified for at least three years. The curriculum includes courses in public health bacteriology, environmental sanitation, child and maternal health, nutrition, dental health, communicable disease control, health surveys, etc.

3.1.2 Health Inspectors Course

This is a two-year course leading to the Royal Society of Health Certificate (overseas). The curriculum includes courses in anatomy, physiology, bacteriology, water supplies, food hygiene and nutrition, ventilation and lighting, disposal of excreta and refuse, sanitation of urban and rural areas, and other aspects of environmental sanitation and public health in general.

3.1.3 Ancillary courses

The School offers a number of ancillary courses for students who cannot qualify for the assistant medical or dental courses namely:

- (a) Physiotherapy - three-year course
- (b) Pharmacy - three-year course
- (c) Pathology (laboratory assistant) - three-year course
- (d) Radiography - two-year course
- (e) Dietetics - three-year course

Most of the above courses are in the form of apprenticeship, students working in the various divisions of the Medical Department and receiving only varying amounts of formal teaching.

3.2 Central Nursing School

3.2.1 Colony Course

This course lasts three years. Entrance requirements consist of completion of two-year secondary education (Fiji junior).

3.2.2 New Zealand Course

This is a higher level course recognized by New Zealand authorities. Graduates of the course receive the New Zealand badge and certificate in general nursing.

3.3 Instruction in the above courses is in the English language. Both Schools accept qualified students from the nearby territories.

4 JAPAN

4.1 Institute of Public Health, Tokyo

The Institute of Public Health gives a series of courses as follows:

/4.1.1 Regular ...

4.1.1 Regular courses

- (a) General public health course
- (b) Sanitary science course
- (c) Health guidance course

The regular courses lasting one year are to prepare students of professional status, such as medicine, veterinary medicine, pharmaceutical medicine, dental medicine, engineering, nursing, nutrition and education in specific disciplines and subject areas basic to public health.

4.1.2 Special courses

- (a) Medical health officers course
- (b) Sanitarians course
- (c) Public health veterinarians course
- (d) Health educators course
- (e) Public health statisticians course
- (f) Public health nurses course
- (g) Nutritionists course
- (h) Sanitary engineering course
- (i) Public health laboratory

- (i) public health chemistry
- (ii) bacteriology and parasitology

(j) Radiation health

- (i) orientation course
- (ii) advanced course

The special courses, two to four months in duration, provide in-service training for various public health workers already employed in health organizations.

4.2 Institute of Hospital Administration

The Institute offers a number of courses of one week to eight months duration for various categories of hospital administrators and other higher categories of hospital personnel.

4.3 Instruction in the above courses is in Japanese. In the courses given by the Institute of Hospital Administration, appropriate training in English might be arranged upon request.

5 KOREA

5.1 Post-basic Course

5.1.1 Master of Public Health, The School of Public Health, Seoul National University

This is a one-year course open to candidates who have completed a baccalaureate degree in science or its equivalent and who have passed

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entrance examinations given by the School. The curriculum includes a number of required courses in public health administration, environmental sanitation, epidemiology, public health statistics, maternal and child health, physiological hygiene, health education and public health nursing. The School also offers about twenty elective courses.

Students who have completed thirty-six credit units of required courses and ten units of elective courses, and have submitted an appropriate thesis may be considered as candidates for the degree. The duration of the course is two years.

5.2 Non-degree courses given in the National Institute for Public Health Training

This institute is under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. It offers a number of short-term courses for the professional and technical training of various categories of public health personnel such as physicians, nurses, sanitarians and others.

5.3 Instruction in both the above institutions is in the Korean language.

6 MALAYA

6.1 Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

6.1.1 Health Visitors Course

6.1.2 Public Health Inspectors Course

6.1.3 The above courses have the approval of the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health, London. The admission requirements and the curriculum of both courses are similar to those described under Singapore. Instruction is in the English language.

7 NEW ZEALAND

7.1 Post-graduate Courses

7.1.1 Diploma in Public Health, University of Otago

This course is designed for physicians who are going to do any kind of medical administration, whether it be public health, hospital, occupational health or in the armed forces.

The curriculum not only provides the candidates with a broad background in community health and health services but also allows the student to delve deeper in certain aspects of the above fields. The curriculum includes courses in public health administration, microbiology, medical statistics, epidemiology, environmental sanitation, mental health, occupational health, etc.

/The course ...

The course lasts one academic year. It is rated by the United Kingdom authorities as being equal to the Diploma in Public Health (DPH) course at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

7.1.2 Master of Dental Surgery, University of Otago

This course may be taken in public health dentistry. Candidates must have the degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery of the University of New Zealand or such other qualification as the Senate may accept. The course lasts more than a year.

7.1.3 Diploma in Administration and Teaching in Public Health Nursing, Victoria University of Wellington

Students in this course are prepared for senior positions in public health nursing and time is given to the study of administration and supervision in a public health nursing service.

The curriculum includes courses in preventive medicine, public health nursing, occupational health and industrial health nursing, social work, human behaviour and human relationships, educational functions of the nurse, trends in nursing and allied health and social services, foundations of nursing and advanced studies in special fields. The course lasts one academic year.

Applicants must hold both general and maternity certificates.

7.1.4 Diploma in Health Education, Victoria University of Wellington

This is a one-year course intended for health education officers.

7.2 Dental Nursing

There are three schools for dental nurses in New Zealand namely: the Auckland, Christchurch and the Wellington Schools. These schools offer a two-year training programme. Dental nurses are trained to perform extractions, fillings, polishing, sodium fluoride topical applications and to give dental health education primarily to pre-school and primary school-children.

7.3 Foreign students are admitted to the above courses. Instruction is in the English language.

8 PHILIPPINES

8.1 Post-graduate Courses, Institute of Hygiene, University of the Philippines

8.1.1 Certificate in Public Health

This is a post-graduate course in public health lasting one academic year. The School accepts the following groups of students: graduates of

/approved medical ...

approved medical schools; graduates with professional training other than in medicine, such as dentistry, engineering, nursing, education, etc. with at least a bachelor's degree in science and at least one year experience or previous training in the field of public health.

The curriculum consists of twenty-three units of required courses in public health administration, public health engineering, epidemiology, biostatistics, nutrition, microbiology and parasitology and at least twelve units of elective courses in various other public health disciplines.

8.1.2 Master of Public Health

The curriculum and admission requirements of this course are the same as that of the Certificate in Public Health (CPH) course except that the candidates have to pass with higher grades. Completion of a thesis or special study is also required.

8.1.3 Master of Public Health Engineering

The course is designed to prepare engineers for positions of leadership in health agencies and to encourage research in the various aspects of public health engineering work peculiar to the Western Pacific.

Candidates must possess a bachelor's degree preferably in civil, chemical or sanitary engineering or its equivalent.

The degree is awarded upon completion of thirty units of credit in the various public health and public health engineering disciplines and six units of thesis.

8.1.4 Certificate in Hospital Administration

The course is designed to meet the demand for trained hospital administrators. Graduates of approved medical schools and graduates with at least a bachelor's degree and a year's experience in hospital management are eligible for admission.

Students who have completed at least thirty-five units of the prescribed curriculum which consists of courses in public health and various aspects of hospital administration, organization and management are eligible for graduation. The course lasts one academic year.

8.2 Undergraduate Course

8.2.1 Bachelor of Science in Hygiene

This is a four-year course designed to prepare other categories of professionals needed in public health work such as sanitarians, statisticians, laboratory workers, etc.

8.3 The Institute admits qualified foreign students to the above courses. Instruction is in the English language.

9 SINGAPORE

9.1 The University of Singapore, Diploma in Public Health

The course extends for a period of one academic year and is open only to candidates holding a medical qualification registrable in Malaya and Singapore or acceptable to the Senate. Furthermore, candidates must be engaged in the practice of public health for not less than twelve months or have had adequate experience acceptable to the Senate.

The curriculum includes courses in public health administration, environmental sanitation, bacteriology and parasitology as applied to epidemiology, statistics, epidemiology, mental health, health education, etc. Preparation of a dissertation on an approved subject is also required.

9.2 Institute of Health

9.2.1 Public Health Nursing Course

This course covers one calendar year and is designed to prepare students for all branches of public health nursing, including district nursing. The course is open to nurses registered with the Singapore Nursing Board who are qualified midwives. Qualified applicants from other countries are accepted.

The curriculum includes a number of courses in public health nursing, public health and social legislation, vital statistics, social welfare services, communal health services, communicable diseases, maternal and child health, mental health, health education, nutrition, etc. The course of study is approved by the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health, London.

9.2.2 Public Health Inspectors Course

This is a one-year course designed to train health inspectors. The curriculum includes courses in elementary anatomy and physiology, chemistry, physics, bacteriology, parasitology, statistics and several courses on environmental sanitation. Successful candidates are awarded the Certificate of the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health, London. Instruction is in the English language.

10 TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

10.1 The Papuan Medical College

This college was established in 1959 with the main purpose of preparing key personnel for health work in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea and other nearby territories. The School has courses for assistant medical officers, nurses and health inspectors.

As yet, courses are at sub-professional level but it is planned to upgrade them in the future. Special emphasis is given to preventive medicine and public health. Instruction is in the English language.

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