



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC
BUREAU REGIONAL DU PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL

REGIONAL COMMITTEE

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MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE
SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

Grantham Training College
Thursday, 5 September 1957 at 2.00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN: Dr. G. Graham-Cumming

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The Sub-Committee on the Programme and Budget, composed of representatives from Cambodia, China, Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Viet Nam met at 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, 5 September 1957 under the chairmanship of Dr. G. Graham-Cumming. Representatives from Australia, Netherlands and Portugal also attended.

1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (WP/RC8/P&B/1)

The provisional agenda was adopted.

2 MODIFICATIONS IN THE BASIC AND SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 1958 (WP/RC8/3 APPENDIX I) - REGULAR PROGRAMME AND SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF PROJECTS (WP/RC8/3 APPENDIX II)

The SECRETARY stated that despite an overall reduction in the budget of \$59 000, the Western Pacific Region had been given an increase of approximately \$13 000 in respect of the Regional Office, after taking into account increases due to staff rules. He drew the attention of the Sub-Committee to the fact that it had been possible to accommodate not only certain activities or elements of activities which had previously been listed under the supplemental programme but also some government requests previously indicated under the supplementary list of projects. To a certain extent, the latter had been made possible by delay or deferment of some country and inter-country projects to the 1959 proposed programme and budget. The increase in the amount allocated to the Regional Office was to cover the adjustments resulting from the amendments to the Staff Rules.

Mr. A. SAITA (Japan) enquired what was the percentage cost of the Regional Office as compared to the total cost of the Region.

Dr. M. DORAISINGHAM (United Kingdom) asked whether the reduction of \$59 000 applied to this region only.

The SECRETARY replied that the total WHO budget reduction was approximately \$566 000.

Dr. DORAISINGHAM commented that in fact the Western Pacific Region had been better treated than others, and the SECRETARY confirmed that this was so.

The SECRETARY stated that the figures required by Mr. Saita were that in 1957 the Regional Office staff comprised approximately 35.7% of the total, in numbers, and 22% of the total estimated programme costs; in 1958 the figures would be 33.7% and 22% respectively. The overall figures included area representatives and regional advisers.

Dr. LE-VAN-KHAI (Viet Nam) enquired as to the principle adopted in assigning projects to the regular programme and the supplementary list.

The SECRETARY stated that the decision in each case was made after full discussion with the government of the country concerned.

Dr. DORAISINGHAM enquired what funds had been made available as a result of the resumption of participation by the inactive Members.

The SECRETARY stated that so far four Members had resumed participation and the funds resulting were some \$152 035.

Mr. SAITA was anxious that as a young region the Western Pacific should get more consideration in regard to funds than other and older-established regions. The SECRETARY confirmed that he had discussed this question with the Director-General, who had been very fair in allocating funds to the Region. Mr. SAITA emphasized that when governments were asked to increase contributions they liked to know that the increase was used as much to support field work as to finance the Regional Office.

Dr. DORAISINGHAM urged that in view of limited funds, the Regional Office should confine itself to essentials first, and that new projects should not be undertaken until old ones were completed.

3 PROPOSED PROGRAMME AND BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1959 - REGULAR PROGRAMME
(WP/RC8/4 PART I, WP/RC8/P&B/2)

The SECRETARY explained that the proposed programme and budget estimates for the financial year 1 January - 31 December 1959 had been established in two parts: Part I relating to the projects to be financed from Regular Funds, and Part II, relating to projects to be financed from Technical Assistance Funds. Within Part I, the proposed working budget was: Regional Office - \$335 300 and Field Activities \$930 000. Attention was drawn to the working paper giving an analysis of proposed programme and budget estimates for regular funds for both 1958 and 1959.

Dr. H.B. TURBOTT (New Zealand) suggested that it was not good policy to keep the allocation of funds for duty travel by area representatives at the same level as last year. Area representatives should be encouraged to travel to see what WHO could do to assist the countries in the Region.

The SECRETARY stated that he would give this question consideration but that, due to the limitation of funds, he may have attached too little importance to the travel of area representatives.

Mr. SAITA commented that he noticed from the justifications that Australia indicated the salaries of fellows as a government contribution, whereas he understood the usual arrangement would be that governments pay the salary of any replacements engaged and that the cost would represent the governments contribution.

Dr. H.E. DOWNES (Australia) said the amount paid varied according to circumstances, at the discretion of the Government. Sometimes, to assist a married fellow to keep a home going, the whole salary was paid; in other instances, only a portion was paid.

Dr. C.H. YEN (China) enquired regarding the progress of the poliomyelitis centres. The SECRETARY replied that two had been established, one in Japan and

one in Singapore. Both were progressing favourably, and it was hoped that a centre in Australia would be possible shortly.

Dr. BER KENG HEAN (Cambodia) mentioned that his Government had no further requests to make for this budget, as all previous ones had been met.

Mr. SAITA asked why the Regional Adviser was shown in the tables of expenditure where education and training were mentioned, but not elsewhere. He also queried whether the increase for environmental sanitation was offset by a decrease against this item under Technical Assistance Funds.

The SECRETARY in reply said that in fact the other items also contained provision for regional advisers, but that in the case of education and training, it only related to the cost of the adviser. With regard to environmental sanitation, sometimes governments had insufficient funds allocated under Technical Assistance, and therefore were obliged to request this assistance from regular funds.

Mr. SAITA asked where funds for the dental health programme were indicated. The SECRETARY advised that these appeared under public-health administration.

4 SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF PROJECTS (WP/RC8/4 Add.1)

The SECRETARY explained that the Supplementary List of Projects took into consideration all activities which could not be included in either Part I or Part II. These activities could only be implemented if savings accrued or budget appropriations were increased.

Dr. TURBOTT asked whether there was any prospect of savings becoming available, since if this were so his Government would ask for a fellowship in public health for the Territory of Niue. The SECRETARY replied that the budget for 1958 was a tight one, but that the Government of New Zealand should submit its request.

Dr. TURBOTT commented that a large amount of funds seemed to be indicated

for an inter-country programme for medical librarianship. The SECRETARY said that this item had been in the budget for some years, but that the large contributions required from governments made this a very low priority.

At 3.40 p.m. the Sub-Committee adjourned until 3.45 p.m. on Friday,

6 September 1957.