



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DU PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL

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SELECTION OF TECHNICAL DISCUSSION TOPICS
FOR THE FIFTEENTH (1964) SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Technical Discussions, held during the seventh (1956) session of the Regional Committee, reported¹ that the discussion group made, inter alia, the following recommendation:

"In selecting topics for future Technical Discussions, consideration should be given to matters of regional interest which are particularly appropriate to the place of the Regional Committee Meeting."

The Technical Discussion group may wish to consider, among others, the following topics suggested by the Secretariat:

1. HEALTH EDUCATION LEADERSHIP, ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

The importance of health education in all health projects is well recognized. There is a growing interest in strengthening the health education component of health projects with more and more countries in the Region beginning to plan and develop health education services for this purpose. It is therefore timely and appropriate that technical discussions be held which focus on (1) the development of qualified health education leadership, including selection and training, (2) the organization of health education services in national and provincial health administration and (3) the effective utilization of these services in health programmes and activities requiring the understanding, co-operation and support of the public.

¹ Unpublished document WP/RC7/TD8

2. BASIS AND METHODS FOR THE EVALUATION OF HEALTH PROGRAMMES

The main objectives of the evaluation of health programmes are to assess the results achieved, to prevent the repetition of mistakes and failures and to gain knowledge necessary for the planning and operation of future health programmes. It is, therefore, essential that health programmes should be evaluated during their operation and after their completion.

It is proposed to discuss the basis and methods for the evaluation of major health programmes being planned or carried out in countries and territories in the Western Pacific Region. It is hoped that the discussion will produce realistic and useful criteria and procedures which can be adopted by Member States.

3. THE ROLE OF STATISTICS IN PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

It is well recognized that vital and health statistics are of great importance in public health administration. In health ministries or health departments, therefore, there is a statistical unit responsible for the collection and compilation of statistical data for use by health administrators.

It is proposed to review and discuss the use and validity of vital and health statistics in public health administration with special reference to the role of such statistics in defining the health problems and needs of the population, in planning public health programmes and in assessing the medical and health services provided.