



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC  
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DU PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL

REGIONAL COMMITTEE

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TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS

WPR/RC20/TD3  
18 July 1969

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GUIDELINES FOR THE TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS

1. TOPIC

"The Planning and Organization of a National Epidemiological Service"

2. PURPOSE OF THE DISCUSSION

- 2.1 To review the status of organization of national epidemiological services and their functions.
- 2.2 To determine the optimal organizational structure which will correspond to national needs, lead to recognition of acute problems and changes in disease patterns, and be sufficiently flexible to enable control measures to be adjusted.
- 2.3 To examine the possibilities of improving and utilizing existing resources through co-ordination and co-operation at various levels.

3. PREPARATION FOR THE DISCUSSION

It is suggested that participants should familiarize themselves with the situation in their own countries/territories as far as the following are concerned:

3.1 The national health policy with respect to epidemiological services.

/3.2 The place of ...

3.2 The place of the epidemiological services in the health organizational structure at central, provincial and local levels.

3.3 Difficulties arising at various levels.

3.4 Collection, consolidation and dissemination of information.

3.5 The objectives, means and accomplishments of epidemiological services, and the procedures undertaken to assess the effectiveness of control measures against communicable diseases.

3.6 Epidemiological surveillance and identification of areas requiring detailed research.

It would be valuable if participants could report on the experience their national health administrators have had in the use of epidemiological services and the results obtained. Comments and suggestions will be requested as a further basis for discussion.

#### 4. QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS

Primary attention will be given to the questions and problems raised by participants during the Technical Discussions. Annexed to this document is a list of suggested topics which the participants may wish to consider during their deliberations.

ANNEX

TOPICS WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED  
DURING THE TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS

1. Are the present services adequate to meet the objectives and operations desired in controlling communicable diseases?
2. Are more rational alternatives envisaged and how do they fit in overall health planning? How can they be financed?
3. What are the best ways of planning, staffing, supervising and training?
4. Do the administrative lines and functions of the workers involved, such as epidemiologists, clinicians, laboratory experts, statisticians and public health administrators, permit the best possible standards to be reached and maintained?
5. Are the epidemiological services used to evaluate the progress made against health problems other than the communicable diseases?
6. Is there a place for simplified reporting and better dissemination of information for those who need to know and who could take action?
7. How can co-operation through international epidemiological surveillance be improved?
8. What is the role of other official and non-official organizations and groups (voluntary, private, allied professional groups) interested in health in the context of epidemiological services?
9. In what way can WHO best assist or participate in promoting epidemiological services?