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BUREAU RÉGIONAL DU PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL

REGIONAL COMMITTEE

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Provisional agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE  
ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES  
(TCDC)

The Sub-Committee on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries held its fourth meeting in Manila on Monday and Tuesday, 26 and 27 March 1979. The meeting was opened by the Regional Director, Dr Francisco J. Dy. The following attended:

Dr Shuichi Tani, Japan  
Mr Moo-geun Jeon, Republic of Korea  
Dr J.M.J. Supramaniam, Singapore

The representative from Papua New Guinea was unable to be present.

The following members of the Sub-Committee on the General Programme of Work attended as observers:

Dr Dennis Stanbury, Australia  
Dr Takayuki Nose, Japan  
Dr Abdul Talib bin Latiff, Malaysia  
Dr Bryan Christmas, New Zealand  
Dr S. Foliaki, Tonga  
Mr Nguyen Van Trong, Viet Nam  
Mme Le Thi Thu Ha, Viet Nam (Interpreter)

Dr J.M.J. Supramaniam was elected Chairman.

The Regional Director expressed appreciation to the Governments of the members of the Sub-Committee on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the Sub-Committee on the General Programme of Work for allowing their representatives to attend. Members of the Sub-Committee on the General Programme of Work had made useful contributions to previous meetings of the Sub-Committee on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, hence the decision to invite them to the present meeting. The recommendations of the present meeting of the Sub-Committee would not only be reported to the Regional Committee at the thirtieth session but would also make a useful contribution to the Technical Discussion on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries during the Thirty-second World Health Assembly.

The Sub-Committee had before it the following background documents:

- (1) "Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in Health Manpower Development", which gave a progress report of activities in the areas of primary health care and drug policies and management, problems in health manpower development, specific activities which could be undertaken in the field of health manpower development, and a basis for possible recommendations;
- (2) Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August to 12 September 1978;
- (3) Report of the Conference on Regional Cooperation in the WHO Fellowship Programme, Manila, 6 to 12 February 1979;
- (4) An addendum to Annexes 3 and 4 of document WPR/RC29/10 Rev.1, ~~National Programmes/Projects for the Development of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, which gave both actual and potential activities for the development of technical cooperation among developing countries in China, the Republic of Korea and Singapore (see Annex 1).~~ *Appendix 1* *TC DC 1-*

"Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in Health Manpower Development", which was the principal background document, was developed from the regional medium-term programme for health manpower development, the report of the Conference on Regional Cooperation in the WHO Fellowship Programme and records available within the Regional Office.

The Sub-Committee noted that elements of technical cooperation among developing countries had always been incorporated in WHO programmes and had been implemented as far as possible.

The technical cooperation among developing countries activities promoted and implemented in the Region by WHO in the fields of primary health care and drug policies and management were reviewed. Those two programmes had been recommended by the Sub-Committee, at its initial meeting in 1977, for study in 1978.

Among the activities were the intercountry workshop on primary health care for Malaysia and the Republic of Korea; collaboration with training institutions in Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Philippines; provision of vaccines by one Member State to other Member States; development in the Philippines of a "cold box" for the expanded programme on immunization, which was also used in other countries, development of a bulk purchasing scheme for pharmaceuticals among the South Pacific countries, and the memorandum of agreement and plan of implementation between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the World Health Organization, governing technical cooperation in health activities, and the programme of the Government of Singapore which enables fellows from other Asian countries to study in Singapore.

In accordance with a resolution adopted by the Regional Committee in 1978, which accepted the recommendations contained in the reports of the Sub-Committee's second and third meetings, the subject of study in 1979 was health manpower development.<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, encouragement of technical cooperation among developing countries in primary health care and drug policies and management would continue.

In addition to budgetary implications, considered to be important in ensuring cost-effectiveness, the Sub-Committee discussed three categories of problem related to health manpower development:

- (1) Policy, planning, operations and technology: The relevance of present health manpower development programmes to national requirements and conditions; the importance of monitoring such requirements and conditions; inadequate collaboration between trainers or educators and those responsible for health care delivery; the categories of staff required and in what proportions. Emphasis was placed on the need for programmes for professional health staff to be flexible by encouraging the training of generalists rather than specialists;
- (2) Administration of fellowships: Planning the fellowship programme; selecting suitable institutions and countries in which fellows might study; language of study; utilization of fellows on return to their home countries; evaluation of the usefulness of training;
- (3) Application of technical cooperation among developing countries: Need for improvement in institutions or in courses, to ensure that training programmes were suitable. This could be achieved by providing the receiving country with more information on the country sending the fellow. Those involved in the training themselves needed to keep abreast of the latest trends in their own fields.

The Sub-Committee considered that technical cooperation among developing countries was a multidimensional process which could be bilateral or multilateral in scope and subregional, regional or interregional in character. It was also considered that, while the main flow of technical cooperation would be among two or more developing countries, the support of developed countries and of regional and interregional institutions was vital. Bearing that in mind, the Sub-Committee recommended to the Regional Committee that WHO should:

- (1) continue to promote the development of health manpower relevant to the needs of Member States, within the context of national health plans; and to collaborate in activities towards that end;

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<sup>1</sup> See resolution WPR/RC29.R19, Report of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific, twenty-ninth session, 1978, pages 32-33.

- (2) encourage exchange of information on health manpower development policies, training programmes, and training needs. This could be achieved through exchange of technical materials, curricula and, where feasible, staff;
- (3) encourage ways and means of supporting technical cooperation among developing countries activities in health manpower development, especially coordination between training institutions and the agencies providing their resources. Contact between groups of institutions in a country could be facilitated, or between groups of countries and funding agencies, to formulate and discuss the provision of support for technical cooperation among developing countries strategies. The strengthening of training institutions, including library facilities, should continue;
- (4) encourage the ministries of health of Member States to circulate information on fellowships available to other ministries responsible for health-related programmes, such as port health, occupational health, air pollution control, vector control, or sanitation;
- (5) consider intensifying support for language training as appropriate. The Regional Office should also ensure that all available courses are listed in the Registry of Training Courses Available for Health Personnel in the Western Pacific Region. That such courses exist should be drawn to the attention of governments in correspondence on fellowships;
- (6) prepare a manual of guidelines for evaluation of the effectiveness and appropriateness of fellowship programmes. The manual should include suitable forms to enable both fellows and governments to report when the fellowship ends and on utilization after the fellow has returned home. Courses should be evaluated and the governments of both sending and receiving countries sent copies of the evaluation report;
- (7) endeavour to have fellows at the place of study within six months of receipt of the application. To enable this to be done, Member States were urged to submit fellowship applications early since late applications hamper placement;

It was also considered desirable that fellows be informed of when they are to depart as early as possible and at least one week before the fellowship commences;

- (8) support meetings of national fellowship officers together with other measures to ensure effective planning and the sharing of information and problems.

The Sub-Committee proposed that the next topic to be considered should be "The primary health care aspects of communicable disease control".

*OR*  
NATIONAL PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS  
WITH ACTUAL/POTENTIAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Nature of the national programmes/projects	Field for TCDC	Present WHO cooperation	Suggestions for improvement through			
			National action	United Nations Agencies	WHO	Bilateral Agencies
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA <sup>1</sup>						
<u>Primary health care</u>	Exchange of information	Yes				
<u>Appropriate technology for health</u>	Study tours/meetings	Yes				
<u>Health manpower development</u>	Training in acupuncture	Yes				
<u>Health manpower development/biomedical research</u>		Yes <sup>2</sup>				
Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Beijing - Institute of Traditional Medicine - Institute of Acupuncture and Moxibustion	1. Exchange of information and experience					
Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Shanghai - Institute of Parasitic Diseases - Institute of Oncology	2. Study tours and missions					
Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Beijing - Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases - Institute of Oncology	3. Training courses 4. Conference/seminars					

<sup>1</sup>Information taken from a review of documentation available in the Regional Office.

<sup>2</sup>All agreed in principle; some Institutes are actually engaged in cooperation while the rest are either in the process of development or will soon be developed.

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First Medical College, Shanghai - Acupuncture Anaesthesia Research Laboratory - Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases	5. Consultants					
	6. Referrals for special examination					
Medical College, Beijing - Acupuncture Anaesthesia Research Laboratory	7. Contracts for special activities					
Institute of Tuberculosis, Beijing						
College of Traditional Medicine, Shanghai						
College of Traditional Medicine, Nanjing						
Chung Shan Medical College, Guangzhou						
Institute of Tropical Diseases, Friendship Hospital, Beijing						
<u>Pharmaceuticals and biologicals</u>						
Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Beijing - Institute of Materia Medica						
Ministry of Health, Beijing - Institute of Biological Products - Institute for Control of Pharmaceutical and Biological Products						
Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Kunming - Institute of Medical Biology						
Institute of Biological Products, Shanghai						

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS  
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			National action	United Nations Agencies	WHO	Bilateral Agencies
<b>REPUBLIC OF KOREA</b>						
<u>Primary health care</u>	Intercountry visits; seminars; exchange of information; exchange of staff	<u>Ad hoc</u>				
Korea Health Development Institute						
<u>Health service research</u>	Exchange of information and technical documents; seminars; contracts for special activities	Yes				
Korea Health Development Institute						
<b>SINGAPORE</b>						
<u>Workers' Health</u>						
Department of Social Medicine and Public Health, University of Singapore	Training courses	Yes				
	Exchange of information	Yes				
Industrial Health Department, Ministry of Labour	Contracts for special activities	No				
<u>Health Services Research</u>						
Research and Statistics Unit, Ministry of Health	Exchange of information	No				
<u>Maternal and Child Health/ Family Planning</u>						
Maternal and Child Health Services, Ministry of Health	Exchange of information	Yes				
Singapore Family Planning and Population Board						
<u>Research and Training in Fertility Regulation</u>						
Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Singapore	Training courses	Yes				
	Exchange of information	Yes				



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			National action	United Nations Agencies	WHO	Bilateral Agencies
<u>Oral Health</u>						
Institute of Dental Health, Ministry of Health	Training courses	Yes				
	Exchange of information	Yes				
<u>Immunology</u>						
WHO Immunology Research and Training Centre, University of Singapore	Training courses	Yes				
	Exchange of information	Yes				
<u>Health Statistics</u>						
Research and Statistics Unit, Ministry of Health	Exchange of information	Yes				