

DRAFT - Fact Sheet for Visit by Five Senators

FA NGUM COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL PROJECT ✓

BACKGROUND

In 1965, the Lao Ministry of Education requested USAID to make recommendations for developing a secondary school program to implement the 1962 Lao Education Reform Act. The study was completed in September, 1965 by a survey team from the University of Hawaii. Recommendations included use of the Lao language as the medium of instruction and a curriculum to include a core of general academic subjects together with four elective pre-vocational areas designed to produce responsible citizens with practical skills.

USAID contracted with the University of Hawaii in May, 1967, to provide technical consultation services to implement the recommendations. These services include co-development of curricula, Lao textbooks and teaching materials; in-service training of teachers and administrators; advice to school directors and ministry personnel.

Construction plans were also made in coordination with the curriculum work. Since 1967, four comprehensive high schools have been constructed by USAID and development of a fifth site has been started. The Lao government named each of these schools "Fa Ngum"

in honor of an illustrious king of Laos who first unified the country. The location and the present status of these schools are as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Year School Established</u>	<u>Grades Offered in January '73</u>	<u>Student Enrollment</u>
Vientiane	1967	7 - 12	611
Phone Hong	1969	7 - 10	415
Savannakhet	1970	7 - 9	316
Luang Prabang	1971	7 - 8	202
Pakse	1973	(will open October, 1973)	1,544

Cost of development of each site to USAID includes approximately \$300,000 for construction, and \$100,000 for equipment. The Lao government provides the site, utilities, staff and operating expenses.

Cost of curriculum and textbook development provided by USAID includes approximately \$400,000 annually for the University of Hawaii contract services and a total of about 60 million kip (\$100,000) for translation, writing and printing of textbooks and related materials.

FA NGUM VIENTIANE SCHOOL

The first Fa Ngum school was opened on October 4, 1967 in

Vientiane City. In January, 1973, the eleven-building campus is being further expanded to add needed home economics and industrial arts facilities. A curriculum center/classroom building is also under construction to provide for expansion and innovative curriculum implementation.

A staff of fifty, including several part-time curriculum counterparts who work with the Hawaii team, teach 611 students using experimental and developmental materials produced by the curriculum team. All staff members are Lao except for a few teachers of foreign languages.

The first high school (grade 13) graduating class will take the Lao "baccalaureate" examinations in June, 1974.

The curriculum for Fa Ngum high schools is developed at this pilot school in accordance with the following Ministry of Education approved curriculum design. (Numbers given are the hours of instruction per week for 33 weeks of each school year.)

Fa Ngum Comprehensive Curriculum

<u>Subject</u>	<u>GRADE</u>						
	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>
Lao Language	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Social Studies	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Mathematics	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Science	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
(Total Academic)	(16)	(16)	(16)	(16)	(16)	(16)	(16)
<u>Foreign Languages</u> (choice made in grade 8)							
French	4	6	6	6	6	6	6
English	4						
(Total Foreign Language)	(8)	(6)	(6)	(6)	(6)	(6)	(6)
<u>Practical Areas</u> (choice is made in grade 8)							
Agriculture	1 1/2						
Business	1 1/2	6	6	8	8	8	8
Home Economics	1 1/2						
Industrial Arts	1 1/2						
(Total Practical Arts)	(6)	(6)	(6)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)
Physical Education	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Fine Arts, Student Government, etc.	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
TOTAL:	34	33	33	35	35	35	35

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CONTRACT TEAM

The Hawaii Team has brought a total of seventeen educators from the University of Hawaii and the Hawaii State Department of Education to Laos as advisors. The present staff includes: (dates are arrival in Laos)

Dr. Lucius Butler	(July 1971)	Chief of Party
Dr. Jane Fultz	(July 1971)	Social Studies/Language Advisor
Dr. Leslie Allen	(July 1972)	Science/Math Advisor
Mr. William Rankin	(August 1971)	Industrial Arts Advisor
Mr. Iwao Kumabe	(July 1971)	Business Education Advisor
Miss Dorothy Heieie	(Sept. 1971)	Home Economics Advisor
Mr. Hartwell Blake	(July 1971)	Agriculture Advisor
Mr. Shozun Yamauchi	(July 1967)	Luang Prabang Administrative Advisor
Mr. Ah Chong Zane	(July 1967)	Phone Hong Administrative Advisor
Mr. Francis K. C. Wong	(July 1968)	Savannakhet Administrative Advisor
Mr. John Rantala	(Jan. 1971)	Procurement Advisor

One additional staff member is due on February 1, 1973:

Dr. Arthur Crisfield	(Feb. 1973)	Linguist/Language Advisor
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