



MEETING OF DIRECTORS OR REPRESENTATIVES  
OF SCHOOLS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Agenda Item No. 4

DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TEACHING,  
THE FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH, THAILAND

by

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In Thailand Post-graduate and Undergraduate Courses in Public Health are available only at the Faculty of Public Health, Bangkok. Since 1948, the Faculty was established within the University of Medical Sciences. In 1969 the name of the University has been changed to Mahidol University with a new policy to expand its activities to be as a general University. The Mahidol University is a State university, the line of administration is under the Office of the Prime Minister.

At the beginning only one course was offered, the M.P.H. course, for medical officers. Later on Diploma of Sanitary Science, Public Health Nursing and B.Sc. in Sanitary Science courses were added.

During 1965 - 1967, three more courses were added, namely: B.Sc. in Health Education, B.Sc. in Public Health Nursing and B.Sc. in Nutrition.

In 1969, the B.Sc. in Occupational Health has been added. This course is prepared toward the needs of Thailand in the near future according to the rapid industrialization of the country.

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The first five-year plan for development

The Faculty of Public Health has designed its five-year development plan which started in 1965. The objective is to develop the Faculty to meet the standard of teaching institution in Public Health, in its teaching, researches and services. There were some changes which may be summarized as follows:

1. Establishment of new courses in the field of Public Health to producing well qualified para medical personnel to meet the needs of the country.

2. Increasing the magnitude of student body and staff members.  
(Table I)

3. Curriculum revision has been done many times. There was an attempt at introducing more of Social Sciences, Economics and Administration into the curricula of all courses.

4. Until 1967, the candidates for the M.P.H. course had to be physicians. At the present the course is offered to Doctors in Dentistry and Doctors in Veterinary Medicine as well.

5. Field training has been more used since 1965 for training the students. Team approach in Field Training has been introduced. The students were arranged to work in health teams consisting of various categories. During six weeks of the field training in rural areas, the students would have the opportunity to learn about community diagnosis, programme planning, team work operation and evaluation process. In 1968 and 1969 the field training had been improved both in training and supervision aspects.

6. Physical facilities and equipment for teaching and research have been increased. From the Government budget, one six-storey building was constructed in 1967. The Audio-Visual aids for teaching were supplied by UNICEF as well as other equipment. SEATO Medical Laboratory furnished some more equipment for Virological Research within the Department of Microbiology.

7. Since 1965 more than 30 staff members received grants for training abroad with the assistance from USAID, WHO, Colombo Plan Population Council, and other organizations. The teaching quality has been raised up because of the well-trained faculty members.

8. In 1967 the Centre for Population and Social Research was established in the new wing of the Faculty of Public Health. The centre has been supported by the Rockefeller Foundation through the Carolina Population Centre of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The purpose is to perform researches in population dynamics, demography and other aspects concerning the population problems of Thailand. The personnel of the centre are mostly assigned from the Faculty members. They are responsible also in teaching students of the Faculty of Public Health especially in the fields of population dynamics, demography and family health.

9. Some new methods of training have been introduced in the teaching programmes, for example: workshop, simulation etc., especially in the Health Education Course.

#### The second five-year plan for development

From 1970 the second five-year plan will be started. With the assistance from the above mentioned organizations the development of the Faculty of Public Health will be as follows:

##### 1. Institutional Development

a. The training programmes abroad for junior staffs of the Faculty are still continuing every year to 1972. The programmes will be in the fields of health administration, programme management, demography, biostatistics, social sciences, health education and communication, M.C.H. and public health nursing.

b. There will be long and short term consultants from a U.S. University through USAID programme visiting at the Faculty of Public Health throughout five years. The consultants will assist the Heads of the Department and administrators in revisions of curriculum and improvement of

teaching technology. Research and evaluation components will be also strengthened.

2. Establishment of two permanent training and experimental areas, for community and family health programmes, one in Bangkaen District near Bangkok, and one in Soong Noen District, Nakorn-Rajshasima Province 150 miles northeast of Bangkok.

At Bangkaen District, the census was done in 1967 and some research projects have been going on actively at the Centre for Population and Social Research.

At Seong Noen District, buildings will be constructed in early 1970 including dormitory, class rooms, offices and teacher's quarters. Experimental areas will be designed in the future to establish standard models for operation of community and health services.

These two areas will be used for training and research purposes for at least five years.

3. Physical facilities and Equipment. From the Government budget, one six-storey building will be constructed in 1970. This building will be used as class rooms, audio-visual aids, laboratories, computer section and the office of the Centre for Population and Social Research.

The Faculty of Public Health is attempting to up-grade its programmes to meet the standard of Schools of Public Health. According to the demands of health personnel for development of the country and the shortage of medical doctors, para-medical personnel production must be emphasized at the present. Continuing or advanced programmes of training up to Doctorate level cannot be done at this moment.

TABLE I

STUDENT BODY AND STAFF MEMBERS  
THE FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH, THAILAND  
1965 - 1970

Year									Total	Staff Mems.
	M.P.H.	B.Sc. (San.)	Dip. (San.)	B.Sc. (PHN)	Dip. (PHN)	B.Sc. (H.E.)	B.Sc. (Nut.)	B.Sc. (Oc.H.)		
1965-66	30	27	43	-	60	31	-	-	191	55
1966-67	29	32	35	9	70	70	36	-	281	67
1967-68	21	37	47	6	98	93	79	-	381	82
1968-69	19	40	42	22	111	98	98	-	430	94
1969-70	15	39	39	30	128	111	96	7	465	104
Total	114	175	206	67	467	403	309	7	1748	