

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

**SEVENTH MEETING OF DIRECTORS  
OR REPRESENTATIVES OF SCHOOLS  
OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

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**Progress reports and highlights of the  
development in public health teaching/  
research/community services since the  
last meeting at Manila in 1975**

**By**

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**A. Name**

School of Public Health  
Seoul National University  
Seoul, Korea  
Established in 1959

**B. Academic staff**

Number of teaching staff:

Full time: 17

Part time: 4

Double appointment from within the University : 6

Lecturers from outside the University : 11

All Koreans

**C. Student body**

Duration of course :

Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) : 2 years

Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.) : 3 years

Certificate in Public Health Nursing (C.P.H.N.) : 1 year

Number of students

	<u>M.P.H.</u>	<u>Dr.P.H.</u>	<u>C.P.H.N.</u>
number graduated, academic year 1973/74	51	-	36
number graduated, academic year 1974/75	53	-	37
new enrolment, academic year 1975/76	33	3	43
total number studying, academic year 1976/77	87	3	39

All students are Koreans

**D. Teaching activities**

**1. New teaching activities:**

- during academic year 1974/75 : None
- during academic year 1975/76 : Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.) Program

Certificate course in Hospital Administration is to be established as of 1st March 1977 and expected number of students is 20

**2. Teaching activities**

M.P.H. :

<u>Specialized field</u>	<u>Courses offered</u>
Biostatistics	9
Environmental Health	9
Epidemiology	9
Health Education	10
Maternal and Child Health	10
Public Health Administration	9
Public Health Nursing	9
Public Health Nutrition	9

Dr.P.H.: Each student majors in one of the above specialized field.

C.P.H.N.: Enrolled in two semesters in general public health and public health nursing.

#### **E. Research activities**

Major on-going research programs are:

1. A study on the major problems in environmental health and it's improvement plan in Chunseong-gun area.
2. Health survey on the inhabitants of Chunseong-gun area.
3. A study on underutilization of health infrastructure.
4. A study on the behavioral aspects of people's attitudes, beliefs and motivation in the use of health services in rural Korea.
5. A study on adjustment of school life through group guidance in elementary school.
6. Health insurance plan in rural Korea: Experiences in Chunseong-gun Kangwon-do.

#### **F. Service activities**

The School has been carrying out a community health project in a rural area, Chunseong County of Kangwon Province since 1972. The main objectives of the project are: 1) to develop a demonstration model for community health services applicable to rural communities of Korea, 2) to provide opportunities for students to be trained through the well-organized program, and 3) to carry out researches to identify problems related to health services.

Initially, the project started with traditional public health service programs such as maternal and child health, family planning, communicable diseases control, environmental health, and health education, etc. The services being rendered to the community are primarily provided at the health subcenters.

With the progress of the project, other additional components were introduced to strengthen the community health services through approaching the needs of the community. One is medical care services through community health insurance scheme and another one is an experimental program for providing health services through mothers' clubs in the area. The principal ideas and progress of the additional two programs are as follows:

(1) Community health insurance plan:

The health insurance plan was considered from the beginning of the project to be a possible means for strengthening the community health services. Input to this supplementary undertaking came from both the School and the local community members.

The School had a keen interest in the development of a community based, self-supporting voluntary health insurance plan as an alternative mode of providing medical care at a reasonable cost to each family in the rural community. The latter, in the meantime, felt strongly that some measure was necessary which would assure them of accessibility to high quality, low cost medical care when they needed it.

A preliminary health survey conducted from July through August, 1972, showed that 80 percent of the residents were eager to have some program to meet their need for curative health services. Demand for medical services was so high that the School came to the decision to create a comprehensive health service program by integrating a health insurance scheme into the ongoing preventive health services.

An executive committee was organized on behalf of the public benefit consisting of 10 elected members from among the village leaders, and 5 appointed members. At the initial stage the plan had 4,276 enrollees out of 721 households in one township. The membership has been increasing and the covering area also expanding year by year ever since.

The plan belongs to the people of the community, while the School is responsible for technical advice on the operation, and for partial financial support in terms of payment for three personnel employed by the plan.

Enrollment is based on the family unit. Membership dues is on a capitation basis, W 500 (1 U.S. Dollar) per member per year in the first year. This can be paid on a monthly installment. Now it is raised to W 100 (20 U.S. cents) per member per month.

Supplementary charges are imposed at the time of service when a member presents himself for care. As this plan is a part of the community health project, the facilities are also open to the non-members in the region. The total expenses are shared by three parties: 50% by the plan, 20% by the referral hospital and 30% by member themselves. Therefore, members are obliged to pay 80 percent of the expenses at the point of discharge, and the health plan immediately reimburses 50 percent of the total cost to a member.

(2) Mothers' club program

The School has been carrying out an experimental program of providing health services through mothers' clubs as an approach to the development of low cost health care delivery system fitted for the situation of rural Korea.

It is believed, based on our past experiences, that the mothers' club system can be one of the most efficient and indispensable approaches in operating a low cost health care system in the rural communities and that the program has strong merit to be continued for further findings.

The mothers' club program was first implemented to test the viability of its utilization as a means for the low cost community based health care delivery system in 1975.

The roles of mothers' clubs leaders in the general community health program are;

- 1) to serve as an information collection system for such data as vital events, morbidity, and patients occurred in the community.
- 2) to provide community members with minor health care services such as home delivery assistance, first aid, and supply of contraceptives, etc.
- 3) to serve as information dissemination channel for health education.
- 4) to promote the community health insurance program by motivating more people to participate and collecting the insurance premium

In the course of performance of the above roles, also naturally emerging are such activities as fund raising, community development programs in general, and neighborhood goodwill promotion campaign, etc.

#### G. Co-operation and collaboration

##### (1) Other schools of public health

There is no other school of public health in Korea. This School did not establish any formal co-operative and collaborative relationship so far either in this region or in the other regions. We only had occasional co-operative or collaborative activities with several other schools of public health in Asia and the United States.



(2) Schools of medicine and schools of health science

- Joint research programmes

We have been carrying out many joint research programmes mainly with the College of Medicine of Seoul National University in Korea. We had have, however, few joint research activities with other schools outside of Korea except several programmes with School of Public Health, University of Michigan and the East-West Communication Institute, University of Hawaii.

- Exchange of professors

We have no established exchange program of professors as yet. In 1976, two staff members made short terms observation trip to the Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand.

- Exchange of students

We had accepted only one population intern from the School of Public Health, University of Michigan in the years 1975 & 1976.

- Exchange of teaching materials

Nothing special.

- Exchange of books and documents

Nothing special except ordinary library functions.

- Strong disciplines ready to offer co-operation and collaboration

This School has build up its strong capacity in the fields of population, family planning and the health administration in the past decade. Comparatively abundant research materials and programme data in the above fields will enable us to provide co-operation and collaboration if requested.

- The disciplines wanted to receive co-operation and collaboration

The receipt of co-operation and collaboration in the enviromental engineering field is desirable at the moment in order to meet the local needs.

- Membership of associations

This School does not hold any formal association membership either nationally or internationally.

H. Objectives

- Teaching and training

As a unique school of public health in Korea, this School has produced most of the public health professionals with M.P.H. degrees to work in the Ministry of Health and other national as well as voluntary public health organizations.

Refresher training and continuing education programmes have been continuously carried out by this School to equip the local public health professionals with the up-to-date knowledge and techniques.

Special training programmes have been also held to provide needed knowledge to the public health leaders in Korea.

- Research

The School has been carrying out many researches in various disciplines in public health such as population, family planning, MCH, environmental sanitation, epidemiology, nutrition, nursing, and so forth. We also provide various research institutions with developed research methodologies. Most of the staff members have been involved in various research activities as consultant or advisor.

- Service

Although service is not the main objective, we have been carrying out an experimental health care delivery program in a rural area for a population of about 30,000 in order to develop an ideal health care delivery system that best fits the local situations.

Provision of consultation and advices on the national health planning and research activities is another category of service being provided by the School.

**I. Plan for reorganization and restructure**

No plan of major reorganization or restructure is considered in the near future. However a plan of establishment of an individual department of hospital administration within the School is in the process of development.