

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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Summary Report on Progress made by the Faculty of Public Health,
Mahidol University, Thailand, since the Last Meeting at Manila
in 1975

A. Name

The Faculty of Public Health, one of the 12 faculties and 2 institutes in Mahidol University is the only school of Public Health in Thailand. It was established in 1946, and started to produce since 1948 various categories of health personnel for the Ministry of Public Health, other governmental and private health agencies.

B. Academic Staff

At the present time, the Faculty of Public Health has a total of 131 full-time teaching staff (approximately 7 % with a doctoral degree, with a masters degree and 25 % with a bachelors degree) Another 20 instructors are still studying abroad. Since Public Health is a vast field, we also have recruited another 164 part-time special lecturers to meet the needs for teachers of various curricula. In addition, there are 94 supporting staff such as typists, accountants, clerks etc. Although the school already has 3 big buildings, in 1976 the Thai Government gave a budget of 12 million bahts to build the fourth building (6 stories high with a big 400 seat auditorium). The faculty : student rate is 1:3.

C. Student Body

Since 1948, the Faculty of Public Health has produced various kinds of health personnel at the associate degree level (diploma level), bachelors degree level, and masters degree level. Each student usually spends 1-2 year at the Faculty of Public Health prior to his or her graduation. From 1948 to 1975, the Faculty has graduated 4,375 health workers who now work in all of the 71 provinces in Thailand. The total number of graduates from 1973 to 1976 classified according to various curricula are shown in Table I, including the total number of

students in the academic year 1976-77 who will graduate in April 1977. The new enrollment of Public Health students in the academic year 1975-76 and those who graduated at the end of 1 year's study are shown in Table II. It was interesting to note that the dropout rate was about 9 % in 1 academic year. Usually most of the dropouts would occur in the first few weeks of school mainly due to their inability to get a leave of absence from their agencies.

In 1976, the Faculty of Public Health has offered for the first time in its history a 1 year international course (Masters of Public Health in Urban Health) for physicians, dentists^{/or} veterinarians. All subjects were taught in English. The SEAMEO-sponsored students were 11 i.e. 6 from Thailand, 3 from Indonesia, 2 from the Philippines. All of them will graduate in March of this year. More foreign students are expected this year.

D. Teaching Activities

1. New Teaching Activities

No new degree programmes or disciplines were added during the academic year 1974-75, and 1975-76.

In 1976-77, The M.P.H. in Urban Health Course (an international course) was started as mentioned above. It is expected that the number of foreign students will increase gradually from 11 to 25 per year over the next few years.

In 1977-78, the school will open 1 new masters degree programme 2 bachelors degree programmes, and 1 certificate programme as follows:

(1.1) Master of Sciences in Public Health (M.S.P.H.)

for non-D personnel in the following areas: health education, nutrition, public health nursing, environmental health, infectious disease control, and family health. This^{/new} curriculum was developed because of the needs expressed by various health agencies, and it was made possible

through the joint efforts of the Faculty of Public Health and the Graduate School of Mahidol University. Thirty (30) graduate students will enroll in May 1977. It will take about 2 years to complete the course of studies and thesis requirement.

(1.2) Diploma in Public Health Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)

In the National Health Plan of Thailand (1977-81) the Faculty of Public Health will be responsible for training 1,400 Public Health Nurse-Nurse Practitioner (PEN-NP) for the Ministry of Public Health. In May, 1977 140 Nurse Practitioners N.P. will be enrolled in the one year course.

(1.3) Bachelor of Sciences in Public Health with concentration in Health Education, Nutrition, etc.

This is a two years course which used to be offered, but was closed down by previous Dean 2 years ago. This program will give an opportunity to school teachers and nurses with only 10 years of primary and secondary education to receive a higher education. The enrollment in May 1977 is expected to be 50.

(1.4) Certificate in Environmental Health

The Health Department of Bangkok Metropolis has requested our school to train 60 auxiliary health workers per year. The duration of study is 6 months at our school and 3 months of field practice. The first group of trainees will start in March 1977. These graduates will become health inspectors in the urban area. Besides these new or revised programmes, various departments have planned to offer summer courses during April and first 2 weeks of May 1977. Soong Nern Research and Training Centre, in the North East of Thailand, also will offer for the first time several courses in community development, rural health care, etc.

E. Research Activities

Research study has been encouraged by providing financial support to senior and junior teaching staff. Besides research funds from US Army SEATO lab., Mahidol University, National Research Council of Thailand, our school also received China Medical Board support. For the past year, we have had 12 research projects from 8 departments going on in Bangkok and in rural areas with China Medical Board funds (\$30,000/year for 3 years)

Some other big projects are as follows:

- 1) Village Volunteer in Family Planning Project (1975-77) is funded by International Development Research Center (IDRC), Canada (\$42,500)
- 2) Health and Hygiene Project (1977-80) is a study of the establishment of health volunteers working under local health workers in 80 districts in Thailand. This joint study with the Ministry of Public Health and the Private sector Community Based Family Planning Service (CLFPS) is supported by U.S. by U.S. Agency for International Development (\$ 1.5 million)
- 3) Rural Integrated Development Project
This field study will be carried out in Chana District, Songkhla Province in the southern part of Thailand and in Soong Nern District, Nakorn Rajsima Province in the North East (N.E.) of Thailand. The project attempts to develop Health, Agriculture, and Education at the village level through cooperatives and volunteers. This 3 years study will be funded by UNICEF.
- 4) Study on Vasectomized and NON-Vasectomized Men in Rural Thailand
Over 500 persons have already been interviewed. It was funded by ICARP.

- 5) Production of Biogas (Methane) from Animal Manure. This study has been going on in 69 villages in the central region of Thailand.
 - 6) A study on Air Pollution in Bangkok
 - 7) A study on Water Pollution at the Pattaya Beach Resort
 - 8) A study on Village Medical "Quacks" in the Central and North East regions of Thailand
 - 9) Dengue Hemorrhagic fever and Japanese Encephalitis studies
- In summary, research studies are moving ahead in almost all departments.

F. Services Activities

In term of Community Health Services, we have the following:

- 1) Family Health Clinic twice per week at Bangkhen, a suburb of Bangkok.
- 2) Dental Health clinic at Soong Nern District Hospital once per week.
- 3) Nutrition clinic at the Faculty of Public Health, twice per week.
The service is directed at the prevention and detection of coronary heart disease and hypertension at its earliest stages.
- 4) Soong Nern Community Service Activities
Our teaching staff at Soong Nern Research and Training Centre also have helped to train local health workers in various disciplines of Public Health
- 5) Training of various levels of Administrative health workers in Health Planning and Hospital Administration
This is also considered as another type of community service directed at the providers of health care. These activities were done twice last year and financially supported by WHO

G. Cooperation and Collaboration

(1) With other schools of Public Health

The Faculty of Public Health has already signed an agreement of cooperation for 5 years with the School of Public Health, University of Hawaii. A similar relationship with Columbia University is being sought. The schools of Public Health in our region have been contacted for closer ties in the near future.

(2) With Medical Schools and Schools of Health Sciences

In Thailand, our Faculty taught in various nursing schools, medical schools, and other faculties as well. Joint research programmes have been carried out in a few cases. Other exchanges are not done except for affiliated libraries.

For foreign schools, we contacted the School of Health Sciences, University of Tokyo in 1976 and hope to have some joint research projects and exchange of students in the near future.

(3) Strong Departments in Faculty of Public Health which are ready to offer cooperation and collaboration

Some of these strong departments are:

Health Education Department, Public Health Nursing Department, and Nutrition Department.

(4) Departments in Faculty of Public Health which would like to receive cooperation and collaboration from other schools

The important areas are Epidemiology, Public Health Administration, 3 departments in the environmental health area, Maternal Child and Family Health Dept., etc.

Associations of which Faculty of Public Health or a department is a member or an associate member

None, Some teaching staff are individual members of the Thailand Medical Asso. The American Medical Association, The American Public Health Association, etc.

H. Objectives

1.1 Mission

The Faculty of Public Health is an academic institution whose roles are to provide university level education, research activities, and service in the field of Public Health in order to satisfy the needs and demands of Thai society. In addition, it aims to promote Public Health technology and maintain academic standards at the highest possible level. Thus, the Faculty is determined to search for teaching-learning activities and to disseminate Public Health skills and knowledge so that ultimate goal of training conscientious Public Health personnel with high intellectual capacity and commitment will be achieved.

Objectives:

1. To teach and train various categories of Public Health personnel according to the Royal Thai Government National Health Plan.
2. To perform research concerning new Public Health approaches and/or important Public Health problems in Thailand.
3. To give Public Health consultations to all who request it in the Public and Private sectors.
4. To provide Community Health services when needed.

1.2 Our Manpower Development Plan (Table 3) was prepared in conjunction with Mahidol University's Development Plan and the National Health Plan. Therefore, the health personnel produced fit well with the national health programmes.

2. Our main contribution to the national health and manpower planning and development (1977-1981) is to provide the Ministry of Public Health and other ministries with the following:

- (1) Public Health Nurse-Nurse Practitioners (1,400 FHN-NP) who will help to provide medical care services in rural areas which still lack Physicians.
 - (2) Competent Public Health personnel at provincial and district levels who will supervise the work of auxiliary health workers at sub-district and village levels.
 - (3) Competent Public Health-minded school teachers (in primary and secondary education schools) who will ingrain their students with correct and proper health attitudes and behavior.
3. Our relationships with the Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense and other public and private organizations are in excellent order.

I. Plans to Reorganize and Restructure the School

In April 1976, the entire faculty elected me (Debhanom Muangman, M.D.) as the Dean. During my 4 year term (1976-80) as the Dean of the Faculty of Public Health, I have already done and also plan to do as follows.

(1) Reorganization of the Dean's Office (Fig. 1)

Besides 1 Deputy Dean, 4 Assistant Deans were appointed to relieve the heavy load of the Dean in the following areas:

- a) Planning and Development of the Faculty
- b) Academic Affairs
- c) Student Affairs
- d) General Administration

The Deputy Dean also helps to look after all 4 areas listed above.

(2) To Attain Functional Integration among some Departments with Similar backgrounds

The Faculty of Public Health has 12 departments and some of them have similar backgrounds such as Sanitary Sciences Dept., Occupation Health Dept., and Sanitary Engineering Dept. Conflicts have developed in terms of duplication in teaching and research.

The approach at the present time is to try to promote functional integration in both aforementioned areas. Joint projects of teaching and research have been developed and implemented. However, we will have to wait to see the outcome of this new approach.

Fig. 1 Detailed Organization Chart of Faculty of Public Health

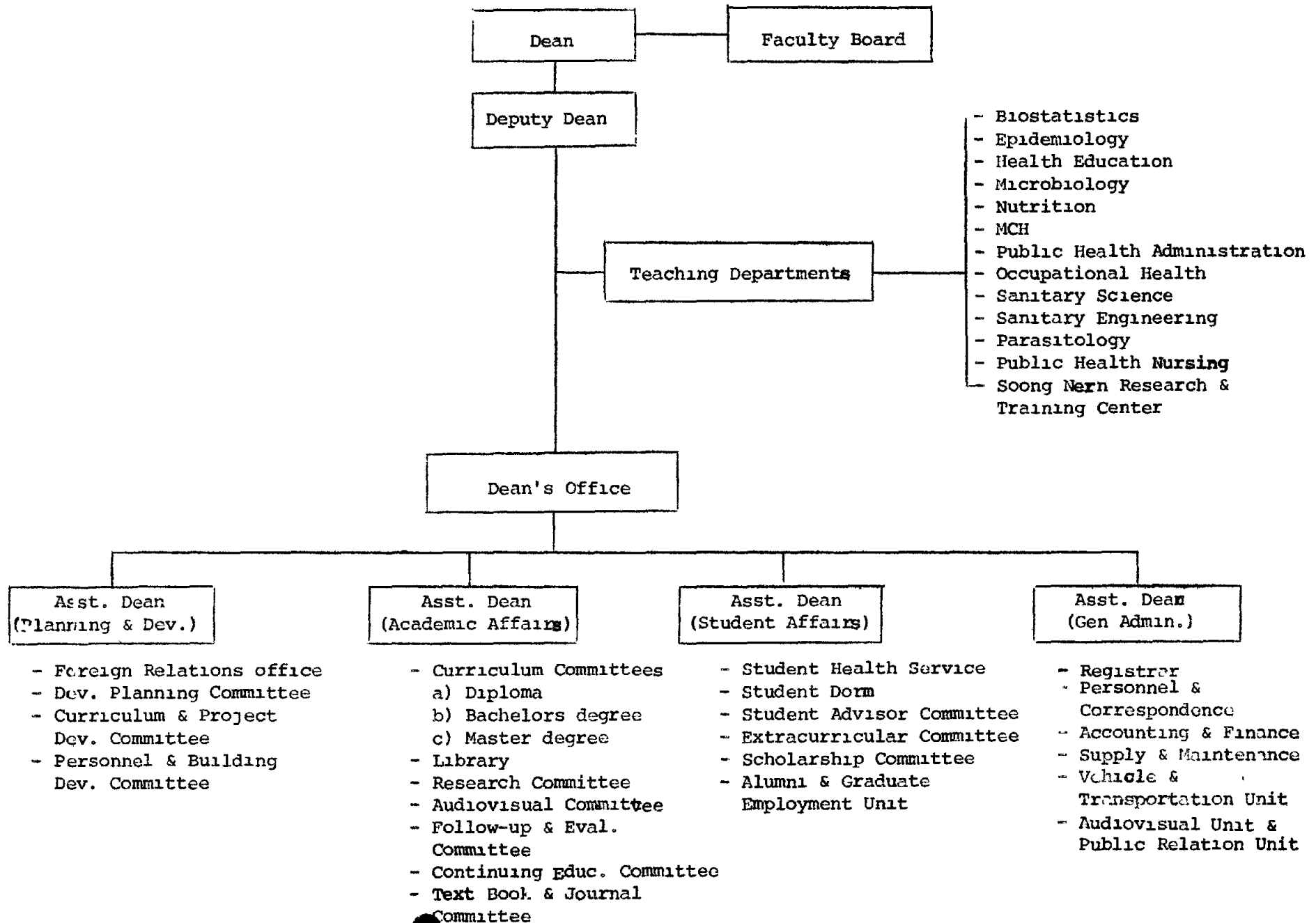


Table 1 Various Categories of the Graduates, from the Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Thailand from 1974 to 1976

| Curriculum | Duration of Study (yrs) | Academic Year | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | 1973-74 | 1974-75* | 1975-76 | 1976-77** |
| <u>I. Master Degree Programs</u> | | (14) | (15) | (15) | (27) |
| 1.1 MPH (general Public Health or hospital admin.) | 1 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 16 |
| 1.2 MPH (Urban Health)*** | 1 | - | - | - | 11 |
| <u>II. Bachelor Degree Programs</u> | | (228) | (135) | (186) | (151) |
| 2.1 B.Sc. (Health Ed.) | 1-2 | 35 | 59 | 53 | 8 |
| 2.2 B.Sc. (Nutrition of Diet.) | 1-2 | 45 | 36 | 34 | 11 |
| 2.3 B.Sc. (San. Sciences) | 2 | 56 | 36 | 35 | 33 |
| 2.4 B.Sc. (Occup. Health) | 2 | 12 | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| 2.5 B.Sc. (P.H. Nursing) | 2 | 80 | 40 | 59 | 90 |
| <u>III. Diploma Programs</u> **** | | (129) | (133) | (179) | (199) |
| 3.1 Dip. in PHN (general public health) | 1 | 116 | 113 | 159 | 150 |
| 3.2 Dip. in PHN (nurse practitioner) | 1 | 13 | 20 | 20 | 49 |
| Total | | 371 | 323 | 380 | 377 |

* Since 1974, Faculty of Public Health has temporarily closed down B.Sc. (HE) and B.Sc. (NUT. & Dietetics) for school teachers

** These students will graduate in April 1977

*** This course is taught entirely in English having 11 SEAMEO-sponsored students (3 students from Indonesia, 2 students from Philippines, and 6 students from Thailand)

**** It is equivalent to Associate Degree.

Table 2 New Enrollment of Students at Faculty of Public Health,
Mahidol University in the academic year 1975-76 and their
drop out rates in 1 year

| Curriculum | 1975 - 76 | | Drop out Rate |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| | No. of Students enrolled in 1975 | No. of Students graduated in 1976 | |
| <u>I. Master Degree Programs</u> | | | |
| M.P.H. | 16 | 15 | 6 % |
| <u>II. Bachelor Degree Programs</u> | | | |
| 2.1 B.Sc.(Health Ed.) | 55 | 53 | -* |
| 2.2 B.Sc.(Natr of Diet.) | 40 | 34 | - |
| 2.3 B.Sc.(San. Sciences) | 36 | 35 | - |
| 2.4 B.Sc.(Occup. Health) | 5 | 5 | - |
| 2.5 B.Sc.(P.H. Nursing) | 64 | 59 | 8 % |
| 2.6 Third Year Public Health students | 53 | -* | |
| <u>III. Associate Degree Programs</u> | | | |
| 3.1 Dip. in PHN (general Public Health) | 180 | 159 | 12 % |
| 3.2 Dip. in PHN (N.P.) | 20 | 20 | 0 % |
| Total | 469 | 380 | 6.5 % |

* Cannot calculate because of different cohort groups.

Table 3 Annual Targets of Public Health Graduates at the Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Thailand, 1977-1981

| Curriculum | Duration of Study (yrs) | 1977 | 1978 | 1979 | 1980 | 1981 | Total |
|--|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| I. Master Degree Programs: | | | | | | | |
| 1. MPH | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 MPH (Public Health or Hospital Admin.) | 1 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 125 |
| 1.2 MPH (Urban Health) (1) | 1 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 125 |
| 2. M.Sc. (Biostat) | 2 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 25 |
| 3. M.S.P.H. (2) | 2 | 30 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 230 |
| Total | | 85 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 505 |
| II. Bachelor Degree Programs: | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 B.Sc. (Public Health) | | | | | | | |
| Program-I (3) | 2 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 500 |
| Program-II (4) | 2 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 500 |
| 2.2 B.Sc. (PHN) | 2 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 350 |
| Total | | 270 | 270 | 270 | 270 | 270 | 1,350 |
| III. Associate Degree Programs: | | | | | | | |
| <u>Diploma in PHN</u> | | | | | | | |
| (1) General Public Health | 1 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 250 |
| (2) Nurse Practitioner | 1 | 140 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 315 | 1,400 |
| Total | | 190 | 365 | 365 | 365 | 365 | 1,650 |
| Grand Total | | 545 | 740 | 740 | 740 | 740 | 3,505 |

(1) International course in English

(2) Master of Sciences in Public Health for paramedical personnel

(3) For those who finish 12 years of schooling + 2 years at Faculty of Sciences, Mahidol University

(4) For those with 10 years of schooling + 3½ years at nursing schools or 4 years at teacher's college