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**TRIP REPORT: VISIT TO ASIAN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY TO
DISCUSS REGIONAL MANAGEMENT
TRAINING COURSES**

SEPTEMBER 25 - 29, 1993

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FAMILY PLANNING MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT

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CONTENTS

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
II. BACKGROUND, PURPOSE, AND SCOPE OF WORK	2
III. ACTIVITIES	3
IV. FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTION	3
ANNEX 1: LIST OF PERSONS CONTACT	4
ANNEX 2: SCHEDULE OF MEETING	4

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This brief visit to Thailand was arranged directly following Steve Reimann's assignment in Nepal for FPMD in September 1993. In Bangkok, Steve Reimann met with Abu Sayeed, Program Director of the Bangladesh Local Initiatives Program (LIP). Together they visited the School of Management at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) to discuss with its senior staff, the possibility of holding training courses for LIP participants at the institute.

The following agreements were reached:

- Two 3-week courses on Program Management for Family Planning Managers will be held in 1994. The provisional dates are February 14 - March 4 (later changed to May 2 - May 27) and October 3 - 21. In addition, two courses will be held in 1995 at dates to be arranged later.
- Management Sciences for Health (MSH) and AIT will explore further collaborative projects over the next 12 months, such as, other short courses, joint research activities, and the incorporation of family planning/population issues into existing AIT courses. Terms and conditions of collaboration will then be agreed on.
- AIT will provide their training rooms and hotel accommodation for FPMD/MSH training at the same costs they charge AIT departments.
- As the next step, FPMD/MSH will obtain internal Management Committee approval and will write a formal letter to the Director of the School of Management at AIT outlining the agreements described above.

II. BACKGROUND, PURPOSE, AND SCOPE OF WORK

FPMD and LIP have identified the need for family planning program management training for a select group of districts and thana family planning officials responsible for managing services in their respective areas. FPMD/MSH is looking for a training site in the region where LIP family planning managers can join counterparts from other countries in a training experience and visit another country's programs. The purpose of the visit was to assess the AIT campus as a possible venue for regional training and to discuss possible FPMD/MSH collaboration with Professor Jyoti Gupta, Director of the School of Management, and with Dr. Nawaz Sharif, Professor at the School of Management.

III. ACTIVITIES

Steve Reimann and Abu Sayeed met with Professor Jyoti Gupta and Dr. Nawaz Sharif and toured the campus to inspect training and participant facilities. They discussed mechanisms to establish a collaborative relationship between FPMD/MSH and AIT.

IV. FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTION

AIT has a reputation as a premier regional center for management development. Furthermore, AIT's legal status within Thailand, as an institution established by Royal Decree with international privileges, enables foreign faculty and consultants to have visas issued automatically by the Thai government.

The attractive campus is situated near the airport on extensive grounds. Facilities include excellent training, accommodation and leisure facilities. A cafeteria on campus provides all necessary meals and campus shops stock all basic needs. Banking and mail facilities also exist. The journey to the center of Bangkok takes about two hours during work hours but less at night. Taxis and buses are usually readily available at the campus.

Agreement was reached between AIT and FPMD/MSH to develop a long term relationship to cover family planning training and research activities. AIT will treat FPMD/MSH as an internal client giving FPMD/MSH prices at a significant reduction to those charged to external clients. The relationship will develop by holding two courses during 1994 (in May and October). The courses will be taught by FPMD/MSH staff but AIT might assist with future courses. Based on the 1994 experience, a program of activities for 1995 and beyond will be developed.

The dates agreed upon for 1994 are February 14 - March 4 (later changed to May 2 - May 27) and October 3 - 21. The price agreed upon for the training rooms is 1100 Baht for a large room and 900 Baht for a small room - \$44 and \$36 per day, respectively, and for double bedrooms is 1250 Baht/day for new rooms and 990 Baht/day for old rooms - \$50 and \$40/day, respectively.

As a next step, FPMD/MSH will obtain internal Management Committee approval and will write a formal letter to the Director of the School of Management at AIT outlining the agreements described above.

ANNEX 1: LIST OF PERSONS CONTACT

- Professor Jyoti Gupta, Director, School of Management, Asian Institute of Technology
- Dr. Nawaz Sharif, Professor, School of Management, Asian Institute of Technology

ANNEX 2: SCHEDULE OF MEETING

- September 25: • Arrive Bangkok
- September 26: • Meeting between Steve Reimann and Abu Sayeed
- September 27: • Meeting with Dr. Sharif, AIT
 • Meeting with Professor Gupta, AIT
 • Meeting between Steve Reimann and Abu Sayeed
- September 28: • Meeting between Steve Reimann and Abu Sayeed
 • Depart Bangkok