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**Tribhuvan University / Boston University
University Development Linkages Project
Agreement No. DAN-A-00-1113-00**

Quarterly Report
30 July 1994

I. Statement of Accomplishments

There are a number of significant accomplishments to report for the past quarter. Mr. Ramjee Pathak arrived in Boston in early July as part of the faculty exchange program. During his stay at Boston University he has been working closely with Rich Feeley, the Chief Operating Officer for The Center For International Health, to develop a BU/TU health management seminar. The seminar will be held in Katmandu in late August for TU master's students, faculty, NGO representatives and MOH representatives.

The student exchange program which had been temporarily suspended at the beginning of the year is now completing its mission successfully. This past quarter two BU master students, Miriam Messinger and Heidi Queen, completed their studies in Nepal.

II. Ongoing and Completed Activities

Objective I: Guide the evolution of the Linkage

Planned activities under this objective were to support the overall flow of Linkage activities. This has been achieved. Planning has begun for the next steering committee meeting which will either be December 1994 or January 1995 in Kathmandu.

Objective II: Manage the Linkage project

The subcontract renewal process has been completed with a modified subcontract signed and in place at both universities. The subcontract is effective through September 29, 1996.

PMT members on both campuses found themselves very busy during the last quarter with both Linkage related activities as well as other responsibilities. As a result, funds and financial reports have not flowed as smoothly as in past quarters. It appears at this time that both the BU and TU PMT are back on track and anticipate no further delays in reporting or transferring of funds.

Unfortunately, the fax machine in the Department of Community Medicine and Family Health at TU has been broken for receiving faxes for the last two months. This has made communication between the two universities very difficult. BU has had to use international express mail and an alternative and not very convenient fax machine for communication. We are still exploring how to remedy the fax situation at TU.

The BU project director is now linked into the INTERNET system and can now be reached by AID/Washington and other Linkage members at cih @ bu.edu or areed @ bu.edu.

Objective III: Establish faculty development program

Mr. Pathak arrived in Boston on 1 June 1994 and will be departing on 1 August 1994. During his visit at Boston University, he has been designing a health management training seminar with Mr. Rich Feeley. The seminar will have ten components and will be taught over a two week period at TU in Kathmandu. Mr. Pathak, Mr. Rich Feeley and a number of resident professionals will share the teaching responsibilities of the seminar.

In addition, Mr. Pathak has been investigating different parts of the health education sector in Boston. Since his arrival he has conducted meetings with Ms. Freya Olafson from the City of Boston's Department of Health and Hospitals, Ms. Lissette Blondet from Community Health Education Center, Ms. Rhonda Johnson from AIDS Services, Ms. Linda Pucci from Tobacco Control Program and Ms. Sandra Riley from the Healthy Start program. Along with these professionals from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Mr. Pathak has had a number of meetings with the faculty at Boston University to help strengthen the linkage between the two universities.

Further to these activities, Mr. Pathak spent two days with Mr. Tom Nihan, Commercial Graphic Designer, to discuss health education poster and pamphlet design and layout along with computer graphic design techniques. A copy of Freehand 4.0 will be purchased and sent to TU.. with Mr. Pathak for use in the new educational media lab. In addition, special graphic design layout instruments and supplies will be sent to TU.

Members of the PMT continue to implement outreach campaigns on each campus to alert faculty to Linkage goals and opportunities. Most of this work is informally conducted over the phone at BU and more formally addressed at TU with announcements to the faculty.

Dr. Munroe Proctor, BU Medical School, has had his travel and project proposal approved by TU. The next step of submitting a detailed proposal to AID/Washington and Kathmandu for approval is underway. Proposed travel is scheduled for November and December 1994, however, national elections are scheduled in Nepal for 13 November which could result in some civil unrest. TU & BU will carefully monitor the situation and shift travel schedules accordingly.

BU has proposed and TU has accepted the travel plans of Professor Lois McCloskey, BU School of Medicine, to travel to Kathmandu in November / December. Because of elections Professor McCloskey's travel may be postponed until January 1995.

BU has proposed and TU has accepted travel of Dr. Suzanne Cashman, BU School of Public Health, in February 1995 for 4 weeks to teach health economics and community oriented primary care.

Dr. Govind Sharma, from the TU Teaching Hospital, will travel to BU in September for a six week rotation in Cardiothoracic Surgery and Laproscopic Surgery. He will work with Dr. Richard Shemin, Dr. Robert Weiss and others at the BU Medical School and affiliated University Hospital.

Unfortunately Dr. Maskey's application for the D.Sc. program in Epidemiology was not accepted by the department. The BU PMT has ask the Epidemiology Department Admissions committee to reconsider his application. We are still waiting on a response for a September admission.

Mr. Thapa was accepted to the Summer Certificate Program at Boston University however due to his 460 score on the TOFEL he was unable to travel to Boston. He will re-take the exam and hopefully will join the Management Methods for International

Health training program in February 1995. Upon successful completion of that course his application will be reviewed for acceptance into the MPH program.

TU has proposed sending two faculty members to Boston in October/November. BU has conditionally approved this exchanged yet are waiting on a detailed study plan before full approval can be given

Objective IV: Expand academic resources at TU

Fifty six volumes of books have been purchased and are now housed in the Community Medicine Library and the Central TUTH Library for the use of public health students and faculty.

The estimation for partitions and furnishings for the communication laboratory has been completed and work on the health education laboratory has started.

Prioritizing of equipment, supplies, books, and journals continues in Boston with review and feedback from TU. Purchase and shipping of items is anticipated to now begin in the Fall of 1994.

BU has begun the development process to obtain a van to transport BPH and MSc students to field education sites. Initially we have approached thirty car manufacturers in the United States to donate a van to the project. Unfortunately, the responses to date have not been favorable.

Objective V: Develop public health student exchange program

The outreach campaign to students at BU is communicated through the Center for International Health offices. Faculty and Staff, who have student advising roles, regularly brief MPH students about opportunities in Nepal. In addition the Project Director regularly meets with interested students.

Ms. Miriam Messinger traveled to Nepal during this quarter. She worked with the Institute of Community Health There she observed and collected information on HIV/AIDS education and prevention efforts. Specifically she focused on education and prevention efforts with women and with commercial sex workers in Tikapur district. Prior to the field work, she spent nine days in Kathmandu during which time she visited the government AIDS office, HMG's AIDS Prevention and Control Project, and various non-governmental organizations. Ms. Messinger's preliminary report is being sent to TU, AID/Washington, and AID/Nepal. Both TU and AID/Nepal seemed pleased with Miriam. Miriam too reports a successful and productive trip.

Ms. Heidi Queen's exchange was not as successful as Ms. Messinger's. The original workplan for Heidi which TU, BU, and AID/Nepal all approved did not materialize for a number of reasons. Instead Heidi worked on the Johns Hopkins Vitamin A project. This project seemed to be for Heidi an overall positive placement although not her primary interest in terms of subject matter. AID/Nepal was not pleased about Heidi's placement because the project is AID funded and the Linkage program failed to get approval from AID before placing Heidi on the project. The PMT has discussed this situation with AID/Nepal and an understanding of protocol around alternative student placements has been agreed upon. The BU PMT plans to meet with Heidi upon her return to Boston to discuss the details of her exchange.

Ms. Jane Craycroft continues to analyze data collected during her trip to Nepal. BU expects a completed report by the end of the summer and at that time will circulate the report to AID/Nepal, Washington and TU.

To date no TU students are scheduled to visit BU. TU has proposed sending two exchange students in the Fall of 1994 but this has not been confirmed as it is unclear in what type of activities the students would be interested.

Objective VI: Develop public health research agenda

Ms. Sergut Wolde-Yohannes of the BU School of Public Health together with Dr. Yogendra Pradhananga (TU) are collaborating on the research proposal which will be submitted to Earthwatch for funding. Unfortunately the proposal still has not been submitted to Earthwatch. We hope to submit the proposal by October 1994. Fielding would take place one year after submission.

III. Problems which have mitigated against the achievement of established goals and objectives

The facsimile machine at TU has not been capable of receiving faxes for over two months now. This has seriously affected communication between the two universities.

The TU/BU Linkage program continues to run somewhat behind what was projected in the Annual Workplan. The PMT continues to work very hard to meet planned objectives.

Delay in the submission of the Earthwatch proposal has created a significant set back in the area of developing public health research at TU and BU.

Dr. Sharma's trip was initially delayed as a result of TU Teaching Hospital staff changes. An attempt to reschedule his exchange in June was abandoned because of summer vacation schedules at BU University Hospital. Dr. Sharma is now planning to come to Boston in September.

Ms. Heidi Queen's exchange program did not materialize as planned. As a result, the PMT is reevaluating the student exchange program with only one student exchange planned between now and the next Steering Committee meeting. The student which BU would like to send to TU in the Fall would travel with a BU faculty member and work directly with that faculty member on his proposed research project.

Mr. Thapa was not able to come to Boston for the Summer Certificate Program: Health Care in Developing Countries because of a low score on the TOFEL exam. Boston University has extended an acceptance into the Management Methods for International Health training program scheduled for February 1995 to Mr. Thapa. He plans to re-take the TOFEL exam in the fall.

Dr. Maskey's application for the DSc program in Epidemiology is being re-considered by the Admissions Committee. A September acceptance is still possible. If he is not accepted for September, his application will be submitted for September 1995.

The PMT continues to have a difficult time negotiating mutually acceptable times for TU public health students to travel to BU for training. We hope the first students will come in October 1994.

Report sent to: USAID/Washington, USAID/Kathmandu, USAID Nepal Desk Officer, POL/CDIE/DI, Tribhuvan University