

**Boston University/Tribhuvan University  
University Development Linkages Project  
Agreement no. DAN-5063-A-00-1113-00**

Annual Activity Report  
Year IV  
30 October 1995

I. Activities, problems and progress under each Linkage objective

Objective I: Steering Committee -- Guide the Evolution of the Linkage program.

The SC held its third meeting from January 9 -13, 1995 in Kathmandu. The meeting was very productive and a full report was submitted to USAID as an attachment to the second quarterly report of this year.

With the fourth year of the project completed, the SC's primary responsibility is to take a hard look towards the future. We have already begun to explore outside funding possibilities and are looking for activities which require little direct funding or can be piggy-backed onto pre-existing university activities. At this point there are no major initiatives to report.

Objective II: Manage the Linkage Program.

Communication between the PMT over the last year has varied. In the last couple of months TU has not effectively used the internet system and there is some question at this time as to whether they have access at all. Further complicating the issue of communication, the fax machine, which the department had complete access to during the first three and a half years of the project, is no longer available to the PMT. At this time they are forced to use a commercial fax machine which charges a per page fee to send and receive. A further complication is that this system is dependent upon the commercial machine proprietor to call and report receipt of incoming faxes. Because of this situation, communication between the two universities has been seriously impeded.

Additionally, we have over the last two quarters experienced some difficulties with the wiring of subcontract funds. This situation seems to be a problem on the BU end and we are working to rectify the situation. The difficulties, however have not in anyway disrupted project activities.

The two project directors are working to craft a budget and workplan that extends beyond September 1996 in anticipation of receiving approval from USAID for a no cost extension.

Objective III: Establish Faculty Development Program.

TU

Dr. Yogendra Pradhananga spent the summer at BU. He completed the Earthwatch research proposal and crafted a strategy paper for the development of a School of Public Health in Nepal. This document is now being reviewed on both campuses. Dr. Pradhananga met extensively with BU faculty, local public health professionals, colleagues at the NCIH conference in Washington, and visited the University of Minnesota in his review of the TU curriculum and crafting of the school of public health proposal.

Dr. Mahesh Maskey over the last year has completed all of his course work toward the D.Sc. degree. He is now preparing for comprehensive exams and working on his dissertation. His program of study is expected to end in May 1998.

Dr. Sharma, who participated in a six-week rotation at the BU Medical School, has been working closely with Dr. Bagan from Boston University since January, to establish a neurosurgery program at the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (TUTH) in the Institute of Medicine located in Kathmandu.

Dr. Bagan has been at TUTH since January 1995. During that time he has trained two surgeons, a complete OR team, nursing staff, and ward staff in the area of neurosurgery but also in the management and handling of head and neck injuries to prevent permanent disability. In addition Dr. Bagan has appeared on local Nepalese television to discuss the neurosurgery program at TU.

All of the equipment necessary to get the neurosurgery program started, estimated in excess of \$100,000, was donated as a result of Dr. Bagan's efforts. In addition, Dr. Bagan has been completely self-funded since April of this year.

Dr. Ritu Gartoulla attended the Summer Certificate Program: Health Care in Developing Countries during the summer of 1995. Dr. Gartoulla was a dynamic contributor to that course. His exam scores were high and his enthusiasm unyielding. Additionally, Dr. Gartoulla gathered appropriate teaching materials to enhance his teaching in the BPH and MSc programs at TU.

Mr. Kumar Thapa attended the Summer Certificate Program: Health Care in Developing Countries during the summer of 1995. Mr. Thapa did well on exams and was a constant contributor to all class activities. Mr. Thapa was well liked by faculty and students. His enthusiasm for the class and for his own teaching responsibilities was exemplary. Unfortunately Mr. Thapa was not accepted into the MPH program at BU and therefore was required to return to his teaching post in Nepal at the end of the summer.

Mrs. Sarala Joshi from the TU nursing school faculty completed a six week study visit to BU. During her stay she visited the following facilities or programs: Community Development Services, School of Nursing, Department of Public Health, Foster/Shelter homes for youth at the Department of Youth Services, Visiting Nurse Association, and the emergency unit and nursing school at Carney Hospital. In addition, Mrs. Joshi joined the lectures and activities associated with the Health Care in Developing Countries certificate program. She also fully participated in a two credit course taught by Amanda Reed entitled Women, Development, and Health.

Dr. Munro Proctor (BU) worked with MPH student Michael Anderson (BU) and Mr. Jeevan Serchan (TU) and Mr. Kumar Thapa (TU) conducting a study on risk factors for non-communicable diseases. Dr. Proctor also shared his research findings in a case study teaching format with TU medical students and a group of faculty members from the Department of Community Medicine and Family Health.

Dr. Proctor presented the findings of his research at the 2nd International Health Conference in Spain over the summer. The title of his presentation was: High Prevalence of Rheumatic Heart Disease in Nepal: Increased Streptococcal Infections or Inadequate Treatment? by Dr. Proctor, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Thapa, Mr. Haharjan, and Mr. Scherchan.

Dr. Suzanne Cashman provided training in Health Economics to the three TU faculty members who have teaching responsibilities in this area. In addition she taught a basic Health Economics course to eighteen TU B.P.H. and M.Sc.P.H. students. In addition Dr. Cashman left behind books and teaching materials and has made herself available as an active resource for TU faculty.

Dr. Cashman also spoke at the Nepal Public Health Association meeting on community oriented primary care.

Mr. Frank (Rich) Feeley taught a two week Health Management Training Workshop in late January 1995. The course was co-taught by Dr. Pradhananga and Mr. Pathak from TU, Dr. Sheak from the Department of Drug Administration, and Mr. Satyal from the Nepal CRS company. The course was very well received. The intention is for local faculty to teach a similar course in the future at TU.

Objective IV: Expand Academic Resources at TU Department of Community Medicine and Family Health.

In January 1995 BU shipped to TU the following items: 3 chalkboards with erasers and chalk, 2 dry erase boards with easel pads, erasers, and markers, 3 scientific calculators and 3 projection screens.

We now have 1 slide projector with extra bulbs, 2 overhead projectors with extra bulbs, a computer and printer, along with batteries, surge protectors, computer disks and other miscellaneous pieces of office and classroom supplies. In addition approximately 150

books, journals, and manuscripts are ready for shipping. This shipment represents the last major purchase of books and materials under this linkage.

In addition to the above shipment and past acquisitions, more than 130 volumes of books and 33 sets of reading materials have been placed in the TU Teaching Library and Community Medicine Department Library

Two laboratory rooms, one health education and one group communication, have been constructed and furnished with furniture and equipment.

The goals of this objective have been substantially met as stated in the project workplan.

Objective V: Develop Public Health Student Exchange Program.

Mr. Michael Anderson worked with Dr. Proctor in conducting two small research projects. He also studied and shared his experience and knowledge with TU public health students.

Mr. Mahendra Shrestha a M.Sc.P.H. student and Mr. Durga Das Ulak a B.P.H. student both attended the Summer Certificate Program: Health Care in Developing Countries taught at BU during the summer. Both men did very well in all course work and were significant contributors to class discussion and activities.

Objective VI: Develop Public Health Research Agenda

This is the one area of our linkage project which simply has not gotten off the ground over the last four years. Finally over the summer of 1995, Drs. Pradhananga and Laing with Ms. Reed and Ms. Schlager completed a public health research proposal entitled: "A Baseline Study on Child Care Practices in Bhaktapur Municipality". The proposal is ready for submission to Earthwatch. Unfortunately, however, at this time Earthwatch is not reviewing any new proposals due to financial and institutional instability. We have been told that they are anxious to receive our proposal and just as soon as they are back in full swing, we will be notified.

This is a major set-back for this objective, and for the linkage as a whole, as all Objective VI activities were to be funded by Earthwatch. Furthermore, we had anticipated using the Earthwatch link as a major source of continued funded work between the two universities well after the USAID funds had been terminated.

II. Progress toward ensuring the sustainability of the Linkage

The linkage between BU and TU is a well established one which began almost ten years ago. While there are limited funding possibilities which we have identified to support the linkage in its present format, both universities are strongly committed to continuing to work together with or without funding. The immediate goal is to begin through the use

of the internet. Teaching materials, general announcements, funding opportunities and the like can be easily and cheaply be shared through internet.

The neurosurgery program established by Dr. Bagan will be sustained through an international network of neurosurgeons and through the support of Boston University University Hospital. While at this point no funds have been guaranteed they are possible. However the donation of time and equipment through these sources seems almost guaranteed.

The strategy paper written by Dr. Pradhananga, which outlines the establishment of a School of Public Health in Nepal, will be developed into a proposal which we intend to submit for funding. Should we find sufficient funding to undertake this project, the linkage between the two universities will be much more formal..

### III. Quantitative outputs of the Linkage activities.

- One Steering Committee meeting
- Four BU faculty to TU
- Five TU faculty at BU including Maskey's work
- One BU student
- Two TU students
- All required reporting to USAID
- Two proposals - Earthwatch and SPH proposal

### IV. Assessment of the impact of the Linkage on the internationalization of Boston University

The linkage with TU has certainly added to the already strong sense of internationalization at Boston University. At the completion of the fourth year of the linkage BU finds itself exploring more and more possible linkages with developing world academic institutions including efforts to sustain the linkage with TU. The internet possibilities contribute an exciting dynamic to this exploration.

### V. Assessment of the impact of the Linkage on strengthening Tribhuvan University's capabilities to meet its societal development needs.

The mission of the teaching program at TU is to train public health professionals to serve all the people of Nepal including the neediest and hardest to reach populations. Through the linkage students and faculty alike have had the opportunity to increase their knowledge and skills through various interactions with BU. Now that several TU faculty have furthered their training by studying at BU the students in the BPH and MSc programs should be receiving a richer educational experience. This translates into providing better services to the people of Nepal. Unfortunately at this time we can not actually verify or quantify this impact but feel confident the transfer of knowledge and skills is in fact taking place.

VI. Statement regarding agricultural commodities.

Our Linkage project has not utilized funds for any testing or breeding feasibility study, variety improvement or introduction, consultancy, publication, conference or training in connection with the growth or production in countries other than the United State is an agricultural commodity for export which would compete with a similar commodity grown or produced in the United States.

VII. Travel Requests for Upcoming Quarter

None

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