

During this reporting period, the Center proposed and discussed with PPC/WID the addition of a special, women in development component to its activities, especially those overseas, with AID's Office of Women in Development. On 30 August 1980 a contract amendment was effected to strengthen the WID dimensions of the NFE Information Center's technical assistance activities, to conduct a research project on WID-related inquiries directed to the Center, and to continue to make available WID-related services and materials in its clearing-house activities.

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III. SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT ON PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN CREATING LDC NATIONAL/REGIONAL INFORMATION CENTERS. March 1980-August 1980.

This report focuses on the efforts undertaken by MSU to strengthen the capacity of select NFE resource centers in Africa and Asia. For other activities of the Non-Formal Education Information Center readers are encouraged to read, in particular, Part II of this report.

A. Trip to Potential Sites and Proposals for Collaboration

A trip was taken by MSU and AID personnel to assess sites in Asia and East Africa as possible NFE network links. Results are summarized in this section. Detailed information may be obtained from Report of Trip to Manila, Philippines, Bangkok, Thailand, and Nairobi, Kenya, to Explore and Assess NFE Information Center Linkages, 10 April - 5 May, 1980 by Joan Claffey.

In both regions several organizations known to the U.S. representatives, as well as others suggested by the AID country officers, were visited.

1. Asia

a. Manila, Philippines

In the Philippines Ms. Claffey and Dr. San Giovanni met with representatives from the following organizations: Private Schools National Association in Non-Formal Education (PRISNANFE), Communication Foundation for Asia, University of the Philippines-Los Banos (UPLB), INNOTECH, and Fund for Assistance to Private Education (FAPE).

In consultation with Dr. Angel Quimzon (Education Advisor for USAID/Philippines), Mr. Ed Ploch (USAID/Manila Deputy Program Officer) and Dr. Anthony Schwartzwalder (USAID/Mission Director), Ms. Claffey and Dr. San Giovanni discussed MSU's interest in working with counterpart NFE Centers. All organizations indicated interest in collaborating with MSU and each had its own specific strengths to offer as a possible site.

b. Bangkok, Thailand

In Thailand three organizations were visited: Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Secretariat (SEAMES), Ministry of Education's Non-Formal Education Department, and Chulalongkorn University. Consultation with Mr. Robert Traister (USAID/Bangkok) preceded and followed these visits.

2. East Africa

After meetings with Dr. Brandon Robinson, other AID REDSO/EA staff, Dr. San Giovanni and Ms. Claffey met with representatives of several organizations to discuss the NFE Information Center's interest in establishing a counterpart center in Anglophone Africa. The following organizations were visited: Institute of Adult Studies of the University of Nairobi, Partnership for Productivity, Institute of Development Studies of the University of Nairobi, National Christian Council of Kenya, and Basic Education Resources Center of Kenyatta Univeristy College.

B. Formal Agreements of Cooperation

Institut Africain pour le Developpement Economique et Social (INADES)-Documentation, Abidjan.

While in Abidjan in February 1980 Ms. Claffey, Dr. San Giovanni, Ms. Vial, Director of INADES-Docummentation, and Rev. de Loisy drafted an Umbrella Agreement which covered general areas of common interest and

areas for collaboration. This was fully signed by January 1980 by authorized representatives of both organizations, thus allowing for the subsequent development of specific Task Agreements.

During the visit to INADES it was agreed that the first Task Agreement should provide for two-weeks training at MSU for two representatives of INADES-Documentation. This Agreement was drawn up and signed by MSU and INADES representatives in May, 1980. (See appendix III-A). The Agreement allowed for an opportunity to study the organization and activities of the NFE Information Center, to plan services to development practitioners in Francophone Africa, and to develop additional Agreements to further strengthen resources enabling INADES to meet the requests it receives.

C. In-Service Training at MSU for LDC Center Administrators and Specialists

Institut Africain pour le Developpement Economique et Social (INADES)-Documentation, Abidjan.

Between March and May, 1980 one of the activities of the staff of the NFE Information Center was to prepare for the training visit of Ms. Vial and her assistant, Ms. Aimee Adou. The two INADES representatives were in East Lansing, housed on the MSU campus, from 16 to 27 June 1980. They participated in an intensive study, much of it experiential, of the various operations of the Center: running and maintaining a network, preparing and publishing a newsletter, responding to requests for materials, and considering mechanization of the data base. While Ms. Adou spent additional time familiarizing herself with procedures, Ms. Vial worked with Ms. Claffey to draft additional Activity Agreements. Four more Task Agreements (nos. 2, 3, 4, and 5) were drafted: one to strengthen INADES-Documentation's resource collection, one to expand

and strengthen INADES' letter answering service, one to develop and organize a system so INADES can carry out its role as a regional NFE Center, and one to prepare and distribute a bulletin on non-formal education. (Appendix III-B contains a copy of Ms. Vial's report on the training visit, with a translation.) In July, INADES requested that the activity described in the fifth Agreement be postponed until the organization had an opportunity to identify better the proposed newsletter's target audience.

D. Problems, Recommendation, Plans

1. Francophone Africa

It is clear from our visits and correspondence that there is great interest in and need for the kinds of technical assistance the NFE Information Center is offering. Work with INADES-Documentation is progressing at a rate that organization considers consistent with its management capability.

Although no Agreements were formalized with the Sahel Development Planning Office or the Sahel Institute, the NFE Information Center responded with materials and information requested by Mr. Rifkin and agreed to continue to exchange materials and explore further collaboration.

2. Asia

a. The Philippines and Thailand

In June MSU received a letter of interest and a proposal for the establishment of a counterpart NFE Center at the University of the Philippines-Los Banos (UPLB) from Dr. Obdulia Sison. After discussions and in light of their field assessments, Ms. Claffey and Dr. San Giovanni agreed that UPLB appeared to have the strongest likelihood of serving the NFE-related needs of development planners and practitioners in Asia. MSU and AID concurred with the recommendation that MSU negotiate with UPLB to enter into a formal Agreement of Cooperation leading to the

establishment of a regional NFE Center for Asia. This decision was made nevertheless recognizing the individual strengths of PRISNANFE and the Ministry of Education's Office of Non-Formal Education, INNOTECH, Communication Foundation for Asia, and the Fund for Assistance to Private Education (FAPE), in the Philippines; and the organizations mentioned in Thailand.

3. Anglophone Africa

Of the five organizations considered in Nairobi, the Institute of Adult Studies (IAS) of the University of Nairobi seems most deserving of immediate consideration as a counterpart Center. Partnership for Productivity is also interested in collaboration with MSU. Its scope of work is somewhat more exclusively focused on NFE for work than is that of IAS, however. Most critical to any discussions, however, is an agreement from relevant AID representatives in Kenya to support, in principle, an MSU NFE linkage in Nairobi. To this point, USAID/Nairobi officials have not concurred with REDSO/EA opinion on the desirability of such an activity.

4. Other observations

Several concerns have surfaced as a result of our technical assistance activities between March and September, 1980.

There appears to be a great unmet need for materials and knowledge related to NFE in LDCs. This is evident from the wishes, interest, and requests expressed by various individuals to Dr. San Giovanni, and Ms. Claffey.

Through its modest support of counterpart centers the Non-Formal Education Information Center is attempting to share materials on NFE and development. It is clear that the need for training and development of in-country personnel is critical--not only for identified counterpart Centers but also in many other indigenous and

locally-based organizations. The time and money provided to meet these needs seem woefully inadequate in view of the genuine expression of LDC interest.

Furthermore, the analysis and synthesis of knowledge on non-formal education is the backbone upon which training, publication, validation and exchange must depend. This is currently work being performed by MSU, particularly through the Center's publications such as The NFE Exchange. However critical the task, it may be unrealistic to expect the collaborating centers to develop this capacity in the very short time that they are supported by MSU.

Another theme that emerges from the assessment visits is that the networking so important for sharing materials and knowledge on NFE and development might be more effective if several organizations within a given region were strengthened.

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IV. SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT ON PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN CREATING LDC NATIONAL/REGIONAL INFORMATION CENTERS. September 1980-February 1981.

The technical assistance activities carried out by the MSU Non-Formal Education Information Center between September 1980 and February 1981 are a continuation of activities begun in September 1979, under contract AID, DSPE-C-0046, to strengthen selected organizations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to serve as regional NFE Information Centers. These activities were enriched by an amendment to the MSU NFE Network contract which provides for greater emphasis on women in development (WID). The basic support activities relating to the technical assistance portion of the NFE Network Project are described in Part II of this report.