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**TRIP REPORT:**  
**JHU/PCS VISIT TO THAILAND**

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## Executive Summary

JHU/PCS Regional Communication Advisor, Fred Reed, and Regional Program Coordinator, José Rimón II, visited Thailand as part of their Asia trip to 1) discuss with the Thai Association for Voluntary Sterilization (TAVS) its request for assistance and 2) assess capabilities of local agencies to provide IEC training to Indian professionals.

In discussions with TAVS, the following are recommended: 1) prototype IEC materials on sterilization developed worldwide should be shared with TAVS (this has been done); 2) the TAVS request for assistance in the promotion of vasectomy by conducting a workshop for governors to ensure that their ways of promoting vasectomy are acceptable does not seem to be necessary; and 3) the request for support for counselling for sterilization could best be responded to by the AVS Regional Office in Dacca or AVS/New York.

The most recent contraceptive prevalence survey indicated that the prevalence rate of contraceptive use has increased from 59 percent in 1981 to 65 percent in 1984. The corresponding decrease in the population growth rate to what is now estimated to be below two percent also indicates that Thailand may have one of the most successful population programs in the world today. Under these circumstances JHU/PCS financial assistance in Thailand may be least needed. It is recommended that the resources and agencies operating in Thailand should be tapped to provide training for other countries in Asia and Africa.

Discussions were conducted with three local agencies which provide IEC training. Of the three, the most promising prospect is a study tour for Indian officials hosted by the Thai Ministry of Health Training Division. Fred Reed will discuss this possibility with AID/New Delhi and Indian officials.

### List of Abbreviations

AID	-	Agency for International Development
AVS	-	Association for Voluntary Sterilization
DTCP	-	Development Training Communications Planning
FP/MCH	-	Family Planning/Maternal Child Health
IEC	-	Information, Education and Communication
INTRAH	-	International Program for Training in Health
JHU/PCS	-	The Johns Hopkins University/Population Communication Services
MOH	-	Ministry of Health
PDA	-	Population and Community Development Association
TAVS	-	Thai Association for Voluntary Sterilization
UN	-	United Nations
UNESCO	-	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization

## THAILAND

The JHU/PCS team composed of José Rimon II, Regional Program Coordinator, and Fred Reed, Regional Communication Advisor, visited Thailand October 10-16, 1985 as part of their Asia trip to: 1) discuss with TAVS its request for assistance and 2) assess prospects for local agencies to provide IEC training to Indian professionals.

### Meeting with AID Mission

Official met: Terry Tiffany, Health/Population Officer.

The initial briefing by Mr. Tiffany provided the JHU/PCS team with a comprehensive view of the Thai population program. He said that, although Mechai Viravaidya has contributed a lot to the popularity of the program, the Ministry of Health (MOH) has played the key role in the success of the Thai program.

The latest contraceptive prevalence survey (1984) indicates an increase from 59 percent to 65 percent between 1981 and 1984. This is matched by a decline in the population growth rate which is estimated at below two percent. The prevalence data also show that MOH provided 80 percent of all contraceptive services.

As there had been a previous request from the Thai Association for Voluntary Sterilization (TAVS) for JHU/PCS assistance, Mr. Tiffany encouraged the team to visit TAVS.

He also thanked JHU/PCS for providing the services of consultant Bob Griffin in assisting the Ministry of Health in reviewing the literature on adolescent fertility and in preparing recommendations for dealing with identified problems.

### Meeting with TAVS

Official met: Aray Sriburatham, Executive Director, TAVS.

Mr. Sriburathan requested assistance in the following areas: 1) translating and editing TAVS materials to be shared with other countries; 2) support for the

promotion of vasectomy; and 3) counselling for sterilization. He also indicated interest in receiving other prototype IEC materials on voluntary sterilization from other countries that JHU/PCS could make available.

TAVS has one sterilization clinic and sterilization services are available in all MOH district hospitals.

### Recommendations

1. Prototype IEC materials should be sent to TAVS (completed).
2. The vasectomy program in Thailand, according to MOH officials, is in good shape. The TAVS proposal to convene governors to ensure that their ways of promoting vasectomy are acceptable does not seem to be necessary.
3. Support for counselling for sterilization could best be addressed by the AVS Regional Office in Dacca or AVS/New York.

### Visits to Training Agencies

One primary purpose of the trip to Bangkok was to visit training institutions to assess their capabilities and willingness to train Indian professionals. Fred Reed covers this in his trip report in more detail.

Population and Community Development Association (PDA). PDA operates an established training center with trainees from all over the world. PDA also collaborates with INTRAH in providing training services. Although PDA operates regular training programs every year, Ms. Tanaporn Praditwong, Communications and Training Manager, said that, provided it is negotiated in advance, PDA is willing to conduct custom-tailored training programs.

Although PDA is known because of its close association with Mechai, over the years it has been able to develop its own cadre of experts both from within the organization as well as from outside.

Development Training Communications Planning (DTCP). DTCP is a UN system affiliate providing planning, training and communication support services to UN agencies. After a recent reorganization it is now a self-supporting institution.

Director Romeo Gecolea said that because DTCP is self-supporting it charges a high overhead cost and the staff is always in the field in response to requests from UN agencies. Gecolea also emphasized that their concept of training and communication development is inseparable from managerial and organizational development. Hence, DTCP does not only conduct training support activities but also looks at the larger managerial issues. DTCP will soon offer a number of regular courses a year and has agreed to notify JHU/PCS about the schedules.

Training Division, MOH. Upon the recommendation of Terry Tiffany, the JHU/PCS team also visited the MOH Training Division. In meetings with Ms. Chusie Sujpluem, Training Division Chief, and Ms. Pisamai Chandavimol, Health Planning Division, the observation that the Thais have an excellent system of training and delivery of services was confirmed. Both were willing to welcome Indian and other country professionals for an observation study tour on the Thai MOH training system and management of service delivery.

The Training Division conducts the following types of training: 1) training for special projects; 2) refresher courses; 3) special clinical techniques; 4) basic curriculum education; 5) educational development; and 6) general orientation on specific programs. A total of nine training supervision groups is scattered in the five regions of the country.

Three approaches are used: 1) direct training in family planning/mother child health (FP/MCH) mostly in technical skills; 2) integration of FP/MCH in other training courses; and 3) collaboration with agricultural and educational training programs.

#### Visit to Population Council

The JHU/PCS team visited Dr. Andrew Fisher of the Population Council. As he has done some research work in India, Fred discussed with him his recommendations on how to strengthen the IEC program.

## Visit to UNESCO

Ms. Carmelita Villanueva of the UNESCO Regional Population Education Unit, inquired whether JHU/PCS would be interested in collaborating with the Ministry of Education in enhancing the Thai population education program. Although support for formal population education has low JHU/PCS priority, a really innovative project may merit JHU/PCS consideration. She said she will discuss it with contacts at the Ministry of Education.

LIST OF CONTACTS

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