

Distribution : limited

Paris, 24 October 1966
Original : English

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

JOINT UNESCO-IAU RESEARCH PROGRAMME IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Proposal for
an
INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

WS/1066.67(EDS)

1. Within the framework of the Unesco-IAU Research Programme on Higher Education and with the collaboration and support of the Ford Foundation a Study of the Role of Institutions of Higher Education in the Development of Countries in South-East Asia was initiated in 1961. The conclusions and recommendations resulting from the study as formulated by its international commission of experts received general endorsement both at the Fourth General Conference of the International Association of Universities (Tokyo, 31 August - 6 September, 1965), and at the Conference of Asian Ministers of Education and Ministers responsible for Economic Planning organized by Unesco (Bangkok, 22 - 29 November, 1965).⁽¹⁾
2. The recommendations include a proposal for the establishment of an Institute of Higher Education and Development. The Unesco-IAU Joint Steering Committee - the governing body of the above research programme in higher education - considers that the Institute would be an effective instrument for the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the study. To explore governmental and university opinion regarding the proposed Institute, a mission was sent out to the region in March and April 1966 consisting of Professor A. Milthers, former Rector of the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural College, Copenhagen; Mr. Walter Rudlin, Ford Foundation; and Mr. Raja Roy Singh, Director, Unesco Regional Office for Education in Asia, Bangkok. The mission reported favourably on the reaction of governmental and academic authorities in the countries visited to the proposal for the setting-up of the Institute.⁽²⁾
3. Regional co-operation continues to develop among countries in South-East Asia, assisted in some instances by international and bilateral aid programmes but primarily and significantly on the initiative of the countries in the area. The scope for such co-operation is especially promising in the academic sphere as evidenced by the willingness to further this through the establishment of a regional institute of the kind proposed.

(1) Higher Education and Development in South-East Asia; summary report and conclusions. Unesco and the IAU, Paris, 1965.

(2) Between 28 March and 30 April, 1966, members of the mission visited Burma, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

4. The proposal for setting up a South-East Asian Institute of Higher Education and Development has been prepared by the Unesco-IAU Joint Steering Committee, and is based on the conclusions and recommendations of the Study and the findings of Messrs. Milthers, Rudlin and Singh.

THE PROPOSAL

5. Purpose, Scope and Nature : The Institute of Higher Education and Development for South-East Asia will be concerned with problems of higher education in the region, with particular attention to those relating to the role of higher education in national and regional development. The Institute will promote intra-regional co-operation, stimulate, sponsor and undertake research and studies and otherwise help to mobilise and develop the research capabilities of University institutions in the region, and offer training services in higher education.

6. The Institute will be autonomous in nature although established at the site of an existing University in the Region. For the purposes of the Institute, the Region will be considered to include the following countries : Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

7. Functions and Programme : The following activities are foreseen for the Institute : statistical and clearing-house services; studies and research, training and exchange of persons, and publications.

8. The statistical and clearing-house services will assemble information on higher education for analysis, collation, publication and dissemination. While statistics will be collected on a regional basis, other information of importance to the development of higher education in the region will be made available whatever its source.

9. The programme of studies and research should cover two closely connected categories of problems - those arising out of the functioning and organization of the institutions of higher learning, and those connected with the specific contributions of higher education

to economic and social development. These may be studies carried out by the staff of the Institute or by its research fellows, through co-operative programmes co-ordinated by the Institute, or through group studies. As part of its clearing-house functions, the Institute will disseminate information about on-going research and studies in university institutions in the region and in other parts of the world. Appropriate procedures will be set up to establish priorities for the programme of studies and research and to guide its implementation.

10. As to training and exchange of persons, it is not desirable for the Institute to assume functions which are properly discharged through a University or to offer regular formal training courses. The Institute should provide training services in the following manner : research fellowships at the Institute for work on specific study-projects; study visits of research workers to other Universities or research Institutes; and through the organization of seminars and workshops on problems of priority interest. Advisory services can be rendered or invited for the development of post-graduate courses and research.

11. These various activities should find their expression in the publications of the Institute. In this connection, special attention will be given to the language services of the Institute to enable the Institute both to utilize materials published in the languages of the Region, and to work competently in English and French (the two languages of wide communication utilized in the region).

12. Organization and Structure : The Institute will have a Governing Board to formulate policy on all matters concerning its activities and programmes; to approve its budget and working programmes; appoint the Director and the Senior Staff of the Institute; and obtain technical and financial contributions from within the region and from Governmental and Non-Governmental sources outside the region. The Governing Board will be empowered to constitute commissions and committees to assist it in carrying out its responsibilities. It will thus be able to set up sub-committees from within its own membership and to engage the services of other persons selected on the grounds of their academic distinction, expert knowledge and technical competence.

15. The Governing Board will have 26 members as follows : one representative of each Government in the region (total 9); one representative of the University community from each country in the region, except Indonesia and the Philippines each with two representatives (total 11); one representative of each of the following organizations : UNESCO, IAU, Economic Commission for Asia and the Far-East, Asian Development Bank, and the Association of South-East Asian Institutions of Higher Learning (total 5); and the President or Vice-Chancellor of the host-University to the Institute.

14. The Governing Board will meet once a year, with the Director of the Institute acting as ex-officio member and secretary of the Board. The Director will be responsible for implementing the decisions taken by the Board as to the programme and budget of the Institute.

15. Financing : The Institute should be planned for a relatively longer period than has been customary in regard to similar institutions. The Institute should be planned and financial support sought for not less than a 10-year period. This would enable it to develop a full programme, acquire a measure of stability, and to arrange for the transition from partial to full regional and local support.

16. For some time the main financial resources for the Institute will have to be provided from outside the region, since many Governments and Universities in the region are operating under financial stress. As the Institute develops, local contributions should gradually increase. In the first instance some measure of local support would come from the host country and host university of the Institute in the form of office space, utilities and perhaps an annual cash contribution to meet part of the cost of general service local staff. In addition, the Institute should have access to the use of library laboratory and computer facilities in the host country.

17. A statement on estimated costs for the operation of the Institute is attached (Annex I).

18. Staffing : The Institute will need some 14 professional staff-members, and an adequate general-service establishment. An enumeration of such posts

may be found in Annex II. Members of the staff of the Institute engaged in research and studies will not be able to devote themselves exclusively to their enquiries; they will also be required to promote studies and research in Universities in the region and to accept responsibility for the research-fellows who will be attached to the Institute for training. For the clearing-house functions of the Institute, a staff proficient in the languages prevailing in the region will be required. A competent well-staffed language service should be set up.

19. The members of the staff will be internationally recruited. The Director will be the senior member of the staff of the Institute, and he will be responsible to the Governing Board for its overall administration.

SETTING UP THE INSTITUTE

20. Preparations : After financial support for the Institute for at least the first five years has been secured, the Unesco-IAU Joint Steering Committee will immediately invite Unesco and the IAU to arrange with Governments of Member States and Universities in the region to initiate preparations for the establishment of the Institute, including the preparation of its draft statutes, arrangements for its installation and assistance with staff recruitment, and for the convening of its Founding Conference.

21. Founding Conference : To bring the Institute formally into being, a Founding Conference will be convened to adopt its statutes, approve its location and elect the members of its Governing Board. The Governing Board will meet immediately following the Founding Conference to approve the programme and budget for the first two years, to accept the financial support made available and to appoint the Director and other senior staff.

22. The Founding Conference will have the following composition : one representative of each Government in the region; one representative of the University community from each country in the region, except Indonesia and the Philippines each with two representatives; one

representative of each of the following organizations : UNESCO, IAU, Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, Asian Development Bank and the Association of South-East Asian Institutions of Higher Learning.

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ANNEX I

Estimated Costs

	Initial non-recurring	Recurring per annum
(1) Staff :		
Professional (14)		\$ 265,000
General Services		25,000
(2) Consultants (including fee and international travel - average 18-man-months per annum)		33,000
(3) Research Fellowships average 8 per year)		28,800
(4) Equipment, books, periodicals, etc.	\$ 20,000	3,000
(5) Publications and translation (including interpretation)		25,000
(6) Travel (including one meeting Governing Board)		30,000
(7) Routine Administrative Costs		10,000
(8) Programme costs (seminars, work- shops, study visits, etc.)		35,000
<u>Total :</u>	<u>\$ 20,000</u>	<u>\$ 454,000</u>

ANNEX II

Professional Staff establishment

Director	1
Statistical and Clearing House services	3
Studies, research and training	5
Publications and language services	4
Administrative Officer	1