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Minutes on Taking Over of the Thailand Information Center
November 24, 1971
At Department of Technical Economic Cooperation

Participants

1.	Nai Apilas Osathanon	Deputy DTEC, Director-General, Chairman Chulalongkorn University
2.	Dr. Sippanon Ketudhat	"
3.	Nai Amphon Namatr	"
4.	Dr. Naowanit Intarama	National Institute of Development Administration
5.	Mrs. Chalermwan Choosap	National Research Council
6.	Mrs. Somchai Boonnak	Department of Technical Economic Cooperation
7.	Nai Suwit Suthiniam	"
8.	Miss Chantana Intarakanchit	"

The meeting began at 1000 hours.

Subject

The meeting considered the readiness problem of the three agencies: National Research Council (NRC), Chulalongkorn University, and the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) in taking over the Thailand Information Center (TIC).

The Chairman asked representatives of the three agencies to state problems and readiness to take over the TIC by emphasizing the intention of the TIC 's owner: Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) that the transferee must mainly provide service and convenience to the public. The three agencies presented the following statements:

Chulalongkorn University

The representative of Chulalongkorn University said that the university is ready to take over the TIC. Several stages of preparations were made as follows:

(1) It was estimated that the budget of 1,500,000 baht will be used per year. However, this amount can be reduced to 7-800,000 baht, which is equivalent to the budget estimated by the NRC, if some unnecessary items (such as rent of a xerox machine, transportation cost, and wages of personnel) can be cut off. The university can take some part of another budget for the mentioned items

(2) Concerning personnel, the university already approached two Thai supervisors who are well qualified in research library; these supervisors will be necessarily required for this work. It is expected that the university will have adequate budget to hire these two supervisors. Other specialists can be hired later. In addition, the university is planning to send its instructor to Hawaii on an observation and on-the-job training there at the end of 1971 by requesting funds from the Asian Foundation, so that they can take over this job.

(3) Chulalongkorn University wants to take over the TIC because the number of research programs have much increased during this period. Besides, a great number of documents collected by the TIC are of the social science and behavior science natures. The university requires these types of documents but is still short of them.

(4) As regards the operating location, at first stage the library of the Faculty of Political Science will be used during the construction period of the university library building. After its completion, the TIC will be moved to the library building. But the administration of the TIC will not be dependent on that of the library; it will be directly under the rector.

National Research Council

The representative of the NRC pointed out that the NRC is interested to take over this job, but there is no suitable work-unit to operate it. The NRC has the same kind of job now under operation: Thai National Documentation Center which is under the Applied Scientific Research Corporation of Thailand. This center services the public with research work and is already collecting research work in various fields such as science, economics, social sciences, and others (demography).

The NRC cannot take over TIC staff due to unavailability of positions. However, the budget and positions can be requested in the next year. The NRC estimated that this center can be operated at 700,000 baht a year approximately.

In addition, the UNESCO and the UN decided to establish a Regional Information Center by using spaces in the TNDC, ASRCT at Bangkok. The operation will begin in April 1972 with two-man mission primarily. As a result, the TIC will be very beneficial.

However, at present the center provides service to the general public as well as preparing information cards for research work and printing monthly lists of research work in various fields for distribution to government agencies and general distribution.

National Institute of Development Administration

Its representative stated that the NIDA too wants to take over the TIC because the institute emphasizes social science education. Thus the TIC collection would be very useful. The institute used to send instructors to be trained at the TIC. These instructors are ready to work in the same way the TIC is doing.

The service provided to the public at present by the institute is printing of index of research documents. Even though the TIC would be beneficial to education and research, the institute cannot take over it because there is no position available for taking over of the TIC staff. Besides, there is a budget problem. However, the institute would like to request whichever agency taking over the TIC to xerox new documents that the institute requires but still not possess.

After considerations, the meeting had the opinion at this stage that Chulalongkorn University is an agency more suitable than the others to take over the TIC, because of readiness in various aspects. After transferring, it would be useful for students, government agencies, and general public since its location is more convenient for contacts. Nevertheless, the Chairman stated that at this stage the DTEC will not make a decision alone on to whom the TIC should be given.

Meeting Resolution

1. The DTEC will reconsider this information with representatives of ARPA as soon as possible by inviting USOM representatives to participate in this decision making.
2. The DTEC will contact the UN to ask whether or not the Regional Information Center will be a center for Thailand only, and how the taking over of the TIC involves in the center work, thus to consider the NRC request to take over the TIC.

The meeting ended at 1045 hours.

Chantana Intarakanchit

Translation