

The increased use of capital equipment, whether in the form of irrigation works, power stations or farm tractors, will only be possible and can only bring its full benefits if the knowledge and skills of the peoples in the countries enable them to use this equipment effectively.

Thus an essential part of the economic development of South and South-East Asia is the provision of trained men, whether experts or craftsmen, to carry out the projects already in hand, to initiate other schemes in the programmes, and to raise the level of technical skill among agricultural and industrial workers.

It is for this reason that, in addition to directly productive projects, provision has been made in the programmes for training institutes, technical schools, research laboratories, field stations, experimental farms and other agencies through which knowledge can be increased and disseminated.

The keenest demand is for civil, electrical, mechanical and hydraulic engineers, experienced in the construction of large dams, the erection of hydro-electric stations, and the laying out and operation of irrigation and drainage works. Experts in soil science and management, agronomists and ecologists are equally necessary.

Then there are those who have to direct the clearance of jungle and the planning of settlements in new lands. Others have to organize the instruction of settlers in improved methods of cultivation, the planting of new crops, the use and maintenance of modern equipment, and the introduction of power-driven equipment to cottage industry. To bring the multi-purpose projects to speedy fruition, this wide range of experts must be on hand at the right time and in sufficient numbers.

11. THREE MAIN WAYS OF OBTAINING TECHNICAL SKILL.

(1) Expanding training facilities in the area: Much outside assistance will be needed, especially in the days immediately ahead, in providing teachers and instructors in the South and South-East Asian countries. The instructors thus trained would then pass on the knowledge they have acquired to others in a 'snow-balling' process closely parallel to systems of training and upgrading unskilled labour during the war. Thus the largest single lack in Asian manpower resources would be supplied.

The expansion of training facilities in the countries themselves is thus a vital element in their plans for economic development. The programmes of the individual countries reveal how much governments are doing to help themselves by expanding existing establishments and setting up new institutions:

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