

January 25 and 26, 1984

**Brief note on the activities of the GM AKRSP during  
his visit to the U.S.A.**

**Place of visit: UNICEF Headquarters**

Visited the following:

1. Mr. V. Tarzie Vittachi, Deputy Executive Director
2. Mr. Manou Assadi, Director Programme
3. Miss Emi Watanabe, Funds Division
4. Mr. Kunio Waki, Head Asia Desk
5. Mr. Hans Narula, Head Middle East Desk
6. Mr. Michael Corbett, Chief Recruitment Division
7. Mr. Hyeternan, Director Recruitment.

The meeting with Mr. Manou Assadi at lunch was a very productive one. He enquired about the collaboration between UNICEF and AKRSP and suggested more active involvement of the two agencies. He proposed bringing the new UNICEF Representative, who is likely to take over his duties in March 1984 in Islamabad, to Gilgit and explore avenue for more meaningful collaboration between AKRSP and UNICEF.

In the meeting with Mr. Vittachi who explained the main features of the Child Survival and Development Revolution (CSR) and Growth Monitoring Chart, Oral Dehydration, Breast Feeding and Immunization (GOBI). He was very keen to try some of the techniques developed for these two strategies in the Northern Areas and supported Manou Assadi's plea for a more active cooperation and collaboration between UNICEF and AKRSP.

January 27, 1984 - Breakfast meeting with IIRR

Mr. Taj Mitha (TM), Executive Vice President, Aga Khan Foundation (USA) took the GM to the Hilton to begin the first of the series of meetings scheduled for the day with the representatives of the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR). The meeting began at 0830 hours at breakfast table and besides the GM and TM included Mrs. Ping Sheng Chin, Vice President of the IIRR and Dr. John Flavier, President of IIRR. The discussion centered on different approaches to rural development and the GM explained the main features of the AKRSP. Dr. Flavier and Mrs. Chin suggested exchange of visits between IIRR and AKRSP. Dr. Flavier was more candid and observed that probably there would be little that IIRR has to offer to AKRSP but that there was a lot that IIRR could learn from the AKRSP experience. The GM and TM welcomed collaboration between the two institutions in principle and it was agreed that there would be exchange visits between IIRR and AKRSP. The initiative in this regard will be taken by IIRR and they would inform TM as to the time of their visits to AKRSP.

Dr. Flavier struck the GM as a very sincere and keen person.

Visit to Ford Foundation                      1030-1200 hours

Mr. Peter Geitner (PG) and Mr. Roberto Lenton (RL) received us at the Ford Foundation and agreed to give us enough time to see the slide presentation on AKRSP. PG asked questions pertaining to the common features between AKRSP approach and the Comilla approach and the vision of the AKRSP in terms of establishing a structure like the Thana Training and Development Centre and the differences if any between these two structures. The GM explained the commonality between the two programmes and observed that the basic principles were the same as neither Comilla or AKRSP can lay any claim to something new what these two programmes have done is only to pick up successful components of rural development

programmes and adapted these to the local conditions. In the adaptation process, as far as, the Gilgit or Northern Areas situation is concerned, the GM explained that TTDC model would not be strictly applicable because of the geographical conditions and the situation of the villages in remote and isolated areas. The structure, above the VOs, being fostered comprises a cluster of villages with an organisation to sustain these clusters at Gilgit, which would in due course of time take the place of the AKRSP i.e. AKRSP Management Group.

TM was very pleased with the meeting and specially with the fact that Mr. Geitner, m who had earlier expressed some reservations about the programme, was able to give us so much time and gave us the opportunity to explain the programme in greater detail.

TM expected us to submit a first class project proposal which would be saleable to Ford Foundation for a long term assistance to the programme. In a subsequent discussion with Bob Shaw, it was agreed that Bob will discuss with Taj and let us know about the nature of the project proposal TM has in mind.

#### Visit to Rockefeller Brothers Fund ... 1530-1730 hours

This meeting took place with Mr. Russel Phillips, the Vice-President of the Fund. Mr. Phillips enquired about the programme and greatly commended the progress reports. He was keen that we should establish some type of collaborative relationship with the IIRR of which Mr. Phillips is also one of the trustees. After this meeting, TM was of the view that if we could prepare a project proposal for the fund. He was very optimistic that the Rockefeller Brothers Fund will be keen to help us. In this regard also Bob agreed to discuss with TM and let us know the guidelines for the preparation of the project proposal.

#### Presentation to the community at the New York Jamaat Khan

##### **0930 hours ... Midnight**

The presentation with the help of slides and His Highness' interview on AKRSP was made to the members of the Jamaat numbering nearly 200. A number of questions were asked and many expressed a desire to help AKRSP. According to the immediate feedback, TM informed that the presentation was very well received and the interest in AKRSP has been aroused to a very high degree.

January 30, 1984

#### Meeting of Representatives of Overseas Education Fund

##### **AKF Office, Washington DC ... 1100 hours**

**Participants:** - **Miss Susan Roche**  
- **Mr. S. Kinder Vatter**

The Overseas Education Fund Representatives briefly explained the work of OEF specially in India and Sri Lanka. They emphasised the unique features of their approach based on participation of the communities. The GM described the situation in the Northern Areas and the progress made so far by the AKRSP in regard to organising the communities and achieving objectives of development through VOs. He briefly described the situation pertaining to women and the need for involving women in development. In regard to the quest for a consultant to help AKRSP to mount a successful women's programme, the GM explained that although there was no dearth of ideas and a number of suggestions were made to AKRSP as to what should be done for the women but there were very few suggestions as to how it should be done. It was for this reason that the GM insisted on the selection of a consultant who has the experience of having executed a successful programme for women's income generation. He explained that a number of initiatives are already under way in the Northern Areas by different agencies, some of which have been in operation for the last two years, hence AKRSP would only get into the field if it really had something worthwhile to offer, otherwise the result

would be only confusion and probably collision with other agencies who are engaged in women's programme in the area.

The OEF representatives suggested a list of names. GM did not know any personally nor had heard of any body's work. On the suggestion of GM to enable OEF representatives to get a clearer picture of the situation in the Northern Area, it was agreed both by OEF and TM that one of the representative will visit northern Areas for a week or so and thereafter finalise their nominations for the consultancy. The GM suggested to TM that Ms. Kinder Vatter, who has experience of implementing a women's programme in India and Sri Lanka, might be a more suitable choice for undertaking the exploratory visit.

#### Meeting with the Representatives of EPOC (Equity Policy Centre)

M/S Monique and Turbett represented the Centre and briefly described the origin of EPOC which was started in 1979 by Irovin Tiker through Street Foods Programme in an urban situation. Miss Monique explained in detail the street vendors programme and its main features based on a cooperative approach and development of internal skills to handle the project. She strongly advocated an action project through food assistance and maintained that EPOC have the capability and capacity to organise such a project. However, it was agreed that the street vendors programme would not be applicable to the rural situation as obtaining in the area of Gilgit. Ms Turbett responding GM's query about availability of a consultant who had implemented a programme for women's income generation mentioned Karen Smith who was working for the UNICEF and she herself who had done some work in Africa, otherwise there was a dearth of people who had this type of experience.

It was agreed that the AKF (USA) would keep the dialogue going with EPOC and if anything interesting comes up, they will let AKRSP know. Unfortunately the GM could not meet anyone at the USAID because most of the concerned people were away from Washington.

The GM found his visit to USA very rewarding and very well organised. TM went out of his way to extend every courtesy and hospitality to the GM during his visit to the States for which the GM is extremely grateful to TM. TM considered GM's visit as very useful and the presentations extremely helpful to him personally in understanding the AKRSP strategy and expressed a desire that he would like to be associated with more and more presentations on AKRSP.