

তারিখ ... ২/১২/৭৭ ...
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Colombo Plan Technical Cooperation Scheme

TECHNICAL Assistants under the Colombo Plan is less spectacular and its outcome less conspicuous than capital aid which creates more easily identifiable external symbols. But it builds up incalculable assets in the form of human capital to carry forward the process of development. If capital aid is the major arm of the Colombo Plan, technical assistance ensures the fullest and the most effective use of capital aid: It requires trained manpower to convert resources into development.

A senior nurse, say in Rangoon or Colombo who was trained in New Zealand, or an engineer at a dockyard with a similar training background, are definitely not as prominent as the Thaketa Bridge in Rangoon or Katunayake International Airport near Colombo. But they are part of the skilled manpower resources generated in the countries of Asia and the Pacific by the Colombo Plan through its technical cooperation scheme.

The Colombo Plan technical cooperation scheme came into operation in the later part of 1950. Since then a total of 113,000 trainees and students has been trained under Colombo Plan fellowships in many techniques and skills—engineering, medicine, education, agriculture, public administration, industrial management and

other fields. Also 29,300 Colombo Plan experts have come to the countries of South and South-East Asia to help speed up their development. Neither the number of people involved, nor the part their individual skills are playing in the development of a country, can give more than a general picture of technical assistance under the Colombo Plan. There can be no quantitative measurement of its total impact on the economic development of South and South-East Asia or on the living standards of its peoples. But there is no doubt that it is very considerable.

The total value of technical assistance provided up to the end of 1975 (IN U.S. dollars) was:

Trainees and Students	469.28 million
Experts	1,325.06 million
Equipment	698.14 million
Other	62.42 million
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	2,555 million

The United States, since the inception of the Plan, has provided 42,707 training and student awards. Other major donors are: Britain 18,884, Australia 16,480, Japan 15,694, India 6,491, Canada 3,736, and New Zealand 4,347.