

## **ACB Evaluation Executive Summary**

**Community Public Health Program, Khon Kaen CIEE Study Center, Thailand**

**October 2013**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **KEY POINTS FROM THE ACB REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

##### **The Program:**

- Provides a broad overview of public health management and community public health issues in Thailand and Southeast Asia.
- Trains students to apply theoretical frameworks covered in the classroom and be able to competently carry out community health assessments, develop and implement a public health project, and assess its impact.
- Provides students with classroom-based and experiential learning opportunities in rural, semi-urban, and urban environments culminating in the implementation of a community-based public health intervention.
- Is a newer addition to the Center's offerings (since Spring 2010)
- Has ambitious goals to effect change through public health interventions in local villages.
- Is supported by an innovative approach to language learning
- Has taken some time to stabilize and continues to have challenges related to academic oversight between KKU and CIEE.

##### **Issues:**

- Adjustment needed to balance between time spent on "traditional" academic content and time spent on group process, program review and assessment. Too much time spent on inward looking self-reflection as a group, detracting from what can be learned about the issues and living in Thailand. Instead, reinforce the traditional academic content of the program; Reduce the amount of time spent in group work, self-reflection and assessment
- Curriculum needs revision so the classes are better able to deliver academic content with greater academic oversight by faculty and/or professional staff
- Stabilize and strengthen oversight of courses
- Update and improve the description of the program on the website and in other promotional materials.

**Note:** A summary of the ACB Executive Report was drawn from a single joint report made on both CIEE Khon Kaen programs

## **CIEE Khon Kaen CPH Action Plan**

### **Community Public Health Program, CIEE Study Center at Khon Kaen University, Thailand**

#### **Overview**

CIEE has provided this summary Action Plan in response to the Academic Consortium Board (ACB) report on the CIEE Khon Kaen Development and Globalization Program. The report of the site visit will be received by members of the ACB at the Fall 2013 meeting.

An Action Plan was initially drawn up in January 2013, and many of the recommendations were put immediately into practice in the Spring and now the Fall 2013 semesters. This summary Action Plan outlines the key recommendations from the ACB report and the specific steps CIEE Khon Kaen has already or plans to follow to address the recommendation. This summary Action Plan should be read with reference to the full ACB report and the January 2013 Action Plan drawn up in January 2013.

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#### ***ACB Recommendation(s)***

Stabilize and expand the CIEE staff role with respect to Public Health academic oversight. The team found, as in the Fall 2011/Spring 2012 student evaluations, that the quality of courses needs attention. The issues do not seem only to be pedagogical (KKU faculty teaching styles, etc.) but also related to a lack of public health-specific academic oversight. From this visit, the evaluation team noted that the Global Health Fellow is vital to maintaining program outcomes and academic quality. We strongly suggest stabilizing and growing this role, and considering a transition of this role to that of an academic director with oversight for the academics of the public health program. Regardless of position title, it is critical to retain someone on the CIEE staff with expertise in public or global health of a high enough stature to be able to continue the vital role of liaising and joint planning with KKU faculty.

#### ***Action(s)***

In response to this key set of recommendations from the ACB team, CIEE decided to replace the annual Global Health Fellow position with a more permanent position of Resident Director so that CIEE could provide consistent and careful oversight of the CPH program and its academic components.

Jennifer Stewart, who started as the CIEE Khon Kaen CPH Resident Director in August 2013, has a Master's degree of Science in Nursing and an undergraduate degree in Nutrition and International Studies. She has extensive work in Labor and Delivery and Women's Health and as a Family Nurse Practitioner. She was the 2012-2013 CIEE Global Health Fellow when she helped the program achieve the highest student evaluation scores received by the CPH program since it began in 2010, with 100% of the spring 2013 students rating the overall academic program quality as "Excellent" or "Good." In her short tenure as Resident Director, she has worked out ways to extend a quality academic experience for all of the CIEE students in the 2013-14 academic year.

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**ACB Recommendation(s)**

Courses should be retitled and rebalanced, including giving greater importance to the CIEE Resources for Ongoing Orientation (ROO) and intercultural learning activities.

**Action(s)**

CIEE Khon Kaen staff is now exploring various ways to address the concerns of the ACB team in terms of course titles and credit weight. We are assessing the advantages and disadvantages of the various configurations as presented below.

Existing Curriculum	Possible Curriculum A	Possible Curriculum
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Health Management in Thailand</li> <li>• Community Public Health</li> <li>• Public Health Field Practicum</li> <li>• Thai</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Health and Healthcare Systems in Thailand</li> <li>• Community Public Health Assessment</li> <li>• Public Health Field Practicum</li> <li>• Thai</li> <li>• Seminar on Living and Learning in Thailand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Health and Healthcare Systems in Thailand</li> <li>• Comparative Healthcare Systems in Southeast Asia</li> <li>• Community Public Health Assessment</li> <li>• Public Health Field Practicum</li> <li>• Thai</li> <li>• Seminar on Living and Learning in Thailand</li> </ul>

These potential changes to the overall curriculum will be reviewed and evaluated during the 2013-14 academic year. Based on the positive feedback from the spring 2013 students, it is evident that the changes made by the CIEE Khon Kaen team to the existing curriculum have already helped make a positive impact on the overall academic program.

**ACB Recommendation(s)**

There was a list of changes recommended by the ACB team in terms of reworking the lectures and readings (particularly for the Public Health Management in Thailand course), of providing a better continuing between the courses, and to create mechanisms to allow better monitoring and more substantial feedback from the faculty on student assignments.

**Action(s)**

*(Note: As acting on many of these recommendations did not alter the core values and structure of the courses, in many cases CIEE staff have already implemented them)*

- Updated readings and created optional reading lists for all the courses; for the CPH course, the two modules the ACB thought appropriate have been retained and the rest revised
- Created and front-loaded lectures on basic public health concepts in the first course
- Created outlines for each lecture to help ensure that the guest lecturers cover all topics
- Created lecture report forms to indicate how well the lecturer covered items in the outline
- Provided for joint lectures at the end of each course and beginning of following course to create better continuity and smooth transition
- Created grading matrices for each assignment to aid course directors in providing feedback

**ACB Recommendation**

Create a better balance between coursework, group and self-reflection time, and free time (which could be used to interact with Public Health students more)

**Action(s)**

- Number of group orientation sessions reduced, group time throughout the semester made optional
- More joint activities with the faculty and its students have been carried out in free time for students