

CLOSE-UP

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF AUSTRALIAN AID



Australian Government

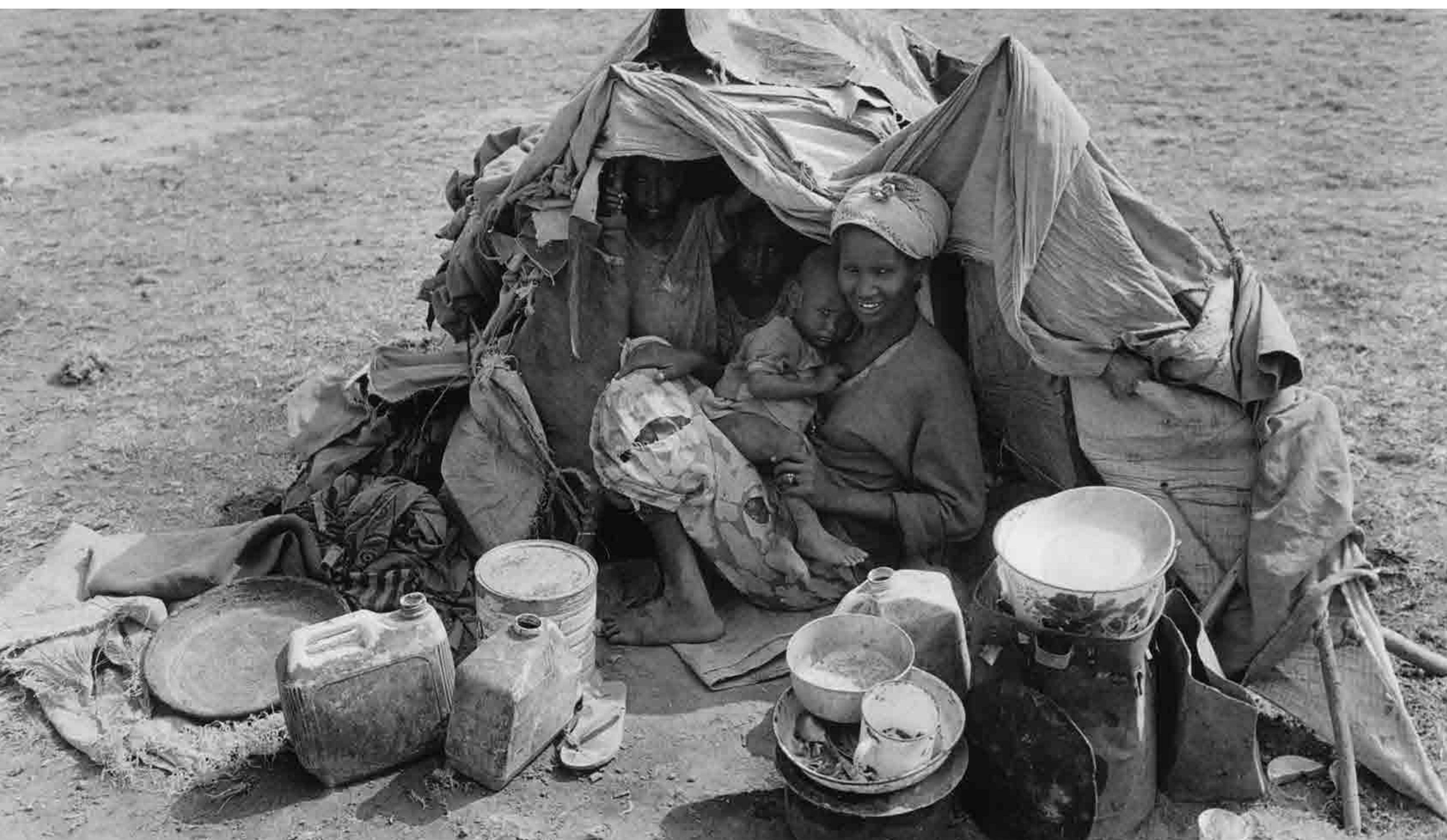
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Australia has been providing assistance to developing countries for many decades but it was in 1974 that the government established a single body to manage the aid program. While the shape and amount of our aid has varied over time, our commitment to promoting peace and prosperity and alleviating poverty has not wavered.

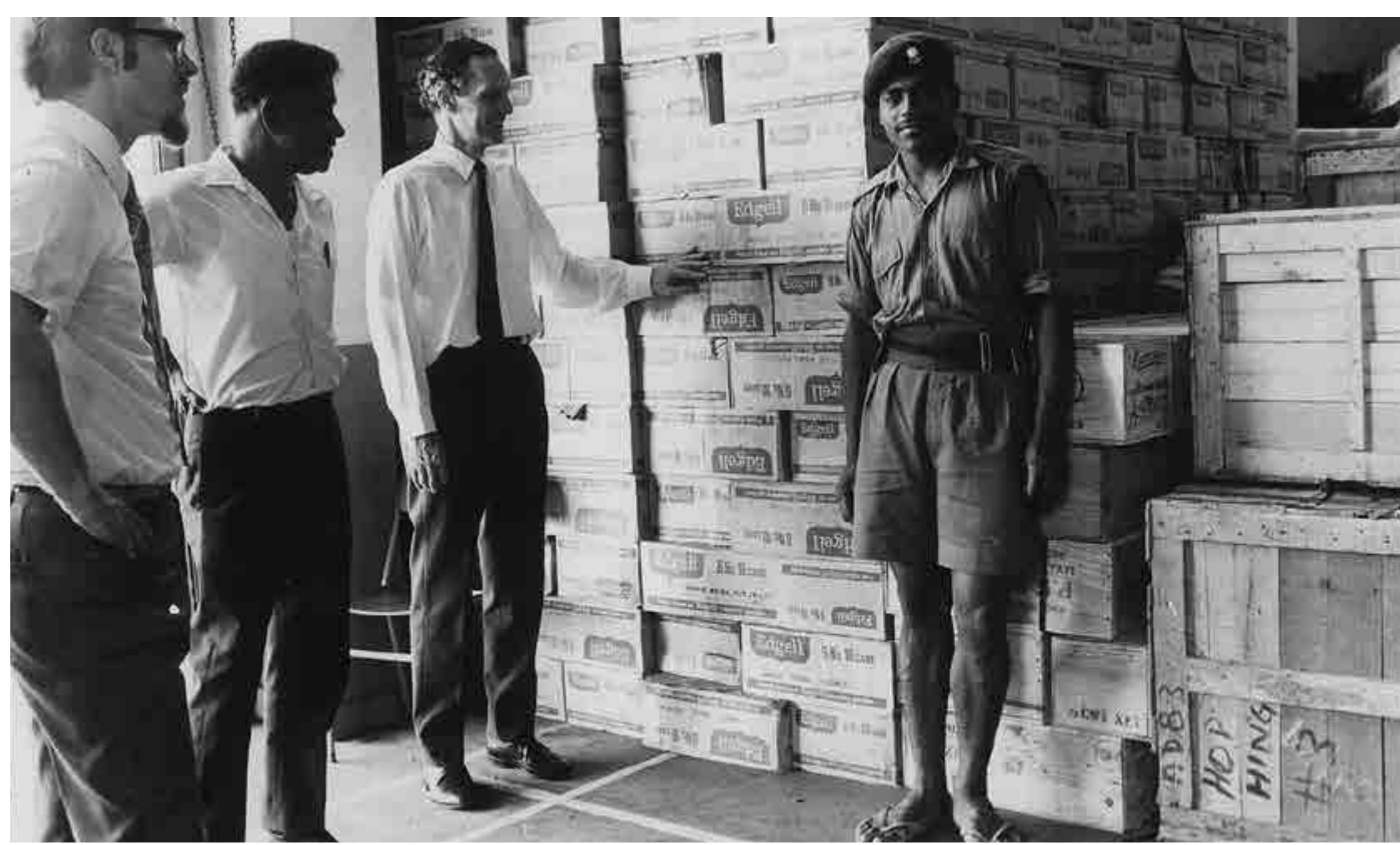
Our humanitarian and emergency aid has helped save millions of lives in areas devastated by natural disaster and conflict. We have provided people with clean water, better health and education, sustenance, employment, economic opportunity, better governance and law and order.

Driving peace and security, prosperity and poverty reduction is no small feat. It can often take years to see results. Through these photographs we can see how the Australian aid program has evolved. As a nation, we can be proud of the way we have helped break cycles of poverty and given hope and support to people in our neighbourhood and further afield.

Australian Aid is a badge by which Australians are recognised internationally, for which we are valued and of which we should be proud.



THE EARLY DAYS

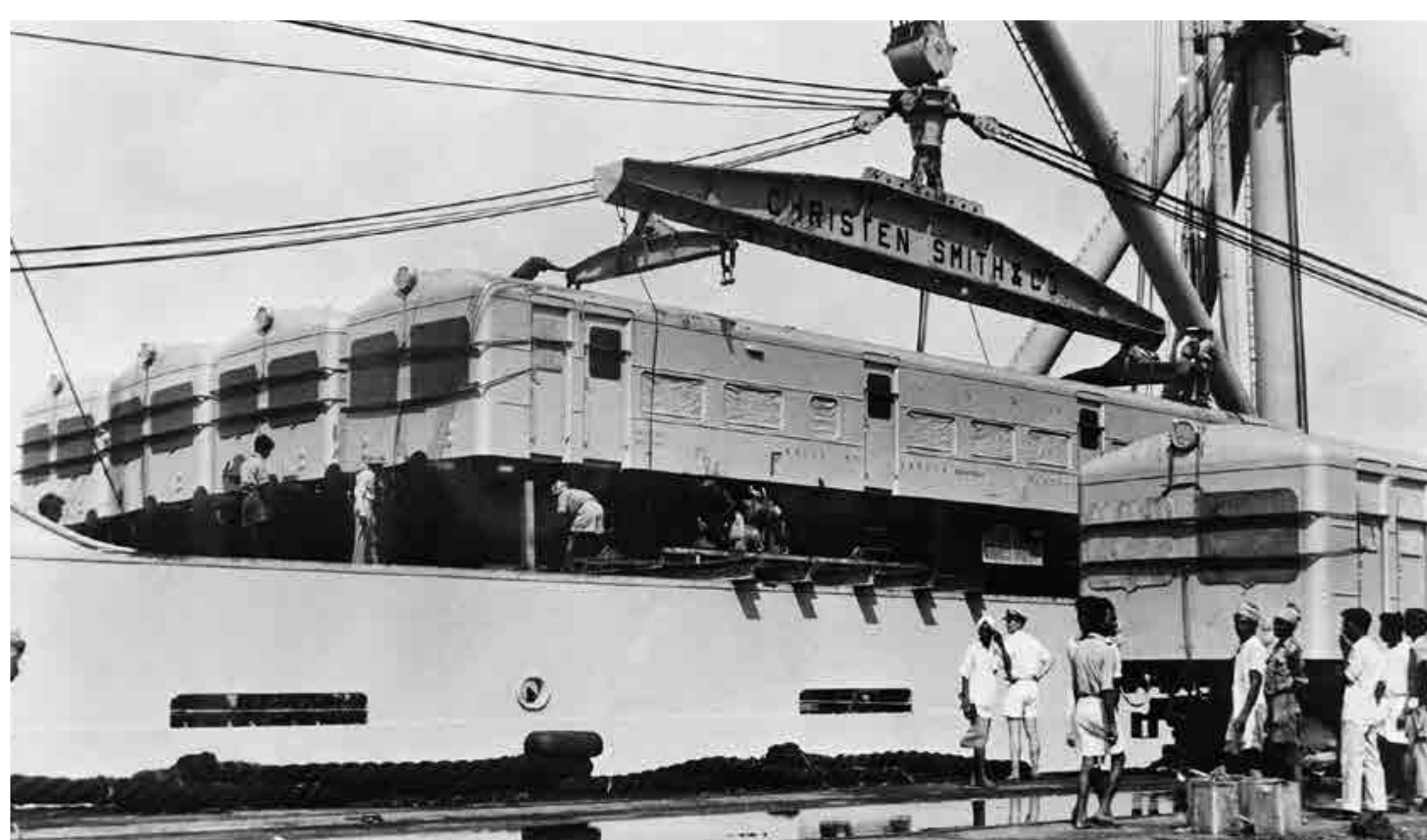


The post-World War II period was one of great change. Many countries were emerging from colonisation. With little planning or preparation, many faced shortages in capital and capacity.

The notion of 'aid' came out of post war reconstruction and the Marshall Plan.

In his inaugural address in January 1949, United States President Truman noted that 'more than half of the people of the world are living in conditions approaching misery... for the first time in history, humanity possesses the knowledge and the skill to relieve the suffering of these people.'

For Australia, which was beginning to establish a diplomatic presence in its neighbourhood, the answer lay, in part, in the Colombo Plan.



Above: US President Harry S. Truman delivers his inaugural speech in 1949. The moment has been credited as the beginning of development policy in relation to the third world. Photo: U.S. Army, Courtesy of Harry S. Truman Library

A baker in Delhi, India displays loaves in an Australian donated bakery. Between 1966 and 1968 Australia provided \$1.2 million for the construction of bakeries in India. Photo: NAA

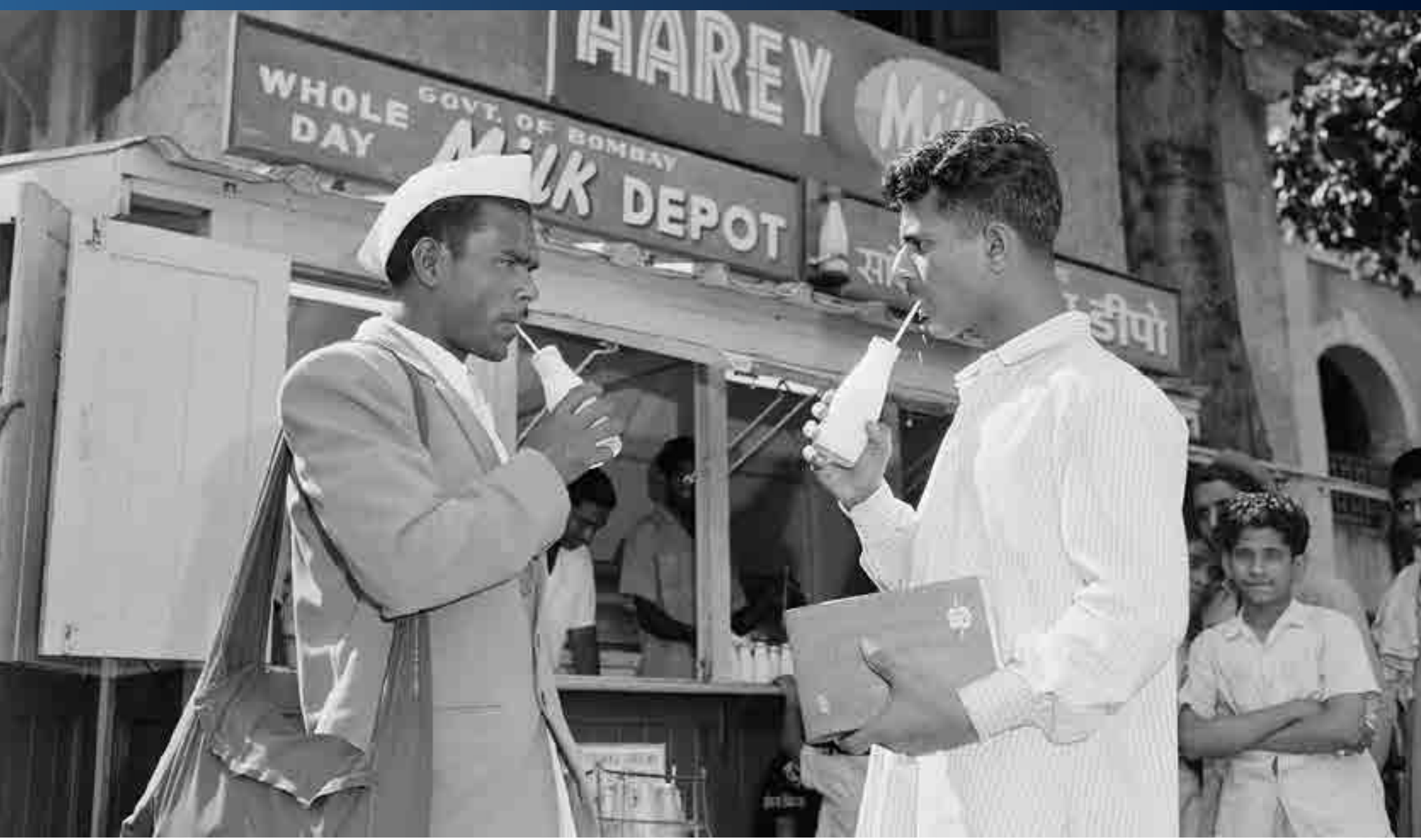
Above right: Australian relief supplies following Hurricane Bete, Suva, Fiji December, 1972. Left to right: M.T. Becker (United States Embassy), Mr Wati Tagilala (Controller of Government Stores and Organisers of distribution of relief supplies), Mr R.F. Osborn (Australian High Commission), and an unknown Army guard – with tinned foodstuffs donated by Edgell. Photo: DFAT

Some of the 24 diesel rail-cars donated by Australia to India under the Colombo Plan being unloaded in Madras, 1957. Photo: NAA

Right: A 500,000 gallon storage tank supplied by Australia as part of a water supply project for Bien-Hoa in South Vietnam, 1966. Photo: Australian News and Information Bureau



1950s



Above: A subsidised milk program in Bombay and Calcutta, funded by the Colombo Plan, 1958. Photo: DFAT

Four 'sheep's foot' rollers for earth-packing work on Ceylon's (now Sri Lanka) irrigation development leaving Melbourne, Victoria. Six rollers were supplied by the Australian Government under the Colombo Plan. The rollers, with spare parts, cost £16,632. Photo: Australian News and Information Bureau

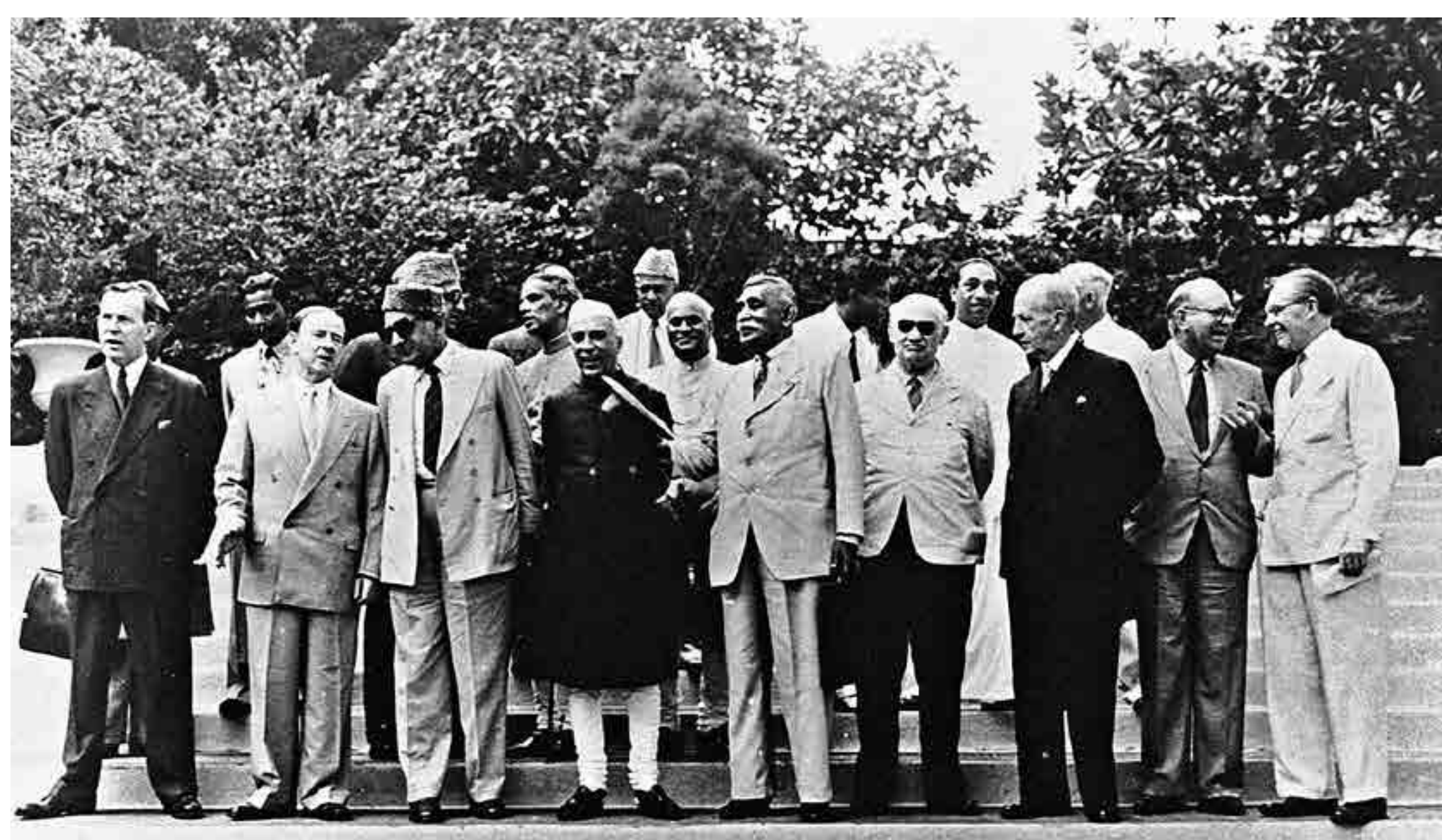
Colombo Plan scholars, Sasikashem Tongyong and Supark Bhanich Supapol of Thailand studying at the University of Melbourne, 1957. Photo: DFAT

Indonesian Colombo Plan students, Boediono, Abdillah Toha, Roesenosoe Samdi, and Zaid Afiff at the University of Western Australia, 1964.

Above right: The inaugural ministerial meeting of the Colombo Plan, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 1950. The Australian Minister for External Affairs, Percy Spender, is second from the left in the front row. Photo: Commonwealth of Australia

Australia's Foreign Minister, Percy Spender, takes tea with the leader of the UK delegation, Lord MacDonald (left) and Ceylon's Minister of Finance, Junius Richard Jayewardene (right), at the first meeting of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee, Sydney, May 1950. John Burton, Secretary of the Department of External Affairs, is standing at the back on the right. Photo: NLA

Right: The Colombo Plan's 2,000th student, Che Ummi Kelsom Binte Maidin of Malaysia, a nursing student in Australia in 1957. Photo: DFAT



The Colombo Plan was launched in 1951 as a cooperative venture for the economic and social advancement of the people of South and Southeast Asia.

Percy Spender, Australia's Minister for External Affairs, argued that 'Our future, Australia's future, depends to an ever increasing degree upon the political stability of our Asian neighbours, upon the economic wellbeing of Asian people, and upon the development of understanding and friendly relations between Australia and Asia.'

While Australian money went into capital aid projects, it was the student component that had the highest profile. Over 35 years, about 40,000 young people from Asia came to study in Australia. Many would later become leaders in their countries in their various fields.

A new initiative launched in 2013, the New Colombo Plan, builds on the success of its predecessor, providing opportunities for Australian students to live, study and undertake work experience in the region.



Celebrating
40 years
of Australian aid



1974



During the 1960s and early 1970s, the international debate on aid grew. Australia was part of this debate through its membership of the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and of UN agencies such as UNICEF and the United Nations Development Program.

Following the 1971 Bangladesh war of independence and the famine that followed, world attention was drawn to food aid. As a leading producer of food, Australia began increasing food aid, especially wheat, to individual countries and to the World Food Programme.

40 years ago, as Papua New Guinea was preparing to become independent, the Australian Government established one agency to administer its overseas aid program. 1974 is therefore regarded as the beginning of Australia's official overseas aid program.



Above: Australia's 10,000th Colombo Plan Student, Molly Maung from Burma, is welcomed to Australia in 1971. Ms Maung studied a PhD in Parasitology at the University of Queensland. Photo: DFAT

Burmese officials studying Australian information servicing and public relations in Canberra, 1977. The course was arranged by the Australian Government's International Training Institute and financed by the government's overseas aid program. Photo: Malcolm Lindsay

Village access road being constructed in Thailand as part of TARIP – the Thai Australia Rural Improvement Project, 1977. Photo: DFAT

Australian High Commissioner, Philip Flood, and Minister of State for Forest, Fisheries and Livestock of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Reazuddin Ahmed, inspect baby cockerels at Dacca airport. 2,500 cockerels were donated to the government of Bangladesh by the Australian Freedom From Hunger Campaign, May 23, 1975. Photo: DFAT

Above right: Papua New Guinea's first Prime Minister, Michael Somare, with the Australian High Commissioner, T.K. Critchley (left), and the Australian Prime Minister, E.G. Whitlam, at independence day celebrations at Port Moresby on 16 September, 1975. Photo: NAA

Right: Australian soil research scientist, Graeme Hunter supervises the work of a Thai scientist at a soils laboratory in North East Thailand under the Tung Kula Ronghai Land Development Project. Photo: DFAT



Celebrating
40 years
of Australian aid

1980s



Above: Reinforcing bars are tied at a pump station in Laos as a part of Australia's Agricultural Pumps Project, 1980. Photo: DFAT

Distribution of high protein biscuits by a PMI Alovette helicopter hired with Australian Aid money at Dili, Timor Leste, 1980. Photo: DFAT

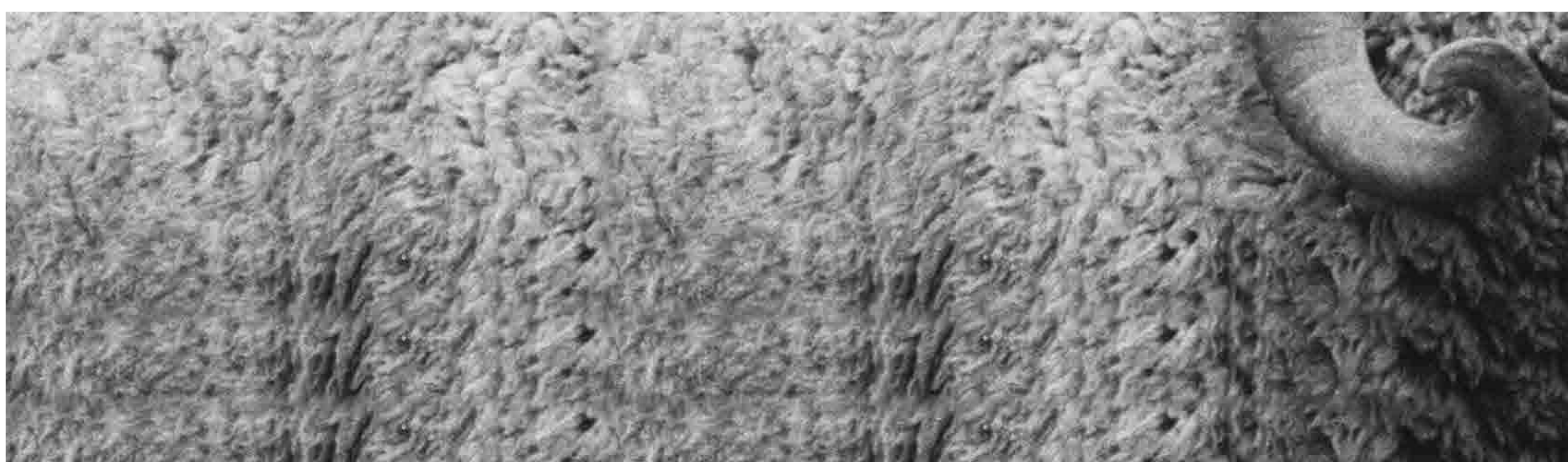
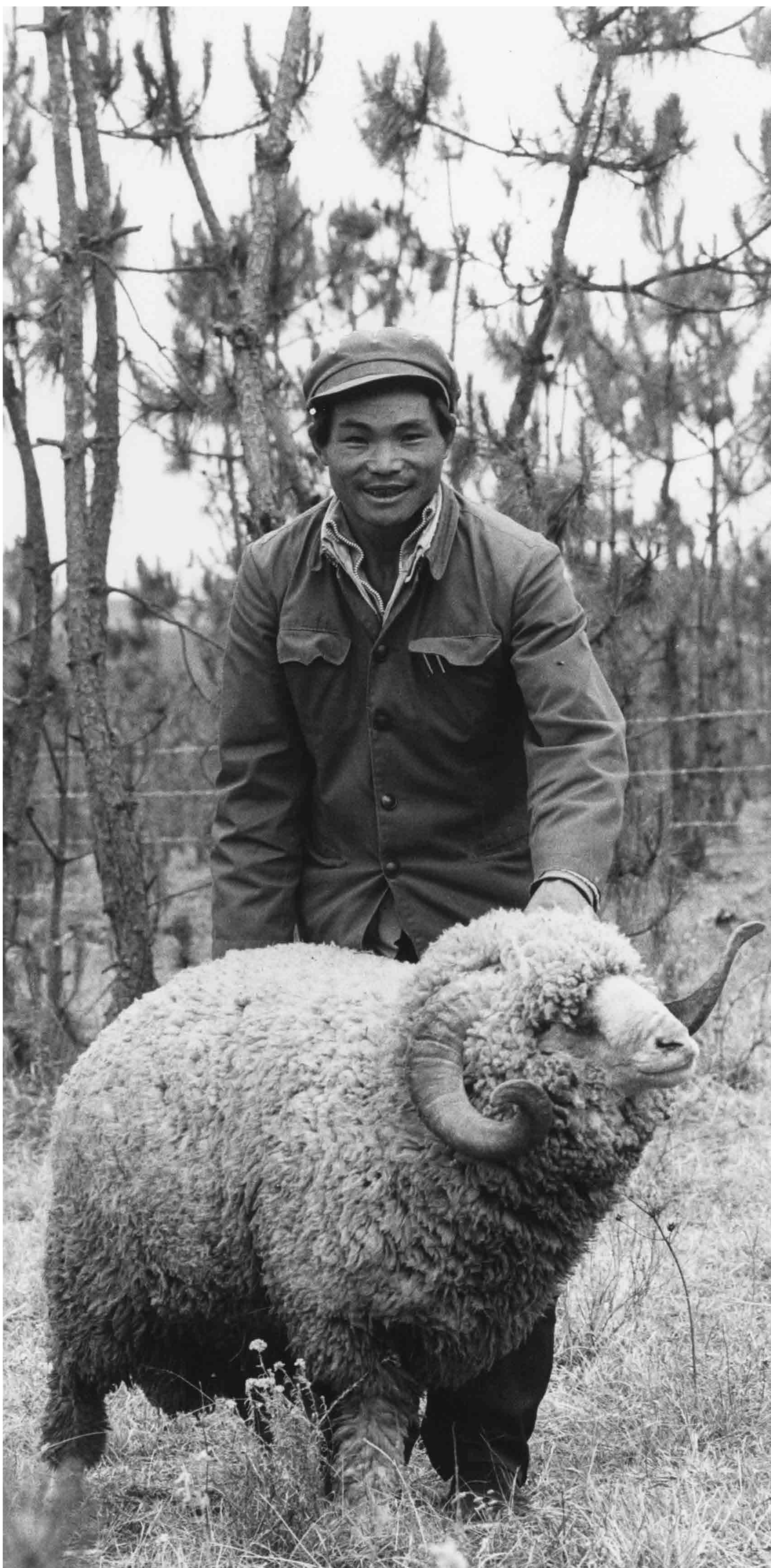
Australian sheep husbandry expert, Bruce G. Halbert, with Ko Bo Lay, U Aung Kyi and U Myint Wai at the Meiktila sheep project in Burma. Photo: John Tanner/Australian News and Information Bureau

Australian workers help rebuild a home in Tonga, following a cyclone in 1982. Photo: DFAT

Above right: A cataract patient in Solomon Islands with spectacle frames carved from wood. The patient was treated during the Australian Eye Surgery Team's annual visit, 1980. Photo: DFAT

Australian volunteer graduate, Lyn Erickson, of Breeza, near Gunnedah, NSW with Solo Rehabilitation Centre patients using Australian wheelchairs and walking machine, Solo, Indonesia. Photo: John Tanner/Australian Information Service.

Right: Small landowner, Yuan Bao Liu with his prize ram on his farm at Qin Shui Guo village, Yunnan Province, China, 1987. Through Australian assistance in improved pasture and grazing programs, Yuan Bao Liu doubled his income within a year. Photo: DFAT



By the mid-1980s, Australia was supporting about 500 projects in more than 40 developing countries. These ranged from large-scale, long-term regional programs in South-East Asia to small-scale projects at the village level in the Pacific and included infrastructure, rural development, agricultural improvement and water supplies.

Education and training remained an important part of the aid program during the 1980s. In one year alone, 3,600 students from 70 developing countries were invited to study at Australian institutions or in technical training courses. Most of the students came from South East Asia and the Pacific.

Australia continued to support the work of non-government organisations who were involved at village levels on projects targeting the poorest and most disadvantaged groups. It also supported a volunteer program that had begun in 1951, when Australia's Herb Feith first volunteered in Indonesia. This was the beginning of the vibrant volunteer program that continues today.

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1980s



During 1983-84, the first major review of the whole aid program was undertaken by Sir Gordon Jackson.

'Aid is given primarily for humanitarian reasons to alleviate poverty through economic and social development,' the report said. 'It is the response of the wealthy industrial countries to the needs of hundreds of millions of people who live harsh and materially meagre lives. Aid also complements strategic economic and foreign policy interests, and by helping developing countries to grow, it provides economic opportunities for Australia.'

As a result of the Jackson Review, Australia's aid program began concentrating its resources on fewer sectors and in areas where it had most expertise. Papua New Guinea and the Pacific remained the largest recipient of Australian aid, followed by South East Asia, India and China. Funding to non-government organisations, whose work complemented the work of the official aid program, was increased. Australia's aid program reached \$1 billion in 1984-85.

Above: Inside the particle-free atmosphere of the Tianjin Medical Instrument Corporation's No3 Factory, China, 1987. The plastic blood pack manufacturing plant was established under the Australia-China Technical Cooperation Program. Photo: DFAT

A malnourished child in Kampuchea (now Cambodia), 1988. Following the devastating drought in the late 1980s, rice deficits in Indochina had reached more than 2 million tonnes. At the time, over 600,000 hectares of rice land lay unused as war had decimated the adult population. The Australian Government and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) launched an intensive program to help Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos to use low-cost technologies to boost food production. Photo: DFAT

Commencement of bridge-building in Northern Samar, Philippines, 1988. Photo: DFAT

Above right: A child is immunised with syringes donated by the Australian government. Philippines, 1987. Photo: UNICEF

Right: A young woman draws water from a well installed by Australia's village water supply project, Indonesia, 1984. Photo: DFAT



1990s



By the early 1990s, there was a greater focus in the aid program on sectors such as education, water, agriculture and infrastructure. The reach of Australia's aid was extended through its support of UN agencies, development banks and non-government organisations.

The 1990s was a time of organisational and policy transformation for the aid program, with growing technical capacity and focus on effectiveness. There was greater recognition of the cumulative benefits of investing in women and the aid program designed projects to better meet the needs of women and girls.

Throughout the decade, Australia continued its long-standing commitment to provide humanitarian aid to people in the grip of natural disasters. Australia's response to the drought in Papua New Guinea in 1997-98 was an early example of large-scale co-operation between the aid program and the Australian Defence Force.



Above: Food aid to Somalia. In 1992 Australia gave more than \$2.7 million in emergency food aid through the World Food Programme (WFP). Photo: DFAT

Delivering food aid following the drought in PNG 1997. Photo: Darren Hilder, Australian Defence.

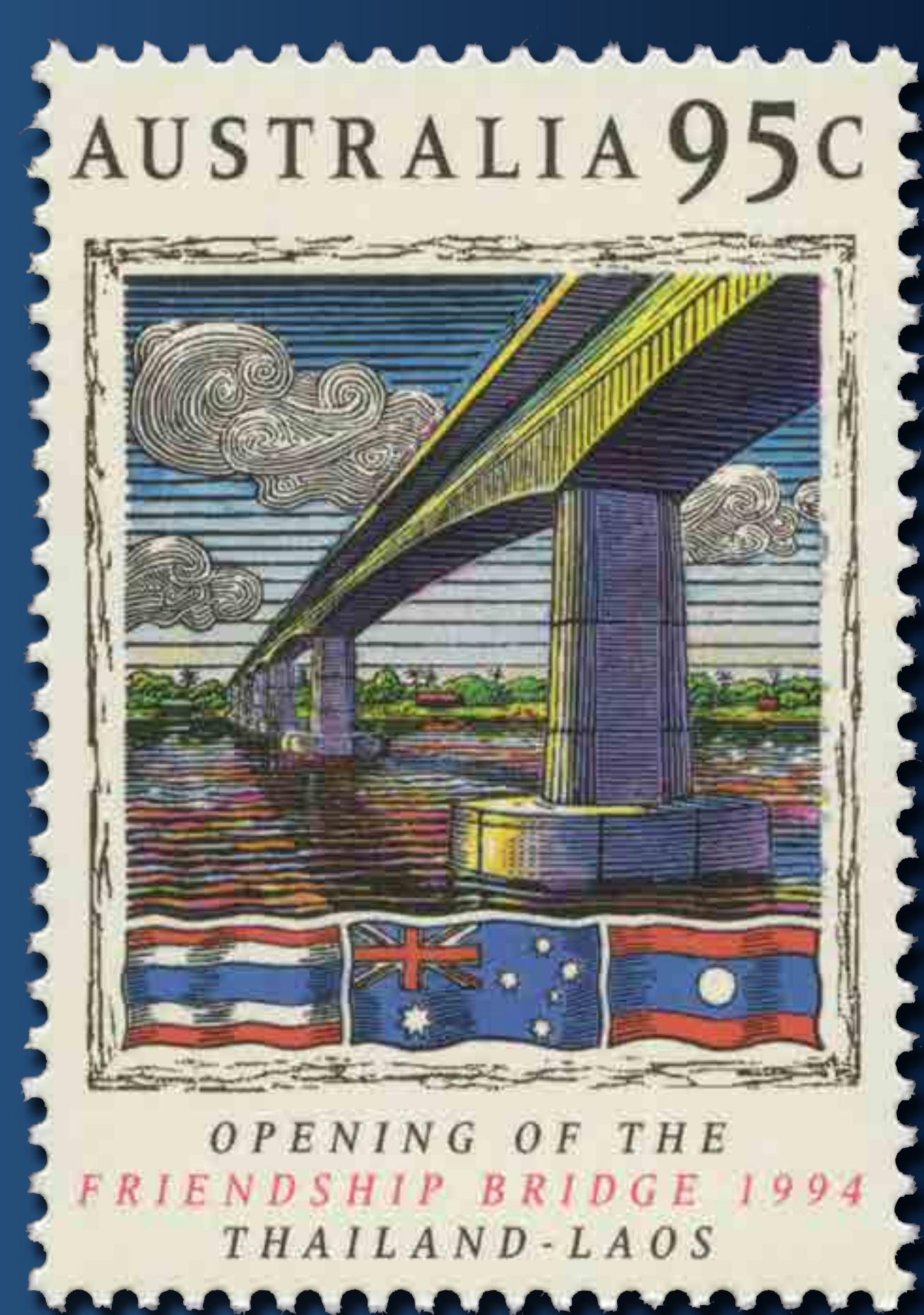
Opening day, Sur Baher Preparatory Girls School, Palestine, August, 1992. Funded under Australia's Education & Health Rehabilitation Project, the school gave girls an opportunity for an education they may not have otherwise received. Photo: DFAT

Girls collecting fresh water from the new village water system Luang Prabang, Laos, 1991. The water system was installed through Australia's freshwater village project. Photo: DFAT

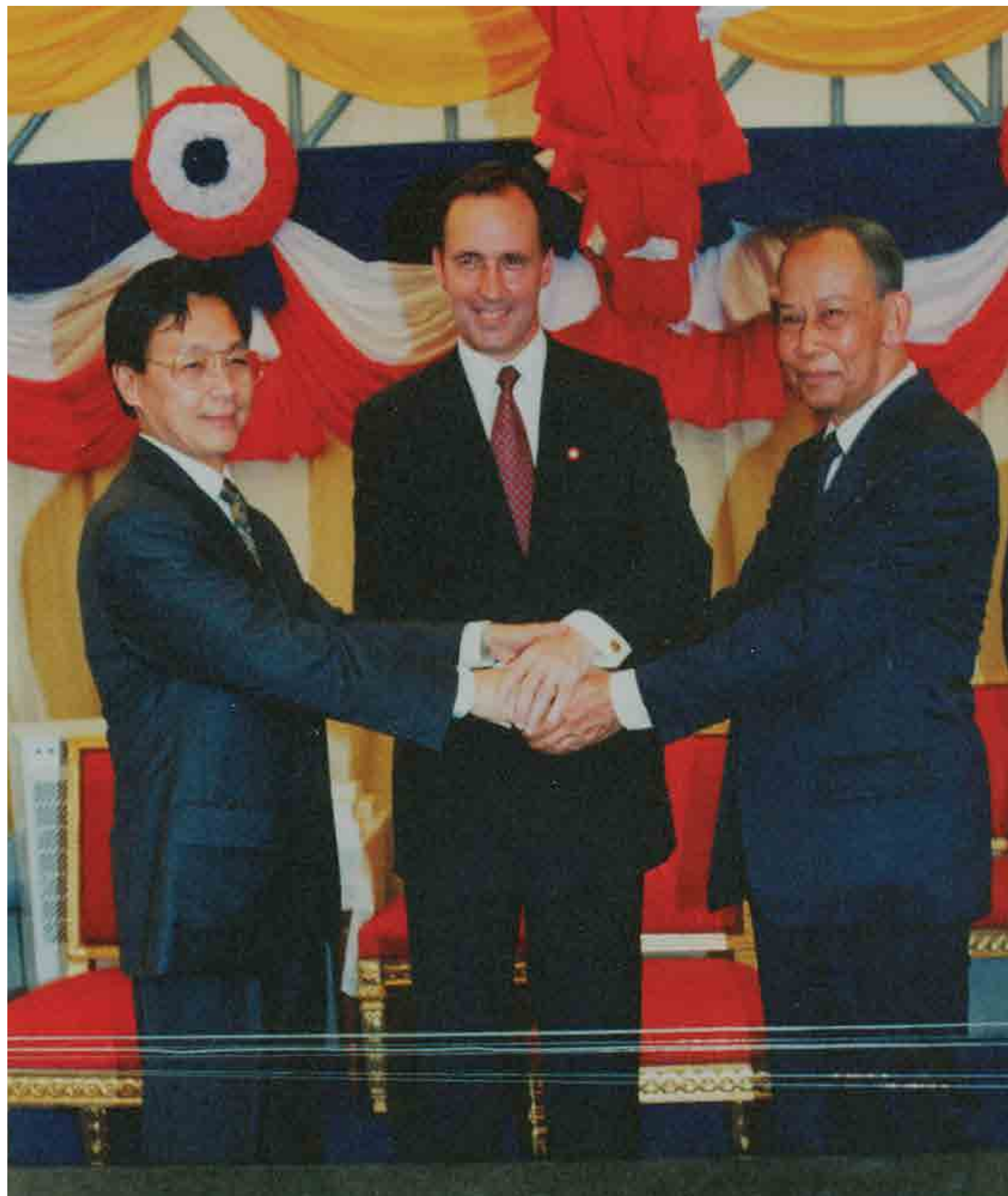
Above right: The Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, Suva. Since 1989 Australia has supported the Centre to provide crisis counselling, legal advice, advocacy, training, education and awareness, and other support services for women survivors of violence. Photo: DFAT

Right: A cow is drenched in Lombok Indonesia, with the support of Australia, 1991. Photo: DFAT





1990s



The 1990s was also a decade where Australian-funded infrastructure made a big difference. Hundreds of simple but durable steel bridges were being constructed in many parts of Eastern Indonesia, giving people better connections to markets.

Equally impressive but on a larger scale was the Friendship Bridge, funded by Australia. This connected Thailand and Laos and brought with it considerable diplomatic and economic advantages to both countries.

‘The thing which I shall remember most is not the several kilometres of bunting, nor the majesty of the event dignified by the presence of three heads of state and two heads of government, but that people came. They made real the symbol, coming together. A Friendship Bridge,’ recalls Ellen Shipley, an Australian aid employee.

The 1997 Simons Report on the aid program, ‘One Clear Objective,’ refined the focus of the aid program on poverty reduction and sustainable development in Australia’s national interest.

Above: A stamp issued by Australia Post, commemorates the completion of the Friendship Bridge, 1994. Photo: Australia Post

The Friendship Bridge in construction, 1993. The bridge, which was built and funded by Australia, has had significant economic, trade, tourism, and cultural benefits for the two countries and has become an enduring symbol of friendship and cooperation between Australia, Thailand and Laos. Photo: DFAT

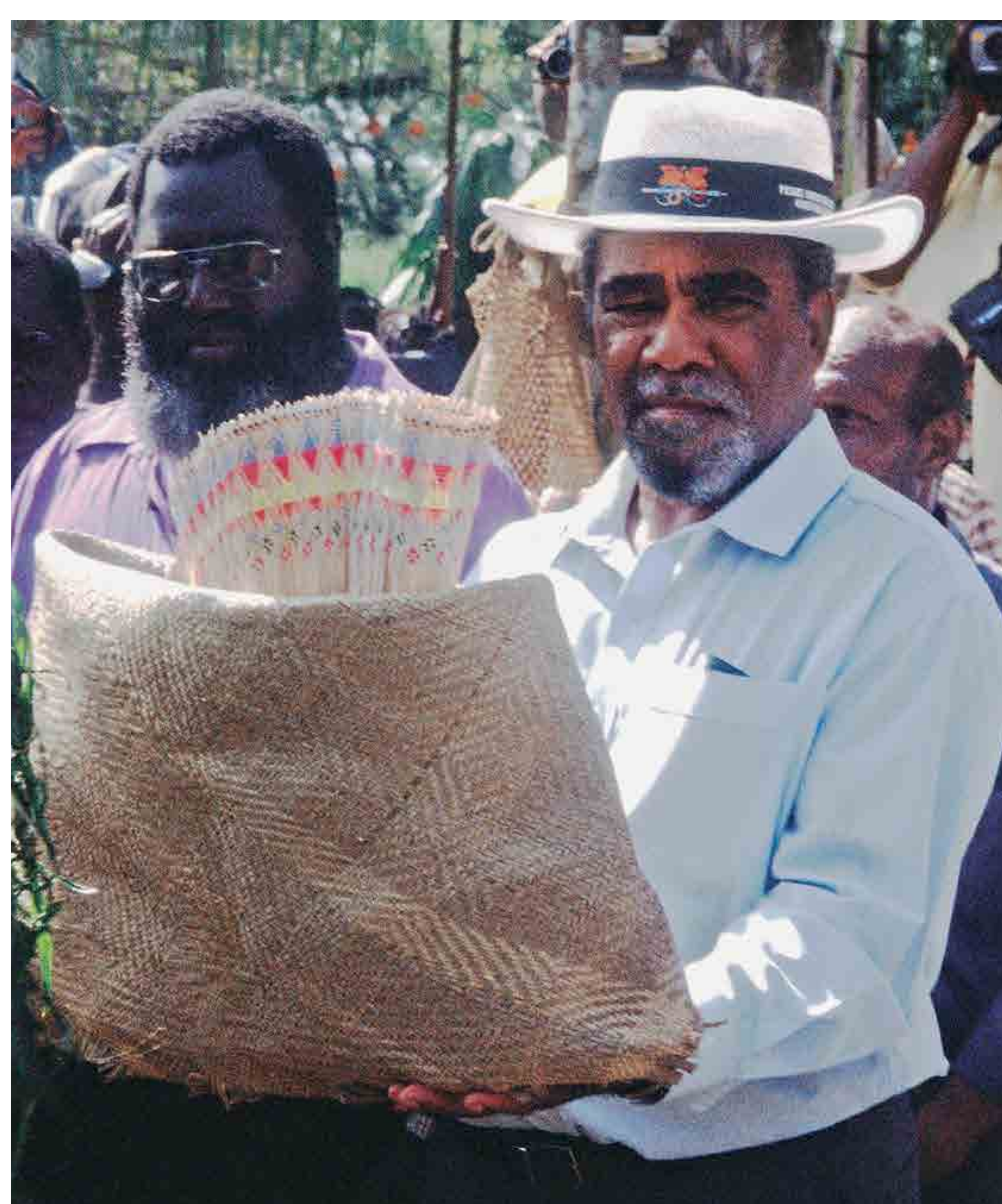
Bridge being built in Indonesia by the Snowy Mountain Engineering Corporation with funding from Australia. Photo: Commonwealth of Australia

Above right: Prime Minister, Paul Keating, with the Prime Minister of Thailand, Chuan Leekpai, and the Prime Minister of Laos, General Khamtay Siphandone, at the opening of the Australia-funded Friendship Bridge between Laos and Thailand 8 April 1994. Photo: Commonwealth of Australia

Right: The Friendship Bridge. In its first year, around 105,000 people crossed the bridge and total trade over the bridge was 4.8 billion Baht. In 2013, almost 6 million people crossed the bridge and total trade over the bridge was nearly 60 billion Baht. Photo: DFAT



2000s



As the new century began, governance emerged as a priority for the aid program. There was growing evidence that improving a country's capacity to plan, budget for and deliver basic services expected by its citizens, including law and justice, would make a major difference to growth and poverty reduction. The growth in governance in Australia's aid program was strongest in Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, Indonesia and the Pacific.

With global issues becoming more complex, especially after 9/11 and the Bali bombings, the aid program began drawing on the expertise of other government departments in a 'whole of government' approach to aid delivery.

This method was used in Bougainville, in Timor Leste and through the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands. For the first time, Australia's aid had security as well as development dimensions. This put Australia at the forefront of international practice in responding to the needs of fragile and conflict-affected states.

Australia's aid reached \$2.2 billion in 2004-05.



Above: United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) troops on patrol in Cambodia. Australia actively supported the peace process in Cambodia and Australians played key roles in UNTAC. Photo: Commonwealth of Australia

A boy in Timor Leste sells grain at a Dili Market. In August 1999, the people of Timor Leste voted for freedom and an independent future. The violence that followed led to an intensive aid effort on the part of the Australian overseas aid program. When peace was restored, the market pictured came back to life. Photo: David Haigh/DFAT

The banner displayed during a peace rally in Honiara on 22 August 2003, reflects the mood of a nation given a fresh start through its embrace of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) and the declaration of a guns-free Solomon Islands. Photo: Brian Hartigan/Australian Federal Police.

Above right: The Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Sir Mekere Morauta (right) and the President of the Bougainville People's Congress, Joseph Kabui, with a woven ceremonial basket containing the Bougainville Peace Agreement at the signing in Arawa, 30 August 2001. Photo: Geoff Tooth/DFAT

Right: In the effort to restore peace and security in Solomon Islands almost 4000 weapons were surrendered and destroyed. Photo: Brian Hartigan, RAMSI



2000s



Above: Shirinaês, a 35 year-old widow, receives 25kg fortified atta (durum wheat flour) under Australian Aid to Bangladesh. Photo: WFP/Shehzad Noorani Bangladesh August 2004.

Australian volunteer Tanya McQueen working as a Rural Women's Program Adviser in Afghanistan, 2003. Photo: Tanya McQueen, AVI / DFAT

A patient is examined by doctors at a clinic run by Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), Sudan 2005. Photo: Sven Torfinn/Panos

Mine clearance signs, Pailin Cambodia, 2006. Australia is committed to working towards a world free of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war.

Above right: A Tibetan grandmother who suffers from iodine deficiency nurses her grandson who has been protected from similar circumstances through Australia's Iodine Deficiency Disorders Elimination Project, 2000-2004. Following the program, the rate of the iodine deficiency syndrome, cretinism, in Tibet was reduced to zero. Photo: Professor C.J. Eastman

Right: Opening of the My Thuan bridge, Vietnam 2007. Similar in size to the Harbour Bridge in Sydney, the bridge took three years to build at a cost of \$91 million. The bridge was built to withstand severe monsoons, volatile seismic conditions and impacts from ships. It was completed three months ahead of schedule and came in about \$2 million under budget. Photo: DFAT



On 21 May 2000, the My Thuan Bridge, 125 kilometres south-west of Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, was officially opened.

The bridge was a joint venture between the governments of Australia and Vietnam. The bridge, crossing the Mekong River, was one of the most technically challenging projects for the Australian aid program, given the width of the river and the nature of the river currents.

Its construction involved up to 300 Australians and about 1,500 Vietnamese. Five hundred of these were given on-the-job training. Sixty engineers received formal training in bridge design, construction and management in Vietnam and Monash University in Australia.

By 2002, the My Thuan Bridge was already carrying nearly four times more people and freight than did the ferries it replaced.

The construction of the bridge provided important learning for subsequent large infrastructure projects by other donors and the Government of Vietnam to increase economic growth in rural areas.



Celebrating
40 years
of Australian aid

2000s



During the early 2000s, development issues became increasingly interlinked with broader Australian regional and international priorities. These included regional security, terrorism, trade, economic integration, illicit drugs, transnational crime and transboundary threats posed by communicable diseases such as SARS and Avian Influenza.

As with HIV, Malaria and TB, SARS and Avian Influenza had the potential to cross borders and create widespread illness and death, especially in poorer and more vulnerable communities.

These and other issues, such as the conservation of Pacific fisheries, were too large and too complex to be addressed by single nation states. Australia's aid program began increasingly collaborating at a regional and international level to try to address these threats.



Above: A farmer prepares his field for planting near Nathenje on the outskirts of Lilongwe, Malawi. For many years Australia has used its expertise and experience to help improve food security in African countries. Photo: Stephen Morrison/DFAT

Secondary students learn about HIV. Phu Cu Province, Vietnam, 2004. Photo: Alice Pagliano/DFAT

Above right: A woman washes her hands using water collected from the village gravity flow taps at a NEWAH WASH water project in Pwari Shikhar, Udayapur District, Nepal, 2013. Photo: Jim Holmes/DFAT

Ugandan women celebrate hope through the help they have received at a legal aid clinic in Kawempe which raises public awareness and protects the legal rights of people affected by HIV/AIDS. The clinic is run by PLAN Uganda with assistance from Australia. Uganda, 2009. Photo: Kim Biedrzycki/DFAT

Right: Avian flu, Vietnam 2005. Between 2003 and 2005, Australia provided more than \$20 million to tackle avian influenza and SARS in its region. Photo: Lorrie Graham Photographer.



2000s



On Sunday 26 December 2004, the Indian Ocean tsunami left more than 180,000 people dead, 45,000 people missing and more than 1.5 million people without homes. Most were in developing countries near Australia.

Australia responded swiftly to help communities get back on their feet, especially in Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Much of the initial emergency response was done with assistance from the Australian Defence Force.

Australia refurbished health care facilities and schools, helped families to re-build homes, rebuilt ports, helped fishermen and farmers with goods and supplies to re-establish livelihoods, provided surgical assistance and fresh water supplies.

Among other things, the \$1 billion, Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Reconstruction and Development, helped to rehabilitate and upgrade national roads and funded the construction of 2,000 junior secondary schools, both secular and faith-based, in Indonesia.



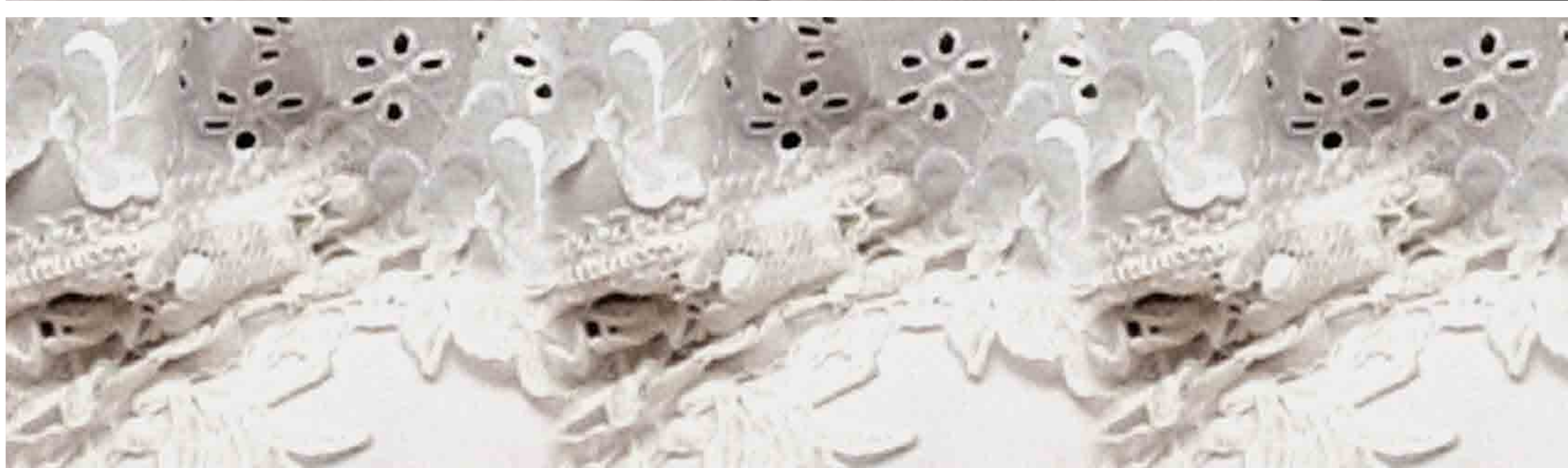
Above: A young girl waits in a queue as Australian soldiers distribute water to survivors of the tsunami, Aceh 2004. Photo: Dermot Tatlow/Panos

Estimating damage in the aftermath of the tsunami. Thailand, 2005. Photo: DFAT

Above right: Australian soldiers distributing water to survivors of the tsunami, Aceh, 26th December 2004. Photo: Dermot Tatlow/Panos

The power of the tsunami destroyed everything. It even left this boat perched atop a house in Aceh, 2005. Photo: DFAT

Right: Defence force officer offers support and compassion. Aceh, Indonesia, 2005. Photo: Able Seaman Phillip Cullinan/Australian Defence.



Celebrating
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Above: Australian nurse Natasha Roberts assists a child at Australia's temporary health centre in Pakistan during the 2010 floods. Photo: Heather Pillans/DFAT

With the help of Australia, this boy in India now has a hearing aid to help him participate at school. Photo: Erin Johnson/CBM Australia

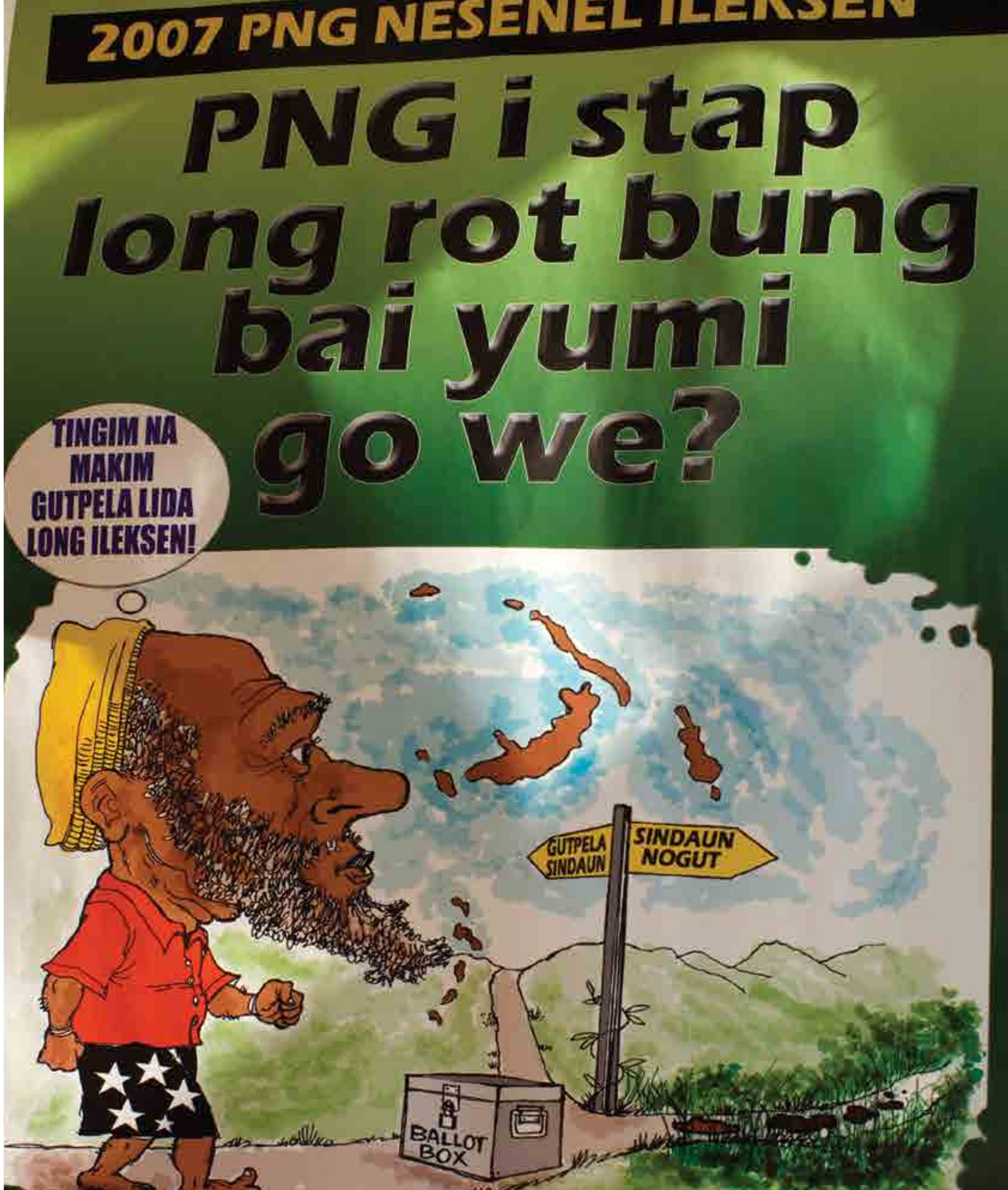
The head of Australia's aid program in Indonesia, Allison Sudradjat with students from Min Merduti School in Banda Aceh, Indonesia. Allison was among the 21 people who died when Garuda Flight 200 crashed while landing at Yogyakarta airport, 7 March 2007. Photo: DFAT

A woman waits to receive food rations at the Ifo refugee camp in Dadaab, Kenya, November 2009. The World Food Programme provides food aid in the camp with assistance from Australia. Photo: Kate Holt/Africa Practice

Above right: An electoral commission poster, supported by Caritas and Australia's aid program, tells voters that PNG is at a crossroads, and the country's future depends on their votes in the 2007 general election. Photo: Jocelyn Carlin/Panos

Right: Following the declaration of Independence by Timor Leste, donated rice seed created difficulties for farmers. ACIAR was among the first agencies to establish crop trials to put farming on to a reliable footing. The Seeds of Life program has become a case study for building in-country farming capabilities. By the end of 2015, around 65,000 farmers (nearly half of all farmers) in Timor Leste will have access to Seeds of Life seed varieties. Photo: Brad Collis/ACIAR

2000s



From 2004-05, Australia's aid budget grew significantly. This was part of a bipartisan position to substantially increase Australia's contribution to international development.

The geographic spread of the aid program had now expanded to South and West Asia, Afghanistan, Africa and the Middle East and within Asia to Burma.

Helping to raise the social and economic status of people with disability in developing countries became a priority for the aid program. Australia drove global development thinking in this area.

With the new decade came the aid program's third major review. This was the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness in 2011 and it called for the aid program to achieve maximum impact, provide sound administration and value for money.



2014



In 2014, Australia has a strong and targeted international aid program worth \$5 billion and is the second largest donor to the East Asia and Pacific region.

Australia's aid has a clear purpose: to promote Australia's national interests by contributing to sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction.

Australia's aid concentrates on the Indo-Pacific region with a sharp focus on our immediate neighbourhood where we can make the most difference.

Australia has challenged the private sector to play a bigger role in driving growth and poverty reduction.

Innovation in approaches to solving development problems will be a priority. This will include making effective use of new information and communication technologies.



Above: Students in IT class at the Hohola Youth Development Centre, PNG using laptops donated by Australia. Photo: Ness Kerton/DFAT

A woman in PNG uses her mobile phone for banking. The Australian Government supports greater access to financial services in Papua New Guinea. Photo: Nationwide Microbank

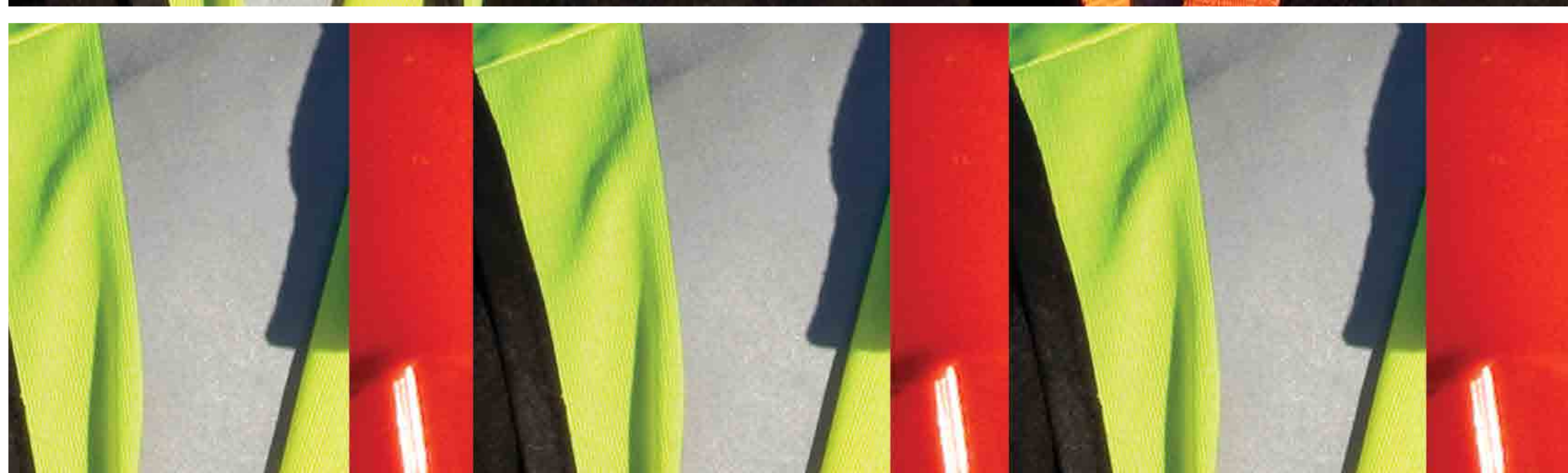
Above right: Kesu Magar weaves cloth at a Micro-enterprise Development Program (MEDEP) supported business, NEPAL. MEDEP is supported by Australia and has helped create more than 60,500 micro-entrepreneurs – 74 per cent of them women. More than 39,000 of these entrepreneurs have already lifted themselves out of poverty. Photo: Jim Holmes/DFAT

A scientist at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh works on improving a new cholera vaccination. Australia is a core donor to the Centre. Photo: Conor Ashleigh/DFAT

Right: Musah Zango (front) and Godfrey Amedjoe from Ghana (back) on an International Mining for Development Centre (IM4DC) tertiary education study tour at the Super Pit Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. Photo: IM4DC



Celebrating
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of Australian aid



THE FUTURE



Above: An artist's impression of the Cao Lanh bridge in Vietnam's Mekong Delta. Australia is investing \$160 million in the design and construction of the bridge which is expected to open in 2017.

A community netball team trains during the week in preparation for its weekend game. Australia supports the netball competition as it encourages Tongans to participate in physical exercise. Photo: Conor Ashleigh/DFAT

Australia Award recipients. Left to right Napae Ipave Hurim (PNG), Norah Nigney (Kenya), Judy Nyokabi Maina (Kenya), Ronald Sofe (PNG), Zuwen Mohammed Kikoti (Tanzania) and Vini Talai (PNG). Canberra, June 2014. In 2014, Australia invested \$362.2 million in Australia Awards, enabling over 4,400 recipients from more than 100 countries to undertake study, research and professional development.

Ambassador for Women and Girls, Natasha Stott Despoja visiting a health clinic in Jakarta, Indonesia, February 2014. Around half of Australia's aid budget is spent on initiatives, policies and programs that focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Photo: Joshua Estey

Above right: Minister for Foreign Affairs, The Honourable Julie Bishop MP, with schoolchildren at Libertad Elementary School in Ormoc City, Leyte, the Philippines, December 2013. The Minister visited the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan that struck in November 2013 affecting about 15 million people and leaving more than four million homeless. Australia provided \$40 million for food, shelter, water and sanitation services. Photo: CPL Jake Sims/Australian Defence

Carnival Cruise passengers arrive on Mystery Island, Vanuatu. Australia is working with Carnival Cruises to improve the livelihoods of people in the Pacific. Australia is committed to working with the private sector and promotes private sector growth in recipient countries to create jobs, boost incomes and increase economic security. Photo: DFAT.

Right: Staff and students from the Lapkit primary school, Vanuatu, enjoy clean drinking water, through an Australian aid project, April 2014. Photo: DFAT



After 40 years of delivering a world-class international aid program, Australians have a legacy to be proud of. We have an aid program that is responsive, responsible and accountable.

Changing international relationships, new sources of finance, growing middle classes and new challenges require new approaches. Australia, as a top-twenty nation, has outstanding social and economic credentials, and the capacity to respond to these changes with rigour and innovation.

Australians are generous; we want to share our good fortune and help others. It is good for our neighbours and it is good for us. A strong aid program is not a charity, it is an investment in our region and serves the national interest.

The Australian aid program has demonstrated 40 years of outstanding results. We are well prepared to continue our efforts in the years ahead.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Words can describe the events that have shaped the Australian aid program. Images help bring them to life. The Australian Government acknowledges those photographers who have, over the years, recorded the delivery and impact of Australia's aid on those in need.

We would like to also acknowledge the dedicated staff who have worked for Australia's aid program over the past 40 years, our partners in development, business, community, non-government organisations and volunteers. You have all contributed to the success of the program.



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

